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Richmond Law



An inspiring,
intentional
new space

COMMON PURPOSE

Renovations to the law school building have transformed and brightened familiar spaces — including this one, which was formerly the entrance of Muse Law Library. The library now begins at the former quiet area, and this space has become a gathering spot for the Richmond Law community. Read more about the renovations starting on Page 22.



Photograph by Jamie Betts



DEAN'S LETTER

NEW BEGINNINGS



Dear friends,

While we are always eager start the new academic year, this year was particularly special for us. Between the COVID-19 pandemic and the renovation of the law school building, it has been four years since we've seen an August when our collective space was fully open and functional. As students, faculty, and staff entered our doors this year, they entered a new era in the history of Richmond Law.

Winston Churchill famously observed that "we shape our buildings and afterwards our buildings shape us." In this issue, you will get a glimpse of our brand-new space. It is fresh and bright with areas for people to connect and engage, as well as to study quietly and reflect. New classrooms allow for better dialogue among students and their classmates and better collaboration among groups. We've brought our clinics back into the building and situated them in a prominently visible suite, and we now have a green roof — the first on the university's campus. Finally, in the center of the building is our new law school commons, which is quickly becoming the gathering place for everyone in our community.

You'll also hear from some of our recent graduates who, at the beginning of their careers, have decided to pursue paths as public defenders. State-level changes in public defender offices, growing interest in careers tied to social justice, and changes within our curriculum to more strongly support these interests have led to a surge in graduates — nearly 10 percent of the Class of 2023 — securing jobs in this field.

We introduce you to Sara Tandy, Richmond Law's inaugural assistant dean of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. And Professor Rebecca Crootof shares her insights on the boundaries of how law and liability should apply to the ever-changing landscape of AI.

Exploring new and innovative opportunities is central to the Richmond Law experience. I am very hopeful that our new spaces, new curricular pathways, new colleagues, and new ideas will continue to inspire our students and our entire learning community.

Here's to new beginnings!

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy C. Perdue".

Wendy C. Perdue
Dean and Professor of Law

Richmond Law

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Wendy C. Perdue

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Photograph by Jamie Betts



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For the Record



A boost to public service



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career support from Richmond Law continues after graduation. The career development office offers assistance to alumni in the employment search process, including one-on-one job search strategy sessions, document reviews, and mock interviews. For more information, go to law.richmond.edu/career.

In summer 2023, more than 100 Richmond Law students received fellowships totaling \$375,000 to explore career options in the public and not-for-profit sectors.

“There are many wonderful, skill-building summer experiences for which public sector employers do not compensate students,” said Janet Hutchinson, associate dean for career development. “Our summer funding ensures that those opportunities are feasible for everyone, not just those who can afford to volunteer. For many of our students, these opportunities create a gateway to post-graduate positions.”

The funding is offered by a program called the Summer Public Service Fellowship. Through it, every law student is guaranteed at least one fellowship of up to \$4,000 to support a summer internship or other professional opportunity with a public sector or service organization.

The fellowships fund students working in a wide range of organizations, from non-profits like the Virginia Poverty Law Center and Legal Aid Society of San Diego to government offices like the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Virginia Supreme Court.

Alyssa Harrison, L’25 (above left), worked in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia, which prosecutes local, non-federal crimes. She did litigation

preparation for trials and appellate hearings in all four sections of the office: general crimes, homicide, major crimes, and sex offense and domestic violence.

“I wanted to spend some time in my first summer learning about and working in criminal law,” Harrison said at the start of the summer. “I am interested in working for the federal government during my legal career, and I’m excited to see and learn from some of the country’s best attorneys over the coming months in the courtroom and in the office. Additionally, I’m excited to be back in our nation’s capital and to continue building my professional network in the city I love.” She is from Alexandria, Virginia.

Bailey Ellicott, L’24 (above right), spent her summer assisting attorneys in the capital habeas unit of the Federal Community Defender for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. The unit represents inmates sentenced to death during post-conviction proceedings.

“I am looking forward to learning about a completely new area of criminal defense work that occurs after trial, and working directly with death penalty litigation which is something I am very interested in,” she said.

Since the program’s launch in 2013, the program has awarded more than \$4.6 million to nearly 1,500 students.

CURRICULUM

How to run a practice

It's hard to succeed as a first-year attorney or as a first-time small business owner, but Caroline Fox, L'13, opted to blend the two difficult paths when she started her career. It's also the subject of a new class she's teaching at the law school this fall: How to Run a Small and Solo Legal Practice.

The Spider alum says she knew she wanted to work for herself after graduation, but she had to convince her parents first.

"I created a business plan just for them, thinking I'd need a good support system for this to work," she said.

It has definitely worked.

For a decade, Fox has carved a niche in the wedding world, offering legal services for event spaces, entertainers, and photographers. Her hustle resulted in a client list that has matured with her practice. They've returned for additional help

with everything from forming an LLC to securing a trademark.

Fox is sharing with students her struggles, her successes, and a playbook for starting up a small business. She also plans to invite other solo-practice attorneys as guest speakers. The goal is to make sure students leave with a plan, practical skills, and a list of resources in the event they hit a snag or need support for administrative or accounting issues.

The use of social media will also be a topic in class. Fox has harnessed the power of Facebook to lead small business forums, along with TikTok, where she's amassed a following by telling comedic legal tales.

"You know, this was my No. 1 choice for law school, and the fact that I get to teach here now is blowing my mind."

BELONGING

Committing to inclusion

Richmond Law's inaugural assistant dean of diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging started their new role during the summer. Sara Tandy, L'19, works to address how the law school guides its students in a diverse and multicultural legal world.

"My job is to serve all our students," Tandy says, "with specific attention given to groups that have been historically underrepresented in legal education. I'm especially excited to help students develop their identities as lawyers, encourage authenticity and individuality, and help them understand how to succeed in the legal profession."

While the primary focus of this new role is its student-facing elements, they will also support faculty in developing more inclusive pedagogies and course offerings.

"My goal is an environment where students of all backgrounds and



thoughts can feel like they have a place at the table, that their opinions matter, and their lived experiences are taken into account," they say.

Tandy aims to show how the law school is resolute in its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging. "I'm ready to take the conversation to the next level. Our school has more to offer than many students know."

IN THE NEWS

When media outlets cover news and events, they come to Richmond Law for expertise and perspective. Here's a sample of recent stories that featured experts from Richmond Law.

SLATE

Professor **NOAH SACHS** wrote in *Slate* magazine

about what he called "one of the biggest tobacco cases in U.S. history" in "Tobacco Giants Are Fighting to Keep Graphic Warning Labels off Their Products." The legal fight is about the scope of the First Amendment, which, Sachs writes, "does not demand banality. These are, after all, warnings, and they should be allowed to depict severe outcomes."



Cleveland.com quoted Professor **DA LIN**'s testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. Her

comments focused on the inadequacy of oversight. "Senior bank leadership, in particular, are often immunized by the diffuse decision-making processes," she said.



Professor **JULIE MCCONNELL**, director of the Children's Defense Clinic, commented for a TV news story about parents facing charges

for crimes committed by their children. Speaking about a Michigan school shooting case, she said prosecutors "would need to be able to show that the parent knowingly allowed access to the gun in such a way that it created extreme risk."

The New York Times

Professor **CARL TOBIAS** commented in multiple outlets on various aspects of the Fox News-Dominion trial. The *New York Times* quoted him in a story about scrutiny of Judge Eric M. Davis of Delaware Superior Court, who presided over the case. "Perhaps most important, Davis displays measured judicial temperament, which is essential when the stakes are huge and emotions run high," Tobias said.

AROUND THE SCHOOL



REPARATIONS FOR UKRAINE

Professor Chiara Giorgetti is part of a team of experts advising Ukraine on reparations and other claims following the Russian invasion of that country. She is one of five senior fellows named to the working project, created at the request of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and based at Columbia University. The effort is called the International Claims and Reparations Project. Giorgetti is a leading expert on international law, international courts, and international dispute resolution and claims commissions.

“When Russia invaded Ukraine, a lot of international lawyers felt the need to do something because it was such an egregious violation of international law,” she said. “The work is important because it’s something that can be used to provide real benefits. ... It’s not just theoretical, but it is very real and impactful.”

HIGH HONORS

Richmond Law’s chapter of Order of the Coif inducted 15 members of the Class of 2023 in June. Membership in the national honor society is one of the highest honors a law student can receive. Richmond Law’s chapter, established in 2012, made it one of 87 law schools of the nation’s 203 to hold a charter.

Inductees, who all ranked in the top 10% of their graduating class, were also recognized for their scholarly interests. As law students, they published on topics ranging from cryptocurrency, domestic violence, and transgender policies to combating non-native snakes in Florida in academic and scholarly journals.

SERVICE



Reunited in service

2013 graduates Jeremy Lorenzo-Rivera and Kwadwo Yeboah-Kankam started their law school years as strangers. By graduation, they were close friends and study partners. Earlier this year, they added a professional bond: both are now members of the JAG program of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

Each was selected as one of five candidates in his respective year for the branch’s direct commission program for reserves — Lorenzo-Rivera in 2021 and Yeboah-Kankam in 2023. When the latter was considering the possibility, his friend from Richmond Law gave him both advice and a letter of recommendation.

“I basically recruited him,” Lorenzo-Rivera joked.

