GAINING REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE THROUGH LAW CLINICS

Practicing to Practice

VOL. 33-NO. 1    SUMMER 2018
ON THE COVER
TULANE LAW CLINICS offer students mentoring, legal-skills development and experience representing clients. This training underscores the clinics’ value and the challenges they face going forward: Student-attorneys get invaluable hands-on training with clients who otherwise couldn’t afford a lawyer, but to keep up with the demands of the legal profession, clinics are called on to arm students with a broad array of skills even before they graduate.
DEAR FRIENDS,

Ever since arriving at Tulane Law School, I’ve marveled at the high-octane quality of the people who define it—students, alumni, staff, and faculty alike.

As a classroom teacher, I can attest there’s a creative and intellectual spark that sets our students apart. Employers regularly tell me that Tulane students and graduates outshine their counterparts from other schools. The National Law Journal ranked Tulane #36 on its 2018 list of “Go-To Law Schools” for placement into the nation’s 100 largest firms.

Moreover, Tulanians disproportionately rise to leadership wherever their careers take them—as managing partners, civic leaders, judges and chief executives of businesses and nonprofits.

I was reminded of this a few weeks ago at the annual meeting of the Louisiana State Bar Association, when Barry Grodsky (L ’82) was sworn in as state bar president and was joined by the two classmates who made up his Tulane bar-review study group—Julia Heintz Murray, now general counsel of Sequitur Energy Resources, and Judy Perry Martinez, who is president-elect of the American Bar Association next year.

After eight years of meeting, teaching, and working alongside so many remarkable Tulanians, I think I know why they so consistently go on to outsized success in their careers. The high quality and distinctive nature of a Tulane Law education has something to do with it, of course. The international and comparative character of a Tulane Law education uniquely prepares our graduates for success in an increasingly globalized and interconnected profession.

The culture of New Orleans also contributes—Tulane Law graduates stand out not only for their smarts, but also for the “soft skills” essential to professional leadership: collaboration, relationship-building, communication, empathy, and keeping a healthy perspective on life in general.

But part of Tulane Law’s “secret sauce” is undoubtedly a self-selection effect. For many, Tulane does not seem to be the “safe choice” for law school. The civil law tradition of Louisiana, the distinctive dual curriculum, even the inimitable quirkiness of New Orleans all set Tulane apart. These can scare off the meek and the risk-averse, which leaves Tulane Law with a student body that is disproportionately self-confident, broad-minded, ambitious, risk-tolerant, and inclined to value the creative over the familiar. These qualities—in a word, “audaciousness”—prime Tulane lawyers to stand out and lead in their careers in every corner of the world.

In December 2017, Tulane University launched a capital campaign fittingly named “Only the Audacious.” The theme is fitting because the $1.3-billion goal is ambitious. But it’s also fitting because our success in realizing that goal will go a long way toward writing the future of the university and the law school—and in determining whether we remain a place that uniquely draws lawyers of exceptional talent and propels them to leadership in their careers.

The fact is that, for all the ways in which Tulane Law excels, we lag behind with respect to resources. With several years of record-breaking fundraising, we are making progress. Tulane Law School’s $47 million endowment (FY19 book value) is up nearly 40% over the past seven years (the market value is up 68%). Yet, that still leaves us far behind most law schools with which we compete. The endowments for most top-20 law schools, by way of comparison, are in the hundreds of millions, with some surpassing $1 billion. And, in the intensely competitive environment in which law schools now operate, resources are key to our ability to recruit the very best students and faculty and to ensure that Tulane Law continues to offer a uniquely powerful training ground.

The law school’s priorities in its “Only the Audacious” campaign focus on student scholarships, professional skills development, faculty excellence, and enhancing Tulane’s academic preeminence in its signature strengths of energy, environmental, international, maritime and sports law. Our goals are suitably ambitious, and our future standing as a top-ranked law school depends on our achieving them.

When we reach out to you in the months to come, I ask you to reflect on the importance of your own experience at Tulane Law School and to join in securing an even brighter future for the students who will follow you.
TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL launched the new Tulane Center for Energy Law, following the appointment of Kim Talus, a renowned European scholar of energy law, as the school seeks to leverage strengths in the fields of maritime, environmental and international law.

Talus, the inaugural James McCulloch Chair in Energy Law, joined Tulane Law School in late January and is already at work in the classroom.

The chair was launched with a $2 million endowment gift from energy industry veteran Jim McCulloch (A&S ’74, L ’77), executive vice president and general counsel for Houston-based Forum Energy Technologies, and his wife, Susan. Through the center, Tulane is building a world-leading program in energy law.

Talus, considered one of the most prominent energy lawyers in Europe, moved to Tulane from Finland, where he held faculty appointments at the University of Helsinki and the University of Eastern Finland and co-directed a center on energy law.

Talus said he was drawn to Tulane because of the unique opportunity to work in energy law alongside strong environmental and maritime law programs that build on broad international elements.

“It seemed like a very natural fit,” Talus said recently from his yet unpacked office at Weinmann Hall.

“Adding an energy component to that mix reinforces all aspects of the field. And then, of course, it’s Louisiana. Almost everything related to energy is happening here.”

The creation of the center puts Tulane Law at the forefront of a global industry that is crucial not only to Louisiana, but to the nation.

“Every major challenge facing the global community today—from economic inequality and development to climate change, international security and terrorism—relates to energy policy,” said Tulane Law School Dean David Meyer.

“Tulane Law School already leads in maritime, environmental, and international law,” he said. “The energy law center plays to those strengths and fills in a vital missing piece.”

Sirja-Leena Penttinen, a lecturer at the University of Eastern Finland and frequent Talus collaborator, also joins the Tulane Center for Energy Law as assistant director. Penttinen has authored or co-authored four books and more than a dozen articles on energy and competition law in Europe and elsewhere. She also has played an integral role at UEF’s Center for Climate Change, Energy and Environmental Law. She has conducted research in Italy, Norway, the United Kingdom and Malta and has presented her work at colloquia and conferences in London, Madrid, Berlin, Brisbane, Houston and elsewhere.

The Center for Energy Law will allow Tulane to take a global leadership role in a field that is vital to Louisiana and rapidly growing in importance on many fronts, with high-stakes implications for the economy, environment and international security.

“We intend to make Tulane a crossroads for scholars, policymakers and leaders from around the world to engage the most urgent and vexing challenges relating to the responsible development and use of energy,” Meyer said.
TULANE STUDENTS TAKE SECOND PLACE IN NATIONAL MOOT COURT CONTEST

FOR MANY Tulane students, the last weekend in October involved preparing for Halloween or attending Voodoo Fest. That wasn’t the case for four talented Tulane Moot Court students who took second place in a prestigious national mock trial competition.

The third-year law students took part in both prosecuting and defending a complex federal wire fraud case in the In Vino Veritas trial competition hosted by Golden Gate Law School in San Francisco, Calif. There were 16 teams and 64 advocates from across the country including from New York, Florida, California and Washington, D.C.

Tulane’s team of Miriam Gentile, Marcella Lupski, Anna Potter and Jackson Smith went undefeated in four preliminary, quarter-final and semi-final trial rounds where they had to try both sides of the case. Tulane’s team ultimately came in second, losing by a razor-thin margin in the final trial that was held in Sonoma County, Calif.

In addition to the team’s outstanding second place finish in this nationally recognized trial event, Potter, an advocate, was recognized with the award for the Best Opening Statement of the competition. Smith was recognized with the award for Most Outstanding Overall Advocate for the entire competition.

The case itself involved a California NBA basketball star’s multimillion-dollar investment in a Central America winery. The player claimed he was defrauded by the defendant. The advocates had to examine and cross-examine both lay and expert witnesses, besides making opening statements and closing arguments.

The team was coached by longtime Tulane adjunct professor William Sommers.

LEZLIE GRIFFIN, NEW ASSISTANT DEAN FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND DIVERSITY INITIATIVES OFFICE

LEZLIE GRIFFIN, formerly the assistant dean for career services at the University of Alabama School of Law, was named Tulane Law School’s new assistant dean for career development and diversity initiatives.

At Tulane, Griffin (L ’07, LLM ’10) launched the newly reorganized and expanded CDO to provide career counseling help to law school students and help promote diversity and inclusion in our community.

Since her early January start, Griffin filled two positions for career counselors, and another for a program director and career counselor, all of which greatly expanded job-related assistance to law school students. In Griffin’s first weeks, she and her staff were busy advising students on job search strategy, updating resources, and hosting programs. They conducted more than 300 student advising sessions in the first six weeks alone.

“It’s been an extremely busy, yet exciting first few weeks,” Griffin said. “We have a great team that’s energetic, creative, and hard working. I consider it an honor to work with them, and we all share a passion for helping our students and alumni to successfully reach their career goals. I look forward to what we’ll achieve over the next few months and years.”

At Alabama, Griffin successfully led an expansion of the school’s career office, was promoted twice, and was tapped for leadership roles with the National Association of Law Placement. She was also a career counselor in Tulane’s Career Development Office and practiced as a labor lawyer with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.

Griffin is a two-time graduate of Tulane Law School, earning both her J.D. and a Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law. In addition, both at Alabama and at Tulane, she has played important leadership roles in promoting diversity and inclusion, with substantial experience relating to student recruitment, retention, support, and programming.

THE MOCK TRIAL TEAM, PICTURED WITH ADJUNCT PROFESSOR WILLIAM SOMMERS (CENTER), CONSISTED OF JACKSON SMITH, MIRIAM GENTILE, MARCELLA LUPSKI AND ANNA POTTER.
LAW SCHOOL CLASS PRESIDENTS ON MISSION TO INSPIRE

WHEN ALL THE BALLOTS were counted, and the dust had settled, Tulane Law School’s three class presidents smiled at the realization that for the first time in recent history, all three law school class leaders are African-American. They used their platform to inspire other students to achieve their dreams.

“I’ve tried to step into a role and be that person that others can talk to,” said Garrett Hines, who is president of the first-year law student class of 2020. “I hope that they will see that I am always positive. I’m not a quota. I’m not checking a box. I earned my place here.”

Nationally, law schools have averaged approximately 27 percent diversity in their student populations. So Hines, class of 2019 president Gerald Williams and class of 2018 president Kerianne Strachan said they try to work every day to reach out to their Tulane classmates, offer support and be a pillar of positive thinking. A goal they share is to be a model to other students of color and to continue to grow enrollment.

The students used Black History Month as an opportunity to talk about being black and attending law school in hopes that others will follow suit and consider law school.

“We know that all throughout history, minorities have had to work a little harder and find opportunities for better jobs or better pay,” said Strachan. “I think my job was to use this history as a stepping stone in my pursuit to being the best person that I can be.”

Williams said his goal was to break down barriers for himself and his classmates.

“I know I am the face of my class. I want to make it my mission to break down stereotypes about students of color, maybe to change some prejudices,” he said.

As the diversity and race discussion evolves at Tulane Law School, each student commended the recent hire of Lezlie Griffin, assistant dean for career development and diversity initiatives, as a great way to expand resources for students of color.

“Tulane University Law School graduates had the highest passing rate of the Louisiana State Bar Exam administered in July 2017, according to results released by the Louisiana Supreme Court Committee. In all, 91 percent of Tulane students passed the bar on their first attempt, compared to the state average of 79.6 percent.”

FROM LEFT, TULANE LAW SCHOOL’S THREE CLASS PRESIDENTS, KERIANNE STRACHAN (2018), GARRETT HINES (2020), AND GERALD WILLIAMS (2019) HAVE A COMMON GOAL—TO INSPIRE OTHER STUDENTS OF COLOR TO CONSIDER CAREERS IN LAW AND TO BE A POSITIVE VOICE FOR THEIR CLASSMATES.
TULAP Hires Lawyer to Help Tulanians Facing Immigration Woes

In a continued expansion of Tulane Law School’s offerings relating to immigration law, the Tulane University Legal Assistance Program (TULAP) has hired its first immigration attorney and is now offering aid to students, staff, and faculty facing legal challenges relating to their immigration status.

Marco Balducci, longtime immigration lawyer both in private practice and with Catholic Charities of New Orleans, will work with Tulane Law students to help other Tulanians with immigration issues and questions. They may include students and scholars affected by President Trump’s travel ban, those with visa lapses or changes, and of more immediate concern, “Dreamers,” those who fall under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and are at risk of losing their protected status.

“If I had to measure our success a year from now,” said Balducci, a partner with Pelton & Balducci in New Orleans, “it would be that the program has earned the trust of the Tulane community and has enhanced the sense of welcome, safety, and empowerment of all members, irrespective of immigration status. Noncitizen members of the community will know that their school prioritizes making accurate and useful immigration information accessible, and has facilitated their access to legal representation in their immigration case should that be necessary.”

Balducci’s hiring was made possible by support from Tulane University, following a campus forum on the needs of Tulane’s international community led by the University’s Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS). Other campus organizations, including the Undocumented Student Support Committee, felt one major need was legal representation.

“One of the things that got the most votes [in the forum] was the need for an immigration counsel,” said Kristy Magner, OISS director. “It was clear people had immigration questions and they felt the students needed an attorney.”

Professor Laila Hlass, director of experiential learning at Tulane Law School, said opportunities for pro bono work in immigration are in high demand among law students. An already-growing interest in immigration law has only increased since last year’s executive order temporarily barring citizens from some Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

An expert in immigration law, Hlass taught a course (at maximum enrollment) in which students are working with real clients and members of the New Orleans Workers’ Center for Racial Justice. Hlass and Mary Yanik, an attorney and adjunct Tulane Law professor, are supervising students as they prepare and file immigration applications for victims of serious crimes, including human trafficking. Hlass is seeking to expand the immigration curriculum to meet the demand.

“Our students, especially those interested in public service, really want opportunities to work with these vulnerable populations,” said Hlass, who also chairs the Immigration Counsel sub-committee of Tulane’s International Partners Outreach Group, the university-wide coalition working on behalf of international, undocumented and DACA students.

