ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The need for humans in a world dependent on machines
A SOCIAL ENDEAVOR FROM DAY ONE

This fall the School of Law welcomed 159 new J.D. students, 18 LL.M. in U.S. Law students and 18 Ethics and Compliance (LL.M. and M.S.L.) students, representing 20 states and 13 countries.

From day one of law school, St. Thomas students are introduced to the practice of law as both a profession of service and a social endeavor.

Faculty and staff work to provide students with not only the practical skills and ethical principles they will need to be productive members of the legal profession, but also the emotional intelligence they will need to engage and nurture their professional relationships with colleagues and clients.

Photo: Law students gather in the Schulze Grand Atrium for the first day of orientation on Aug. 19, 2019.
A Message from the Dean 5
News 6
Eileen Lach - Trailblazer 14
Tech-Savvy Lawyers 20
Blockchain: ‘Ethics Have to Rule’ 24
Holloran Center Leads Professional-Formation Movement 27
Protecting Trademark Rights 30
Class Notes 32

The University of St. Thomas is an equal opportunity educator and employer. St. Thomas does not unlawfully discriminate, in any of its programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, family status, disability, age, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by applicable law. stthomas.edu/eostatement

At St. Thomas Law, the future of technology must keep human relationships at the center.

It has always been important that we can explain how the St. Thomas mission enhances the value proposition of the legal education we offer. We have a duty to prepare our students to serve others in meaningful employment in an era when the competition for good jobs is fierce. As the specter of artificial intelligence looms ever larger in the legal services market, the ability to thrive in relationships will matter more to a lawyer’s job prospects than research or analytical skills standing alone. When there is a premium on human capabilities that are not easily captured by an algorithm, the strongest connection between our law school’s value proposition and our mission is our capacity to facilitate relationship-centered professional formation.

Fortunately, we have been putting relationships front and center since our doors opened, and this issue of St. Thomas Lawyer explores what these efforts look like in the context of emerging technologies:

■ You can read about Professor Wulf Kaal’s pioneering work on the legal implications of blockchain, including his caution that business requires trust and thus must keep “people, morality, [and] ethics” at the forefront.

■ Our new Trademark Clinic, led by Brad Walz ’01, ’04 J.D., provides students not only with nuts-and-bolts intellectual property knowledge, but also with the experience of being a trusted adviser.

■ The Holloran Center has led a national movement to bring rigorous professional formation methods to legal education, helping students integrate a moral core of responsibility and service to others with an entrepreneurial mindset that adapts to a changing market.

■ We profile Eileen Lach, a member of our Board of Governors and leader at the intersection of law, technology, business and ethics.

■ We also feature five alumni working in the area of artificial intelligence, emphasizing the continued need for attorneys to be creative and client-centered as technology evolves.

Predicting the future path of technology in the legal profession is an inescapably speculative endeavor – the fax machine transformed legal practice, but only until email arrived. Whatever comes next, we must remain fixed in our belief that technology is merely a “how,” and human flourishing remains our “why.”

Robert K. Vischer
Dean and Mengler Chair in Law
University of St. Thomas
School of Law

It is always important that we can explain how the St. Thomas mission enhances the value proposition of the legal education we offer. We have a duty to prepare our students to serve others in meaningful employment in an era when the competition for good jobs is fierce. As the specter of artificial intelligence looms ever larger in the legal services market, the ability to thrive in relationships will matter more to a lawyer’s job prospects than research or analytical skills standing alone. When there is a premium on human capabilities that are not easily captured by an algorithm, the strongest connection between our law school’s value proposition and our mission is our capacity to facilitate relationship-centered professional formation.

Fortunately, we have been putting relationships front and center since our doors opened, and this issue of St. Thomas Lawyer explores what these efforts look like in the context of emerging technologies:

■ You can read about Professor Wulf Kaal’s pioneering work on the legal implications of blockchain, including his caution that business requires trust and thus must keep “people, morality, [and] ethics” at the forefront.

■ Our new Trademark Clinic, led by Brad Walz ’01, ’04 J.D., provides students not only with nuts-and-bolts intellectual property knowledge, but also with the experience of being a trusted adviser.

■ The Holloran Center has led a national movement to bring rigorous professional formation methods to legal education, helping students integrate a moral core of responsibility and service to others with an entrepreneurial mindset that adapts to a changing market.

■ We profile Eileen Lach, a member of our Board of Governors and leader at the intersection of law, technology, business and ethics.

■ We also feature five alumni working in the area of artificial intelligence, emphasizing the continued need for attorneys to be creative and client-centered as technology evolves.

Predicting the future path of technology in the legal profession is an inescapably speculative endeavor – the fax machine transformed legal practice, but only until email arrived. Whatever comes next, we must remain fixed in our belief that technology is merely a “how,” and human flourishing remains our “why.”

Robert K. Vischer
Dean and Mengler Chair in Law
University of St. Thomas
School of Law
In the early morning hours of June 1, Elizabeth Bakewicz ‘07 passed away following a courageous fight against cancer. Bakewicz, who was featured in the spring 2019 issue of St. Thomas Lawyer, was diagnosed in 2008 after a mass was discovered on her brain. Despite her diagnosis, she used her legal training to advocate against physician-assisted suicide. Bakewicz leaves behind her loving husband, Jonathan Bakewicz ‘07 J.D., and her two children, Lucia, 10, and Judah, 4. Photo by Dave Hrbacek.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN NORTHWESTERN JOURNAL

An article by Shelley King ‘14 J.D., Joy Beitzel ‘14 J.D., Bridget Duffus ‘17 J.D., Katherine Koehler ‘17 J.D. and Professor Gregory Sisk has been included in the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law’s Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. The article, “Reading the Prisoner’s Letter: Attorney-Client Confidentiality in Inmate Correspondence,” discusses how a prisoner’s constitutional rights to freedom of speech, access to the courts, due process and assistance of counsel are placed in unique jeopardy when a correctional system insists on prying into the substantive contents of legal mail.

Sisk became involved with this issue in 2014 while reviewing the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit case, Nordstrom v. Ryan. King and Beitzel, then-certified law students in St. Thomas Law’s Appellate Clinic, successfully argued the case with Sisk. Duffus and Koehler worked with Sisk on a second appeal, and won, as certified student lawyers in 2017.

After winning the appeals, Sisk was able to convince the lower court to permanently prohibit the Arizona Department of Corrections from reading or skimming prisoner letters to attorneys.

STUDENTS WIN SIXTH CONSECUTIVE APPEAL IN THE 9TH CIRCUIT

For the sixth year in a row, two third-year law students and a professor from the University of St. Thomas Appellate Clinic have won an appeal they had briefed and argued before judges in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit on behalf of a pro bono client. On July 19, the Court of Appeals ruled that a former prisoner presented a valid constitutional claim that federal prison officials had been deliberately indifferent to his serious medical condition. The case will now return to the district court for trial on both his medical malpractice claim against the federal government and his constitutional tort claims against the prison officials.

The case, Foy Chandler v. R. Phillip Guttierrez, et al., was argued on March 4 in Pasadena, California, by then-students Shana Tomenes ’19 J.D. and Samantha Hoefs ’19 J.D., who worked on behalf of the school’s Appellate Clinic led by Professor Gregory Sisk.

IPC CELEBRATES 15 YEARS

In April, current students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the Interprofessional Center (IPC) for Counseling and Legal Services gathered to celebrate the clinic’s 15-year anniversary. At the event, the IPC’s directors (from the left) George Baboila, director of social work services; Patricia Stankovitch, director of psychological services; and Virgil Wiebe, director of Legal Clinics, welcomed guests, shared memories and reflected on the impact of the clinic and the many individuals who have been helped by the students, staff and faculty who have worked there.

ELIZABETH BAKEWICZ – IN MEMORIAM

In the early morning hours of June 1, Elizabeth Bakewicz ‘07 passed away following a courageous fight against cancer. Bakewicz, who was featured in the spring 2019 issue of St. Thomas Lawyer, was diagnosed in 2008 after a mass was discovered on her brain. Despite her diagnosis, she used her legal training to advocate against physician-assisted suicide. Bakewicz leaves behind her loving husband, Jonathan Bakewicz ‘07 J.D., and her two children, Lucia, 10, and Judah, 4. Photo by Dave Hrbacek.