Much of the work is a good fit with their civilian lives, Lorenzo-Rivera said. He’s a New York City police officer, and Yeboah-Kankam is a senior manager and procurement attorney at PwC. The Coast Guard’s mission ranges from maritime law enforcement to regulatory work protecting marine resources to natural disaster response.

“The culture in the Coast Guard is really good,” Lorenzo-Rivera said. “I’ve had some long days in the Coast Guard, but I’ve never had a bad day.”



A new adventure

Q & A After 16 years of teaching at Richmond Law, Kristen Osenga, professor and Austin E. Owen Research Scholar, stepped into new administrative responsibilities as associate dean for academic affairs. She is now in her second year.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN THIS ROLE?

I'm in charge of the law school operations that are academic. I schedule courses, oversee grading, and ensure that grading policies are met. I hire and work with adjunct professors, help track academic statistics that are reported to the ABA, work with the faculty to update academic policies, and meet with students who have academic concerns. Those are the primary components.

HOW IS THIS ROLE DIFFERENT THAN A PROFESSOR'S ROLE?

My primary duties as a professor were to teach courses, do research, and write scholarship. I still do those things, but I get to add all of the operations pieces. It definitely keeps me busy, but even before I became

associate dean, I held other roles besides professor.

WHAT SURPRISES HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED IN THIS POSITION?

Not really a surprise, but this role provides me the opportunity to talk to even more students than I did when I was a professor, and every time I talk to students, I learn just how interesting they are. Some of them did amazing things before law school; some of them are facing wild challenges in law school and beating all the obstacles; some of them have really cool hobbies. I just love having the chance to learn more about students than what their transcript shows. This job has given me the opportunity to see it even more.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF THIS POSITION?

Problem solving. I'm definitely a problem solver at heart, and this job gives me a chance to find solutions daily.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE?

Just figuring out what I don't know needs to be done. I'm lucky to have had all three previous associate deans — professors Clark Williams, Jim Gibson, and Jack Preis — here to help me out. I've called on each of them at various points this past year for advice, and they've all been so generous. But I can't ask them for help if I don't even know what I don't know.

WHAT'S ON THE HORIZON FOR YOUR SECOND YEAR?

This year is all about the self-study in advance of the ABA accreditation visit the following year — so a lot of the year is going to be a deep dive into what we're doing and what we could be doing better. I'm pretty excited about that. Also, last year was kind of like drinking from a fire hose. It all felt like a scramble — but it got done, and I didn't break anything ... I think.



WELL-EARNED RECOGNITION

At the start of the academic year, Osenga received the university's Distinguished Scholarship Award. The award recognizes "a consistent record of outstanding contributions in scholarship as documented through published research, scholarship, or creative expression." She was one of seven recipients from across the university, including law professor Meredith Harbach, who received the Distinguished Teaching Award.



Courtroom compassion

“Is that my name? And is that White House letterhead?” said Kelley Hodge, L’96, recalling her awe at the first sight of her presidential nomination to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

“I was honored, grateful, and ecstatic to know I had been recommended by my home state senators as a nominee for U.S. District Court judge — and then that the president and the White House said, ‘We agree.’”

Hodge was sworn in as a federal judge in December (above). But this was just the latest in a remarkable criminal justice career that took her from public defender in Richmond to district attorney of Philadelphia. There, she was the first and only Black woman to serve as district attorney in the state of Pennsylvania.

In this office, Hodge developed a deeper understanding of the challenges faced in a major urban environment, particularly those relating to education. She later became a safe schools advocate at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, then the Title IX coordinator at the University of Virginia.

But, according to Hodge, it all started at Richmond Law, where she credits her professors with introducing her to all that a law career can do.

“Through clinical programs and exceptional professors

like Robert Shepherd and Kelley Bartges, I developed my passion for advocating for children, juvenile justice, and equitable education,” she said. “Professor Shepherd’s instruction and guidance, in particular, gave me really good foundational tools for this. And Professor Bartges was a shining example of how compassion and advocacy go hand in hand.”

As a member of the Richmond Law Advisory Board, Hodge has remained connected to the school throughout her career, even into her latest role. “My advanced trial practice professor was my first supervisor at the public defender’s office, and she was there to celebrate with me at my ceremonial investiture.”

Other Richmond Law connections were also present at the event, including classmates and lifelong friends; a recent graduate whom she mentors; Richmond Law Professor Julie McConnell; and Dean Wendy Perdue.

As she begins this new chapter in her career, Hodge aspires to demonstrate empathy and compassion and to make those qualities a lasting impact on those who encounter her in the courtroom.

“Quite simply, I want to be remembered as a judge who listened, who understood, and who cared about the litigants and all those who appeared before her.”

ACCOLADE

Top law librarians

The American Association of Law Libraries named Richmond Law's Joyce Manna Janto, L'89 (left), and Gail Warren, L'81, recipients of its 2023 Gallagher Award, which recognizes "outstanding, extended, and sustained service to law librarianship."

Janto is director of public and instructional services at the Muse Law Library, and she teaches legal research and professional responsibility courses. Warren, Virginia's state law librarian, has been with the Virginia State Law Library for more than 40 years. The library serves the



Supreme Court of Virginia, the Court of Appeals of Virginia, and the legal community and oversees the preservation of the history of Virginia's legal system.

AROUND THE SCHOOL



A GRADUATION CAP, THEN A CROWN

After three challenging years in law school, only something exceptional will prompt a new graduate to put the bar examination on the back burner. Over the summer, such an exception came in the life of Katie Rose, L'23, when she fulfilled a longtime dream: She was crowned Miss Virginia.

Rose now plans to take the bar exam in February 2025. She will spend the upcoming year touring schools to talk about healthy choices, appearing at public events, and preparing to compete in Miss America. Her community service initiative, domestic violence prevention, grew out of personal experience and an independent study she did with Professor Janice Craft. She said she expects her legal skills and training to be an asset. Being Miss Virginia brings opportunities to meet with lawmakers and advocate for legislative reform, for example.

"The laws in Virginia [are] inadequate for victims of emotional abuse to obtain protective orders," she said. "Some states have already taken that route, such as Connecticut. I would love to be a part of that change and a part of that reform as Miss Virginia," Rose said.

A fellow Richmond Law graduate, Amanda Short, L'22, was the pageant's first runner-up. Rose said the two noted their connection in a quick conversation in the moment they stood on stage as the final two contestants awaiting the announcement of the winner.

"We laughed and we joked," Rose said. "We got to have a little moment where we were just both really proud of each other and proud to come from U of R and be making it to the very end."

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Striking a chord

The Richmond Octaves undergraduate cappella group belts out some impressive melodies, accompanied by a backstage harmonizer: its legal team. Professor Ashley Dobbs directs the Intellectual Property and Transactional Law Clinic that helps these singers address the trademark and copyright issues that arise in their field.

"Under my supervision, the law students in my clinic have the primary relationship with clients. I give them a lot of autonomy," says Dobbs, who describes the clinic as a teaching firm. And while clients are typically members of the community who could not otherwise afford legal services (nonprofits, entrepreneurs, startups, makers, artists, etc.), this case became another example of Spiders helping Spiders.

"The Richmond Octaves approached the clinic to ask

about copyright law," she says. "They sell recordings of their performances, so they needed to be sure they understood how licensing rights worked. And our relationship with them built from there."

Dobbs' clinic allows students to apply what they've learned to real clients with real cases. They learn the practical side of entity formation, copyright and trademark, contracts, and corporate governance.

"We talk about how to apply all the skills they are using in any practice area. They interview and counsel clients, strategize and negotiate, and develop the skills that they need to be a good lawyer, regardless of their ultimate practice area.

These skills are the scaffolding of good lawyering."



NOTEWORTHY



LISTEN UP

What are the copyright implications for a comic book creator using AI-generated images? That's one of the many emerging legal questions that Richmond Law faculty addressed on podcasts in recent months.

Professors Ashley Dobbs and Roger Skalbeck discussed copyright issues and AI on an episode of *The Geek In Review* podcast called "From Pain to Creativity." Professor Carl Tobias on the *Bloomberg Law* podcast discussed how judicial appointments have become a key barometer of presidential success and President Biden's efforts to fill vacancies nationwide. Professor Danielle Stokes spoke about the importance of environmental permitting, despite the system's current drawbacks, on *The Sweaty Penguin*, a podcast focused on climate change.

PAULK KEEPS GOING THE DISTANCE

The endurance swimming adventures continue for Courtney Paulk, L'00, president of Hirschler and head of the firm's litigation section. In August, she made an attempt to become the first woman to solo swim both ways across the Fehmarn Belt, a 15-mile strait in the Baltic Sea between Denmark and Germany. Heavy maritime traffic forced her to abandon the effort.

In 2021, she became the first person to complete solo swims in both directions of all three Triple Crown events of open-water swimming: the English Channel, the Catalina Channel off the coast of California, and a swim around Manhattan Island in New York.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Welcoming junior faculty

Dozens of early-career legal scholars met at Richmond Law after the spring semester for the school's annual Junior Faculty Forum. The workshop, offered each year, brings together junior law professors from across the country to present their scholarship in an informal, collegial atmosphere.

"Conferences like this are important because they provide a welcoming and constructive environment where junior faculty can hear from peers and receive supportive feedback at any stage of a project," said Allison Tait, associate dean for faculty development.

"There are not many other opportunities like this, and it fills a real need for law faculty who are in the early part of their career," she said.