Magner’s office sees the need on Tulane’s campus every day for legal assistance for immigrants and international students. And while the sensitive nature of these issues keeps some from coming forward, she expects the demand for assistance to be steady.

“We probably refer at least two cases every week to seek immigration attorneys,” she said. “I expect that will continue.”

And that’s where Balducci and law students will provide their services through TULAP. That’s because OISS’s role is to manage immigration compliance for the university and advise individuals about maintaining their status as they work or study at Tulane.

“One other issue comes into play, whether they expect a change in status or are concerned about travel outside the country on Tulane-related work, or will be switching from one type of visa to another, or seek permanent legal resident status—those are areas where they need an immigration attorney. That is where Marco and TULAP will help,” Magner said.

Other populations at Tulane who will benefit from immigration counsel include individuals in other visa statuses not served by the OISS and documented and undocumented students.

Students with immigration fears say Tulane’s efforts will go a long way in helping them feel secure on campus.

A PhD candidate at one of Tulane’s Liberal Arts programs who asked for anonymity to speak freely said she knows first-hand what living in fear over immigration status looks like. Once an undocumented child, she moved to the U.S. from Colombia with her parents to help her brother, who had survived the Sept. 11 collapse of the Twin Towers.

While her parents quickly became legal residents, her change in status would take seven years. She wasn’t fully legal in the U.S. until she was 19.

A promising student, she sought out private schools and merit-based scholarships, because she would not qualify for any government-backed student loans. She struggled to find work, eventually taking a job as a waitress.

“And then one day we heard ICE would be coming to the restaurant,” she said. “So I stayed home. That eventually put me at odds with my manager. The job didn’t last long.”

She thinks the demand for TULAP’s immigration assistance program will be significant.

“Undocumented and DACA students are so fearful, so afraid of being singled out as different from everyone else,” she said. “They really protect their status. This is why we must create an environment to educate faculty, students and staff and bring some of these students out of the shadows. They need to hear that they have allies here at Tulane, and then they will come.”

For more information, contact TULAP at 504-865-5515 or tulap@tulane.edu.
BUSINESS BOOT CAMPS

TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL’S new Business Literacy Boot Camp for first-year students packed an introduction to the business world into an intensive week that wove expert presentations with case studies, group assignments and discussions with business executives.

A collaboration between the law school and Tulane’s A.B. Freeman School of Business, the new course launched in January 2017, concurrent with the law school’s Intersession Boot Camp, and was back in 2018 for a second time. The course uses a mock case of an airline purchase as its first real-world scenario.

To give real-time insights, the course brings industry leaders to lecture and coach students.

For example, the 2017 course saw retired JetBlue Chief Financial Officer Mark Powers, who teaches financial management at the business school, lecture on the industry and serve as a “board member” for the final presentations.

In both 2017 and 2018, 40-plus students signed up for the course, almost a quarter of the 1L class.

“I loved being able to dive into an industry that I knew little about,” said Katie Dye (L ’19), who has an anthropology degree and signed up to get an overview of business and corporate law. “Being able to pitch the acquisition of Virgin America by JetBlue to the former CFO of JetBlue, who actually worked on the deal in real life, was phenomenal.”

Vice Dean Onnig Dombalagian, who helped design the program, said a key goal was helping students “think about why their clients make the decisions they do.”

Law school classes typically focus on how lawyers can advance their clients’ interests. And other skills-building offerings, such as Tulane’s Intersession Boot Camp for second- and third-year students, cover the mechanics of drafting business documents and closing deals. Trial advocacy teaches litigation tools.

But a course that puts law students in the role of business consultant helps them see pressures and opportunities from the client’s perspective, Dombalagian said.
> **AMANDA CRAWFORD** (L ’17, above left) won a National Burton Award for legal writing for her article on the Gulf of Mexico dead zone.

> **COLEMAN TORRANS** (L ’18, above right) won a National Burton Award for legal writing for his article, “How Did They Know That? Cell Site Simulators and the Secret Invasion of Privacy.”

> **ALLISON SKOPEC** (L ’18, right) won the Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee/Gard Student Writing Competition.

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**LAW STUDENTS WIN LEGAL WRITING AWARDS**

> **AMANDA CRAWFORD** (L ’17) and **COLEMAN TORRANS** (L ’18) won the prestigious Burton Award, marking the third time in as many years that a Tulane student has been recognized as some of the finest legal writers in the country. **ALLISON SKOPEC** (L ’18) won the law student writing competition sponsored by the Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee of the American Bar Association’s Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section and Gard (North America), a major New York-based maritime insurer.

> Crawford, Skopec and Torrans have been accomplished student leaders involved in a wide range of academic and service activities. Only 15 law students each year from across the United States receive a Burton Award, and it is considered one of the highest student writing honors in the legal profession. Winners are recognized in May at a gala at the Library of Congress. Crawford won the prize in 2017, while Torrans won this year.

> Skopec’s award came with a $1,000 prize, as well as a visit to Gard’s New York office, where she received a primer on maritime insurance and gave a presentation of her paper, among other honors. Her article, “Learning to Love Blockchain Schooner Rather Than Later: Streamlining the Container Shipping Industry in the Wake of the Glencore Heist,” is published in the Fall 2017 Admiralty and Maritime Law Committee newsletter. Finally, she was able to attend the TIPS AMLC Fall Committee meeting in Key Biscayne, Fla., and meet leading maritime practitioners from across the country.

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> **THE RIGHTS OF NATURE SYMPOSIUM HOSTED AT TULANE LAW DREW NATIVE RIGHTS GROUPS, TOP ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATORS AND ACTIVISTS LIKE KARENNA GORE (LOWER LEFT), DAUGHTER OF FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE.**

IN THE FIRST HALF OF 2017, international courts granted four rivers, a bear and a chimpanzee the same legal rights as a person. The Ecuadorian constitution was amended to recognize rights in all of nature.

> The topic was the subject of a symposium hosted by Tulane Law School in conjunction with the Community Environmental Legal Fund in October titled “The Rights of Nature, Policy and Law.”

> The event drew some of the top voices in environmental law and activism, including Kärenna Gore, director of the Center for Earth Ethics at the Union Theological Seminary and daughter of former Vice President Al Gore, and Winona LaDuke, Native American activist and director of Honor the Earth.

> Dozens of panelists came from around the world including Ecuador, Nepal, Australia and Sweden and discussed existing law, rights of nature laws, and implementation. The event was organized at Tulane by law professor Oliver Houck, whose area of specialty includes environmental law.
The Class of 2020 Includes:

- Labor relations coordinator for a major media company
- Personal assistant for an NFL player
- Ironman Triathlete
- Squad leader in the Israeli defense forces
- Owner of a bee company (specializing in live bee removal and public education on the importance of bees to our ecosystem)
- Archaeological data analyst
PROFESSOR SARU MATAMBNADZO has been appointed to a four-year term on the Louisiana Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

The state panels conduct hearings and make recommendations to the commission on local civil rights concerns, such as justice, voting, housing, education and discrimination. The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights is an independent, bipartisan agency that advises the president and Congress and produces an annual federal civil rights enforcement report.

Matambanadzo, the Moise S. Steeg Jr. Associate Professor of Law, is a nationally known authority on gender equality and workplace equity whose scholarship takes an interdisciplinary approach to exploring legal personhood, animal rights, legal education and laws related to pregnancy. She joined the Tulane Law faculty in 2010 and in 2014–15 was the inaugural Gordon Gamm Faculty Scholar, an award that supports the work of early-career professors.

Several Tulane Law alumni also were named to the state committee: Chair Robert Lancaster (L ’93), director of clinical legal education at Louisiana State University’s Paul M. Hebert Law Center; Randy Boudreaux (L ’95) of New Orleans; Marjorie Esman (L ’86), executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana; and George Fowler (L ’75) of New Orleans.


Professor ALAN CHILDRESS published “No (Physical) Harm, No Foul? Trusting Workable Limiting Principles to Emotional Distress Torts,” 49 Texas Tech Law Review 703 (Spring 2017). He has also completed the annual supplement to Federal Standards of Review (LexisNexis), in December 2017.

Professor JAMES E. DUGGAN was American Master of Ceremonies at the Opening Ceremony of the Fifth Chinese and American Forum on Legal Information and Law Libraries (CAFL), Hangzhou, China, June 1–2, 2017, as well as coordinator and moderator for a panel on “The Role of Law Library Organizations and Alliances.” He is currently serving as co-chair of the CAFL Executive Board, 2016–2019.

Professor JOERG FEDTKE was elected Fellow of the European Law Institute in Vienna/Austria, elected Vice President of the University of Passau/Germany and appointed to the

Crisis Response Unit of UNDP (United Nations Development Program). He was also selected U.S. reporter at the International Congress of Comparative Law in Fukuoka/Japan 2018 and was a legal expert for Youth Dialogues on Constitutional Reform in Lebanon (funded by the German State Department).

Professor JOEL FRIEDMAN was a speaker at a January 2017 lecture on “Recent Developments in Employment Discrimination Law” for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), New Orleans. He also gave a February 2017 lecture on “Recent Developments in Employment Discrimination Law,” ABA/EEOC Committee for Liaison with the EEOC, DOJ, and OFCCP, New Orleans, LA; and was a legal analyst for Fox8 TV News, New Orleans.


Professor GUNTHER HANDL published “Nuclear Off-Site Emergency Preparedness and Response: Some International
WHEN PROFESSOR ADAM FEIBELMAN received a Fulbright research grant in March 2016, he planned to spend the following fall semester studying India’s obscure and rarely used personal insolvency law dating from that country’s colonial era.

But by May, the Indian Parliament, in an effort to boost India’s economy and its appeal to foreign investors, passed a comprehensive new insolvency and bankruptcy code for both corporate and individual debtors. Feibelman’s grant to support a six-month stay in India ended up providing a front-row seat to observe the early stages of dramatic changes to the system.

“It turned out to be really fortuitous timing,” said Feibelman, the Sumter Davis Marks Professor of Law and Tulane Law’s associate dean for faculty research. The new insolvency law “dramatically changed the substantive law of insolvency and bankruptcy and involved rather massive institutional changes,” Feibelman said.

These institutional changes include a new regulatory agency, a new category of insolvency professionals and new information utilities.

He was based at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Now known as Bengaluru, the city of about 10 million people is considered India’s “Silicon Valley,” the hub of the high-tech industry.

A financial reporter before going into law, Feibelman interviewed people involved in writing and enacting India’s reforms, and engaged in early discussions about how the law might be implemented and what impact it might have.

Feibelman joined the Tulane faculty in 2009, and his teaching and research focus on bankruptcy, regulation of financial institutions and international monetary law. He also directs the Program in Regulation and Coordination at Tulane’s Murphy Institute.

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Feibelman’s project is very much in line with Tulane’s characteristic comparative perspective across the law curriculum. “India’s new insolvency and bankruptcy code is a really fascinating case study in legal reforms and the process of innovative lawmaking and rulemaking,” he said. “Assuming it does work as intended, it should have some influence on policymakers everywhere.”

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PROFESSOR JANCY HOEFFEL endears herself to students inside and outside the classroom: From the way she encourages discussion about tough topics like constitutional protections against police abuses to her generosity with writing advice even for students who haven’t yet taken her classes.

Current and former students praise her: She’s cool and relatable, confident and smart, witty and kind, with encyclopedic knowledge of the Fourth Amendment. For a great cause, she’ll even dress in gold lamé and blue bouffant wig adorned with glittery celestial decorations—as she did in April to raise funds supporting students’ public interest summer jobs.

Hoeffel, the Catherine D. Pierson Professor of Law, now has another accolade: In Spring 2017, she received Tulane University’s highest teaching honor, the President’s Award for Excellence in Professional and Graduate Teaching.

“Difficult as it was to teach or attend class first thing the following morning, Professor Hoeffel prefaced her lecture with a tearful ‘I love you all,’” Waldrup said. “I’m sure she needed us as much as we needed her that day, but for 80 minutes, she bore that burden of loss for us all.”

Hoffel, a graduate of Princeton University and Stanford Law School, spent six years as a public defender and joined the Tulane Law School faculty in 1999. She specializes in criminal law and procedure, the death penalty and evidence.

Hutchinson said Hoeffel supports student learning not just by knowing her field but by being open to new information and ideas herself.

“She keeps students invested, not by putting them on the spot, but by engaging in a conversation with them,” Hutchinson said. “She’s always interested in a student’s thoughts and feelings and uses them as opportunities for clarification or deeper learning.”

Capt. Robert Waldrup (L ’16), a member of the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps, called Hoeffel “a giant in the classroom” who “genuinely loves her students.”

“I owe my success in law school, my passion for criminal law and my readiness for the practice of law to her unparalleled ability as an educator,” he said.

Her rapport with students proved especially important in 2015, when her class was the first one for many students after they lost two classmates in a murder-suicide.

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PROFESSOR LAILA HLASS, an experienced clinical instructor and immigration law specialist, is Tulane Law’s new director of experiential learning.

Hlass found working with children through an immigration clinic the “most meaningful part of my law school experience.”

Because the work proved so formative, most of her career since then has involved helping immigrants with legal needs and teaching law students to assist vulnerable populations.

A talented clinical instructor—she most recently was director of the Immigrants’ Rights Clinic at Boston University School of Law—Hlass joined the Tulane Law faculty in January 2017. Already-growing interest in immigration law then exploded because of the executive order temporarily barring citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States.

She’s become a sought-after authority on immigration law while undertaking her new role as director of experiential learning.

“It’s a really important time for experiential education,” said Hlass, who’s also a professor of the practice.

Law firms, nonprofit agencies and clients increasingly expect new graduates to be practice-ready, and students are eager to put their classroom learning to work. In 2016, Tulane Law drew its array of skills-training offerings under a single umbrella with pro bono and public interest partnerships to better integrate opportunities for students to prepare for their careers.