In April, current students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the Interprofessional Center (IPC) for Counseling and Legal Services gathered to celebrate the clinic’s 15-year anniversary. At the event, the IPC’s directors (from the left) George Baboila, director of social work services; Patricia Stankovitch, director of psychological services; and Virgil Wiebe, director of Legal Clinics, welcomed guests, shared memories and reflected on the impact of the clinic and the many individuals who have been helped by the students, staff and faculty who have worked there.

ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN NORTHWESTERN JOURNAL

An article by Shelley King ‘14 J.D., Joy Beitzel ‘14 J.D., Bridget Duffus ‘17 J.D., Katherine Koehler ‘17 J.D. and Professor Gregory Sisk has been included in the Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law’s Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology. The article, “Reading the Prisoner’s Letter: Attorney-Client Confidentiality in Inmate Correspondence,” discusses how a prisoner’s constitutional rights to freedom of speech, access to the courts, due process and assistance of counsel are placed in unique jeopardy when a correctional system insists on prying into the substantive contents of legal mail.

Sisk became involved with this issue in 2014 while reviewing the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit case, Nordstrom v. Ryan. King and Beitzel, then-certified law students in St. Thomas Law’s Appellate Clinic, successfully argued the case with Sisk. Duffus and Koehler worked with Sisk on a second appeal, and won, as certified student lawyers in 2017.

After winning the appeals, Sisk was able to convince the lower court to permanently prohibit the Arizona Department of Corrections from reading or skimming prisoner letters to attorneys.
**PROFESSORS PROTECT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

In August, St. Thomas Law professors Thomas Berg, Teresa Collett and Michael Paulsen were among a group of 10 religious liberty scholars from across the country to file an amicus brief supporting a certiorari petition before the Supreme Court. The petition asks the court to review Ricks v. Idaho Board of Contractors and to overrule its 1990 decision in Employment Division v. Smith.

According to Berg, Smith has been controversial since it was decided and has been the basis for rejecting many claims of minority religions, including Native American, Hmong, Jewish and small Christian groups, among others. In support of the petition, the scholars’ amicus brief argues that Smith undermines the Free Exercise Clause purpose of protecting religious liberty and unfamiliar minority religions, and that it is inconsistent with the original meaning of the clause. At the time this magazine went to print it was not known whether the court had granted certiorari in the case of Ricks v. Idaho Board of Contractors.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The annual University of St. Thomas School of Law Christmas Party will be held Friday, Dec. 6, in the Schulze Grand Atrium. We hope you can join us for a holiday party complete with great food and drink, and even better company.

**TOMMIE GIVE DAY IS NOV. 12**

Mark your calendar! The fifth annual Tommie Give Day will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12. This university-wide celebration is an opportunity for the St. Thomas community to demonstrate its pride in and support for its alma mater. To make a gift, visit stthomas.edu/law/give.

**admissible hearsay**

Overheard in and around the University of St. Thomas School of Law

"Within the Christian faith, we have a directive to visit those in prison. In Matthew 25, Jesus teaches that when you visit those in prison, you visit me. That’s challenging, but it’s also transformative."

- PROFESSOR MARK OSLER IN A TWITTER VIDEO SUPPORTING THE FAMM FOUNDATION’S ONLINE #VISITAPRISON CAMPAIGN

"The immigration law clinic @USTLawMN was one of the best experiences I had in law school and still helps me today. It improved my understanding of the U.S. immigration system and the asylum process, the plight of people who have fled their homes, and made me a better writer and advocate."

- AMANDA MORTWETD ON TWITTER IN RESPONSE TO THE ABA JOURNAL’S QUESTION OF THE WEEK: DID YOU DO A CLINIC IN LAW SCHOOL? WAS IT A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE?

"In permitting a large state-sponsored Latin cross as a memorial to soldiers who died in World War I in American Legion v. American Humanist Association (2019), the U.S. Supreme Court could have done considerable damage to First Amendment principles of religious freedom and equality. The actual decision does some such damage but avoids much of it. And it includes signals that the court recognizes the need to protect religious liberty for all faiths."

- PROFESSOR THOMAS BERG IN A BLOG POST FOR THE BERKLEY CENTER FOR RELIGION, PEACE & WORLD AFFAIRS IN WHICH HE WAS RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION, CAN A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL SERVE A PRIMARILY SECULAR PURPOSE?

"In permitting a large state-sponsored Latin cross as a memorial to soldiers who died in World War I in American Legion v. American Humanist Association (2019), the U.S. Supreme Court could have done considerable damage to First Amendment principles of religious freedom and equality. The actual decision does some such damage but avoids much of it. And it includes signals that the court recognizes the need to protect religious liberty for all faiths."

- PROFESSOR THOMAS BERG IN A BLOG POST FOR THE BERKLEY CENTER FOR RELIGION, PEACE & WORLD AFFAIRS IN WHICH HE WAS RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION, CAN A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL SERVE A PRIMARILY SECULAR PURPOSE?

"Two hundred ninety-five individuals with a name, story, culture and heritage were laid to rest at this site. However, their stories live on as we challenge modern-day slavery in the form of mass incarceration, human trafficking, discrimination, bigotry and hatred."

- DR. ARTIKA TYNER ’06 J.D., ’11 MA, ’12 EdD, DIRECTOR OF THE LAW SCHOOL’S CENTER ON RACE, LEADERSHIP AND SOCIAL JUSTICE, IN AN ARTICLE FOR THE ABA’S MAGAZINE, HUMAN RIGHTS. SHE DESCRIBED HER EXPERIENCE VISITING A MEMORIAL TO 295 ENSLAVED AFRICANS WHO DIED ON HIGGS BEACH IN KEY WEST, FLORIDA, IN 1860.
Teddy Michel ’07 Receives Living the Mission Award

Each year at its Mission Awards event, the School of Law honors students, faculty, staff and alumni who exemplify the school’s mission, vision and values. At this year’s awards ceremony in April, Teddy Michel ’99, ’07 J.D. was presented with a Living the Mission Award by classmate and St. Thomas Law Director of Alumni Engagement and Student Life Gloria Myre ’07 J.D.

Myre said, “Teddy loves to set the world on fire! As a former Jesuit volunteer, legal aid attorney, federal law clerk and now director of the Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Teddy uses his energy, optimism and positivity to make our world just a little bit better one day at a time.”

Christopher Clark

Former Alderman Christopher Clark ’09 J.D. was elected mayor of Harvey, Illinois, last April. Clark is seen here talking with a friend in Harvey, his hometown. He was featured in the fall 2018 issue of St. Thomas Lawyer.

St. Thomas Law’s Director of Organizational Ethics and Compliance, Colleen Dorsey, left, visited the Mailchimp company headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia, in July Dorsey, and her colleague Eileen Lach, right, presented to Mailchimp’s engineers, lawyers and product developers on the ethics of artificial intelligence and machine learning. Lach is the former general counsel and chief compliance officer at IEEE, a global technology think tank. She is also a member of the St. Thomas School of Law Board of Governors. Turn to Page 14 to read more about Lach.

2019 Commencement Ceremony

St. Thomas Law conferred degrees to 165 students on May 18. Among them were 129 students earning their J.D. - four of whom earned a joint degree - 19 earning an LL.M. in U.S. Law, and 17 earning a master’s or LL.M. degree in organizational ethics and compliance.

Study Abroad in Budapest

Last summer, a group of 11 St. Thomas Law students participated in a monthlong study abroad trip to Budapest, Hungary, where they studied at Pázmány Péter Catholic University. The students completed the course, Democracy, Rule of Law and Constitutional Identity, with other law students from across the globe, while also touring Budapest and experiencing Hungarian culture. The course was partially taught by St. Thomas Law Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Joel Nichols.

Teddy Michel ’07 Receives Living the Mission Award

2019 Reunion Event

The classes of 2004, 2009 and 2014 gathered for their reunion celebration last spring at Windows on Minnesota, located on the 50th floor of the IDS Center in downtown Minneapolis. Photos by Tom Dunn Photography.
In April 2019, the University of St. Thomas School of Law was the top U.S. law school for new downloads per author within the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) online academic database.

According to SSRN’s website, St. Thomas Law’s 26 faculty authors averaged 740 downloads each over the previous year.