With eight assistant and associate law professors on its faculty, Richmond Law was well-suited to host a conference for this particular audience. Attendees represented 24 law schools nationwide.

"We love the energy of the group each year and to watch participants find new friends, make new connections, and get to know a cohort of people who can then serve as resources as they work toward tenure," Tait said.

ADVENTURE



This scholar flies sky high

Before she was a Richmond Law professor, Corinna Lain was an enlistee in the U.S. Army. She spent most of that time as a truck driver, which meant that she never jumped out of a plane — airborne did that. It took the intercession of Polina Tsvetkova Washington, L'16, to get her to make the leap.

To honor her former Richmond Law professor and adviser, Washington nominated Lain for a tandem jump with the Golden Knights, the Army's demonstration and competition parachute team. Lain "had a

go-getter attitude — her life accomplishments prove that — and came across as fearless," Washington said. "I consider Professor Lain to be the perfect fit" for the program, "which [seeks] out influential people."

"I was nervous," Lain confessed. During the 45-minute pre-jump training, she had one question: "What happens if I faint?"

She didn't faint. When she touched ground again, she was gleeful, calling it "one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had in my life. The [free fall] feels like you're flying."

‘A man of kindness’

IN BRIEF Professor W. Clark Williams retired in May after more than four decades at Richmond Law. John Douglass, who served as dean during part of Williams’ tenure, spoke at his retirement party. Here’s a lightly edited excerpt of his remarks.

During Clark’s tenure, our law school has graduated 6,570 students with J.D. degrees. It’s no exaggeration to observe that most of the 6,570 were taught or counseled by Clark Williams. Clark’s door was always open to students. Those of us with offices near Clark’s can tell you there was a steady stream of students waiting for their turn. Despite their numbers, Clark had a way of making each student feel like the only law student in the world.

Clark is an empathetic listener. That hasn’t changed in 44 years. I spoke with a friend, a very successful Richmond lawyer, who entered UR Law in 1979 and was a student in Clark’s very first year teaching Civil Procedure. She did well through the semester and got an A on the midterm. Just before final exams she received word that her mother had been diagnosed with an untreatable cancer. She rushed through her exams, unable to concentrate. Before grades came out she received a note from Clark Williams, asking her to stop by his office.

When they met, he told her she had failed the exam. But, he added, he was reluctant to enter the grade without asking if something had happened to throw her off course. When she told him about her mother’s illness, Clark paused a moment, then said, “Why don’t we start over as if you never took this exam. When you are ready, you can have a second chance.” When she told me that story, my friend concluded, “He didn’t have to do that. He’s the kindest person I know.”

When former students talk about Clark, the word I hear most often is “kindness.” So it was no surprise last Saturday when Clark ended his commencement address by urging our graduates not only to be tough and resilient, but to be kind. For many of them, that was a lesson he had already taught, not just by words but by example.

Clark added one more word at the very end of that commencement address: “Grace.” Grace is a word we too seldom hear in our study of law. Law is about consequences. Grace is all about second chances. By word and example, Clark taught that both are essential to justice.

Clark brought a sense of humor to the class-

room, and his students responded in kind. He has, from time to time, been referred to by students as “the Sheriff.” I’m not sure whether that’s a reference to his career roots in a Dallas law firm or to his mastery of the details of service of process. On the occasion of his 50th birthday, his students arranged a small surprise: happy birthday wishes delivered by a gorilla in full costume to interrupt Civil Procedure.

As much as anyone here, Clark has served to build our law school and to mold its culture. He has been our glue — as one colleague put it, “our institutional memory and conscience rolled into one.” He has performed many of the unseen thankless tasks for which, ironically, we now say thanks.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “The great teacher is not the man who supplies the most facts, but the one in whose presence we become different people.” A man of kindness and grace, Clark has made a difference for the 6,570 who have known him as a teacher and for all of us who are privileged to know him as a colleague and friend.



◀ DID SOMEONE SAY ‘CLARK’?

Superman references came in abundance during the retirement celebration for W. Clark Williams. The affectionate joke is rooted in Williams’ shared name with Superman’s mild-mannered alter ego, Clark Kent.



THE TECHNOLOGY BATTLEFIELD





Associate professor
Rebecca Crootof is on
the front lines of
considering new
legal horizons as
technologies evolve.

To introduce Crootof, an expert on technology law, international law, and torts, we begin with a Q&A by *Politico* reporter Mohar Chatterjee. He interviewed Crootof for the site's "The Future in Five Questions" series. The following is a reprint. It began with this introduction:

As militaries incorporate more and more autonomous technology, who bears responsibility when things go wrong? It's one issue under international law if a sergeant orders an illegal attack on civilians. It's another entirely when an AI-powered system makes a snap decision nobody could have predicted. Rebecca Crootof, a University of Richmond law professor, has been wrestling with questions like this for years — stretching the boundaries of how law and liability should apply to the ever-changing landscape of AI.

Read on to hear her thoughts on the cost of war, military AI, and remote interference in our weekly feature: The Future in 5 Questions.

Responses have been edited for length and clarity.

*Material from
Politico reprinted
with permission.
The interview was
published Dec. 16,
2022.*

WHAT'S ONE UNDERRATED BIG IDEA?

It's absolutely bonkers that there is no accountability for civilian harms in armed conflicts. We just sort of accept that accidents happen in war, and then it's like, "Too bad, everybody!" after that. I understand that we accept it because it's how things have been. I understand that it made some relative sense in a world when we were creating the laws of war — when we had a world of traditional battlefields. But as we're shifting from wars on battlefields to increasingly wars in urban settings — and as the civilian casualty rate is just skyrocketing — the fact that states can just shrug off mistakenly killing people just strikes me as fundamentally wrong and untenable for the laws of war to have any real moral force.

So I've been arguing that we need to come up with some form of state accountability for accidents of war. On one hand, I recognize that it's completely ambitious. On the other hand, it's just intuitive that states are waging war for their own purposes, and they shouldn't be allowed to shift the costs of their mistakes onto foreign civilians.

International criminal law was unthinkable 100 years ago. You just would not have individual criminal liability for war crimes. And the crime of aggression was a pie-in-the-sky thing — until this year. And so the idea of having some form of state accountability for accidents in war and some form of obligation and to pay and some route to a remedy for civilians ... I see it being part of the same trajectory.



WHAT'S A TECHNOLOGY YOU THINK IS OVERHYPED?

Military AI in general. When I talk about military AI, most people jump to autonomous weapons systems. The more I've worked on them and studied them and learned about them, the more I think they are overhyped. They are often discussed as these amazing things that will do everything. And they're often conceptualized as a sort of humanoid soldier or Terminator-type thing that's just going to replace human soldiers. And that's a completely mistaken way of conceptualizing how military AI is being integrated and used.

Even with a more nuanced understanding of military AI, it's still being credited with way too much. AI is incredibly useful for certain things, but it is often treated as this Swiss army knife — like it's going to solve every single problem — without I think enough awareness of what it's not good at.

WHAT BOOK MOST SHAPED YOUR CONCEPTION OF THE FUTURE?

I grew up reading science fiction. My dad had this huge collection of old paperbacks in the attic and I would sneak up there and read things that were definitely too old for me and terrified me. One of the books that I read was *Level Seven*, which is set in the late 1950s and is about accidental nuclear war and the extinction of the human race as a result. It's written from the point of view of a person who is seven levels down in a bunker and is meant to be protected from the horrors of nuclear annihilation. One by one, the levels go dark, and eventually, everyone's dead.

When the first Gulf War began, I must've been like 9 or 10. I remember being on the school bus thinking, "This is it. We're all going to die." And so I guess that shaped my interest.

WHAT COULD GOVERNMENT BE DOING REGARDING TECH THAT IT ISN'T?

Under current liability rules, if a company pushes an update or changes the terms of the service, contractually, they could easily not be liable for any harm that results from that change. So if there's a smart oven and they

change the terms on how it operates and it ends up being left on or turning on inappropriately — based on different analogies that a court might use, the company might be found not liable.

To me, this should be an easy one. There should be liability for companies that engage in remote interference that foreseeably causes harm.

You could accomplish this in a variety of different ways. You could set up a new kind of product liability. Or maybe companies are not allowed to disclaim liability, which many do in their contracts. Or you could say there is a duty to not engage in remote interference if there's a foreseeable risk of harm.

Unfortunately, I don't see any likelihood of legislative action on this front until something absolutely horrific happens.

I'm really concerned that we will go down a path where consumers just start to think, "Oh, yeah, if I use this thing, this risk is attached to it." Because the legal standard is tied into what people expect. So I hope that judicially, judges will use analogies that foster the development of this type of a duty from companies toward a consumer.

WHAT HAS SURPRISED YOU MOST THIS YEAR [2022]?

A combination of three things: that Russia invaded Ukraine in the first place, that Ukrainians have done so unexpectedly well and that Russia has done so unexpectedly poorly. Many of the common assumptions about Russian military might — and autonomous military capabilities — have evaporated.

The whole conflict has really showcased the import of technology — in that Ukraine has been doing so well in part because of the cyber and physical tech support it has received — and the import of human emotion — in that Ukrainians are doing so well in part because of what they are fighting for.

Photographs: previous spread by Alamy Live News via AP; top left by Ukrinform/NurPhoto via AP; right by Gordon Schmidt



Technology law's champion

By María Badillo

Professor Rebecca Crootof built her law career on a single question: “How can we make things better?” And the inspiration for this question arose from an unexpected source: science fiction paperbacks.