Associate Dean Stacy Seicshnaydre (L ’92), a former Civil Litigation Clinic specialist, is Tulane Law’s new director of experiential learning.

It’s definitely an exciting time to join this new team and think about how to reformulate a program,” Hlass said.

“We want to expand the program to ensure that all students have opportunities that align with their areas of interest and to ensure that there’s enough academic rigor and support,” she said.

Hlass grew up in Long Beach, Miss., then attended Rice University in Houston. She received her JD from Columbia Law School and an LLM from Georgetown University Law Center, where she supervised students in a legal clinic working with asylum-seekers facing court hearings.

She also spent four years at Loyola University New Orleans College of Law, where she assisted in supervising clinic students and pro bono attorneys representing immigrants in state and immigration courts, as well as teaching refugee law.

At that time, just a few years ago, Louisiana nonprofit groups had only a handful of attorneys handling immigration cases statewide, she said. The number of attorneys has multiplied, but still there aren’t enough attorneys to serve that population, she said.

“Professor Hlass brings a wonderful combination of academic credentials, immigration practice background, clinical teaching experience, national networks dedicated to experiential learning and deep ties to the New Orleans public interest community,” Seicshnaydre said. “I think we can expect that she will be a dynamic, productive and engaged director of experiential learning.”
package for the 2017 legislative session. She testified at the request of the Louisiana Center for Children’s Rights before the Louisiana House and senate committees on the constitutionality of legislation relating to sentencing juvenile homicide offenders and addressed the Louisiana Judicial College to produce a podcast for Louisiana judges addressing implementation of juvenile homicide sentencing laws. She was also a New Orleans City Business “Leaders in the Law” honoree for 2017.

Presentations: She spoke at the 2017 National Episcopalian Prison Ministry Conference; at the invitation of singer and criminal justice activist John Legend, participated in a discussion of Louisiana’s criminal justice system hosted by Voice of the Experienced; and collaborated with the Press Club of New Orleans to present a televised forum “Criminal Justice—What does a fair system look like?”


Presentations: “The Unique Legacy of Louisiana Law,” Louisiana Bar at Federal District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana (marking the Tricentennial Celebration); Keynote Address, “Hong Kong at the Edges of Empire,” Conference on Basic Law, Hong Kong, China, November 2017.

Professor RON SCALISE was recently appointed Reporter for the Louisiana State Law Institute’s Aleatory Contracts/Signification of Terms Committee, in addition to continuing service as Reporter for the Law Institute’s Trust Code Committee and Prescription Committee and as a member of over a dozen subject-matter specific committees. In 2017, he assumed a position on the Louisiana State Bar Association’s Board of Governors and has recently assumed the position of Chair of the Tulane Estate Planning Institute.

He was recently appointed as editor of the pamphlet edition of the Louisiana Civil Code published annually by Thomson Reuters. He has also continued in his role as author for the annual updates of five volumes of the Louisiana Civil Law Treatise series, concerning Property, Personal Servitudes, Predial Servitudes, Obligations, and Putting in Default and Damages.


Presentations: The Civil Law in Louisiana: The History, Theory, and Practice, Hong Kong’s 20th Anniversary—International Conference on Basic Law: Review and Future, Hong Kong (Nov. 7, 2017); French Civil Law, Inheritance, and Family Provision in Louisiana, Saloom Chair Speaker Series, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Lafayette, La. (Nov. 7, 2017); A Comparative Law Approach to Trusts and Estates, South Eastern Association of Law Schools, Trusts & Estates Workshop, Boca Raton, Fla. (August 2, 2017); Retroactivity of Obergfell in the Trusts and Estates Context, South Eastern Association of Law Schools, Boca Raton, Fla. (July 31, 2017); A Comparative Law Approach to Trusts and Estates, ACTEC Summer Meeting: Committee on Legal Education, Seattle, Wash. (June 17, 2017); Who Owns the Property in a Trust, New Orleans Bar Association, Real Property Section, New Orleans, La. (May 31, 2017); Airbrushed Heirs: The Problem of Children Omitted from Wills, ABA Real Property, Trust, and Estate Law Webinar (May 17, 2017); Family Provision Requirements in American Succession Law, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa (March 24, 2017); Forced Heirship in Louisiana, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa (March 24, 2017).


Professor EDWARD SHERMAN is the reporter for the Louisiana Law Institute’s Committee on Arbitration/ADR composed of judges and lawyers with expertise in those areas. The committee is writing a new arbitration act to replace the outdated 100-year-old Louisiana Act and civil code provisions dealing with arbitration. The committee is using the Model Arbitration Act of the Uniform Laws Commission, which will bring Louisiana arbitration law into conformity with other jurisdictions, modified where necessary for distinctive features of Louisiana law.

Sherman has been designated as an expert witness for plaintiffs in the national class action brought on behalf of student loan recipients who were issued discharge orders in bankruptcy but who were falsely told by defendant financial institutions that the loans were not discharged. Haas v. Navient, et al. (Bnk S.D. Texas 2017).

He is at work on a West Concise Treatise on Complex Litigation, together with co-authors U.S. District Court (Texas) Judge Lee Rosenthal and former Dean and Professor Robert Klonoff of Lewis and Clark Law School. This will be the first comprehensive treatise on complex litigation.

THE SALARY HAGGLING over Oakland Athletics pitcher Sonny Gray and Raiders quarterback Derek Carr echoing at Tulane Law School in January wasn’t about favorite players or fantasy teams. It was the focus of signature sports law competitions designed to improve students’ research, writing, critical thinking, organizational and oral advocacy skills.

Tulane’s Sports Law Program, which uses the backdrop of a highly popular industry to teach complex legal areas—including antitrust, intellectual property and labor law—is getting a chance to expand on its leadership in studying cutting-edge issues.

Professor GABE FELDMAN, who has been instrumental in developing the nation’s premier sports law program, was named named Tulane Law’s inaugural SHER GARNER FACULTY SCHOLAR earlier this year. The award is funded through an endowed gift from attorneys LEOPOLD Z. SHER (A&S ’74, L ’76) and JAMES M. GARNER (E ’86, L ’89) and aims to help faculty members bring their research before public audiences.

As the face of the Tulane Sports Law Program, Feldman already has a national following and is a sought-after commentator on issues such as player discipline in pro sports, college athletes’ rights and the potential legalization of sports gambling. (As @SportsLawGuy, he has 43,700 Twitter followers and counting.) He said the award provides “a tremendous opportunity for practitioners, academics and Tulane sports law students to share ideas, learn from each other and inspire productive scholarship.”

Feldman said he hopes to create a think tank of sports law experts to focus on a range of pressing issues, including health and safety from youth sports through the professional level; intellectual property questions raised by new platforms for broadcasting games; concerns stemming from wearable technology used during games and practices; and use of fans’ data collected when they attend events or watch online.

“The new and emerging technologies are allowing consumers to view games in ways they never could have imagined 10 years ago and raising legal issues they couldn’t have anticipated five years ago,” he said. And the financial support “will create unique opportunities to engage our students with experts in the field to explore these issues.”

Sher and Garner, who co-founded the Sher Garner Cahill Richter Klein & Hilbert firm, said they’re excited about having Feldman as the first recipient of the award.

“We attribute a great deal of our success to our Tulane education,” Garner said, and the fund “helps support an even higher level of education at Tulane” by fostering faculty scholarship.

The Sher Garner Faculty Scholar Endowed Fund is the latest among several major gifts spearheaded by Sher and Garner. They established the Sher Garner scholarship in 2012 and endowed the Sher Garner Fund for the Advancement of Commercial Law in 2015.

Dean David Meyer credited the duo with helping to propel the success of both Tulane Law faculty and students.

“The Sher Garner Faculty Scholar position is not only an honor but provides resources to enable the holder to engage the public through his or her scholarship while also bringing additional visibility to Tulane Law School,” Meyer said.

He noted that Sher and Garner are also contributing directly to students as members of Tulane’s adjunct faculty. Garner teaches a course in Appellate Advocacy, and Sher is teaching a new course in Advanced Contract Drafting.

Sher said they consider Feldman “an excellent professor who surely will do a great job.”

Feldman joined the Tulane Law faculty in 2005 after nearly five years as an associate with Williams & Connolly in Washington, D.C. In addition to directing the sports law program, he is Tulane University’s associate provost for NCAA compliance.
LEGAL EDUCATION in the REAL WORLD

TULANE LAW CLINICS OFFER STUDENTS MENTORING, LEGAL-SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPERIENCE REPRESENTING ACTUAL CLIENTS. THE RESULT IS THAT UNDER-SERVED POPULATIONS ARE PROVIDED LEGAL SERVICES, AND STUDENT-ATTORNEYS GRADUATE PRACTICE-READY, PREPARED FOR THRIVING CAREERS.

BY LINDA CAMPBELL
The 50-year-old client had served 20 years of a life-without-parole prison sentence for a non-violent crime when he finally got a parole hearing in March 2017. Student-attorneys with Tulane Law School’s Criminal Justice Clinic had prepared a lengthy briefing packet for the parole board, explaining why their client should be allowed to return to society. The documentation detailed his arrangements for employment, housing, family support and enrollment in alcohol and substance abuse treatment programs.

The packet also pointed to a new law that provides for inmates like this one to seek parole—a law that Tulane Law students helped draft and shepherd through the Louisiana Legislature in 2016.

“I was happy we were able to get him out so he was able to be with his family,” including a wife in ill health, said Cody Seto (L ’17), who helped the client get parole.

This action was more than an exercise in lawyerly compassion: The case took Tulane student-attorneys through the gamut of skills development that is the essence of clinical legal education.

Over a decade, teams of students had worked on the client’s behalf, writing and filing motions in state and federal courts, preparing for and attending hearings, pursuing multiple appeals and more. They interviewed witnesses, learned the dynamics of working with incarcerated clients and their families, dealt with opposing counsel and problemsolved after setbacks. They even plunged into the nitty-gritty of changing the law to assist their client, enacting needed systemic reform.

The experience of these law students underscores the value of law school clinics—and points to the challenge the clinics face going forward: Student-attorneys get invaluable hands-on training in guiding clients who otherwise couldn’t afford a lawyer through the legal system. To keep up with the demands of the legal profession, clinics are called on to arm students with a broad array of skills even before they graduate.

ACROSS THE CURRICULUM

The Tulane Law clinics are adding new simulation exercises across their curriculum to ensure that graduates are familiar with everything from expert witness interviews to settlement negotiation techniques. For example, the Environmental Law Clinic is taking students deeper into the realm of administrative law to prepare them for an increasingly complex regulatory landscape. The Juvenile Law Clinic is teaching students about juvenile brain development and other social science research to expand strategies for helping clients whose needs might prove more complex than merely legal representation.

“Our primary goal is for students—regardless of their skill set (coming in)—to have an opportunity to develop skills they will use in practice, including learning to interview and counsel clients, prepare witnesses, write legal briefs, deliver oral arguments and research and plan case strategy, while providing them the opportunity to represent clients who otherwise could not pay for their representation,” said Lucia Blacksher Ranier, director of the Tulane Civil Rights and Federal Practice Clinic (formerly known as the Civil Litigation Clinic).

The experience of representing clients under the guidance of instructors who are veteran attorneys is eye-opening, memorable and enriching, say clinic graduates. And it provides a competitive advantage as they enter the legal profession.

“The overarching part of the clinic is you get the experience, and you get to be on the frontline,” said Kelly Mitchell (L ’17), who spent his 3L year in the Criminal Justice Clinic (formerly the Criminal Litigation Clinic). “You have all the accountability of a real attorney, but you have someone there to be a mentor.”

VENTURE INTO CLINICAL EDUCATION

Tulane Law ventured into clinical education in 1979 through a program that taught legal skills while encouraging students to serve their community. One of the earliest clinic faculty members was Professor Jane Johnson, a 1974 Tulane Law graduate and legal aid veteran who went on to head the Civil Clinic for 26 years. Johnson launched the externship that became the Domestic Violence Clinic, which led to broader experiential learning. She retired in 2016.

One of the first clinic students was Professor David Katner (L ’80), who took over the Juvenile Law Clinic in 1984 and still directs it.

“What I’d hoped to provide students when we first started was to expose them to the skills of litigation,” said Katner, who spent seven years litigating in state and federal courts before directing the clinic.

Litigation skills remain vital, he said, but they’re just a foundation on which to build. “The manner in which we provide representation has evolved. Today, we’re much more attuned to the mental health issues and diagnostic conditions that clients may exhibit.”

The increasingly comprehensive nature of clinical education is one reason Tulane Law reorganized its experiential learning program in 2016, bringing the clinics under a single umbrella with pro bono and other training offerings, including externships and simulation courses. The program is led by Associate Dean Stacy Seichshyndre (L ’92), who got her first taste of client representation as a student-attorney handling a housing discrimination case through the Civil Clinic.

“With Jane Johnson at the helm, the clinic opened up a world of client-centered public interest practice, ranging from prisoners’ rights to advocacy for people with disabilities to enforcing housing discrimination..."
“laws,” said Seicshnaydre, the William K. Christovich Professor of Law. “My clients had a tremendous impact on me. I still remember them.”

With that start, Seicshnaydre developed expertise that’s recognized nationwide, with her research cited by the U.S. Supreme Court.

As the first Tulane Law graduate to hold a Skadden Fellowship, Seicshnaydre worked on housing cases for the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Washington, D.C. She then helped start the nonprofit Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center, serving as executive director and general counsel. She brought her practitioner’s knowledge and scholarship to the Tulane Law faculty full-time in 2003 and directed the Civil Clinic for 12 years.