The top five law schools for new downloads per author:

1. UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS SCHOOL OF LAW
2. GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY, ANTONIN SCALIA LAW SCHOOL
3. UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA LAW SCHOOL
4. UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF LAW
5. UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW SCHOOL

Evidence of the law school’s growing scholarly impact has been shown in other recent studies. Last year, St. Thomas was listed No. 23 of 70 in a ranking of the top law school faculties in the country for scholarly citations. In 2015, St. Thomas was ranked 39th in the study.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Law School</th>
<th>Percentage of graduates employed in gold-standard jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOTRE DAME</td>
<td>89.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VILLANOVA</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOYOLA-CHICAGO</td>
<td>85.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOSTON COLLEGE</td>
<td>85.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDIANA UNIVERSITY</td>
<td>84.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST. THOMAS (MN)</td>
<td>84.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARQUETTE</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEPPERDINE</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEPAUL</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MITCHELL-HAMLIN</td>
<td>72.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of graduates employed in gold-standard jobs, law school-funded positions included, 10 months post-graduation for the Class of 2018. Gold-standard jobs are full-time, long-term jobs for which a J.D. is required or provides a significant advantage.
Throughout her life, Eileen Lach has been a leader. Growing up in northeast Minneapolis, she knew at a young age she wanted to move to New York City and travel the world. Lach accomplished that and more, carving out a position on Wall Street early in her career and later serving as the first general counsel and chief compliance officer for The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). She is considered a thought leader, especially in the area of ethics and artificial intelligence (AI).

During a conversation with Lach last summer, it was hard not to be wowed by her achievements and admire her dedication to philanthropic causes. In college, she advocated for equal rights, helping to open the door for women to be eligible for Rhodes Scholarships. While continuing to advance her career, Lach remained devoted to philanthropic work, and spent seven years with Amnesty International. With her impressive resume and strong convictions, Lach was a perfect candidate for the St. Thomas School of Law’s Board of Governors. Her friend and one of the founding board members, Bob Dwyer, recommended her in 2015. Through her leadership and enthusiasm, she adds a fresh perspective to the School of Law, said Robert Vischer, dean and Mengler Chair in Law.

“Her brings a wealth of experience at the intersection of law, technology, business and ethics – a perfect combination given where we want to go as a mission-centered law school,” Vischer said.

ETHICALLY ALIGNED DESIGN

At IEEE, a global technology think tank and the world’s largest engineering organization with members in more than 160 countries, Lach’s responsibilities included work in the areas of ethics and AI. She retired from her post in 2018 but remains involved with IEEE by serving on the executive committee for the IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems. She was instrumental in the creation of the organization’s “Ethically Aligned Design: A Vision for Prioritizing Human Well-being with Autonomous and Intelligent Systems” – a document of global guidelines concerning the ethical use of automation and intelligent systems.

In an article for Bloomberg Law about principles for the trustworthy adoption of AI in legal systems, Lach and fellow IEEE member Nicolas Economou describe “Ethically Aligned Design” as follows:

“This groundbreaking, multidisciplinary effort, comprising contributions from a group of international experts in domains ranging from law, ethics and philosophy to computer science and engineering, articulates four principles for the dependable
Two years ago, Colleen Dorsey, director of Organizational Ethics and Compliance at St. Thomas Law, asked Lach to participate in a panel about ethical considerations of AI. Lach also has been involved in the Twin Cities Artificial Intelligence Roundtable that Dorsey started. In July, Lach and Dorsey presented to Mailchimp engineers, lawyers and product developers on the ethics of AI and machine learning.

When it comes to AI and ethics, Dorsey said Lach has her finger on the pulse of what’s happening in the world of technology.

“I fully comprehend how lucky we are at the law school to have her, because technology, especially AI and machine learning, is just going to get bigger and bigger. What people do with that, what companies do with it and how it will impact the way that we all interact as a society, is only going to become more and more prevalent,” Dorsey said.

THE LAW, ETHICS AND AI

Five years ago, Lach, Vischer and Dwyer had dinner in New York City. Lach was impressed by Vischer’s vision for the school.

“It was one that had an ethical base and was founded on instilling a sense of integrity in the practice of law, which I had not seen in the law school I went to, and, for the most part, I didn’t see in the way in which people practice law. I thought it was really needed,” she said.

“In the age that we’re now going into, students coming out of St. Thomas Law will be more equipped to deal with issues, because interaction in negotiations has been and, I believe, will remain human centric,” Lach added. “Now that there is an extensive movement to put contracts together and draft contracts through AI, a lot of that back-office work will be eliminated. But when it comes to the absolute final crunch of issues, I believe that’s going to continue to be a human interface.”

Along with her continued IEEE work, Lach is also on the board of directors of The Future Society, a European-based AI policy think tank.

“In the IEEE treatise that I recently finished editing, one of the things that we strongly recommended was that in elementary schools there be additional training or reemphasis on the establishment of empathy,” Lach said. “Even as students enter law school now, they are in a position where they have to reconnect with the empathy needed to understand the human condition. And particularly if one wants to go into areas of social justice. I think St. Thomas is doing that very well through workshops and other types of training.”

FIGHTING THE MEN-ONLY RULE

Lach calls her life an “absolute Horatio Alger story.” While her family didn’t have much money as she was growing up, her mother, Adeline, instilled in her children the importance of education. It was the way to escape poverty, she told them. Lach took that message to heart and ran with it.

With a strong curiosity about the planet and human condition, Lach attended the University of Minnesota, majoring in international relations, which gave her an opportunity to travel to Latin America and India. (Lach is fluent in Spanish and Hindi.) As an undergraduate in the early ’70s, she wanted to study with an Oxford professor who focused on social justice. She was hoping to earn a Rhodes Scholarship, even though she was explicitly told she wasn’t eligible because she was a woman.

“I didn’t think that was right, so I applied for the scholarship and received the support of the University of Minnesota in trying to open it to women,” she said.

Dr. Gordon Kepner, a member of the school’s Rhodes Scholar Nominating Committee in 1972, supported Lach in her quest. The committee chose to ignore the men-only stipulation and submitted her candidacy to the next level, where her application then was denied.

Kepner believes Lach would have won a Rhodes Scholarship if she had been allowed to compete.
Lach’s attempt at the scholarship generated media attention and brought awareness to what Kepner calls the injustice of the men-only rule.

“Her story is so compelling because, in spite of the fact that the odds of her getting the scholarship were against her, she nonetheless went through with this effort and brought attention to the issue. It was a spark. Within four years it changed, and women could compete for a Rhodes Scholarship,” Kepner said.

“It’s also indicative of the fact that she followed through with this attitude for the rest of her life,” he continued. “It wasn’t a one shot. She said, ‘I’m going to keep struggling and fighting for things I feel are important.’”

Lach pursued her graduate education by applying to Columbia, Princeton and Yale universities and was accepted to all three. She chose to combine the pursuits of law, international diplomacy and development economics through a master’s degree in public affairs at Princeton, where she was in one of the first groups of women to be admitted to the school’s graduate program, and law at New York University School of Law because of its more progressive attitude toward women.

WALL STREET AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

With an interest in international and private law, she joined a law firm on Wall Street. But a position at a prestigious firm alone wasn’t satisfying. During graduate school, she had worked for Amnesty International in London. Now with law degree in hand, she joined the organization’s U.S. branch pro bono as general counsel for seven years while continuing to advance her career on Wall Street.

Lach’s corporate law ladder climb included being a partner at the national firm Drinker Biddle and Reath and later the first female vice president, corporate secretary and associate general counsel at Wyeth/Pfizer. She often was the only woman in a room full of powerful men and not shy about cracking the glass ceiling.

“When I started out, there really were no women in these corporate negotiations,” she said. “They would think I was a secretary. I remember going into a room and having the partner on the other side say, ‘Honey, could you get me a cup of coffee?’ And I’d say, ‘Sweetie, I’ll show you where the pot is.’ It was humor with an edge. It worked for me.

“I think it also worked for me because I’m tall – I’m 5’8” and I always wore 6-inch heels, putting me over 6 feet. I think when you have to look up to someone, it puts you in a subservient position.”

Along with her current work with AI and ethics at IEEE, Lach is also on the legal advisory council for Sanctuary for Families, a New York City-based nonprofit dedicated to aiding victims and their children of international trafficking and domestic violence. Through the organization, she helps coach women who are making their way back into the workforce after leaving their abusers. She’s also an arbitrator in the city civil courts where she makes judgments in matters with a maximum dollar amount of $5,000.

“I haven’t really retired,” Lach said. But when she does have some free time, she enjoys all New York City has to offer; referring to it as her “playground.” She also enjoys organic herbal and flower gardening and fly fishing.