“I grew up reading everything I could lay my hands on, but particularly science fiction,” Crootof said. “My dad had all these 1950s and 1960s paperbacks up in the attic, and they would put a human being in a new situation and [we’d see them] still act like a human being — for better and for worse. I really liked thinking about humans in new situations.”

What began as a side interest wove its way through Crootof’s career. Her journey to becoming a technology law expert began in a classroom — not as a law student, but as a ninth grade English teacher in a school confronting a history of racial discrimination. This work motivated her to join a civil rights nonprofit that addressed fair housing and fair employment issues.

“[At the nonprofit,] I kept running up against this J.D. ceiling, where I would develop a fair housing case, hand it over to the lawyers, and then they wouldn’t pay any attention to me afterwards — and probably entirely appropriately,” she said, “But I wanted to keep going with it. So I said, ‘OK, I’m going to go to law school.’”

Law school deepened Crootof’s understanding of civil and human rights. As her interest in human rights tangled with drone strikes and malicious cyberoperations, she noticed, “Oh, I’m back to science fiction world. This



“If your goal is minimizing civilian harm, which is one of my animating interests, just being able to say, ‘Accidents happen,’ is not an adequate answer.”

is all still about, ‘How do we keep being the best version of humans with crazy new technologies and new situations?’”

These elements of science fiction got Crootof focusing on the need for technology law in order to create a better experience for everybody. “How do we get better?” she came to ask. “How do we use law to get better results?”

WHERE LAW AND TECHNOLOGY MEET

“I say ‘technology law’ like it’s a thing,” Crootof said. “I’m working to make technology law a thing. It is currently not a recognized common subject taught in law schools. There are a number of people who teach AI and the law, internet law, and cyberlaw. But just like health law, just like energy law, just like the host of other recognized, established subjects, technology law is an area of the law with a distinct set of repeating problems, its own set of principles, methodologies, and neuroses that are worth distilling and recognizing as a stand-alone subject. And once you see the repeating regulatory patterns, you can apply these methodologies to any kind of technology to figure out how to best regulate it.”

Along with a course called Technology Law, Crootof teaches Torts and National Security and New Technologies, so it’s not surprising that she tends to focus on how things can go wrong. “All these new technologies allow for new harms and new types and kinds of accidents, either in ways that we’re not accustomed to or at a greater scale. [We also have to consider] the possibility of malfunction or unintentional misuse,” she said. This is particularly troublesome when it comes to the law of war, another of Crootof’s areas of expertise. “Looking at the international law of armed conflict, there’s no accountability mechanism for accidents. I’m trying to change that.

“But,” Crootof said, “criminal law requires intentionality, which is not why most accidents in war happen. Most accidents in war happen for more systemic reasons, not because any individual acted with criminal intent. And it’s tempting to say, ‘Well, it’s war. Accidents happen.’ But if your goal is minimizing civilian harm, which is one of my animating interests, just being able to say, ‘Accidents happen,’ is not an adequate answer.”

Crootof’s been pushing for what she calls a war torts regime that would explicitly create liability for states for these harms. “The question isn’t, ‘Which individual should be held liable?’ because that can lock us into individual criminal liability,” she said. “The question is, ‘What is the legal structure system that’s going to minimize the chances of this harm happening?’ And that’s where tort law comes in. Tort law is all about creating incentives and creating deterrence. So let’s use law to create the right incentives for the state, as the state is the entity that’s best able to minimize the likelihood of the accident happening.”

“One goal [of my teaching] is the essential: Impart knowledge. But I also want to share my excitement.”

EVERYDAY ACCIDENTS

For the majority of Americans, warfare is not our day-to-day. The everyday ways we brush up against the need for technology law are much more subtle than an active battlefield. While we’re increasingly aware of all the ways we are surveilled through the internet, Crootof’s research also digs into ways in which this enables companies to hurt us physically.

“We already know of situations where a company wants to change its terms of service, maybe to allow them to sell more of your data that they collect,” she said. “They give you a little pop-up that says, ‘We’ve changed our terms of service,’ right? ‘Do you agree?’ And we all click ‘yes,’ and we agree to all sorts of things that we don’t know we’re agreeing to legally. But if we don’t click on that, we can’t keep using that service. So OK, maybe that’s Twitter. Fine. I’ll give up using that form of social media. But it might be the speaker set I bought for my house and installed in every room. And if I don’t click ‘yes,’ they’re like, ‘All right, we’re just going to turn off the service, which means you can’t use the physical speakers that you purchased.’ Sonos did this. This has already happened. In another case, it was a garage door opener that someone left a bad review about, and the CEO turned it off remotely.”

Crootof’s intrigue piqued at the idea that surveillance and remotely deactivating device features could be used for manipulation or punishment, most especially when those acts lead to physical harm. “Your new speakers no longer working are one type of problem. But if your garage door gets left open, your car could be stolen. Or maybe your garage is connected to your house and an intruder uses that point of access to enter your home. Under current law, it’s not clear the company would be liable for your harm, even though they caused it.”

Ford Motor Co. recently published a patent application that would allow it to repossess cars by activating autonomous driving capabilities. “If you’re leasing a car and you miss a payment, [the company] could drive it out of your driveway, perhaps to a public road where it’s easier to tow away or to a junkyard if they deem it not worth keeping,” she said. “And because I think about accidents, I’m wondering what happens when there’s a kid in the back seat of the car? What happens when a cat is sleeping behind the back wheel? What happens when that car that is being remotely repossessed hits me driving down the road? Who’s responsible?”

CROOTOF IN THE CLASSROOM

Crootof takes this mindset of critical curiosity into her classroom, where her students learn how to address these complex regulatory questions. She especially loves teaching first-semester 1Ls. “It’s incredibly cathartic for me to say, ‘I know this feels like too much. I know this feels impossible. But trust me, we are going to get there together.’ I almost dropped out of law school my first semester because I thought it wasn’t for me. I couldn’t understand how the old cases were relevant to what I wanted to do in the present. So I try to teach my students the things I had to figure out on my own.”

Crootof’s commitment to breaking down the “messiness and confusion” of law, as she put it, into a manageable curriculum has led her to a robust teaching philosophy. “One goal is the essential: Impart knowledge. But I also want to share my excitement. My favorite classes were the ones where the instructor was excited and invigorated by the subject. And it definitely helps that Richmond lets me teach the subjects I’m interested in.”

Then, there’s her way of creating a classroom that’s both challenging and inclusive. “I push my students to get very comfortable discussing disagreements about policy but in a way where everybody feels like they have a voice. I want everybody feeling like even if every single person in the class disagrees with their policy choice, they are still respected.”

She models this from Day One. “I’m not going to pretend that I’m not biased. I’m open about my biases, and I invite students to acknowledge their own. When I teach, I’ll tell [them] very clearly what the law is, and in policy discussions, I’ll tell them if I think a law has good or bad results. When I think the law is wrong, I explain why, and when I do, I’ll also tell [them] the counterarguments in the most respectful manner I possibly can. I show them the ability to hold different understandings in one’s head at the same time; then I get my students to practice doing it themselves.

“With law, we can be proactive,” she tells both her students and her fellow academics. “We can think ahead about what we want. What world do we want to live in? And we can use law to create that.” ■

BEACONS FOR EQUAL JUSTICE



Approximately 10% of the Class of 2023 took positions as public defenders.

By Matthew Dewald | Illustration by Katie McBride

A

few years ago, David Johnson, R'80 and L'83, was getting ready to teach a course at Richmond Law when he came across a checklist used by medical professionals to gauge major stressors in patients' lives. The gist of the checklist — commonly called the Life Events Inventory — is a series of yes/no questions. Has the patient or someone in their family been in a serious accident? Experienced divorce? Lost a job? Had a death in the family?

One question really jumped out at him as he put together his course materials: Had the patient or a family member been arrested or incarcerated? According to this checklist, medical professionals had identified getting caught up in the criminal justice system as one of the most traumatic experiences a person can have. Johnson added it to his resources for the course he was teaching: Criminal Defense Practice.

"That's one of the things I talk to my students about," he said. "You're in a small room with somebody who's going through an event that you can't understand."

One of his former students, Whitney King, L'23, has decided that she will be the attorney in that small room. In August, she began a position as a public defender in Chesterfield County, Virginia, just south of Richmond. She is one of 14 of her classmates — approximately 10% of the Class of 2023 — who are beginning their legal careers as public defenders. It's the highest number in recent years, a surge driven by state-level changes in public defender offices, law students' growing interest in career paths tied to social justice, and changes within Richmond Law to more strongly support students interested in exploring public interest law.

A MISSION-DRIVEN CANDIDATE

As far back as fifth grade, King knew she wanted to be an attorney. As a kid, she was a quick thinker and relished a good argument. Her mom saw she was a natural for the profession and encouraged her ambition. When King arrived at Richmond Law, she assumed she'd go into some form of business or commercial law. Business and legal studies, after all, were her undergraduate majors at Temple University, and she had interned with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The combination interested her, and she was good at it.



"The thing about public defenders is that we don't hide how we feel about things. We all understand the importance of advocacy."

—WHITNEY KING, L'23

“More and more students are coming to law school thinking about justice and how we can improve the world that we live in.”