“With the increasing emphasis on readiness for practice, the clinics provide the most relevant experiential training a law school can offer,” Seicshnaydre said. “Students are not carrying briefcases or shadowing lawyers, they are interviewing, negotiating, briefing and advocating for clients, under intensive supervision. The mission of the Tulane Law clinics has always been focused on practice readiness and access to justice, only now the mission has become more urgent.”

Although the clinics’ traditional emphasis has been on litigation, Tulane is expanding its offerings to include more transactional opportunities.

CONFIDENCE AND MASTERY

As attorneys certified to practice by the Louisiana Supreme Court, 3L clinic students handle tasks that could range from the initial client interview to an appeal in state or federal court. Clinical professors supervise students, who take on increasing responsibility as they gain confidence and mastery.

“They’re not going to hold your hand... They give you the tools to be successful if you subscribe to the program,” said Chris Donnelly (L ’17), who completed the Civil Rights and Federal Practice Clinic. “As you prove you’re capable of the work, they give you the opportunity to do it.”

While student-attorneys in the five main clinics practice many of the same skills, the clinics aren’t interchangeable because each clinic has a specific focus. The Domestic Violence Clinic, for example, delves into the complex legal needs of domestic violence survivors, representing clients on a wide range of legal issues that include protective orders, child custody, housing, and criminal justice system advocacy, while also connecting clients to a safety net of non-legal resources provided by community partners.

The Juvenile Law Clinic requires learning the voluminous Louisiana Children’s Code. And the Environmental Law Clinic emphasizes administrative law and research into a burgeoning field of statutes and regulations, as well as work with experts.

“In a field like environmental law, the ability to effectively present expert testimony can be critical,” clinic director Lisa Jordan said. “Our students will learn to develop and present expert testimony, even to the extent of accompanying the experts in their investigations.”

Students have worked with a biologist to obtain stream samples to determine the impact from landfill discharges. They’ve also observed smoke testing that an expert performed to find leaks on an underground sewage system.

Civil Rights and Federal Practice Clinic student-attorneys in a housing discrimination case might have to navigate both the administrative law intricacies of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
complaint process and the procedures for suing in federal court. Increasingly, the clinics are combining efforts and joining with other disciplines to produce professionals who are well rounded, thoughtful and able to find creative solutions.

Katner said “multidisciplinary” for lawyers once meant getting a complementary degree, such as in tax. Now, it’s taken on a new dimension: “Today, we’re focusing more on issues involved in client representation that require more than knowledge of the civil legal system.”

For several years, Criminal Justice Clinic students have partnered with Tulane School of Medicine forensic fellows in a mock-trial exercise replicating court arguments concerning defendants’ mental health issues and fitness for trial.

“I felt like we were able to skip the last year of law school and jump into the real world, with real clients and real meaning to our work,” Seto said of his clinic experience.

CLIENTS COME FIRST
Samantha Pfotenhauer (L ’17), who spent a year in the Environmental Law Clinic, said she entered the program hoping to improve her writing through drafting motions and other court documents. She received writing instruction but also learned skills for communicating effectively with clients and managing their expectations.

“When your only medium to advocate for your client, to explain the law and to make the judge want to rule in your favor is a piece of paper, how clearly, persuasively and engagingly you write makes all the difference,” Pfotenhauer said. “Participating in the clinic illustrated to me why good writing matters, and why it’s worth dedicating a lot of time to make sure that you make every sentence matter.”

Carmen Dennis (L ’17) said working in the Criminal Justice Clinic taught her the importance of remembering the human component in representing clients. “Sometimes, we’re the last line of defense; they don’t have anyone else to advocate for them. We’re working with some of the most vulnerable populations. It was eye-opening for me.”

In a more direct way than other training, the clinics prepare young lawyers to take advantage of opportunities early in their careers. For instance, when Southeast Louisiana Legal Services recently needed to hire an attorney to handle domestic violence cases, Ana Lopez (L ’16), who already was serving a Lutz Fellowship with the agency through a partnership with Tulane Law, was able to quickly slip into the new role because of her training in the Domestic Violence Clinic.

Clinic veterans have built thriving careers in environmental enforcement and activism, legal services, fair-housing advocacy, criminal prosecution and defense work—and in areas not directly related to their experience as student-attorneys.

Kelly Mitchell said some of the best lessons came from cases that never got to court. In one instance, his team had written briefs and prepared for arguments scheduled before the Louisiana Supreme Court. But the client’s situation changed, and it wasn’t in his best interest to continue the appeal.

“Probably the most beneficial learning experience has been to always remember the client comes first,” he said. “You have to put your ego aside. At the end of the day, it’s what’s best for the client.”
A student-attorney in the Tulane Civil Litigation Clinic, Sam Brandao (L ’12) helped represent a former deputy with a nearby sheriff’s office who alleged that she was disciplined on a pretext then fired because she’s female and African American. The Civil Rights and Federal Practice Clinic filed a complaint on her behalf alleging employment discrimination under Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act, and the case spanned two academic years before resolving two weeks before trial.

During the course of the litigation, Brandao and successive teams of clinicians interviewed the client, filed her complaint, drafted discovery documents, deposed employees, including the sheriff, pursued motions in federal court, and conducted settlement negotiations.

Meanwhile, Brandao gained experience that has benefitted him ever since. During clerkships with U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon (L ’62) and then Judge Jacques L. Wiener Jr. (L ’61) on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Brandao said, “I was drawing on my clinic experience every day.”

His clinic skills also helped during the two years he spent as a Skadden Fellow, litigating housing discrimination cases and advocating for persons with disabilities through Southeast Louisiana Legal Services.

“Having the clinic standard was my reference point,” he said, referring to expectations designed to instill high-quality professional and ethical practices: Stay in touch with clients. Memorialize all communications. Write a memo after every phone call. Plan ahead. Keep files in pristine order so they’re ready if another lawyer must take over.

Now, as a clinical instructor working alongside clinic director Lucia Blacksher Ranier (NC ’96), Brandao is teaching student-attorneys to adopt that same high standard for themselves. Ranier, director since 2016, joined the clinic in 2009 with background in the U.S. Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division and as Greater New Orleans Fair Housing Action Center general counsel.

Recent graduate Chris Donnelly (L ’17) said that Ranier and Brandao are “very good models because they don’t just do things the satisfactory way, they go above and beyond in their preparation and approach to professionalism.”

The clinic’s name recently was changed from “Civil Litigation” to “Civil Rights and Federal Practice” to better reflect the scope of the cases that student-attorneys most often undertake.

In one case, student-attorneys secured a settlement for a woman whose suit said that she was incessantly propositioned by the property manager at an apartment complex in Abbeville, Louisiana, and the property owners did nothing when she complained. Most of the settlement agreement involved the apartment company’s agents complying with the law, including posting a nondiscrimination policy and training employees on the Fair Housing Act.

Student-attorneys were also court-appointed to represent a client who sued the Orleans Parish sheriff and Orleans Parish Prison officials alleging he was stabbed by other inmates a total of 49 times on three occasions while in pretrial detention. In that case, students practiced an array of skills: amending a complaint, conducting discovery, deposing witnesses, handling a pretrial conference, preparing a pretrial order and then settling the case two business days before a scheduled trial.

Donnelly, who plans to start his career in a civil practice in New Jersey, said he not only learned practice techniques but developed a vital appreciation for client relations.

“You’re advising them on not just legal matters, but striking that balance between upholding your professional duty as well as being there for someone who maybe just needs to have their story told to someone,” he said.

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CIVIL RIGHTS AND FEDERAL PRACTICE CLINIC

Balance between professional duty and a sympathetic ear

> THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND FEDERAL PRACTICE CLINIC REPRESENTS “SOME OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE IN OUR SOCIETY,” SAYS DIRECTOR LUCIA BLACKSHER RANIER.

> SAM BRANDAO (L ’12), A CIVIL RIGHTS AND FEDERAL PRACTICE CLINIC INSTRUCTOR, PRESES STUDENTS TO KEEP HIGH STANDARDS: STAY IN TOUCH WITH CLIENTS, WRITE MEMOS, PLAN AHEAD.
The Tulane Law School Criminal Justice Clinic and Domestic Violence Clinic have joined forces to create the Women’s Prison Project, a new collaboration that expands the work of both clinics and trains the next generation of prosecutors and defense attorneys to recognize and address the complex role of domestic abuse in criminal cases.

The initiative, started in 2017, is focused on incarcerated victims of domestic violence. Estimates suggest that as many as three-quarters of women in prison got there at least in part because of an abusive relationship. Yet, the criminal justice system is ill-equipped to identify and address the role of domestic violence in most of these cases, said Criminal Justice Clinic Director Katherine Mattes.

“Our legal system does not provide meaningful opportunities for a defendant to introduce mitigating evidence of domestic abuse,” she said.

To help address the problem, the clinics collaborated to create a training program for “inmate counsel substitutes,” incarcerated women who prepare and file legal pleadings on behalf of other inmates at the prison. The goal is to help the inmate counsel substitutes better recognize and write about the role of domestic violence in the legal cases they handle.

Consulting with their supervising attorneys, students from both clinics took the lead in preparing and then presenting lesson plans on multiple topics: recognizing the impact and effects of domestic violence, obtaining a divorce from an abuser, and writing effectively about abuse in post-conviction cases. They also covered appellate law and procedure.

During the five-hour training in spring 2017, the students answered questions from an eager audience and shared sample materials to expand the prison law library’s resources.

Since then, prison officials have used video of the student-led presentation to train others at facilities across the state.

Louisiana Department of Corrections attorney Susan Griffin, who coordinates training for inmate counsel substitutes, praised the student-attorneys and invited Tulane back to present again.

“While all of the material was good, I enjoyed the segment on domestic violence as it opened my eyes to how significant a problem this is in connection to the incarceration of the women offenders,” Griffin wrote in a thank-you message to the clinics.

The project not only meets an important community need but also provides a valuable learning opportunity: For clinic students to teach others about the law, they must develop a depth of knowledge on the topic and be ready to field tricky legal questions.

There’s a reason the subject matter resonated so powerfully with the group, Kondkar said. “Domestic violence is an unspoken part of so many women’s stories. A majority of these women either committed crimes in the context of abuse or had their lives spiral out of control because of abuse. But few of them have had their stories heard. The first step is to acknowledge the magnitude of the problem, and the next step is to look for solutions.”

The clinic directors, Mattes and Kondkar, plan to continue problem-solving, working with students to explore legislative changes that will make the law more responsive to the issue of domestic violence in criminal cases.
Environmental law conjures images of tug-of-wars with major corporations over pollution, challenges to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decisions and fights over fracking. But how about working to ensure access to crawfish habitat in the Atchafalaya Basin on behalf of the Cajuns whose living depends on it? Defending the cause of small businesses? Advocating for families trying to save wild horses they consider integral to their rural heritage?

Student-attorneys in Tulane’s Environmental Law Clinic have tackled those kinds of cases, learning firsthand how complex, detail-oriented and research-intensive litigation can be in heavily regulated industries. Centered on administrative law and compliance issues, environmental law practice tends more toward complex litigation and less toward traditional trial practice. The focus is on careful research and preparation, persuasive writing and oral advocacy, negotiation strategy and—when necessary—trials.

“A lot of our students want to practice environmental law (after graduation). The skills we’re teaching are much broader than that,” said professor Adam Babich, who recently stepped down after 17 years as clinic director.

Resourcefulness also is an essential tool because of the sprawling and fluid nature of the field.

“Environmental law is too big for anybody to know backward and forward, and it’s changing too quickly,” Babich said. “We’re sending students out there to figure things out on behalf of our clients, and we don’t necessarily know the answer they’re going to come up with. For so many of the issues, there’s not clear precedent.”

While the mechanics of environmental law revolve around complicated statutes and administrative records, the clinic’s cases are about people who often couldn’t afford legal help elsewhere.

When the clinic represented the Charter Fisherman’s Association in its efforts to uphold a rule on red snapper fishing quotas in federal waters, a U.S. Justice Department lawyer presented the government’s main argument for keeping the limits, but it fell to student-attorney Michelle Felterman (L ’17) to tell the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges about the real impact on “small-businessmen trying to make a living.” (The court ruled in favor of the clinic’s client.)

Similarly, a long-running suit over a 30-year-old landfill built next to a historically African-American community turned on state regulations, permitting and zoning. Underlying it, though, was the impact on the health and welfare of residents. Under a settlement reached in 2017, the landfill operations are now prohibited within 300 feet of the community.

Samantha Pfotenhauer (L ’17) said her perspective on a case involving the U.S. Army’s plan to remove hundreds of horses roaming the Fort Polk, Louisiana, training area changed after she visited a client, a retired state trooper who opposes the removal as another blow to the fading cultural heritage of Peason Ridge, where his ancestors lived and farmed.

“I learned there was no substitute for going to see my clients, face-to-face, and walk around the area that we were suing about,” she said. “It gave me a much better understanding of the things, especially the land, that I was writing about, and of what their claims on an emotional level were about for them.”

Clinic director Lisa Jordan (L ’91) said the client connection is the heart of the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic experience.

“To effectively advocate for their clients, our students need to get out of the office and into the communities,” said Jordan, a longtime clinical professor who recently became director.

“They need to understand the clients’ experiences and see the problems from various perspectives. To that end, students have toured the swamps of the Atchafalaya Basin, flown over the Mississippi River to see the extent of pollution from a coal terminal and traveled off-road with a longtime resident of Crossett, Arkansas, to investigate the effects of daily paper mill discharges on a local creek. The best legal work begins with a solid factual grounding.”
Cameron Holmes (L ’17) came to Tulane Law to study maritime law. But a friend of his, a 2016 graduate now working as a prosecutor in New York, encouraged him to join the Juvenile Law Clinic for the valuable skills practice and courtroom experience.

“It’s definitely one of the best things that I did” in law school, Holmes said.