Asked what she’d like people to say about her when her name comes up in a conversation, she took a moment before answering.

“I would like them to say, ‘I really like her; she’s funny.’ It would also be nice if somebody would say ‘I remember her; she really helped me,’” she said.

Lach has touched more lives than she’ll ever know. Through her legal and pro bono work, she continues to serve as an inspiration to countless others who want to affect change in the world.

“In the age that we’re now going into, students coming out of St. Thomas Law will be more equipped to deal with issues, because interaction in negotiations has been and, I believe, will remain human centric,” Lach added. “Now that there is an extensive movement to put contracts together and draft contracts through AI, a lot of that back-office work will be eliminated. But when it comes to the absolute final crunch of issues, I believe that’s going to continue to be a human interface.”
Eric Palmer ’07 J.D. started at the University of St. Thomas School of Law in 2004, when students who owned a laptop computer used an ethernet cable to connect to the internet. Computerized exam software launched that fall, but only a fraction of already-anxious law students was brave enough to trust it to successfully save their answers. The BlackBerry dominated the smartphone market when Palmer graduated in 2007, with the iPhone introduced just one month later. Technology has evolved precipitously in the intervening dozen years, as has the legal community’s increasing awareness of the overlap between artificial intelligence (AI) and the law. New technology brings with it new legal solutions, such as intuitive research tools and superefficient electronic discovery, but also new challenges, such as determining the assignment of liability when a self-driving car malfunctions.

In 2012, the American Bar Association modified its Model Rules to require lawyers to stay abreast of changes in the law and its practice, including the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology. The following St. Thomas lawyers are thinking critically about the legal risks and rewards presented by new technology.

**LIABILITY IN SELF-DRIVING CARS**

Palmer, a partner at Meshbesher & Spence, and Kyle Willems ’13 J.D. of Bassford Remele – both personal injury litigators – are leading Minnesota’s conversation about the future of motor vehicle liability due to advances in connected and automated vehicle (CAV) technology. Connected vehicles use technology to communicate with the driver, other cars on the road, roadside infrastructure and the “cloud.” Automated vehicles operate vehicle steering, acceleration and braking without human driver input. Most vehicles on the road today have some level of CAV technology, for example, rearview cameras that guide drivers into parking spots. High-end luxury vehicles are adding lane-keeping, object- and traffic-distancing, as well as speed-management features that respond to the immediate environment around vehicles.

Willems predicts a “slow but steady transition from total driver control to zero driver control.” He listed the benefits of completely self-driving vehicles: peaceful rush-hour commutes and the elimination of accidents due to drunk driving, medical emergency and recklessness. Yet, Willems also predicts significant risks that could involve “a software bug, bad software update, or a rushed product that leads to fleet-wide failures resulting in thousands, or even tens of thousands, of accidents in one day.”

As we move quickly toward self-driving vehicles, the question for litigants, insurance companies, and the courts is who is at fault when CAV features malfunction – the driver or the manufacturer? Palmer emphasized that from an attorney ethics and competency perspective, “Lawyers who take on cases that involve any degree of autonomous features should understand at least the basics of technology behind autonomous vehicles.” Willems added, “AI is here to stay. Gone are the days when sheer knowledge of law and the ability to apply it defined a good attorney. Now, a prerequisite to being a great attorney is understanding and accepting the role technology plays in litigation, and then being able to use technology to the advantage of your client.”

Palmer praised the St. Thomas Law’s blend of didactic and practical learning opportunities. For law students, he offered this advice: “Use technology in the classroom. Participate fully in the mentor program. Get your hands dirty. Expand your network. Learn the law, but also get busy learning technology.”

“Now, a prerequisite to being a great attorney is understanding and accepting the role technology plays in litigation, and then being able to use technology to the advantage of your client.”

- KYLE WILLEMS ’13 J.D.
SCHOOL OF LAW COVER STORY

UNDERSTANDING AI
Rachel Beithon ’09 J.D. enjoys researching the law, so she was thrilled when she became a reference attorney at Thomson Reuters following graduation. Her role since has expanded into training new reference attorneys and working on product development, marketing and thought leadership for new initiatives, such as Thomson Reuters’ new Westlaw Edge product.

Beithon has a “robust view of how artificial intelligence, big data and analytics integrate into products that are changing the legal profession.” She observed, “Trust is crucial for artificial intelligence and its usability, so it is indispensable that I can explain to anyone how that technology works, so they can trust what they are seeing.”

Beithon, like most lawyers, does not have a science or math background. She has worked hard to develop a working knowledge of AI, machine learning and data analytics to understand how those integrate into Westlaw Edge, and what that means for legal research.

Will computers replace human lawyers? No. “Most of Westlaw Edge, and what that means for legal research. The work that lawyers should be doing is the type of strategy, deduction and argumentation that doesn’t lend itself to an algorithm. AI does a great job ‘thinking’ horizontally and vertically, but it needs a pattern to identify a succinct answer. As AI improves, lawyers become more important because their creative faculties are necessary to the complicated world of law.”

For current and future lawyers, Beithon offered, “You certainly do not need to be an expert in AI or machine learning, but knowing what it is, and why it can benefit you and your client will make you a better attorney.”

COMPUTER FORENSIC SERVICES
When Sean Lanterman ’14, ’18 J.D. was 8 years old, his father gave him a box of computer parts and said, “Here, try building this.” Lanterman put it together, and to his surprise, it worked. Thus began his curiosity about technology.

His father, Mark, was particularly influential in his professional development. Mark was a member of the U.S. Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force before moving into the private sector as the chief technology officer of Computer Forensic Services, LLC. In college, Lanterman saved up to take summer courses to become certified in computer forensics and cybersecurity. He wanted to work at Computer Forensic Services, but did not want to be labeled the “boss’ son,” so he applied for an internship under a false name and was hired on his own merit.

Now, a decade later, Lanterman has participated in more than 1,000 cases involving digital evidence, including high-profile civil and criminal litigation and data breaches.

“I help people and corporations involved in lawsuits, accused of crimes, or facing data breaches learn facts that are impartially stored on smartphones, computers and other electronic devices. Computers are the ultimate impartial record keepers. In civil litigation, that means that it can be used as a tool to prove a case. In the criminal context, it means that defendants have evidence that could be used against them in court, or, in about 10-15% of cases I have worked on, exonerate them.”

Lanterman finds AI to be particularly useful in compliance. “AI can account for the various laws (especially privacy laws), rules, regulations, both in the U.S. and abroad, that most corporations have to comply with.”

When asked about his legal education, Lanterman offered, “I was in the inaugural Coding for Lawyers class with Professor Wulf Koal, where we were able to solve legal problems using code.” He continued, “My legal education has greatly shaped my ability to effectively communicate. There is a lot of ‘translating’ that has to happen to take technical, complex findings and relay them in a way that makes sense to a client, a court, a jury, and, of course, lawyers.”

“ALEXA, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENT A NEW SYSTEM THAT ORGANIZES CHAOS.”

When Jen Weigel ’08 J.D. began law school, she never imagined that she would become a senior program manager for Alexa Voice Service at Amazon. With a background in corporate accounting, she planned to be a tax attorney. One summer at a tax firm was enough for her; however, she went on to clerk for the Minnesota Court of Appeals following law school, and then moved into a J.D.-required role at Thomson Reuters as a project manager creating attorney websites.

The focus is building the program framework to make it easier for third parties to find the resources they need to integrate Alexa into their own devices. For law students and recent graduates, Weigel offers a practical pointer straight from her desk: “Alexa Blueprints are basically templates that make it easy for you to create your own skills. When they released the Flashcard and Quiz blueprints, my first thought was, ‘Where was this when I was studying for the bar?’ Rather than writing out flashcards, I could’ve input everything into the blueprint and had Alexa quiz me.

Had it been available, I would’ve used Alexa to help me study back in law school!”

Our alumni have come a long way since ethernet cables and BlackBerry devices.
To some, blockchain is the desirable promise of a secure, safe, decentralized information system that will completely revolutionize, well, just about everything.

To others, it’s an ominous threat to their career.

To even others, it’s a complete unknown.

Luckily for St. Thomas School of Law students, one of the preeminent voices on blockchain in the legal field is ready to teach them and act as a one-man reality check: Professor Wulf Kaal. He is writing a book on the subject and has been researching and teaching students about it for years. His work is laying the educational foundation necessary to address how blockchain will, inevitably, have a major impact on the legal field.