—JANET HUTCHINSON

But her first year of law school, which coincided with the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, was a rough ride. She ended it contemplating a gap year but took a summer internship with a firm in Richmond while she figured things out. The internship, it turned out, was pivotal. One day, she was riding in the car from appointment to appointment with one of the partners, and he started telling her stories about his career, including from a stint as a public defender. It clicked with her. She wanted to argue cases in courtrooms and had begun to understand that civil litigation, as she put it, “is more the threat of litigation” than in-court advocacy.



Other experiences from before her law school enrollment also kept resurfacing in her reflections that summer. There was an undergraduate semester she spent as an intern at the Philadelphia district attorney’s office. “It really opened my eyes to immense disparities,” she said. “I worked in a program that was designed for kids in the foster care system, so I was hearing about their lives and, for the first time, having my privilege right up in front of me.”

And there was the murder of George Floyd and the worldwide demonstrations that followed during the summer before her first semester at Richmond Law. They deeply affected her and further helped surface her personal values as she wrestled with frustration at seeing “other people not as upset as I was,” she said.

Yet, she had never seriously thought about these experiences and values in the context of her law school trajectory until the conversations in the car during her summer internship. She didn’t have a light bulb moment exactly — “it was definitely a slow realization,” she said — but she began a reorientation in her thinking about why she was in law school and what she aimed to do after graduation. Meanwhile, the state of Virginia and Richmond Law were making this a particularly good time for her to be doing so.

STRUCTURAL SUPPORTS

With his students, Johnson likes to echo a line from John Rapping, the founder of the nonprofit public defender organization Gideon’s Promise: Public defenders are on the front lines of the civil rights movement, he says. Johnson also tells his students that it’s easy to fall in love with the work. As a young lawyer, he planned to work in public defense for a short while before moving on to something else. He ended up doing it for 37 years.

“We often say that the two hardest things about the job are No. 1, getting it, and No. 2, leaving it,” he said. “The best thing I can say about the job is that I never got up in the morning and thought, ‘God, I’ve got to go to work.’”

Johnson watched his practice area transform in Virginia over the course of his career, and he eventually led it. When he graduated from Richmond Law, there was no public defender’s office in Richmond, so he signed up to be on the list of potential court-appointed attorneys. He joined the newly formed Richmond Public Defender Office as an assistant public defender in 1986 and grew professionally within it. In 2005, he became the executive director of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, where he eventually oversaw 28 public defender offices until his retirement in August 2022.

Throughout his tenure, resources and training for public defenders steadily grew as Virginia tried to put its public defenders on closer to equal footing with prosecutors’ offices. For example, it became the first state to have legislatively mandated standards of practice for indigent defense representation. More recently, the state’s 2021 fiscal year budget added 59 new public defender positions. Around that period, the VIDC also got funding to open new offices in Prince William and Chesterfield counties. With these changes, the total number of VIDC lawyers jumped quickly from 335 to about 460. The commission still isn’t on par with its counterparts in prosecutors’ offices, but the trajectory over his career has been a narrowing of the gap.

These developments opened new opportunities, Johnson said, for law students like King, who loved her time as an intern in Chesterfield’s public defender office. “Chief public defenders around the state were saying, ‘This is the time to hire people who are still in school,’ and they did and the results were great,” Johnson said. “They realize they’re worth waiting for.”

Back at Richmond Law, Johnson was helping the school take additional steps to support students interested in a public defender career path and entice even more. He had taught as an adjunct for more than a decade while leading the VIDC. When he retired, the school extended an oppor-



“We often say that the two hardest things about the job are No. 1, getting it, and No. 2, leaving it.”

—DAVE JOHNSON, R’80 AND L’83

such as the Institute for Actual Innocence and the Children’s Defense Clinic — that put students in contact with indigent clients in places like prisons and parole board hearings. Post-graduation, there are Bridge to Practice Fellowships, which come with stipends to support new graduates pursuing careers in government and public interest law while they await bar examination results.

MISSION-CENTERED LAWYERS

Taken together, these resources and opportunities can help students discover, explore, and pursue careers in public service from the moment they walk in the door until after graduation, something Hutchinson says students are increasingly looking for.

“I do think that there’s something special about both the time that we’re living in and what’s happening at the law school,” she said. “The political times that we’re in have meant that more and more students are coming to law school thinking about justice and how we can improve the world that we live in.”

After her giant post-bar exhale in July, King found herself antsy to begin her new position, which didn’t start until late August. A balance beam specialist on Temple’s NCAA gymnastics team in college, she felt eager and prepared for the high stakes of her first cases. “If you can perform under pressure doing flips on a 4-inch piece of wood that’s 4 feet off the ground, it makes you learn how to handle pressure and nerves,” she said.

And, just as when her gymnastics teammates cheered her, King feels the support of a mini-community among her classmates also beginning their careers as public defenders.

“The thing about public defenders is that we don’t hide how we feel about things. We all understand the importance of advocacy,” she said. “Law is such a powerful tool. It really is one of the most direct ways that we can make this a better place for people who are consistently thrown aside by our legal system. It’s important to see the law as a tool to make a change in the world.” ■

tunity for him to become a visiting professor, a status that integrated him more fully into the school’s workings.

“One of the discussions I had with the dean — and she was very supportive — is that we’ve got 25-plus criminal law courses. That’s a lot,” he said. “We’re in the capital city; we’ve got large prosecutors’ offices, public defender offices, the attorney general’s office — and they all have a bunch of lawyers.”

But amid all of that bounty, he saw a disconnect: Students didn’t take criminal law their first semester, so they haven’t been exposed to it when they begin thinking about their first summer internships. The dean empowered Johnson to create the Richmond Criminal Justice Forum, which offers programming to connect students with public defenders and prosecutors over informal lunches, panels, and other offerings. It also partners with student groups across a wide range of interests and has a 10-member student advisory board.

“This is a big tent,” he said. “There’s a lot of opportunity here.”

On the career development side, the school offers a variety of services to support students’ career exploration, said Janet Hutchinson, associate dean for career development. Some of them are generally applicable to all law students — connections for internships, for example, and mock interviews. Sixty to 70 alumni participate in the latter each year to prepare students for the real ones.

Other opportunities are specific to students exploring careers in public service and government. The Summer Public Service Fellowship Program, for example, guarantees every law student at least one fellowship to support an internship with a public sector organization. The school partners with the VIDC on a program that provides funding to support internships in high-need public defender offices in rural areas. As part of the curriculum, it offers faculty-supervised in-house clinics for academic credit —

AN INSPIRING, INTENTIONAL NEW SPACE

Photography by Jamie Betts

“WELCOME BACK, AND WELCOME HOME.”


These are the words Dean Wendy Perdue used to greet the Richmond Law community at the start of the semester. Her message celebrated the completion of the latest phase of a multiyear transformation of the law school’s building. The project “has been described as the most complex renovation that the university has ever undertaken,” she said.

The biggest changes came to Muse Law Library, which was reconfigured to allow the creation of a central law school commons — a gathering place for the Richmond Law community. Newly redesigned classrooms will allow classmates to better see, hear, and collaborate with one another; other spaces encourage quiet study and reflection. In-house clinics are now situated in a prominently visible suite, and a well-equipped lactation room and dedicated space for student organizations are on the third floor. The building also has the first green roof on campus.

The extensive physical changes brought the promise, as Perdue expressed it, “that our newly renovated building will serve as a catalyst to reinforce our values and priorities.” Here’s a look. ■



The renovations included changes that updated and brightened the Muse Law Library and moved its entrance (above). Several classrooms were redesigned for greater collaboration and updated with video conferencing technology (left). The law school now has UR's first green roof (right), which enhances the views out the windows and reduces the amount of heat absorbed by the building, creating energy savings.



*“The legal system can force open doors
and sometimes even knock down walls.
But it cannot build bridges. That job
belongs to you and me.”*

— Justice Thurgood Marshall



Richmond Law NEW SPACE



The newly renovated spaces are designed with connection in mind, as well as quiet study and reflection, all of which are important for success at Richmond Law.

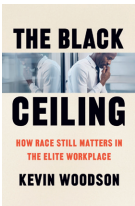
“OUR NEW SPACE IS FRESH AND BRIGHT, WITH AREAS FOR PEOPLE TO CONNECT AND ENGAGE WITH EACH OTHER.” —DEAN WENDY PERDUE



Faculty Notes



‘Law affects real people’



COMING SOON
Kevin Woodson's book will be released in November by University of Chicago Press. The Black Ceiling explores the racial discomfort experienced by Black professionals in prestigious firms.

It's a classic Tort 101 scenario: You spill your coffee on a park bench, which stains the next person's pants, which makes them late for work. Unintended consequences are part and parcel of both life and working with the law, something Professor Kevin Woodson emphasizes with his students. A late arrival might result in a grumpy colleague or unexpectedly escalate into a blown court case.

"We need to remember that law affects real people," Woodson says. A decision made in court could radically alter a client's life, which can then ripple out to affect the lives of many others. "It can also have an impact on the inequality between groups of people in ways that are quite tangible. It's important that we all keep that in mind when we think about the law and read about it or argue about it."

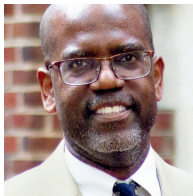
Woodson, who has a doctorate in sociology and social policy from Princeton University in addition to his law degree from Yale, casts a critical eye on the effects of law throughout society. He covers the do's and don'ts of lawyering in his courses to ensure his students understand the broader social context in which the law is developed and applied. "The ways law appears on the books might

be very different than how it actually affects people's lives in the real world, especially when you factor in different types of inequality," he says.