Holmes and another student-attorney represented a youth charged as a 16-year-old with unauthorized use of a motor vehicle in a multifaceted case that involved pursuing a motion to suppress evidence, getting a separate issue dismissed, making multiple court appearances and arranging for the client to enroll in education and work programs that could direct him onto a productive path.

“Our main objective is to help him out in a legal capacity, but we sometimes act as social workers,” Holmes said.

A key goal is to reduce the chance of young offenders committing more crimes. “We do more than counsel our client legally, we counsel them on ways to be a better person,” he said.

Juvenile Law Clinic Director David Katner (L ’80) said student-attorneys practice fundamental litigation skills, but to adequately represent young people, they increasingly need to understand factors that might underlie juvenile behaviors: domestic violence, fetal alcohol syndrome, developmental disabilities and the sometimes-volatile combination of immaturity with hormones. Often, clients come from families in which young parents had children when they essentially were children themselves and haven’t developed good parenting skills.

“The issue for us is beginning to try to explore limitations that these kids have that might not be obvious to an observer,” Katner said.

In addition to learning the extensive Louisiana Children’s Code, student-attorneys also hear from clinical psychologists and forensic experts and work closely with mental health experts and social workers to determine what interventions might be effective.

Katner said many of the clinic’s cases involve mental health issues. In one case, a client threatened suicide after being sent by a judge to a housing situation hours away from New Orleans. The remoteness of the client made communicating with him difficult, but the student-attorneys had to assess his mental state. They reported the threat to the court, and a “good resolution” resulted, Katner said. It was a lesson in the challenges that arise.

Holmes said the clinic experience taught him “a good cross-section of skills,” including how to form an effective argument, when to interject and object in court—and what happens when you aren’t as prepared as you thought.

At one point, the student-attorneys tried to cast doubt on the charge against their client because the complainant had told police that his son had been the last person in the car involved in the unauthorized-use case. Only when they questioned the man on the stand, though, did they learn that his son was a preschooler.

Nevertheless, Holmes said, “The best skill I learned was becoming at ease in the courtroom. … If you make a mistake, you just correct yourself and move on.”
30 years of good

BY ALINA HERNANDEZ
THREE DECADES AGO, Tulane Law School became the first in the nation to require its students to contribute legal services to the community to enhance what they were learning in the classroom. Back then, the pro bono service requirement was novel—20 hours of service to indigent residents before graduation—and was limited to Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

Fast forward to today—our 30th anniversary—and Tulane’s pro bono program has performed more than 237,000 hours of service not just locally but around the globe, within the many communities our students come from or visit. The requirement has grown, too, from 20 hours to 50.

The work is part of who we are, said law school Dean David Meyer.

“Tulane’s leadership in pro bono service has changed the landscape of legal education and touched countless lives and communities over the past three decades,” said Meyer. “The public service mission is central to Tulane’s identity and a source of pride for our students, alumni, staff and faculty.”

More than 30 law schools now follow Tulane’s example by requiring pro bono service of their students, and some state bars, including New York’s, have recently moved to require pro bono service as a requirement for admission to practice. In fact, Hilarie Bass, current ABA president, told Tulane students in November the single-most common request she sees from new lawyers entering firms is the availability of an active pro bono program.

“Tulane Law students understand that pro bono service is about cultivating a lifelong habit, not merely satisfying a short-term obligation,” said Stacy Seicshnaydre, Associate Dean for Experiential Learning and Public Interest Programs. “Our graduates have become leaders in the effort to bridge the gap in access to justice; many of our students are performing pro bono work under the guidance and mentorship of alumni.”

At Tulane, the pro bono program is coordinated through the Department of Experiential Learning and overseen by Tonya Jupiter (L ’94), Assistant Director of Pro Bono Programs. There are no geographical limits, though students tend to do much of the work in the greater New Orleans area, Jupiter said. The type of legal assistance provided has included everything from helping homeless and disabled persons, serving disaster-affected communities, assisting the New Orleans arts and entertainment community, working alongside public defenders, and working with private practice attorneys on a variety of criminal and civil cases.

Through pro bono work, students not only receive much-needed skills in managing real cases, they meet the needs of the poor and learn the responsibilities they must shoulder as future members of the bar.

In 1989, the Tulane Lawyer wrote about the rationale behind the then year-old program. Calling it the “trickle up theory” of moral obligation, the publication summed it up this way: “If they (students) are infected with pro bono fever, they are likely to spread the infection.”

And infectious it is. Many students far exceed the required hours, and dozens have completed hundreds of hours of pro bono work by their third year through summer and academic year programs and opportunities.

We celebrate a few of those students here.
Kirby Kenny got the social justice bug during a juvenile delinquency class she took as an undergrad at the University of Georgia. That class led to volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club and a stint with the public defender's office in Athens, where she saw firsthand how the parents of some of the same children were overlapping with her work in the criminal system.

“It was jarring to me. You realize it’s all a cycle,” said Kenny. “These family stories are heart-wrenching. Most of the kids weren’t growing up in a two-parent home with a white picket fence and their parents didn’t either.”

And that led her to Tulane Law School, she said, because of its strong public interest program. The past two summers, she worked with the Innocence Project New Orleans and the Capital Post-Conviction Project through the Louisiana State Bar Association.

She spent two summers tracking down witnesses, searching for former prosecutors and defense attorneys in cases involving wrongfully convicted men serving life sentences as well as men spending their lives on death row at Louisiana State Penitentiary.

Kenny said one case last summer brought the law to life for her. She got to know Robert Jones, who was living at the IPNO office while his case was under review. Jones, who was wrongfully convicted in the killing of a British tourist and the rape of a woman in a French Quarter crime spree in 1992, would spend more than 23 years in prison before being exonerated in January 2017.

“He was there all the time. I learned about his life, met his family,” she said. “When I got the news that the DA was not going to pursue a new case, I was so happy. To think that someone who had spent more than half his life in the confines of a prison was now free... it was overwhelming.”

Jamie Futral (L ’18) learned to love and appreciate the environment, so it was natural she took to environmental law at Tulane Law School.

She donated more than 583 hours of pro bono clerking in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida and the Gulf Restoration Network.

Futral spent her summer working for the Gulf Restoration Network where she reviewed environmental permit applications, sounding the alarm to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality when companies didn’t comply with clean water restrictions and other environmental issues.

“It was sometimes long and tedious work, and you think it makes no difference, but then you realize that you are the only thing standing between that permit approval and environmental damage,” Futral said.

While clerking in previous summers in Pensacola, she worked for the federal district court helping with Social Security disability cases, employee discrimination and the occasional habeas case. Futral said she helped with research and drafting bench memoranda and orders, among other tasks.

“It was an incredible experience,” she said, “which really rounded out my legal education.”

But it was the environmental work that she loved most.

“You can easily see the damage over time,” she said. “And because I grew up around water, I want to live around water, it’s made me want to protect it.”

Alexandra Phillips wants to practice law to change things for the better.

With almost 500 hours of pro bono work since starting law school, the recent law graduate wants to parlay the skills she’s learned into a future job.

Drew Lafontant has helped free an innocent man from prison after 45 years and has argued a case before the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans. It all happened in a three-week time period just before the end of the fall semester.

“It’s kind of amazing, actually,” said Lafontant. “But it was an amazing opportunity to do this while I was in law school.”

For the first case, Lafontant, a native of Chicago, spent the summer doing often tedious legwork that helped free Wilbert Jones this fall. He had been accused of a grisly rape and murder in Baton Rouge 45 years ago. Working with the Innocence Project, she spent countless hours listening to old testimony on tape, tracking down witnesses and investigators.

In November, Jones’ conviction was overturned.

“I got the text in class, and I couldn’t contain tears,” she said. “It was so gratifying to know all that work, all those long hours over weeks, it was worth it and justice prevailed.”

A graduate of Oberlin College, she chose Tulane in part because there are many opportunities to do the kind of pro bono work that gives her hands-on legal experience.
“When I practice, I hope to help actual real people,” said Phillips. “I hope to find a way of doing that at a firm.”

Phillips worked pro bono for the New Orleans Independent Police Monitor and U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. With the IPM she worked on a number of use-of-force cases she calls “really eye opening” and those involving search and seizure, profiling and other constitutional issues.

In Florida, she worked as a legal intern for Judge William Turnoff writing summaries, reports, and making recommendations on cases.

“When you see how much the law can do for someone;” said Phillips, “You realize it’s another way to help people and provide a public service.”

She would like to work for a large firm, maybe practicing employment law to have “more direct impact on big issues,” she said. But she knows she’ll continue doing pro bono work as she can.

“It’s such an important thing to give back; it’s humbling.”

**HANNAN SEIRAFI: 300 HOURS**

Hannan Seirafi knows she wants to practice law to help empower others. She grew up in California in a big family and is a first-generation college graduate from the University of California-Irvine.

In her own community, she said she saw a need for legal representation.

“I just saw people who didn’t speak the language, or didn’t understand they had rights, and how easily they could be taken advantage of,” Seirafi said.

While at UC, she became a volunteer for Global Girls Leading Our World in Santa Ana, where she was a college mentor to at-risk young women whose families were facing evictions, domestic violence and other issues.

“I knew that I wanted to help empower them and that’s what made me consider public service work in law,” she said.

Now a third-year law student at Tulane, Seirafi has been doing pro bono work since her first year with the Tulane Legal Assistance Program (TULAP) and with the Miranda Warning Project. So far, she’s racked up more than 300 pro bono hours.

She remembers clearly how she felt the day she helped two students get a rental deposit back from a landlord while working with TULAP.

“Their landlord was refusing to return the deposit and they really had no means whatsoever to help themselves,” she said.

“In that small case, I saw how practical the law can be. That money may not mean much to a landlord but it meant everything to them.”

Through the Miranda Warning Project, Seirafi and others are working with Tulane Law alumna Judy Perry Martinez (L ’82), who practices law with Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn in New Orleans, on a research project that could create a digital app that would allow police departments to use pre-recorded Miranda warnings at the time of arrest. The program is initially focused on Spanish translations.

The work is being reviewed by police, lawyers, judges, law professors and others, but it’s a crucial fair-access issue, said Seirafi.

“If you don’t speak the language, and neither does the arresting officer, how can we be sure that someone understood his Miranda rights?” Seirafi said. “It’s really interesting and I’m proud to be a part of it.”

**ANDREW TAYLOR: 300 HOURS**

Andrew Taylor is anything but typical. Long before he started at Tulane Law School, he took on a series of challenges that have shaped his passion for serving the underserved.

He earned a bachelor’s from the University of Kansas, then went on to pursue not just one, but three master’s degrees—one from Kansas, a second from Brown University and a third from the London School of Economics, “because I liked the work.”

When he says volunteering is “part of his nature,” it’s evident.

He’s worked as a treasurer of a Kenya-based NGO for a decade, traveling to that country several times to work with children. He consistently volunteered on a wide variety of projects in New York City while living and working in Connecticut. He worked in Asia, mostly in China and Korea before his interest in law led him to New Orleans and Tulane Law School.

Since entering law school, Taylor, now in his third year, has done more than 300 hours of pro bono work with Rising Foundations and the First 72+, organizations that help ex-convicts transition back into a society that often has no place for them to land.

The organizations provide “wraparound services” as Taylor calls them, providing transitional housing, stipends and job training until they can get back on their feet.

Taylor has also done work with the Miranda Warning Project under Judy Perry Martinez (L ’82), a Tulane alumna spearheading the project with a team of students.

“Personally, I can’t imagine not doing pro bono work;” said Taylor. “I consider it a responsibility. It is immensely satisfying work. These people we help were born into extremely difficult circumstances and often have had to struggle. They pay in the most traumatic way, with their youth. For me it’s satisfying on a very human level.”
HALL OF FAME 2017

TULANE LAW SCHOOL celebrated seven exemplary leaders of the legal profession—including a quartet of distinguished judges spanning more than five decades of service—with induction into the Tulane Law School Hall of Fame for 2017.

The honorees are New Orleans attorney Roy C. Cheatwood (L ’74), a founding member of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz’s Louisiana offices; the late Justice John A. Dixon (L ’47), chief of the Louisiana Supreme Court in 1980–90; the late Rufus C. Harris, who served as Tulane Law dean, then Tulane University president; Judge William Pryor (L ’87) of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals; retired Maj. Gen. William K. Suter (L ’62), former U.S. Supreme Court clerk; Judge Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux (L ’75), chief of Louisiana’s 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal; and U.S. District Judge Sarah S. Vance (L ’78) of the Eastern District of Louisiana.

The Hall of Fame was created in 2012 with the support of an endowment gift by Lake Charles attorney Mike Veron (A&S ’72, L ’74) and his wife, Melinda. Honorees have included such historically influential figures as 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge John Minor Wisdom (L ’29) and U.S. Majority Leader Hale Boggs (A&S ’35, L ’37) along with local trailblazers including attorneys Marian Mayer Berkett (L ’39) and Rod West (L ’93, B ’05).

Hall of Fame selections are made by an alumni committee, in consultation with the dean, based on their distinguished professional achievements and enduring dedication to the mission and students of Tulane Law School.

INDUCTEES

ROY C. CHEATWOOD (L ’74)
Lawyer

Roy C. Cheatwood, a founding member of Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz’s Louisiana offices, has a wide-ranging commercial litigation practice and previously was a senior partner at Jones Walker and a management committee member at Phelps Dunbar. He is considered one of the top lawyers in the United States on complex, high-stakes commercial matters. He is a decorated military veteran, having served as a 1st Lieutenant with the U.S. Army infantry in Vietnam. He frequently lectures on litigation practice, including depositions, evidence and trial tactics, and has assisted students in Tulane’s moot court program.