“The premise and promise of the technology are quite substantial, but we have not seen substantive implementation of what the promise is,” Kaal said, signaling the perplexity of describing blockchain.

BUILDING BLOCKS

What is blockchain, exactly? According to a 2017 article by Kaal, “Legal Education in the Blockchain Revolution”: “A blockchain is a shared digital ledger or database that maintains a continuously growing list of transactions among participating parties regarding digital assets – together described as ‘blocks.’ The linear and chronological order of transactions in a chain will be extended with another transaction link that is added to the block once such an additional transaction is validated, verified and completed. The chain of transactions is distributed to a limitless number of participants – so-called nodes – around the world in a public or private peer-to-peer network.”

In theory, the realization of such a secured, shared digital ledger would be a quantum leap forward in transparency, automation and security across any field. The possible implications in the financial realm have dominated public awareness (think of Bitcoin and, most recently, Facebook’s Libra), but the application of such a shared system could be applied across untold professional fields.

“The premise and promise of the technology are quite substantial, but we have not seen substantive implementation of what the promise is,” Kaal said, signaling the perplexity of describing blockchain.

ETHICAL PREPARATION

Kaal’s hope is that, with the proper education and approach to understanding blockchain, people’s reactions will move away from both the jump-in-with-both-feet-and-invest-in-blockchain-right-now enthusiasm, and the sky-is-falling pessimism of automation replacing all human legal jobs. Instead, he hopes people will lean toward a middle ground of creating the infrastructure so blockchain can actually exist, as well as maintaining the human-forward nature of business afterward, which will require countless workers. In all that, ethics must rule, Kaal said.

“Creating decentralized, ethical systems is where we should all focus our attention,” Kaal said. “We know this is coming; it’s inevitable. How do you set this up in a moral and ethical way that’s sustainable?”

Plenty of opportunity exists for St. Thomas Law students to contribute to that process, since Kaal described the infrastructure of blockchain as only in its infancy stage. It needs three key components: “First, you need a decentralized legal solution that allows people to use decentralized protocols for legal certainty. We don’t have that. Second, you need a fully decentralized public blockchain. We don’t have that. … Third, you need a decentralized insurance policy that people know they would have a payout if things go wrong. We don’t have that.”

To help students better understand the distance between where blockchain is and where it could be, Kaal uses the metaphor of building a bridge across an isolated stretch of river.

“You cannot build this bridge, this decentralized infrastructure in the legal commerce, unless you can get all the resources, the metal, the nails, the tools, to the river to build it. To get all that there you need a gravel road. We don’t have the gravel road yet,” he said.

Education is one of the main components of that gravel road, and many St. Thomas students have found themselves leading others when they realize none of their colleagues have learned about blockchain.

“The turnaround has been very quick: Some of my students are already teaching their colleagues,” Kaal said. “That’s very rewarding.”

By JORDAN OSTERMAN ’11
ACTIVE CONTRIBUTORS

As awareness and education spread, Kaal hopes more legal professionals take active roles in the creation of all three of the aforementioned missing factors of building the blockchain infrastructure.

Kaal’s students learn to code, helping build some fluency in the nuts-and-bolts creation of what goes into the blockchain system. More complex, perhaps, is the seismic shift necessary for legal and insurance protocols, which will require completely new ways of thinking beyond current partnership laws.

“We’ve done that since the industrial revolution: Just tweak the law. I’m not sure that’s going to be the case with this iteration of technological evolution,” Kaal said.

There’s more than tweaking to be done across all the elements of building the blockchain infrastructure and its supporting legal elements. Kaal is optimistic about the role legal professionals will have in building it, and in the field once blockchain is actually realized. That optimism is rooted in the innate need for human beings across the legal landscape.

“The thought process of, ‘We’re taking humans out, making it better,’ is not how business works. Business has humans in it. Business necessitates trust, morality. You cannot expect people to engage with you and create smart contracts in a decentralized system if you hide behind the automation,” Kaal said. “That’s a flawed business solution. People, morality, ethics - all have to continue to be at the forefront.”

For that to be the case, legal professionals need to be part of building an ethical blockchain and continue to help people manage legal issues within it. For Kaal and others wading more deeply into the world of blockchain, the next step is obvious: Let’s get to it!

“CREATING DECENTRALIZED, ETHICAL SYSTEMS IS WHERE WE SHOULD ALL FOCUS OUR ATTENTION,” KAAL SAID. “WE KNOW THIS IS COMING; IT’S INEVITABLE. HOW DO YOU SET THIS UP IN A MORAL AND ETHICAL WAY THAT’S SUSTAINABLE?”

Holloran Center Leads Professional-Formation Movement

By: PATRICIA PETERSEN

The Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions was created in 2006 to help the next generation of lawyers form professional identities with a moral core of responsibility and service to others.

The center provides interdisciplinary research, curriculum development and programs focusing holistically on the shaping of both law students and practicing attorneys into ethical leaders in their communities.

Center co-directors Neil Hamilton and Jerry Organ have conducted extensive research into which attorney skills are valued by clients and legal employers and are using it to help students be fully prepared to find meaningful careers.

“Preparing our students for meaningful employment is not just about teaching them particular skills, but also about forming their professional identities to reflect a commitment to serve others,” said Robert Vischer, dean and Mengler Chair in Law.

The Holloran Center’s research is at the heart of a national professional-formation social movement focused on two foundational learning outcomes:

• Proactive professional development toward excellence at all the competencies needed to serve others well in meaningful employment
• An internalized, deep responsibility to others, especially the client and the legal system, whom the student serves as a professional in widening circles as the student matures

“We’re trying to influence law schools to give more emphasis to these two outcomes, which you can see are beyond technical skills,”
Hamilton said. “We want to increase the number of law students nationally who experience a professional-formation curriculum.”

Since 2013, the center has held 13 summer workshops to create core groups of faculty and staff at different law schools focused on supporting formation. More than 250 faculty and staff have attended from 41 U.S. law schools and four outside the U.S. Twenty-five law schools have sent two or more teams. Hamilton and Organ also have conducted traveling workshops at law schools at Drexel, Baylor and Brigham Young universities and the University of Florida.

“We’re getting a lot of schools coming back: The George Washington University Law School has sent 14 faculty and staff members, while Georgia State University College of Law has sent 17. At those schools we have many people across the entire law school who are committing themselves to helping students develop into these two learning outcomes,” Organ said.

More than 20 schools have very proactive core groups. Using the framework of the Rogers’ Diffusion of Innovation Curve, the Holloran Center has a strategic goal of moving the number of law schools focused on professional formation learning outcomes beyond innovators (2.5%) and early adopters (13.5%) into the early majority. With roughly 200 ABA-accredited law schools, that would mean having more than 30 law schools with an active core group of faculty and staff promoting the learning outcomes.

A ROADMAP FOR STUDENTS

Students entering law school want a law school experience that leads to meaningful post-graduation employment, and St. Thomas Law helps them develop the skills that clients and legal employers want.

“We want our students to take ownership of proactive continuous professional development, which is a foundational skill for a lawyer in rapidly changing markets for both clients and lawyers,” Hamilton said. “We decided to help each student create and implement a professional development plan with coaching help from faculty and staff over the entire three years of law school.”

In the second semester of the 1L year, each student starts this developmental process by working through Roadmap: The Law Student’s Guide to Meaningful Employment, now in its second edition. Originally published in 2015, it received the American Bar Association’s Gambrell Award for excellence in professionalism. The guide, spearheaded by Hamilton with contributions from other St. Thomas Law faculty, staff and students, is used by a number of law schools.

The Holloran Center has data from several law schools demonstrating that the Roadmap method helps students progress to later stages of development by taking ownership of their own professional growth.

The Holloran Center also is working with a few dozen faculty and staff from several different law schools on the creation of stage development models – or “Holloran Competency Milestones” – for some of the key professional formation competencies.

“For every needed skill, you can actually show students these stage development models and help the student grow to the next stage. For example, a student could be told, ‘On “teamwork” you’re at this level, and you need to be at a later-stage level by graduation, and we can help you develop and implement a plan to get there,’” Hamilton said.

Hamilton and Organ, who also teach a full load of classes each, are carrying on the work of the center’s founder, Thomas Holloran. A lawyer, CEO and professor, Holloran was dedicated to helping future law students and young lawyers achieve the competencies to create meaningful work.