Inequality is also a primary subject of his scholarly work, including his forthcoming book. *The Black Ceiling: How Race Still Matters in the Elite Workplace* will be released by University of Chicago Press in November. It looks beyond overt bias to a more subtle struggle experienced by Black professionals in prestigious firms: racial discomfort.

Woodson describes racial discomfort as the unease Black employees feel in predominantly white workplaces, an experience he divides into two categories: social alienation and stigma anxiety. "These can undermine people's career development and progress, even if they're not actually mistreated because of bias," he says.

"I've had many working professionals approach me to say they appreciate somebody actually naming these issues and assuring them that it's not just them, or just paranoia, or some kind of personal failing," he says. "And by bringing this to the attention of the leaders of law firms, they can understand the impact this has. And hopefully it inspires them to do something about it."



HANK CHAMBERS wrote an article published by The Conversation called “Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts Uses Con-

flicting Views of Race to Resolve America’s History of Racial Discrimination.” The article focused on Roberts’ opinions in cases involving Congressional districting and another focused on college admissions in 2023. “Roberts’ arguments for the conflicting rulings on the use of race may appear puzzling,” he wrote.

Vanderbilt Law Review published **REBECCA CROOTOF**’s latest paper, “Humans in the Loop.” In it, she examines how best to regulate artificially intelligent algorithms that affect human lives.



MARISSA JACKSON SOW’s article “(Re) Building the Master’s House: Dismantling America’s Colonial Politics of Extraction and Exclusion” was

published by *Michigan Law Review Online*. She has several additional forthcoming articles, including “Whiteness as Contract in the Racial Superstate,” which will be published by *UC Irvine Law Review*, and “Fighting Whiteness in Ukraine,” which will be published by *Creighton Law Review*.

CORINNA LAIN discussed her research on the death penalty and lethal injection as a guest speaker on the podcast *Public Defenseless*.



KURT LASH’s article “Becoming the Bill of Rights: The 1791 Amendments from the Founding to the Fourteenth Amendment” has been accepted for

publication by *Virginia Law Review*. The article examines the history of political, legal, and cultural references to “Bill of Rights” as a descriptor of the first 10 amendments to the federal Constitution, a point of contention in recent scholarship.



JULIE MCCONNELL hosted the 27th Annual Robert E. Shepherd Jr. Youth Law and Education Conference in May. She also authored an

article for The Conversation that examines the sharp decline in juvenile life without parole sentences over the past two decades. The article is called “40 Years Ago, the U.S. Started Sending More and More Kids to Prison Without Hope of Release, but Today It’s Far More Rare — What Happened?”



LUKE NORRIS and **ALLISON TAIT**

presented their joint paper “The Masterplot of the Market” at University of Southampton. The paper will be published by *Law, Narrative and Masterplot: New Research Perspectives*. Norris also has two forthcoming journal articles. “Federal Rules of Private

Enforcement” will be published by *Cornell Law Review*, and “The Oligarchic Court-house: Jurisdiction, Corporate Power, and Democratic Decline” will be published by *Michigan Law Review*.

George Mason University’s Center for Intellectual Property x Innovation Policy named **KRISTEN OSENGA** a senior fellow for innovation policy. In this role, she will lend her expertise to planning events and activities around especially high-tech patent and innovation policy.



Georgetown Environmental Law Review will publish **NOAH SACHS**’ article “A Wrong Turn with the Rights of Nature Movement,” which

spotlights the problems granting enforceable legal rights to nature.



DORON SAMUEL-SIEGEL’s article “Reckoning with Structural Racism in Legal Education: Methods Toward a Pedagogy of

Antiracism” was published by the *Cardozo Journal of Equal Rights & Social Justice*, and her textbook *Legal Writing: Fundamentals & Variations* is forthcoming from West Academic Press.



DANIELLE STOKES presented her upcoming paper “Redlining to Greenlining” at the Association for Law, Property, and Society’s annual meeting.

The paper will be published by the *UCLA Law Review*.

NEW FACULTY



KRISHNEE COLEY joined the Richmond Law faculty as an associate professor of law, legal practice. She comes from

North Carolina Central University School of Law, where she served as assistant dean of academic success. Coley will lead Richmond Law’s Academic Success Program.



RILEY KEENAN joined the Richmond Law faculty as an assistant professor of law after serving as a visiting assistant professor at Cornell

Law School. Keenan’s scholarship focuses on the procedural and remedial aspects of constitutional litigation, including preclusion, justiciability, and equitable remedies.

Class Notes

We want to hear from you.

Send us your note via the “Submit a Class Note” link at lawmagazine.richmond.edu; email us at lawalumni@richmond.edu; contact us by mail at Law Alumni, University of Richmond School of Law, University of Richmond, VA 23173; or call 804-289-8028.

1960s

ANDY WOOD, R'64 AND L'67, and **CHERYL CARLSON WOOD, W'71 AND L'79**, are delighted by the arrival of grandchild No. 7 — another Andrew.

1970s

BILL SCHUTT, L'71, and wife Genie Henderson Schutt, W'66, have lived in their home in Richmond's Northside since 1971. Daughter Melissa is a librarian at the Rockefeller Research Library, a part of Colonial Williamsburg. Their other daughter, Anne, lives in Roanoke County with husband Jeff and their three children. Son Frederick, his wife Emily, and their three children bought a house two years ago just four blocks from them. They are delighted that their children, spouses, and grandchildren live close.

RICHARD EPPS, R'69 AND L'73, and wife Lynn Andrews Epps, W'70, traveled to Texas from Virginia Beach, Virginia, to celebrate son Michael's wedding in May to Katherine Grimmer. While they were in Texas, they coordinated a trip to see Richard Goodwin, R'70, and his wife, Patty. The Goodwins have lived in the Dallas-Fort Worth area for almost 40 years.

THEODORE “TED” CHANDLER JR., L'77, and wife Laura Lee Hankins Chandler, W'74, announce the birth of granddaughter Juniper Lee Guillote in September 2022. Juniper Lee is the daughter of Rebecca Chandler Guillote, '07, and the great-granddaughter of Hilda Lee Moore Hankins, W'50.

CHERYL CARLSON WOOD, W'71 AND L'79, and **ANDY WOOD, R'64 AND L'67**, are delighted by the arrival of grandchild No. 7 — another Andrew.

1980s

The Richmond Free Press published an interview with **LUCIA A. “PIA” TRIGIANI, L'83**, who is president of the board of the Library of Virginia Foundation. She said in the interview, “The library draws you in, captures your attention, and invites you to become part of its important mission. The library is a special place with important purpose — to preserve Virginia's written history — and more.”

After months of COVID-19 precautions, **BEN EMERSON, R'73 AND L'84**, and Nancy Bendall Emerson, W'73, started to travel again in 2022. They spent several days in Chicago at a national gathering of one of the historical societies to which Ben belongs. That was followed shortly by a church retreat to Shrine Mont in the Virginia mountains. The next stop was Georgia over the Fourth of July to visit Benjamin, their oldest son, and his family. Over Labor Day weekend, they gathered the whole clan — children and grandchildren — at Wild Dunes in South Carolina, where they celebrated their granddaughter's 3rd birthday and the birthdays of both daughters-in-law. Their last summer trip was a gathering at their mountain place in Hot Springs, Arkansas, with Donna Strother Deekens, W'73, and Bill and Donna Kingery Hudgins, W'73, and Carter Hudgins, R'72.

Spider family

More than 100 alumni and friends returned to campus for Richmond Law Reunion Weekend 2023. Right, Dean Wendy Perdue (front row, fifth from right) met with members of the Class of 1983 at a dinner during the reunion. Opposite page, alumni pick up Richmond Law swag during the reunion.

Photography by Kim Lee Schmidt



STANLEY P. WELLMAN, L'87, is president of the Harmonie Group, an invitation-only international network of elite law firms handling complex, high-stakes civil litigation for corporations, insurance companies, and third-party administrators. Stanley is serving a two-year term.

SUSAN MOZLEY HARRIS, L'89, says daughter-in-law **LINDSAY JEAN BORYAN, L'23**, graduated from the UR School of Law in May. "We are all very proud of her."

1990s

MARY JEANETTE CLEMENT, L'90, is the author of a new book, *Peace: Spiritual Insights from Mystical Sites to Promote Peace*. She describes it as follows: "Armed only with a peace pipe, a Fulbright Scholar and highly educated white woman who has been adopted into a Native American tribe (Comanche) spends the 1998–99 school year teaching at the law center at Birzeit University in the West Bank. She learns and shares the keys to peace and healing." Mary took early retirement from Virginia Commonwealth University's criminal justice department and retired from private practice in criminal and family law in Gallatin, Tennessee. She lives in New Boston, Texas. Read more at trueemotionalwellness.com.

MARK HERRING, L'90, joined Akin Gump as a partner, co-leading its nationwide state attorneys general practice. His work focuses on a wide array of matters relating to state

attorneys general, including "investigations, enforcement, litigation, and public policy." Prior to joining Akin Gump, Mark was Virginia's 47th attorney general, serving two terms from 2014 to 2022.