WILLIAM H. PRYOR JR. (L ’87)
Judge, 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

William H. Pryor, a judge on the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals since 2004, was nominated by President George W. Bush. Pryor also is in the last year of a term on the seven-member U.S. Sentencing Commission. At Tulane Law, he was editor in chief of the Tulane Law Review and continues to serve on its advisory board. He also founded Tulane’s student chapter of the Federalist Society and returns to campus to address the group. He clerked for Judge John Minor Wisdom (L ’29) on the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in New Orleans and has extended opportunities for Tulane students to clerk on the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit. He was Alabama’s attorney general from 1997–2004, at the time the youngest attorney general in the country. A member of the American Law Institute, he is a co-author of the 2016 volume The Law of Judicial Precedent.
WILLIAM K. SUTER (L ’62)
Retired U.S. Army Major General and former Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court

William K. Suter, a retired major general, led the Army’s JAG Corps and then spent 22 years as the Clerk of the U.S. Supreme Court. Suter attended Tulane Law while already in the military. His posts included commandant of the Judge Advocate General’s School and chief judge of the Army’s Court of Criminal Appeals. Volunteering for service in Vietnam, he earned a Bronze Star and Distinguished Service Medal. President George H.W. Bush nominated Suter as Supreme Court Clerk, and he ran that office, helping modernize court operations, from 1991 to 2013. He has served on the Tulane Law Review advisory board, and the journal in 2014 honored him as its inaugural Alumnus of the Year. Since retiring from the Supreme Court, he is a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution of Stanford University.

ULYSSES GENE THIBODEAUX (L ’75)
Chief Judge, Louisiana 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal

Ulysses Gene Thibodeaux (pictured at right), chief judge of Louisiana’s 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal, has been on the court since 1992. He practiced law in New York City before moving to Lake Charles. He was a leader in changing Louisiana’s method of selecting judges, which led to more African-Americans in the judiciary. He has been president of The National Council of Chief Judges, chaired the Task Force on Judicial Independence and co-chaired the Louisiana Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. He received the National Bar Association’s Judge A. Leon Higginbotham Award for Judicial Excellence in 2010 and its Thurgood Marshall Award in 2009 for serving as an exemplary role model.

SARAH S. VANCE (L ’78)
Judge, U.S. District Court

Sarah S. Vance (pictured at left), a U.S. District Court judge and former chief of the court in New Orleans, also chairs the seven-member Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, which oversees complex litigation from across the United States. She graduated first in her Tulane Law class and was a partner at Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann when President Bill Clinton nominated her for the federal bench in 1994. A national leader in judicial education and law reform, she’s a member of American Law Institute Council. Vance also serves on the Tulane Law School Dean’s Advisory Board and the Tulane Law Review advisory board and has taught civil procedure and alternative dispute resolution as an adjunct faculty member.

POSTHUMOUS HONOREES

JOHN A. DIXON (L ’47)
Chief Justice, Louisiana Supreme Court

John A. Dixon served 19 years on the Louisiana Supreme Court, 10 of them as chief justice. A native Texan, he grew up in Shreveport and taught high school before enlisting in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was an infantry paratrooper and spent 21 months as a prisoner of war in Germany. After law school, he practiced in Shreveport and worked as an assistant district attorney. His judicial career lasted from 1957, when he was elected to the District Court, until he retired from the Supreme Court in 1990. He also served on the Second Court of Appeal. Hailed as “a judge of supreme sympathy for the common man” and a fierce defender of civil rights and civil liberties, he received the American Civil Liberties Union’s Benjamin E. Smith award in 1991. He died on Feb 22, 2003.

RUFUS C. HARRIS
President of Tulane University and Dean of Tulane Law School

Rufus C. Harris was dean of Tulane Law School from 1927 to 1937 and then president of Tulane University for 23 years, guiding its emergence as a modern research university. At the law school, he taught torts, championed civil law and helped revive the Tulane Law Review after a hiatus. An Army veteran of World War I and Yale Law School graduate, he came to Tulane after serving as Mercer University’s law dean. He returned to Mercer, his alma mater, in 1960 as chancellor and led the university to integrate the campus and student body. He’s memorialized at Tulane Law with two annual recognitions for outstanding students: the Rufus C. Harris Award in Torts, established by the Class of 1942, and the Rufus C. Harris Law Review Award in Civil Law, which goes to the author of the best article on civil law.
Commencement 2017

Tulane Law recognized 164 JD graduates for 2017, including five receiving joint degrees, during the May 20 ceremony at Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse.

QUOTING STATESMAN Daniel Webster, Chinese philosopher Confucius and even legendary pro baseball slugger Hank Aaron, U.S. REP. CEDRIC RICHMOND (L ’98) addressed Tulane Law graduates last May as their keynote speaker, urging graduates to make sure that "justice and equality are more than just words on a page."

Richmond welcomed members of the Class of 2017 to "a noble profession" that carries great responsibility and a calling "to make this world a better place." And he emphasized that Tulane produces graduates who “will be the conscience of this great country."

"Conscientious attorneys are key to our government working," said Richmond, who spent 11 years in the Louisiana Legislature and in 2010 was elected the U.S. House, where he chairs the Congressional Black Caucus.

He also called on those who go into advocacy to "resist that urge to win at all costs. You have to remember that the process is just as important as the outcome."

Tulane Law recognized 164 JD graduates for 2017, including five receiving joint degrees, during the May 20 ceremony at Avron B. Fogelman Arena in the Devlin Fieldhouse. Almost half the graduates earned specialty certificates, including 26 maritime law, 19 civil law, 14 sports law, 13 environmental law, and nine international and comparative law. Among the 36 LLM graduates, most received specialized degrees: 21 in admiralty law; five in international and comparative law; and three in energy and environmental law. Twelve degrees were awarded through the Payson Graduate Program in Global Development.

The Class of 2017 set a fundraising record with its departing class gift devoted to scholarships, raising more than $14,000 with a 78 percent participation rate. The Dean’s Advisory Board pledged to add $14,500 to the gift.

The graduates now are dispersed at firms large and small—in New Orleans, around the United States and even abroad. Some have judicial clerkships, and some are working for government agencies and public defender offices. Others are taking their legal skills to non-traditional jobs. Here are some examples of their next steps:

ONSI SALEH, who was born in Austin, Texas, but grew up playing basketball in hockey-loving Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is with the NBA San Antonio Spurs front office. He’s the third consecutive graduate of the Tulane sports law program to land with the team. Saleh handled projects for the Spurs as an offsite intern in Fall 2016 and got the post-graduation offer during final exams in May.
YEN MAI, who grew up in Portland, is an assistant public defender in Miami-Dade County, Florida. “My father’s strength and my mother’s advocacy are my sources of inspiration as an advocate,” she said.

JUAN KNATT, who grew up in the Hollygrove neighborhood of New Orleans, is in New York City at Ultra Music, a partner of Sony Music Entertainment. He’ll be handling duties as in-house counsel and as an A&R scouting talent for the label.

Students who headed to clerkships last summer:

JUDITH GRONNA, from Honolulu, was president of the Tulane Entertainment & Art Law Society. She’s clerking for U.S. Magistrate Judge Karoline Mehalchick (L ’01) in Scranton, Pa.

SHERIDAN DUPONT, Tulane Law Review editor in chief for 2016–17, was clerking for U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon (L ’62) in New Orleans for a year and then for Judge Jacques L. Wiener Jr. (L ’61) on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. DuPont, from Midland, Michigan, received the 2017 James F. Kilroy Provost’s Award, an all-campus Tulane University recognition, and was co-winner of the Civil Law Studies Award.

CHRIS EDMUNDS had three consecutive clerkships lined up: with U.S. District Judge Abdul Kallon in Birmingham, Alabama; Judge Gregory Phillips on the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Judge Robert Wilkins on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in Washington. Edmunds was Tulane Law Review senior notes and comments editor and president of Tulane Law’s American Constitution Society chapter. He received the John Minor Wisdom Award, which honors the legendary judge, a 1929 Tulane alum who was instrumental in enforcing civil rights for racial minorities in the South; and the Federal Bar Association Award.

The graduation ceremony also recognized winners of the law school’s teaching awards:

FELIX FRANKFURTER DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD
Professor Saru Matambanadzo

MONTE M. LEMANN DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD
Adjunct professor Joshua Force
CIVIL LIBERTIES PIONEER

SMALL ACTIONS in a collective context can change entire systems.

In Catharine MacKinnon’s world of equality and the law, she calls that the “Butterfly Effect.”

It is also the title of her new book and the current topic she is pressing as she lectures around the country. In September, she was the Dreyfous Lecturer on Civil Liberties and Human Rights, an endowed program by the George Abel Dreyfous family at Tulane Law School.

MacKinnon, the Elizabeth Long Professor at University of Michigan Law School and a visiting professor at Harvard Law, has taken on the civil rights fight as a calling.

MacKinnon’s long-awaited lecture touched a number of legal issues surrounding equality including on international and domestic sexual equality laws, sexual harassment, pornography, prostitution and the legal recognition of rape as an act of genocide, an area that she has pioneered.

MacKinnon said she was moved to fight these fights because “social change happens, in legal terms, only when legal claims repeatedly succeed because the evidence will continue to prove them right.”

She pioneered the legal claim for sexual harassment, and with colleague Andrea Dworkin, created ordinances that recognized pornography as a civil rights violation. She was an early proponent of the Swedish model for abolishing prostitution, where the government provided a path out of prostitution through social services and support. She represented Bosnian women who survived Serbian atrocities, and successfully earned legal recognition of rape as an act of genocide.

She broadly outlined how fighting for tougher sexual harassment laws has led, intrinsically, to help the causes of gay and lesbian civil rights, and those, like a domino effect, are helping shore up transgender rights.

Animated and occasionally resorting to humor, MacKinnon was most passionate during her lecture on the issue of rape. She framed outdated laws that make consent central to case law as “shameful,” relying on the active-passive model of sex (the strong overpower the weak). She argued that approach ignores that in some instances there is no choice but consent.

“Social change happens, in legal terms, only when legal claims repeatedly succeed because the evidence will continue to prove them right.”

CATHARINE MACKINNON

GEORGE AND MATHILDE DREYFOUS LECTURE SERIES

Tulane Law’s lecture series on civil liberties was established in 1965, initially in the memory of George Abel Dreyfous. Founder of the Louisiana Affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, Dreyfous was a Southern pioneer and leader in the field of civil rights. He was a Tulane graduate who went on to build a flourishing legal career in New Orleans, and tirelessly fought for the right of every citizen to enjoy the protections of the Bill of Rights.

In 1947, he married Mathilde Mendelsohn Schwab, a tireless volunteer and activist who worked closely with her husband in encouraging the end of segregation and discrimination against African-Americans. In light of her own commitment to civil liberties, in 2003 the title of the lecture became the George and Mathilde Dreyfous series.

CATHARINE MACKINNON, THE 2017 DREYFOUS LECTURER, GAVE A LONG-AWAITED PRESENTATION THAT TOUCHED ON A NUMBER OF LEGAL ISSUES SURROUNDING EQUALITY, INCLUDING INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC SEXUAL EQUALITY LAWS, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, PORNOGRAPHY, PROSTITUTION AND THE LEGAL RECOGNITION OF RAPE AS AN ACT OF GENOCIDE.

“It simply ignores that consent is sometimes unequal,” she said, citing the example that “accepting lower pay for a job does not make it equal.”

Dozens of Tulane students attended the lecture, along with faculty. Some asked her about how her work has influenced civil rights of African-Americans and about her work with genocide survivors.

“I’ve learned a few things,” she said. “If survivors trust you, there is nothing you can’t do. The law can and should represent them. The law resists. And it is useful.”
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN WEINMANN

TULANE LAW SCHOOL CELEBRATED THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE LATE JOHN WEINMANN in early September in the building that bears his name, John Giffen Weinmann Hall. Weinmann, who served as ambassador to Finland under President George H.W. Bush, passed away June 9, 2016, at age 87. The event brought together family, friends and members of the Tulane community to honor the many contributions that Weinmann made to the law school.

“Ambassador Weinmann understood Tulane Law School’s natural advantage as a world leader in international and comparative law because of its distinctive civil law heritage,” said law school Dean David Meyer. “His decisive leadership and generous support enabled Tulane to leverage its historic strengths to become one of the world’s foremost programs in the field.”

Meyer added that “Ambassador Weinmann cemented Tulane Law School’s defining identity. Without him, Tulane Law School would not be known around the world today as a leading force in international and comparative law.”

Others who offered words of praise for Weinmann were Tulane President Mike Fitts; Jimmy Roussel, a Tulane Law graduate who worked with Weinmann at Phelps Dunbar law firm; and professor Guiguo Wang, the Eason-Weinmann Chair in International and Comparative Law and co-director of the Eason Weinmann Center for International and Comparative Law. Weinmann’s wife, Virginia Eason Weinmann, and other members of the Weinmann family attended the event.

Meyer called Weinmann a tireless and respected leader who would “unfailingly engage students.”

Recalling “Jack’s” enormous contributions to the university, Fitts said Weinmann was a “model student, husband, father (and) a Tulanian we should all strive to emulate.”

Weinmann, who earned his bachelor’s and law degrees from Tulane in the early 1950s, was a lawyer, businessman, philanthropist, community leader, and diplomat. He practiced law at Phelps Dunbar for almost three decades and was general counsel to The Times-Picayune and president and director of the Waverly and Eason Oil Companies. He served as U.S. Ambassador to Finland in 1989–91 and as White House chief of protocol in 1991–93.

At Tulane, he helped create the Eason Weinmann Center for International and Comparative Law, a leading academic hub for American and foreign scholars. He also served on the Dean’s Advisory Board and as chair of Tulane’s Board of Administrators.

In 2002, Weinmann received Tulane’s Distinguished Alumnus Award, the university’s highest alumni honor. Eleven years later, he was inducted as an inaugural member of the Tulane Law School Hall of Fame.

“Ambassador Weinmann was a visionary who realized the unique advantage of Tulane in international and comparative law,” said Wang, a world-renowned scholar on international economic law and leader in legal education in China, whom Weinmann was instrumental in recruiting to join the Tulane Law faculty.