Holloran Center data reveals that clients and legal employers need attorneys with not only technical skills, but also client-service orientation and relational skills, and an entrepreneurial mindset to serve clients and legal employers in changing markets.

Competencies that clients and legal employers want for proactive law schools and students:

- Internalization of client-service orientation and relational skills with others:
  - Superior client focus and responsiveness to client
  - Exceptional understanding of client’s context and business
  - Trustworthiness
  - Communication, including listening and knowing your audience

- Entrepreneurial mindset to serve clients and legal employers in changing markets:
  - Ownership of proactive continuous professional development
  - Constant attention to:
    - More for less
    - The capabilities of technology to do the work more efficiently
    - More use of project management and collaboration with teams including non-lawyers

Through its curriculum, St. Thomas Law helps students develop all of these needed skills.
EVERY BUSINESS HAS A TRADEMARK. PROTECTING AND ENFORCING TRADEMARK RIGHTS ARE ESSENTIAL TO BUILDING A STRONG BRAND, AND PROPERLY CLEARING A TRADEMARK IS IMPORTANT TO AVOID TRADEMARK DISPUTES, ACCORDING TO BRAD WALZ ’01,’04 J.D.

“Being able to identify a trademark issue with a business is important not only to trademark practitioners, but to every business attorney,” said Walz, a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP and head of St. Thomas Law’s Trademark Clinic. The clinic, established in spring 2018, offers practical experience for students interested in intellectual property (IP). Although young, the clinic already has had an impact on the business community and on its student participants.

Eighteen clinic students have filed 33 trademark applications, represented a client in a trademark infringement lawsuit in the District of Minnesota and are defending one client in an opposition proceeding before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. The students also have prepared a copyright application and drafted IP-related agreements. Students in the Trademark Clinic gain the analytical skills, practical knowledge and legal background to counsel businesses in IP. Along with these technical skills, they are able to practice the interpersonal skills necessary for advising clients.

CERTIFIED ATTORNEYS WITH THE PATENT OFFICE

Three years ago, when Professor Tom Berg asked Walz to lead the clinic, Walz thought it was a perfect fit. “It’s right in my wheelhouse,” said Walz, who specializes in IP. “When students graduate, pass the bar exam and are a practicing attorney, there are so many things they’re learning for the first time. This gives them a head start.”

While a student at St. Thomas Law, Walz requested mentors who were involved in IP work. He said he’s grateful for the practical knowledge he gained from being paired with Tim Kenny of Norton Rose Fullbright US LLP and Michael Collyard, now with Robins Kaplan LLP.

At Barnes & Thornburg LLP Walz helps companies of all sizes monetize, protect and enforce their IP. He is also the creator of the BOB trademark search software application (www.trademarkbob.com). As a St. Thomas Law alumnus he has served as a mentor, an Alumni Association Board member, mock interviewer, and guest lecturer for the Copyright and Trademark courses. “I want to help anywhere I can,” he said.

For the Trademark Clinic, students meet with him twice a week at the firm and discuss their trademark cases. Consistent with the mission of St. Thomas Law and its clinical program, clients of the Trademark Clinic may include nonprofit entities, small businesses and individuals who otherwise could not afford to protect or defend their trademarks. According to Walz, students have helped many nonprofits so far, including clothings, food and literacy organizations.

“We haven’t had an unsuccessful application yet. Some clients have already registered their trademark,” Walz said. The trademark cases involve conducting a preliminary trademark search, writing a clearance opinion letter, and preparing and filing an application. Once filed, the applications can go in a variety of directions, depending on the examining attorney assigned to them, Walz said. The clinic’s cases are in a range of stages and proceedings typically last longer than a semester, so the cases often are handled by different students.

Past clinic participant Stephanie Wolf, 3L, who said that IP is her passion, will continue her work through the newly established Advanced Trademark Clinic at St. Thomas Law.

She explained how clinic work has helped fuel her drive. “When a trademark application isn’t perfect, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will send you an explanation why. Our job was to show the USPTO why our client’s trademark should receive legal protection. We also filed trademark applications, visited with attorneys from the USPTO, (and my personal favorite) gave clients the great news that their trademark was approved!”

She admitted that it was less fun to relay bad news. “Clients may not understand why the USPTO did not accept their trademarks; however, those conversations only motivated me to work harder on behalf of the clinic’s clients,” she said.

Wolf said the Trademark Clinic taught her how to successfully navigate the USPTO’s website and database, which she’s already used in her work as an IP clerk at The Toro Company. “I was able to significantly shorten the learning curve, and my supervisor and colleagues have made note of the benefits of my clinic experience for the legal department at Toro,” she said.

‘THE EMPATHY OF A CLOSE, BUT HONEST FRIEND’

Clinic students explain the trademark process and discuss issues with their clients. Law students learn to help their clients realize the business decisions that need to be made, while also empathizing with them.

“Students learn how to be active listeners and identify issues as clients are explaining their stories,” Walz said. “It’s not as emotionally charged as family law, for example, but trademarks to a small business are a very personal thing. Students need to be able to reason with clients who are emotional about what they have developed.”

Wolf found this to be true. “The Trademark Clinic marries interpersonal communication with the professionalism of a lawyer and the empathy of a close, but honest friend. As trademarks are a symbol of identity for a business, criticism can be taken personally and a delicate approach to these conversations is imperative.”

Kevin Beach ’19 J.D. said the clinic was a great opportunity to develop relationships with clients. While working on two cases as a student, he found that clients may have an idea of one thing they want to do, and the students can inform them of other areas in their business that also need protection.

“I was helping them figure out what the law can do for them,” said Beach, who plans to go into corporate law. “Understanding trademark and copyright are very important to any business or corporation, because they’re trying to differentiate themselves through their brand.”

Being an attorney is not just advising clients on the law, but being a trusted advisor.

“That’s the mission of the law school. That’s what draws me,” said Beach.

Left to right: Kevin Beach, Stephanie Wolf, Brad Walz. Photo by Mark Brown.
Class of 2004
Send your 2004 class notes and photos to Ian Dobson (imdobson@live.com).

Greetings Class of 2004! I hope all is well with each of you.

The first update is a little older than normal, but that’s completely my fault! Stephanie Boucher sent me an update for our last edition, and I just missed it when I compiled the updates. Stephanie was very gracious about it, but it’s a nice reminder that I am far from perfect. If you send me an update and I fail to get it, please call me out (just please don’t do it in a “reply all” email) I want to get it right.

But, back to Stephanie, who joined the state of Minnesota’s Department of Administration in 2018 as a planner for the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities. As Stephanie explains, however, she actually “plans” nothing and just does as she’s told, doing research and writing tips relevant to ensuring that people with developmental disabilities receive care and inclusion in society. She writes about the criminal victimization of people with developmental disabilities, housing segregation, incoming and upcoming civil suits, and quality of life issues. She also told me that some of these writings really are read by legislators and may influence policy decisions, but she has no proof of that. She also serves as a grant reviewer for the Center for Health Equity, and could be knocking on your door soon as a member of the 2020 Census Committee.

On a personal note, she’s still training her first husband, Jeff, and her son, Niko, who is 21 years old (252 months). Fortunately, age has passed her by completely, although no one can prove that either, as she can’t abide Facebook (and will never wear anything as long as she lives). The next update is maybe my favorite ever. Elizabeth “Lissa” Borne’s son recently finished his leukemia treatment! He got to sing the ball in April next to Commander Doom of the 501st Legion Clone Wars Battalion (this apparently only makes sense to “Star Wars” nerds, and I admit that I do not understand it). Lisa’s son was originally diagnosed in December 2015 and after 3.5 years, he is cancer free. Lisa sends much love and thanks to the St. Thomas community who unwaveringly supported her family through this difficult process. I am so excited for Lisa and her family, this is obviously wonderful news.

Brett Clark was named a partner at Crowley Fleck PLLP in Helena, Montana. Brett’s litigation practice focuses on commercial litigation and professional liability defense, with an emphasis in medical, legal and accounting malpractice.

Finally, this past June, Andrea Specht concluded nearly 10 years as executive director and chief advancement officer of the Bloomington-based theater and visual arts organization, Artistry. Andrea took a couple weeks off before starting a 1-year stint as interim foundation executive director and chief institutional advancement officer at Normandale Community College (NCC). Andrea writes that it’s an honor to lead fundraising and marketing for NCC and its students, many of whom are new Americans and first-generation college students. Thank you again for sending your updates. I know they get fewer and farther between as the years go by, and I also know that they’re loved by your classmates. So please keep sending them.