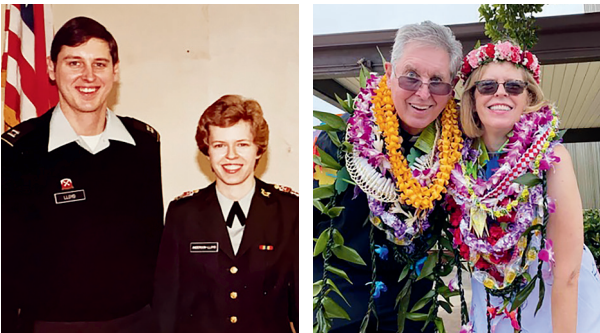
Virginia Commonwealth University presented a 2022 Alumni Star award to **VICTOR NARRO, L'91**. The award is given every two years to 15 alumni "for their contributions in all areas of human endeavor, illuminating problems, creating solutions, and strengthening the quality of our lives." Victor was honored for his work for social justice and immigrant rights over the past 40 years.

United Educators insurance named **ROYA P. EWING, L'93**, associate vice president for litigation management and operations. She leads the operations of UE's resolutions department and is driving the development of more robust litigation management. Previously, she was assistant vice president of legal services at CNA Insurance in Richmond.

Swisher promoted **CHRIS HOWARD, L'97**, to executive vice president for external affairs and new product compliance. Chris was senior vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance officer at E-Alternative Solutions, a Swisher company.

Metropolitan Business League recognized **BONNIE ATWOOD, L'96**, for outstanding contributions to the Greater Richmond community.

ALUMNI PROFILE



TOGETHER IN LAW AND LIFE

ROB LLOYD, L'81, and **LISA ANDERSON-LLOYD, L'82**, have been a pair for almost all of their lives. They met when they were 16, married as undergraduates together at William and Mary, and then went to Richmond Law a year apart. By the time Lisa enrolled, the couple had a young daughter running around the law school with them.

"Her first words were 'rule against perpetuities' and 'fee simple,'" Lisa said from the couple's home in Hawaii. "We'd take her into classes. She was like the mascot for our class."

The supportive family atmosphere was just what they wanted when they were looking at law schools, they said. That balancing act of law and family continued after graduation, as Rob went straight into active duty in the Army. Lisa followed not long after, in 1984. Both became part of the JAG Corps and together served nearly 60 years — he retired as a lieutenant colonel after 28 years, and she retired as a colonel after 30.

"The wonderful thing is that when you come in as a young attorney, they move you through the different areas of law so that you get a good overview," Lisa said. "You get experience in criminal law, administrative law, environmental law, and contract law." From there, they moved up in responsibility, eventually heading offices.

"You can't get anywhere without your people — you realize this as you go up through the ranks," Rob said. "You're not able to finish the mission with heavy-handed 'thou shalt.'"

For Lisa, caring for the whole person was the most satisfying part of the job. "In the JAG Corps, we're a soldier first and lawyer always. A lot of what I enjoyed the most was working with those young attorneys and young soldiers as they came in."

Their care for others turned pastoral after their Army retirements. Until his recent second retirement, Rob served as pastor of congregations in Kentucky, Virginia, and Hawaii after earning a divinity degree. Lisa also went to seminary, earning a master's degree in theology and working alongside Rob in ministry.

Together, as always.



ALUMNI PROFILE



A VERY FINE DIVERSION

To paraphrase the writer Raymond Chandler, there are no bad weekends with friends, only ones that are better than others. **RUSSELL NANCE, L'97** (above, second from right), had one of his best weekends with friends over the summer. And it involved sumptuous sips of what Chandler was actually talking about: whiskey. In Nance's case specifically, very fine bourbon.

Nance and four classmates — Huntley Thorpe, Sam Stathos, Patrick Skelley, and Werner Versch — and their spouses spent several July days together sipping bourbon at Ragged Branch, a craft distillery in Albemarle County, Virginia. "We had a great weekend together at the distillery — that was our home base," said Nance, whose practice focuses on the tax aspects of securitizations and structured finance transactions. "We were as tight and as close as if we had just walked out of a law school class."

Nance played host because, in addition to his role as a partner at Mayer Brown in Manhattan, he is part of Ragged Branch's ownership team. The business is at a good point in its life cycle. When he first invested with friends and family in 2008, everything was hope and expectation, plus more than a small dose of stress and expenditure. The long process of distillation meant that five years passed between the time the company started distilling its bourbon and the release of its first full product line in 2019.

Today, the bourbon flows at a rate of about 100,000 bottles a year with plans to grow, and it is sold in 23 states. It also wins awards at the annual World Spirits Competition, the industry's equivalent to the Oscars. Nance — a self-confessed beer guy when all of this started — now finds himself hosting barreling parties and tastings. He also has a killer icebreaker with clients, and, he added, his experience as a business owner gives him new understanding of the challenges many of them face.

"It has been a generator of emotions across the spectrum from anxiety to frustration to despair to elation to self-satisfaction, but more good than bad," he said. "A lot of that anxiety and frustration was more in the early years. And now I'm in the gravy part of it where the business is running well. It's exciting, it's fun, and it's rewarding."

President Joe Biden nominated and the Senate confirmed **KELLEY BRISBON HODGE, L'96**, as a federal judicial candidate for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Kelley was a partner at Fox Rothschild in Philadelphia, where she worked since 2020. She previously was of counsel at Elliott Greenleaf and interim district attorney for the city of Philadelphia. She also served as a public defender in Richmond.

WILLIAM WALLACE, L'98, is a deputy commissioner with the North Carolina Industrial Commission. He says, "I will be adjudicating workers' compensation claims, tort claims involving state departments and agencies, as well as other matters within the jurisdiction of the North Carolina Industrial Commission."

2000s

BRUCE RUSSELL, L'00, is a Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation, which supports projects that facilitate access to justice, promote an appreciation and understanding of the rule of law, and provide law-related education. Fellows are recognized as leaders in the profession and their communities. Bruce has practiced law in his native southwest Virginia for more than 20 years, most of it in Abingdon, Lebanon, and Tazewell, where he is president of the Russell County Bar and the 28th Circuit Criminal Defense Bar. He is immediate past president of the Virginia Mountain/Valley Lawyers' Alliance. He also is on the board of the Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, sits on the

Virginia Bar Association's Boyd-Graves Conference, and represents the 28th Circuit on the Virginia State Bar Council. He lives in Abingdon, Virginia, with wife Shannon, sons Clark and Eamon, and their four dogs.

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission named **SHANNON DION, L'01**, as director of its Virginia Victims Fund division. Her extensive range of experience includes serving as director and director of policy of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services and in leadership roles in the Virginia Office of the Attorney General, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the city of Richmond's Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. Shannon says she is "honored to join this great legacy as leaders in victims' services throughout the commonwealth for over 45 years."

The Council of Independent Colleges in Virginia named **CHRIS PEACE, L'02**, as its president. He previously was actively engaged in private practice and represented clients as a lobbyist before local and state governments. He served 14 years as a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, where he chaired the House General Laws Committee. He also sat on the House Appropriations Committee, was a member of the Joint Commission on Health Care, and served several terms as chair of the Virginia Commission on Youth.

AUDREY BURGESS, L'04, published her first novel, *The Minuscle Mansion of Myra Malone*, through Berkley, an imprint of Penguin Random House. Her second novel, *A House Like an Accordion*, will be released





During Reunion Weekend 2023, members of the Class of 2013 enjoyed a reception at Three Notch'd Brewing Co. (opposite page), while the Class of 2018 held its gathering at The Barrel Room at Ardent (this page, bottom). Alumni across multiple years attended the Law Reunion Festival at UR's Weinstein International Center, took tours, and socialized.

ALUMNI PROFILE



INVISIBLE SIGNALS

Even as a kid, **JONATHAN MARK, L'16**, knew he wanted to work in communications. He realized only later that this interest would take him through law school.

Mark is currently communications law counsel for Google, with previous stops at the FCC and Davis Wright Tremaine. His work focuses on issues related to telecommunications and media law.

"Google creates a lot of products that are just on the edge of established communications law," he said. These include wireless services, Android, and its Google Pixel phone — products competing in a fast-moving regulated industry. He also works on issues related to spectrum — the range of electromagnetic waves that carry everything from satellite signals to public safety communications. Concerns about interference rise as the limited spectrum becomes more crowded, which makes the rules for sharing increasingly important.

"The government is a huge user of the spectrum, but it doesn't occupy all of the spectrum that it has rights to, so we've created innovative solutions to share that spectrum so that it can be used by the public," he said.

This immersion in technical issues is a recent career development for Mark. He majored in journalism at Hampton University and started at Richmond Law intending to become a lawyer in the entertainment industry. He gradually shifted to telecom, particularly after an externship at the FCC during his 3L year through Richmond Law's D.C. externship program.

"I thought it was really cool that there are these invisible signals that are traveling through the air at all times, and they can be used for things that connect us in different ways," he said. "I built my practice on helping companies who utilize those airwaves and create innovative communications products."

He is also a member of the leadership committee of the Black Law Alumni Association. Its outreach to current and prospective students is particularly important, he said. "We want to help bridge that gap for students who might feel a bit more marginalized, to let them know that they do belong and to say that there's a place for you."

in May 2024. More of her work, including frequent contributions to McSweeney's, can be found at audreyburges.com. Audrey lives in Richmond with her husband and two children and serves as a deputy county attorney in Henrico County, Virginia.

ALEX CASE, L'06, earned a Chairman's Staff Excellence team award for his work on bringing and obtaining the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission's first successful petition for a writ of mandamus in a U.S. Circuit Court. He lives in Fairfax, Virginia, with wife Tristen and their daughters Faith and Grace.