“The first impression Jack left made me feel welcome and loved in a foreign environment,” Wang said. “At that very moment, I was quite sure that Tulane could be my home.”

The Weinmanns also hosted a reception for a delegation of Chinese judges who attended Wang’s 2015 investiture as the Eason-Weinmann Chair of International and Comparative Law.

“The way Jack and Virginia treated people, including the Chinese judges, fully demonstrated their kind nature,” Wang said. “Jack will live long in my memories as my mentor and a guide in my time of need.”

TULANE LAW SCHOOL DEAN DAVID MEYER WAS ONE OF THE SPEAKERS DURING THE CEREMONIES HONORING JOHN WEINMANN. AMBASSADOR WEINMANN, MEYER SAID, “CEMENTED TULANE LAW SCHOOL’S DEFINING IDENTITY.”
ACTORS BRING MOCK CASES TO LIFE DURING LAW SCHOOL 'BOOT CAMP'

THE HOTTEST ACTING ROLES in New Orleans every January just might be at Tulane Law School.

The first week in January for the past six years is reserved for Intersession Boot Camp, a crash course the week before classes resume that jolts law students back into the business of learning to be lawyers. It gives them the chance to learn from attorneys and judges who travel to Tulane Law from around the country to create an intensive simulation of law practice in one of three alternative tracks: civil litigation, criminal practice, and business transactions.

Actors play a big part in boot camp, taking on roles as real-life witnesses, experts (some with attitudes), clients or other characters in the mock legal matters. Students learn how to ask questions in depositions, handle belligerent witnesses, and protect their own clients under questioning. The actors make cases come alive.

Holly Rochelle, an actress from New Orleans, arrived on Monday to play the role of a pregnant inmate awaiting trial for a crime she did not commit, and meeting her “lawyer” for the first time. During her interview with students in the criminal law track, she cried and demanded to know how old the students were and whether they’d ever tried a case before.

“She was great,” said Katherine Mattes, a law professor and the director of Tulane’s Criminal Law Clinic. “She really surprised them, and that’s good.”

“I just get into the characters and try to live their reality for a little while,” Rochelle said. “If you were in jail and pregnant, wouldn’t you want to know if your lawyers had tried a case before? They all looked so young.”

Then there was Mark Watson, an actor from Picayune, Miss., who played a role for the civil litigation track students—that of a bar owner who was about to be sued following a shooting at his establishment. Disregarding his potential liabilities, the bar owner at one point demands that his lawyers “make this thing go away” and in turn, sue the families of the shooter and victim because “they’re both bums.”

Jim Sojka, an actor who has worked before with Tulane Law Clinic students, said he tries to listen, read the students and become very good at improvisation.

“You have a great deal of material given to you to prepare you, but you have to do a lot of improv. It’s not easy but you never have a full and complete picture of the character so you have to go with it,” he said. “Sometimes, you can say things to rattle a student, see how they would react if it were real life.”

Tulane law professor Tonya Rhodes Jupiter, the assistant director of Tulane Law’s Pro Bono Program, coordinates the scheduling and booking of many of the actors during boot camp. She said using real actors give students a much more realistic experience.

“We have used students in the past and volunteers to play the roles, but the actors are far more effective,” said Jupiter. “The simulations are very real, and the students forget these are actors.”

Christine Tonry is an actor—she’s also married to an attorney. She’s playing four different characters during this week’s boot camp, from a young woman in distress to Roberta, a 70-something witness to a shooting, to a doctor called to be an expert witness.

She admits she might think of some of her husband’s clients while acting out some of the roles, but mostly, she’s just trying to keep her story line going.

“It’s so much fun,” she said shortly after wearing a silver wig to play the elderly Roberta. “There is no written script so you’re not held back and you can run with it. I had so much fun!”

For students, it was another chance to learn how to manage a witness.

“One point where one of the witnesses was really stonewalling, and not answering my questions,” said Eric Hamilton, a second-year law student. “He was glib at times, and maybe overselling his part, but then I thought I have to be ready to handle anyone. With actors, it’s more formal, and more respectful. You’ve got to be prepared.”
INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT SPECIALIST ALLELO (L ’87) ADVISES STUDENTS TO “FIND YOUR PASSION”

IT WAS, ironically, the ceaseless conflict of work as a litigator that led John Allelo (L ’87) into some of the world’s most fraught conflict zones, working with refugees, former child soldiers, and victims of genocide.

It all happened because he took a risk—taking a leave of absence from his Baton Rouge law firm to take a year of pro bono work for the American Bar Association in Bulgaria.

“You have to be very careful in choosing your law career, or someone will choose it for you,” said Allelo, who visited Tulane for a lunch seminar. “My advice is make it a priority to find your passion, and practice in that area.”

Allelo, who was honored with the 2017 Fellows Award by the ABA Young Lawyers Division for his work overseas, was back on campus in October to discuss the role of lawyers in international development and to advise Tulane students interested in international legal careers.

Allelo’s year in Bulgaria led him to his current position as a senior Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), where he specializes in promoting democracy and reconciliation in countries riven by war and civil conflict. In his current posting in Islamabad, he oversees efforts to support Pakistan’s fragile democracy by promoting free and open elections, gender equality and civil rights, and initiatives to curb violent extremism.

He encouraged students to be mindful of the power of law and lawyers to changes lives.

“The law is such a powerful tool,” Allelo told Tulane students. “We have unique access as lawyers to the most vulnerable as well as heads of state. We can influence economies, provide access to education, create fair systems for native people, help homeless youths in Colombia, and assist Syrian refugees . . . . We can do good.”

Also, he credited his time at Tulane Law School for broadening his imagination.

“One of the great things about a Tulane education is that it brings such a blended class together—you realize there are so many different perspectives,” Allelo said. “The more we are different, the more we are alike. Talking about these differences of ideas can bring us to a commonality that I think is crucial to practicing internationally.”

“We can influence economies, provide access to education, create fair systems for native people, help homeless youths in Colombia, and assist Syrian refugees . . . . We can do good.”

JOHN ALLELO
TULANE SPORTS LAW DESCENDS ON LONDON

EARLIER THIS FALL, while Sean Payton, Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints were preparing to play the Miami Dolphins in Wembley Stadium in London, a delegation of 60 Tulane Law alumni and friends from the United States, England, Ireland, Belgium, France, and Germany joined law school Dean David Meyer for a unique weekend of legal education, history and sightseeing.

The weekend kicked off on Sept. 29, with “A Tour of Legal London” given by professor George Applebey (L ’70), visiting lecturer in residence at the University of Birmingham Law School, who took guests on a fascinating tour of the Royal Courts of Justice, Lincoln’s Inn, The Inner Temple, and Temple Church.

A lunch followed at Middle Temple with the Hon. Ian S. Forrester (L ’69), a U.K. judge on the General Court of the European Union’s Court of Justice, who provided firsthand insights into Brexit and other legal issues facing the court today. Following lunch, guests joined Applebey on a private tour of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

Over the course of the weekend, attendees heard about the current state of global sports in a panel discussion featuring leading sports experts such as Mike Tannenbaum (L ’95), executive vice president of football operations for the Miami Dolphins, and David Meltzer (L ’93), co-founder and chief executive officer of Sports1 Marketing. Highlights of that event included discussions about the possible future of an NFL team in London, challenges and opportunities surrounding social media, and athletes and the use of marketing initiatives.

The panel discussion was moderated by Tulane professor Gabe Feldman, director of the Tulane Sports Law Program and the current Sher Garner Faculty Scholar. Feldman was named the inaugural Sher Garner Faculty Scholar at Tulane Law earlier this year. The award was funded through an endowed gift from attorneys Leopold Z. Sher (A&S ’74, L ’76) and James M. Garner (E ’86, L ’89) and aims to help faculty members bring their research before public audiences. Feldman has been instrumental in helping Tulane Law develop the nation’s premier sports law program.

Tannenbaum and Meltzer have each generously pledged to continue providing support for the Tulane Sports Law program, helping to bring Tulane’s program to the next level.

Feldman said, “Mike and Dave are great ambassadors for the Tulane Sports Law Program and their careers illustrate the wide range of experiences our Tulane Law alumni have had in the sports industry. Their financial support has been crucial as we continue to grow the Sports Law Program and the Center for Sport, and their commitment to mentoring and hiring our students has been invaluable. It was a wonderful opportunity for our alumni and students in London to hear their perspectives on a variety of issues facing the NFL and to hear about their professional journeys.”

The weekend capped off with over 20 alumni cheering the Saints to victory and a memorable experience of bringing U.S. and European alumni together for an educational and enjoyable weekend.

Dean Meyer said, “This was a fun weekend that showcased Tulane Law’s strengths in multiple dimensions—in international law, the courts and in the world of global sports, and we hope to continue this tradition into the future.”
MARITIME EVENTS SHOWCASE TULANE’S “SECOND HOME” IN PANAMA

THE TULANE MARITIME LAW CENTER hosted back-to-back events in Panama in October, gathering lawyers, government officials, and scholars to chart the future of maritime trade in the wake of a $5.25 billion expansion of the Panama Canal.

The events included a daylong seminar on emerging issues in admiralty law for Panama’s legal community, an alumni reception, and an academic colloquium involving scholars from the Scandinavian Institute of Maritime Law at the University of Oslo, the University of Southampton and Tulane.

Panama’s Minister of Canal Affairs, the Hon. Roberto Roy, delivered the keynote address at the seminar, which was co-sponsored by the Maritime Law Association of Panama and its chair FRANCISCO LINARES (L ’96). Among topics discussed were the state of maritime law in the current geopolitical climate, the Ballast Law Convention, and issues of comparative maritime law.

Tulane’s speakers included:

ROBERT FORCE, the Niels F. Johnsen Chair of Maritime Law and director emeritus of the Tulane Maritime Law Center, spoke about flags of convenience and the law of the sea.

RAYMOND T. WAID (L ’07), a partner with Liskow & Lewis in New Orleans and a Tulane adjunct professor, spoke about comparative maritime and forum selection issues in the international arena.

MARTIN DAVIES, director of the Tulane Maritime Law Center and the Admiralty Law Institute Professor of Law, spoke on the Danish fuel company OW Bunker’s collapse a year after its IPO.

CHRISTOPHER O. DAVIS (L ’79), a partner with Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz in New Orleans and vice president of Comité Maritime International, spoke about the state of international maritime law 100 years after the launch of Panama’s ship registry.

That evening, Tulane Law Dean David Meyer hosted a reception for Tulane alumni living in Panama. Some 150 Tulane Law alumni currently live and work there, along with a roughly equal number of alumni from other schools within Tulane University.

“Panama is really a second home for Tulane,” Dean Meyer said. “We’re extremely proud of our alumni in Panama and grateful for their active support.”

Tulane’s alumni in Panama have raised funds for each of the past five years to offer full-tuition scholarships to talented Panamanian students attending Tulane for graduate study. So far, the scholarship has enabled six Panamanian students to graduate from Tulane Law’s LLM program; a seventh student, Tiffany Reyes, is currently enrolled.

The Oslo-Southampton-Tulane Admiralty Colloquium rotates each year among the three academic partners. This year, Tulane elected to host the colloquium in Panama, where the university has strong historical and alumni ties, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Panamanian ship registry and the opening of the new, expanded Panama Canal.

With the canal as a backdrop, the theme for the eighth annual colloquium was the significance of ship registration and flagging, given the centenary of the Panamanian registry. Panama is the world’s largest ship registry, with about 23 percent of all ships in the world registered there. Remy Carreira (L ’05), a lawyer with Carreira Pitti in Panama, helped organize the event at the Miraflores lock.
JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU: EDUCATION IS KEY TO SAVING THE OCEANS

JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU, who has lived most of his life submerged in the vastness of the world’s oceans, believes the key to saving our marine life is knowledge.

Cousteau, in one of the most poignant presentations at Tulane Law School in recent memory, made a significant adjustment to the legacy of his legendary father, Jacques Cousteau, who said people would save what they loved. For the younger Cousteau, the heart is only part of it. The world must understand that which they cannot see: The intricately connected ecosystems of the world’s waterways, which continue to suffer under man’s neglect.

“For me, it is about education. People cannot save what they don’t understand,” Cousteau, almost 80, said during an hour-long lecture at Tulane Law’s Summit on Environmental Law and Policy. “Every human is connected to each other. We have no borders. It is an exciting time now because I believe the decision-makers of the future are in this room, and in our classrooms today.”

Cousteau, the founder and chairman of the Ocean Futures Society, has produced more than 80 films, won an Emmy, a Peabody and a Cable Ace award, and written extensively on ocean conservation. He continues to bring his research and discoveries to the world via his documentaries and films.

Friday’s lecture, held in the Wendell H. Gauthier Appellate Moot Court Room 110 in John Giffen Weinmann Hall, was standing room only. The scope of Cousteau’s work was on full display—he was at times childlike about the creatures of the sea, and at other times fearful of the price of lost habitats. Above all, he was optimistic, speaking of successes working across nations and cultures, going beyond politics and philosophies, to the one thing that mattered: Saving the creatures that live in the bodies of water that constitute 70 percent of the planet.

“I believe we are going to make it,” Cousteau told the crowd. “We have the privilege not to let this planet disappear. It’s our choice. And I am convinced more than ever that we can do this through education.”

Cousteau brought with him a number of videos to share. One hit close to home, looking back at the devastation of the Gulf Coast following the BP oil disaster.

“This one affected me very profoundly,” Cousteau recalled, because it led him to researchers who were able to show the devastation long after the cleanup was complete.

“We are still learning from our mistakes. This has to change. We can do it, we are doing it, but it is thanks to young people who continue to learn from this,” Cousteau said.

In another video, he examined new diving technology that allows for collection of data and samples deeper in the oceans than ever before. One of his final videos gave a peek at his latest film, “The Wonders of the Sea” (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FWtQqyg0TTc), released last fall in IMAX theaters.