Class of 2007
Send your 2007 class notes and photos to Chuck Berendes (chuckberendes@gmail.com).

David Hanson was sworn in as the Beltrami County attorney in his hometown of Bemidji in January. I guess this means David didn’t do anything exceedingly ridiculous in his teens or early 20s that the good people of Beltrami County just couldn’t look past. That’s good planning there, David and his wife, Julie, have four kids … none of whom currently have cases being prosecuted by the County Attorney’s Office.

Angie Hoppe married Adam Schuda (pictured below) on May 26 in their backyard with two witnesses and the officiant in attendance. This probably qualifies as the least stressful wedding ever. Not only did they minimize the guest list but they didn’t even have to drive anywhere. I don’t think you can escape the rules that apply to a name change, or who wields the dishes, or who washes the dishes, or who takes out the garbage, but it was a good way to remove complexity, at least from the very beginning of the marriage. In July Angio moved to a new role at Wells Fargo as a conduct risk lead consultant. Conduct risk lead consultant is probably a great job but it’s also another example of a career that you don’t see modeled in children’s books. I haven’t seen the book with the cartoon police officer, cartoon firefighter, cartoon doctor, cartoon baker and cartoon conduct risk lead consultant. Maybe in her spare time Angie could put pen to paper and get kids thinking seriously about their future career options. A couple titles to consider, Where the Wild Things Are and The Conduct Risk Lead Consultant or The Very Hungry Caterpillar and the Conduct Risk Lead Consultant or Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day and the Conduct Risk Lead Consultant. It could work.

Erin Colgan’s Silver Jubilee has come and gone and all that’s left is writing the thank you notes. However, since Erin is a glutton for punishment and can’t just be happy with her accomplishments, she has started a course in Intermediate Accounting during the fall semester. She expects Intermediate Accounting to be better in some ways than the Congressional Procedure course she took last year. Some of their appendix removed, other people have their wisdom teeth pulled out and some people find the good in
Class of 2009

Send your 2009 class notes and photos to Erin Gross (erin@nlawfirm.com).

Jason Young has been promoted from staff counsel to church counsel at the Eckankar Spiritual Center in Chanhassen, Minnesota, where he manages the church’s worldwide legal needs. Last summer he enjoyed a few long weekends on the north shore of Lake Superior with his wife and two daughters. Here they are in June 2019 at the 70-foot tall waterfalls of the Baptism River in Tettegouche State Park.

Class of 2008

Send your 2008 class notes and photos to Andrea Hooverseten (ahooverseten@gklawfirm.com).

Laura Hammargren has been busy! She moved from Chicago to St. Paul and changed positions to in-house counsel in 3M’s litigation group. Laura and husband Chris are also welcomed baby Sophie in April (pictured below). Congratulations!

Ryan Payton received the 50th anniversary Young Lawyer Professionalism Award. Ryan is the executive director of the Colorado Attorney Mentoring Program (CAMP), a program of the Colorado Supreme Court dedicated to providing mentors and professional guidance to new and transitioning lawyers across Colorado. Congratulations!

Blair Gisi and wife Kaylan welcomed a daughter, Morelia Margaret Gisi (pictured below), on March 25. Congratulations!

Congratulations to the 2009 St. Thomas law graduates who were named to 2019 Rising Stars by Super Lawyers! Pam Abbate-Datlito, Erin Gross, Michael Kemp, Cally Kjellberg-Nelson, Brian Thompson and Nicole Truso.

Class of 2010

Send your 2010 class notes and photos to Meghann Kantka or Garin Strobl (utlaw2010@gmail.com).

Chris Jensen reports that after backpacking through Southeast Asia for part of 2018, he moved back to the Twin Cities from St. Cloud. Chris is excited to open his own law firm in Shakopee this September: The Jensen Litigation Firm, PLLC. Chris confirms that he is still living the dream. The Class of 2010 is otherwise in the thick of busy practices and busy lives, so much that no one else had time to submit an update this go round! We have seen good things happening in our social media feeds with cool job changes (congrats to Eric Beier, on the move to Fredrikson) and career milestones (Zayfere Stout and Michael Boulette are taking over the world)!

Amanda Crain and Pamela Steine (ust2011classnotes@gmail.com).

Class of 2011

Send your 2011 class notes and photos to Amanda Crain or Pamela Steine (ust2011classnotes@gmail.com).

Bonnie (Thayer) Norlander married Nick Norlander on June 22.

Adam Rohne opted for the good life and moved to an in-house counsel position at Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. Adam supports the Wealth, Abbot Downing, and Trust Section of Wells Fargo’s Wealth and Investment Management Division.

Brandon Meder is still working for Engel & Volkers, a luxury real estate brokerage based out of Hamburg, Germany. Brandon offices primarily out of Deephaven, Minnesota. He still plays golf from time to time, and also drank the Peloton Kool-Aid. He lives in Shakopee with his wife, Danielle, and their children, Jackson (6), Jacelyn (4), and Adelyn (2) (pictured below). They are loving life! Danielle is director of quality for her company, United Language Group, and loves riding her bike, whether for a club ride or on her Peloton. Jackson is entering first grade at La Acadamia, a Spanish immersion school in Chaska and likes to golf with his Dad. Jacelyn is starting horseback riding lessons this fall along with another of swimming, and Adelyn is learning the ropes, being the youngest.

Derek Mikkelson reports that despite living all his worldly possessions to move up north and train to be an Olympic curler.

Adam Tenrey remains busy serving low-income individuals through St. Croix Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm he founded in 2016 in Minnesota. Adam’s sons, John (4), Joe (3), and Paul (1), keep him busy at home when he’s not busy at work. And when he’s not busy at work or at home, he can typically be found on the St. Croix River, sailing the
beautiful Queen Melania, a recently acquired sailboat on which anyasmine encouraged to join Adam (pictured below) for a day of patriotism and beer drinking.


Tony Toepfer (pictured below) opened Toepfer at Law, PLLC, in St. Cloud in February. The firm is fully operational and also contemplates an expansion. Tony’s 2½-year-old son displays an early mastery of advanced negotiation strategies, such as insisting on two graham crackers when only offered one.

Amy Boyle, a partner and employment attorney at Halunen Law, was elected as secretary for the Younger Lawyers Division of the Federal Bar Association. It’s the largest division of the Federal Bar Association and promotes professional advancement and networking opportunities for attorneys from across the country.

Amanda Crain, who also practices at Halunen Law, was appointed as a board member to the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA) - Minnesota Chapter, which is dedicated to advancing the rights of workers by providing information, education and advocacy on behalf of employees.

We had a great crop of Rising Star attorneys: Ryan Elise of Biek; Brinn Hunter PA; Justin Bruntjen of Decerto Law LLC; Amanda Crain and Ross Stadheim of Halunen Law; Jenna Eisenmenger of Heimel & Lammers; Angela D. Follett of Fish & Richardson PC; Molly Gherty of Felhaber Larson; Charlie E. Nelson of Ballard Spahr LLP; Adam Rohne (formerly of Felhaber Larson); Pamela Steine of Sunde Olson Kricher & Zender PLC; Carly Stephani of Bowman and Brooke LLP; and Christopher L. Vatsaa of Chestnut Cambronne PA.

Class of 2012
Send your 2012 class notes and photos to: Salena Koster (salena.koster@gmail.com) or JR Wise (wise1985@gmail.com).

BABIES
Mary Brainerd Dujovski and her family welcomed baby Brooks into their family in March.
Blyss Danahy and Matt Danahy welcomed baby Quinn into their family in late March. Big brother Mason is very proud!
Isaac Robert was born to Kevin Schaekel and Jennifer Schaekel on Sept. 28, 2018. As if that wasn’t enough, they then welcomed little Lucas on April 9! Spring’s first baby!
John Daly and Abby Marish welcomed little Louris into their family last spring!
David Carrier and Subia Beg welcomed their daughter, Zayra, on April 13!
Matt Brown and Josie Eckholm Brown welcomed Sterling last May!
Michael Dolphijn ’12 and Jenny Dolphijn in 2011 welcomed TWINS, Jack and Gavin, into their family on April 21 (see photo in the Class of 2011 notes).