MICHAEL GARLAN, L'07, is district court magistrate in the 17th Judicial District of Colorado.

2010s

RACHAEL DEANE, L'10, is CEO of Voices for Virginia's Children, a statewide nonprofit organization with a mission to champion public policies that improve the lives of young people.

LAURA BOORMAN TRUESDALE, L'13, joined the Charlotte, North Carolina, law office of Moore & Van Allen, where she advises clients on a wide variety of environmental and regulatory compliance issues related to real estate and corporate transactions.

J. ANDREW SHUNIAK, L'18, is the managing attorney of Virginia for the Manhattan-based firm Robert S. Gitmeid & Associates. He focuses on consumer protection and civil defense at the state and federal levels.

HANNAH SAGER, L'19, and husband Alex Miller opened Spotty Dog Ice Cream Co. in Richmond. The couple met in Boston while attending college, and "pretty soon after I started law school, we started testing out ice cream flavors," Hannah said. They accumulated a portfolio of recipes based on the New England style of ice cream they remembered from their families' vacations in Vermont and Cape Cod, Massachusetts. They plan to expand their offerings to include shakes, sundaes, ice cream cakes, and made-to-order ice cream sandwiches.

In Memoriam

HARRY SHAIA JR., L'53, of Henrico, Virginia, Feb. 7, 2023

CARL E. MCAFEE, L'54, of Norton, Virginia, Nov. 3, 2022

THOMAS STARK III, L'59, of Amelia, Virginia, Dec. 10, 2022

ROBERT D. GLEASON, L'60, of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, July 24, 2022

JOSEPH P. JOHNSON JR., L'60, of Abingdon, Virginia, Aug. 4, 2022

NICHOLAS D. STREET, L'61, of Naples, Florida, Feb. 4, 2023

DONALD M. SCHUBERT, L'62, of Ashland, Virginia, March 2, 2023

THOMAS F. BETZ JR., L'63, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Feb. 22, 2023

HERBERT I. "BUDDY" MEYER, L'63, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Jan. 26, 2023

JAMES L. WHITLOCK, L'64, of Farmville, Virginia, Oct. 10, 2022

BRANCH H. "B.H." DANIELS JR., L'65, of Chesapeake, Virginia, Aug. 15, 2022

STUART V. CARTER, L'66, of Wilmington, North Carolina, June 19, 2022

WILLIAM G. ELLYSON, L'66, of Irvington, Virginia, June 3, 2022

WILLIAM B. "BILL" HANES, L'68, of Leesburg, Virginia, Feb. 23, 2023

W. ALAN SMITH JR., L'68, of Lynchburg, Virginia, Feb. 23, 2023

ROGER L. MORTON, L'69, of Culpeper, Virginia, Sept. 13, 2022

DAVID B. OLSON, L'69, of Newport News, Virginia, Dec. 3, 2022

ALEXANDER T. "A.T." MAYO JR., L'70, of Portsmouth, Virginia, June 29, 2022

SAMUEL E. CAMPBELL, L'71, of Hopewell, Virginia, Dec. 26, 2022

HERBERT C. GILL JR., L'71, of Chester, Virginia, Jan. 6, 2023

SHARON FAYE CLARK, C'69 AND L'72, of Lewes, Delaware, March 12, 2023

WILLIAM D. GROVE, R'69 AND L'72, of Glen Allen, Virginia, July 17, 2022

RICHARD W. STEPHENSON JR., R'69 AND L'72, of Portsmouth, Virginia, Aug. 13, 2022

EDWARD D. BERRY, L'73, of Madison, Virginia, March 1, 2023

THOMAS O. BONDURANT, R'71 AND L'74, of Richmond, Virginia, July 26, 2023

FRANK D. LAWRENCE III, L'74, of Norfolk, Virginia, Aug. 10, 2022

WILLIAM D. TEVERI, L'75, of Roanoke, Virginia, March 23, 2023

ROBERT B. "BOBBY" ALTIZER SR., L'77, of Tazewell, Virginia, Sept. 4, 2022

PATSY ANNE BICKERSTAFF, W'63 AND L'78, of Richmond, Virginia, Jan. 11, 2023

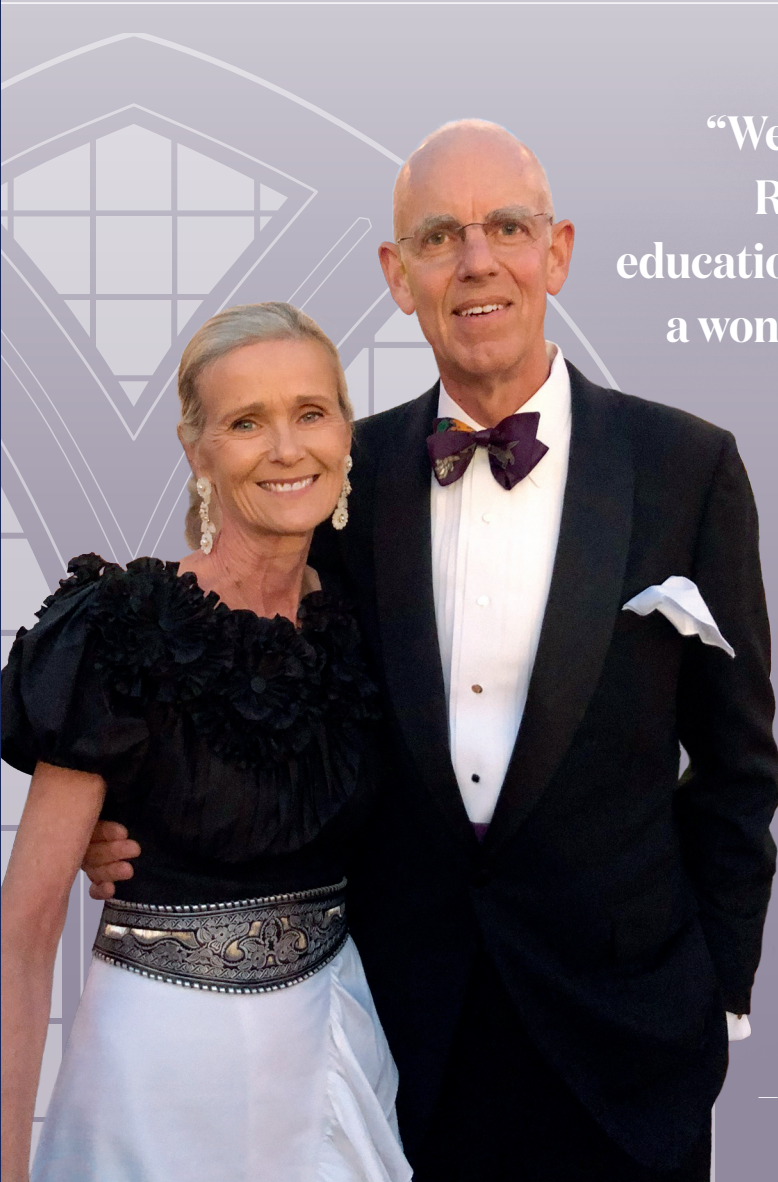
THOMAS L. "LES" LINDSEY JR., B'76 AND L'80, of Richmond, Virginia, Sept. 19, 2022

GOLDIE SHUMAN ZIMBERG, L'80, of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, Jan. 1, 2023

BARBARA POPE FLANNAGAN, L'87, of Irvington, Virginia, Jan. 9, 2023

MARK L. SCHMID, L'05, of Powell, Tennessee, Oct. 10, 2022

JOHN M. TIPPETT II, L'06, of Wilmington, Delaware, July 27, 2022

A photograph of an older couple, Robin Robertson Starr and Edward H. Starr, standing together. Robin is on the left, wearing a black ruffled top and a white skirt with a wide, ornate silver belt. Edward is on the right, wearing a black tuxedo with a white shirt and a purple bow tie. They are both smiling. In the background, a large, faint, stylized 'V' logo is visible, which is the University of Richmond's crest.

“We have a deep sense of gratitude to Richmond Law. The first-rate legal education we received allowed us to make a wonderful life together. By leveraging our retirement assets, we were able to increase our support this year and establish the Robin Robertson Starr and Edward Hutton Starr Endowed Scholarship. Working with our law school to make gifts through our IRAs proved a superb tool to meet our philanthropic aims at the School of Law.”

— Robin Robertson Starr, L’79, and Edward H. Starr, L’79

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN SAVE TAXES AND MAKE AN IMPACT ON RICHMOND LAW THROUGH YOUR IRA?

- At age 70½, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) up to \$100,000 can be made directly from your IRA to the School of Law.
- At age 73, your gift can satisfy all or part of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).
- At any age, you can make the School of Law a beneficiary of your IRA which will pass to Richmond Law tax-free after your lifetime.
- Due to their tax benefits, many donors find IRA gifts to be an excellent way to optimize their estate planning aims, leaving more for heirs and the charities they love and support.

To learn more, contact Allie Carter, assistant dean for development and alumni relations, at acarter2@richmond.edu or 804-287-6463.



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Calling all Spiders!

Start Homecoming Weekend with Spider Day on Friday, Oct. 27. Come together with students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends and celebrate: "Once a Spider, Always a Spider!"

[RICHMOND.EDU/SPIDER-DAY-HOMECOMING](https://richmond.edu/spider-day-homecoming)