Melissa Taylor and Tony Taylor welcomed Calle Jean Taylor into their family on May 27.
Megan Stowers, Luke Zurbriggen, and big brother Bram welcomed August Jax into their family on June 3.
Blake Hatting and Kristy Hatting welcomed Azalea Alice, their third daughter, into their family on Feb. 3.
J.R. Wise and Marissa Wise are expecting first baby Lyanna in late November (J.R. is hoping she shares his birthday…. Marissa, not so much!)

WEDDING
Aly Schall (TofteLang) married Mitch Schall in June 2018!

JOBS
Carley Miller steps into a new role as a municipal judge in Kaukauna, Wisconsin!
Ben Westerberg has been promoted to captain in the U.S. Navy. Thank you for your service!
Salena Koster returned to the Minnesota Senate with Sen. Jim Carlson in the fall!
Kathryn Short has been named a shareholder at Briggs and Morgan!
Ruth Dapper now works with DLA Piper in San Diego where she will continue specializing in class action litigation!
Kelli Riley joined Peak Goldstone in Greeley, Colorado, to continue practicing plaintiff’s employment law and began practicing family and criminal law. On a personal note, Claire Talke hosted Kelli and Marit (Karbowski) Gurley and their families for ice cream sundae while Kelli was in town visiting Colorado. Photo on next page includes Claire, her husband Andrew, and children Harriet and Thaddaeus; Kelli, her husband Andy, and son Cavanaugh; and Marit, her husband Chris, and their daughter Anja.

Robin Bown has been hired at The University of Akron in Ohio since May 2017 as the executive director of global engagement. This fall Robin is teaching an undergraduate course she designed called Walls and Welcome Mats: Perspectives on Migration, Refugees and Asylum, and Erin Westbrook practices at Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr in Minneapolis. She assists corporate clients as well as closely held and family-owned businesses with matters involving their intellectual property and business disputes.

Class of 2013
We are looking for a class of 2013 notes editor! Please email lawalumni@idthomass.edu if you are interested in reporting your class news!

Mary Beth Boyle moved to Hennington & Snowall, Ltd. She practices worker’s compensation law, FERA disability law and personal injury law.

In June, Aubrie Ekman (pictured below) started a new role as deputy general counsel at Velocity Global, LLC in Denver. Velocity Global serves as an international professional employer organization firm helping clients to meet global expansion goals with velocity.

Mary Beth Boyle moved to Hennington & Snowall, Ltd. She practices worker’s compensation law, FERA disability law and personal injury law.

In June, Aubrie Ekman (pictured below) started a new role as deputy general counsel at Velocity Global, LLC in Denver. Velocity Global serves as an international professional employer organization firm helping clients to meet global expansion goals with velocity.

Kalli Gardner practices at the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office.

In December 2018, Emily Anne Gulickson (pictured below) took over as the chief executive officer at the Arizona Chamber Foundation and continues to serve as co-founder and executive director of A for Arizona. Emily Anne has been in a leading role over the past 18 months in growing the foundation from a two person research shop into a thriving nonprofit with two dozen employees and three major initiatives, including A for Arizona, Chamber Business News and the Arizona Industry Fellows. Under her direction, the foundation has published critical policy briefs and research on topics dedicated to expanding economic opportunity in Arizona as well as water, trade, education, health care and tax reform.

On May 1, Roger Maldonado, an associate at Fiagre Daniels, began his one-year term as president of the Minnesota Hispanic Bar Association (MHBA). This is his sixth year serving on the MHBA Board.

Jill Sauber opened her own firm! As of July 10, Sauber Legal Services LLC has been open for business. Jill practices in the areas of elder law (including asset protection, medical assistance and veterans benefits, long-term care planning), estate and tax planning, estate and trust administration and litigation. Her main office is located off of France Avenue and 494, but Jill works with clients throughout the state of Minnesota. She reports that it is very exciting!

Rafe Stanley and Adrienne (Gellis) Stanley are having a busy year. They bought their first home, got a dog, and are expecting their first addition to the family in January 2020!

Phil Steger said goodbye to his law practice and is now the full-time CEO of Brother Justus Whiskey Co. Brother Justus handcrafts micro batches of single malt whiskeys, distilled from premium Minnesota malted barley, entirely on premises in their underground distillery in northeast Minneapolis.

John Strong won the 2019 Raeder Larson Public Service Award from the Bankruptcy Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

Joel Van Norden was named the Tubman Safety Project 2018 Attorney of the Year for his pro bono work representing low income clients in Order for Protection hearings. He continues his solo litigation practice in Minneapolis focusing on disputes involving real estate, trusts and estates, and business.

Class of 2014
Send your 2014 class notes and photos to Austin Bowyer (jbowyer07@gmail.com) or Anthony Truong (ants.conglomerate@gmail.com).

Marni Hand is in her second year clerking for the Hon. Diane Hemetewa, U.S. District Judge for the District of Arizona in Phoenix. Trevor’s wife, Alexandra, is a urologic surgery resident at the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale.

Lauren Funseth and her husband, Cole, welcomed their son, Jack, in March. As if she is not busy enough, Lauren recently started working as an associate at Gray Plant Mooty (Minneapolis) in their
Class of 2016
Send your 2016 class notes and photos to Rachel Scherf at (rachelleiledav@gmail.com) or Chris Clark (christopheidarklaw@gmail.com).

Danny Braddock just celebrated his one-year anniversary with Wotlers Klanner in their Governance, Risk and Compliance Division.

Rachel O’Connor moved to Monroe, Missouri. Rachel practices in the areas of business law, corporate finance/mergers and acquisitions and real estate.

David Yates started a new job in September. He left his role as an assistant county attorney in Le Sueur County and will start as a staff attorney at the Fourth Judicial District Guardian ad Litem Program. It will be a big change since Le Sueur is 75 miles away from Minneapolis and is less than one-tenth the population.

Zach Lyngaas and his wife had their first baby, Margaret Hope, on July 12. Zach also celebrated his two-year work anniversary at the McLeod County Attorney’s Office in Glencoe, Minnesota.

The rest of the summer was filled with engagements, weddings and new possibilities. The opportunities are just a few of the many joyful moments shared by members of the Class of 2017.

Carrie Thysse and Patrick ONeill (pictured below) are both Class of 2017 grads, got engaged in Banff, Canada, over Memorial Day weekend. Patrick is an associate at Larson, King LLP and Carrie is at U.S. Bank in Risk Management and Compliance. They are getting married in June 2020 at the Chapel of St. Thomas Aquinas.

On June 16, Richard Bennett proposed to Lisa Fontana at Lake Minnetonka (pictured below). They will be getting married on Sept. 19, 2020, at the Basilica of St. Mary. Richard also joined the corporate practice group at Faegre Baker Daniels in Minneapolis.

Megan Oliver started a new job as an admiralty and maritime law attorney in St. Louis.

Alex Goering and Kathryn Kelly both started as assistant county attorneys for Olmsted County and Chisago County, respectively.

Joseph Pope (pictured below) is the newest attorney at the Minneapolis law firm, McCoy Peterson, Ltd. Joe specializes in advocating for the rights of employees and injured workers.

Chelsea Barr practices family law at Hemmer & Lammers in Minneapolis. Chelsea’s practice is largely child-focused. She joins fellow alumna Elizabeth Drorroing Hartwell ’06 (family law), Michael Lammers ’08 (criminal litigation), and Jenna Eisenmenger ’11 (family law) at the firm.

Pharoah Lewis joined the product liability/mass tort and business litigation practices at Nilan Johnson Lewis P.A. in Minneapolis.

Amy Trehe is assistant general counsel at Stearns Bank N.A.

Class of 2018
Send your 2018 class notes and photos to Wally Hwang (wally.hwang@stthomas.edu).

Dan Dosch (pictured below) is clerking for Hennepin County Judge Mary Vasaly on civil assignments. He is continuing his mentoring, writing and trial strategy experience has been incredible. Dan enjoys business cases, serving the public and teaching archery on the side.

Class of 2019
Send your 2019 class notes and photos to Meredith McNight (mgmn014n@gmail.com) or Bri Whiting (bwh0122@gmail.com).

Thomas Wheeler’s family welcomed James Wheeler on July 29. Thomas reports that the arrival of baby
Second-year law student Rachel Hampson spent last summer immersed in research and outreach for the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission (MITSC), as part of St. Thomas Law’s Fredrikson & Byron Public Interest Externship Program. Her position was made possible through a Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) Public Interest Law Fellowship (PILF) grant which was funded, in part, by the financial support of our alumni.