Cousteau pressed the idea that research has refined the base of information on waterways, creating opportunities for scientists to “follow the water” from one place to another and prove its interconnectivity and find solutions to poor water quality, which leads to the destruction of habitats. He spoke of the need to work harder to collect runoff, to share with the public the realities of climate change and the warming of the planet (“it is real”) and continue to address climate deniers.

During a question-and-answer session, Cousteau was asked about how he tries to persuade climate deniers. In true fashion, he said he never criticizes or accuses.

“We have to show them. I show them my videos of the people of Alaska who’ve seen ice turn to water year-round. I show them how our shorelines are shrinking. I show the dead coral reefs in Florida. I talk to them, and show them.”

> JEAN-MICHEL COUSTEAU (ABOVE LEFT) WAS THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT TULANE’S SUMMIT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY AT THE REQUEST OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAW PROFESSOR OLIVER HOUCK (ABOVE RIGHT).
TRESTMAN ENDOWS MOOT COURT PROGRAM

GROWING UP in New Orleans, Evan F. Trestman (L ’77) always knew there was something special about Tulane University. Following in the footsteps of his father, Israel (LA ’41), also an alumus, Trestman began his law school career determined to make an impact on New Orleans and its legal community. Now a nationally recognized trial attorney with decades of experience, he’s generously giving back to the school that had such a tremendous influence on his life and career.

Trestman has created a substantial endowment for Tulane University Law School’s Moot Court Program, ensuring that Tulane’s law students, and the community’s future attorneys, are given the opportunity to learn the art of argument, a priceless skill that Trestman has employed to great success throughout his career.

He says that in the practice of law, it is “invaluable to be able to express ideas under pressure and to be persuasive.” He encourages law students and future attorneys to take every opportunity available to get hands-on experience, such as by observing courtroom proceedings, clerking and volunteering to provide legal aid.

David Meyer, dean of Tulane Law School, said, “Evan has always recognized the undeniable raw talent of our students, and had a vision for what increased resources could do to deliver professional training and opportunities to compete with other top-notch programs, both nationally and internationally. He leapt right into that breach and we can hardly wait to see the results of his generous investment in this program and our students.”

Judith Gronna (L ’17), a past finalist in the law school’s Moot Court competition, said, “Mr. Trestman provided great feedback on how to best prepare for the competition; he was willing to listen, help and discuss strategy every step of the way. It meant so much to us to receive his advice on how to best prepare for oral argument—we can only hope to one day be like him.”

Moot Court is a crucial training tool for law students, and Trestman hopes that, with his generous gift, the Moot Court Program can become the finest in the country.

For Trestman, the chance to create the endowment is a tribute to the education he received at Tulane Law School. “I built my law practice from the ground up, which would not have been possible without a law degree and Tulane,” he said. “We need leaders, and I believe that helping to build leadership that comes out of a great institution and law school can help make New Orleans and Tulane an even better place.”

philanthropy

WITH TRESTMAN’S SUPPORT, TULANE LAW SCHOOL THIS YEAR EXPANDED ITS MOOT COURT PROGRAM, ENABLING STUDENTS TO GET HANDS-ON PRACTICE ARGUING CASES.
AFTER THE DEVASTATING 2016 Baton Rouge floods, hundreds of families struggling to put their lives back together found their recovery complicated by legal problems involving proof of property ownership, contractor fraud, landlord-tenant disputes and more.

Those with nowhere else to turn sought free assistance from Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS), which provides civil legal aid to low-income residents in 22 parishes. And because of an expanding partnership with Tulane Law School, the agency has been able to designate an attorney to focus on the specialized needs of low-income renter families.

“Many times renters get left out of recovery programs” typically aimed at homeowners with property damage, said SLLS executive director Laura Tuggle (L ’87). But renters face a plethora of challenges: eviction, displacement, mold and other un repaired damage, rent increases because of rising housing costs, fair-housing issues, difficulty getting security deposits refunded and snags in securing short-term federal assistance. Families with children often face hurdles they may view as insurmountable without legal help.

“What we normally see is heightened post-disaster,” she said. “First, flood victims need boots on the ground, then more ‘suits’ on the ground to help with recovery.”

To address the flood-related cases involving families, SLLS hired Julia Wilson, a 2016 Tulane Law graduate, in October on a Lutz Family Public Interest Fellowship. The program began in 2014 through the generosity of corporate attorney Laurent C. Lutz (L ’86), and his wife, Marcia. What started with one yearlong fellowship, has expanded each year, putting new attorneys to work right away providing vital community services for families and children in need.

The agency ultimately had recent graduates assisting in high-need areas: Baton Rouge flood-related cases, fair-housing issues for families and support for the Baton Rouge domestic violence center.

Laurent Lutz is executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Sallie Mae, a financial services company that offers college savings plans, loans and other products and services to help families save, plan and pay for higher education.

“When we put this program together, our hopes were to provide on-the-job training for Tulane Law grads and much needed assistance for those families most in need in Louisiana,” Lutz said. “That the program is now producing permanent, long-term positions for public assistance attorneys is remarkable.”

The fellows have “become a really valued part of our team,” Tuggle said. “It’s been a really good fit for us and the people we serve.”
ATTORNEY KEVIN YORN (L’90) believes Tulane Law School attracts adventurers.
And studying with classmates full of ideas and professors from all over the world, he said, opened channels in his thought process that encouraged him to “get outside the lines a little bit and not live my business life in a linear way.”

Judging from stories he shared with Tulane students during an April 2017 visit to campus, Yorn’s journey to becoming one of the top lawyers in Hollywood would make an entertaining biopic.

Though from the East Coast, Yorn decided while in law school to go west, spending a summer clerking in the Beverly Hills District Attorney’s Office. After graduation, he returned to California and wound up prosecuting gang cases in Los Angeles during a tumultuous time that included riots following the release of the Rodney King video and the riveting drama of the O.J. Simpson murder trial.

Yorn really wanted to practice entertainment law. When no one would hire him, he started a firm with another Kevin—Kevin Morris—and they went about making their own luck. Yorn recounted how he and Morris stumbled upon a pair of college students at the Sundance Film Festival showing their first film on a motel room wall. That’s how the Morris Yorn firm came to represent Matt Stone and Trey Parker.

A few months later, the newish Comedy Central channel gave Parker and Stone a platform for a show called “South Park”—whose profane hilarity remains wildly successful even after two decades.

But, in those early days, who really knew what to expect? When a draft of the first “South Park” contract gave Comedy Central all creative rights to the show, Yorn said, the firm crossed out that term, so Parker and Stone retained rights to all sorts of derivative works—movies, music, digital, merchandise—a crucial part of controlling the empire they eventually built.

The relationship with the “South Park” duo also illustrates a key element in the firm’s success: helping clients develop projects and build their brands, sometimes in unexpected ways. For example, when Parker and Stone wanted to produce a musical, Yorn’s firm helped raise money to finance what became the stage hit “The Book of Mormon.”

“What’s really fun for me is working on a team to help our clients get where they want to go,” Yorn said.

Yorn returned to New Orleans in March 2018 to collaborate with Tulane University: He has created funds to promote entertainment and media law at Tulane Law School and to support the Gender & Sexuality Studies program in the School of Liberal Arts. The law school gift will bring more cohesion among fields in which Tulane already has shown national leadership and is poised to create greater opportunities for students and faculty, including sports law, media law, intellectual property and entertainment law.

“Kevin Yorn’s bold and restless creativity has made him a standout among Hollywood lawyers,” Dean David Meyer said. “I’m deeply grateful to Kevin for nurturing the distinctly creative Tulane Law community through this generous gift.”

Meyer said the fund “will enable Tulane Law School to leverage our standout faculty in media law, sports law and intellectual property law, as well as New Orleans’ uniquely vibrant creative environment, to make a mark nationally in entertainment law.”
WEBBS EXTEND FAMILY LEGACY WITH EXCELLENCE FUND

GROWING UP, siblings Ann and George Webb knew Tulane University from the inside out. Their father, also named George, taught electrical engineering for 37 years. Their mother, Dorothy Webb (L ’80), started Tulane Law when Ann was in high school and George III in middle school, one of several women in her class embarking on second careers.

George III (L ’94) remembered accompanying his mother to an energy law class one summer, playing racquetball with a woman in her study group and thinking it cool that his mother was taking a course with professor Bob Force, father of his classmate Joshua Force.

Ann (L ’87) recalls how stressed her mother seemed. “She took a huge leap outside her comfort zone. But she also just blossomed in law school,” Ann said. “She just loved it.”

Both Webbs, who live and work in Houston, followed their mother through Tulane Law. In honor of their parents, they established the George and Dorothy Webb Endowment for Legal Excellence in May 2017, to support the kind of education they received.

“Tulane was a big part of our lives growing up,” said Ann, who currently is pursuing a doctorate in social work and is focused on bringing law and social work together to help disenfranchised populations.

George, who also has engineering degrees from Rice University, joined Rice’s George R. Brown School of Engineering earlier this year in an in-house counsel role centered on technology transfer, corporate-sponsored research and related areas.

The family regularly attended football games at the old Tulane Stadium, had crawfish boils in their backyard, and forged close and lasting bonds with the university. George Webb called the gift to the law school a fitting way to honor their parents.

“We were hoping that we could reflect the importance of the law school to our family as well as the importance of my dad to the students he taught for so many decades,” Ann said.

The elder George was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army who later served as a reservist in the Corps of Engineers. He started teaching at Tulane in 1956, and the Tulane Alumni Association named him an honorary member in 1981.

The Webbs’ Tulane legacy goes even further back. After Dorothy Webb (then Maness) graduated from Tulane’s Newcomb College in 1951, she and her mother, Mary Ida Little Maness, both received degrees in 1953—Dorothy a master’s in Spanish and her mother a Bachelor of Arts.

“I’m grateful to Ann and George for celebrating their family’s rich Tulane legacy with this generous gift,” Dean David Meyer said. “The George and Dorothy Webb Endowment for Legal Excellence will help ensure that future students and families find the same opportunities they’ve found through a Tulane Law education.”

JOE ETTINGER never slows down. He was the first to arrive at Tulane Law School’s 2018 annual Intersession earlier this year—a favorite program he helps support through a generous endowment—under a typical New Orleans downpour. He wasn’t fazed.

“We ready?” Ettinger announced.

A 1956 graduate of Tulane Law, Ettinger is the walking embodiment of 50-plus years of criminal law experience, and Intersession at Tulane Law doesn’t start until Joe arrives. He believes so strongly in the skills-training program and in preparing students that he treks from Arizona to New Orleans each January.

Tulane’s annual Lawyering Skills Boot Camp offers students an intensive simulation of law practice in one of three alternative practice tracks: civil litigation, criminal, and transactional practice.

This year, Ettinger’s endowment continued to grow. Through additional contributions, the Joseph A. Ettinger Award in Criminal Law—given to the top performing student in that track—will expand to add a similar award for students in the civil litigation track.

“To me no matter where I was in my career, every experience I had I could attribute to what I learned at Tulane,” Ettinger said. “This program lets students make a decision about whether this is for them or not, and then, if it is, figure out how to go about making that dream come true.”

Ettinger has served as a member of Tulane University’s Alumni Association Board of Directors. Since 2012, he has returned every year to Intersession.

“Joe’s passion and dedication to our students were instrumental in helping us launch the lawyering skills boot camp,” said Dean David Meyer. “We all owe him a big debt.”

Ettinger led a successful criminal defense and civil rights law career in Chicago and is now retired in Arizona, but his work doesn’t stop. In 2016, he was appointed to public office as Commissioner for the Scottsdale, Arizona, Human Relations Commission for a three-year term. Until recently, he was a supervising attorney on a pro bono basis for the Arizona Justice Project of the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University.
A CONTINUING LEGACY

“We were raised to be Tulane fans from the beginning,” said Peter Coleman, a 1970 Tulane University Law School graduate and son of James Coleman Sr. “My dad was probably the truest of all Tulane fans.”

For years, James Coleman Sr., a 1937 Tulane Law School graduate with a Tulane liberal arts degree, hosted international students at his home. He also often celebrated successes by taking his four children abroad, so they shared “his enthusiasm for being abroad and understanding people with other ways of life,” said his son Jimmy, a 1968 Tulane Law School graduate.

After Coleman Sr. passed away in 2007, his family established the James J. Coleman Sr. Visiting Professorship in Law, which enables the law school to invite distinguished legal scholars from around the world to teach advanced short courses. And now, brothers Jimmy, Peter and Thomas Coleman have recently increased their gift to the professorship by $500,000. The professorship has already brought seven outstanding professors from other countries, including Australia, Brazil, Spain, Argentina, China and France. Visiting Professorship courses have ranged in topic from Democracy and International Law to Foreign Investment Law in China, offering global perspectives to students.

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Visiting Professorship in Law, which enables the law school to invite distinguished legal scholars from around the world to teach advanced short courses. And now, brothers Jimmy, Peter and Thomas Coleman have recently increased their gift to the professorship by $500,000. The professorship has research interests focus on comparative law and development and the related themes of the globalization of law and the law of globalization. During his time at Tulane, Raynouard taught a mini-course entitled “Law matters! Comparative law and development in a globalized economy.”

“The Coleman family has made such an incredible impact on the law school community and our students,” said Dean David Meyer. “We couldn’t be more grateful.”

The James J. Coleman Sr. Endowed Professorship has enabled Tulane Law School to recruit professors of international standing who leave an indelible mark on our students’ legal education and experience. The Coleman Visiting Professors now constitute a critical component of the Comparative and International Law program’s curriculum.

The Coleman family’s generosity was already legendary at the law school, but now their sense of humor is too. Earlier this fall, Jimmy Coleman opened his New Orleans home to welcome this year’s cohort of incoming international law students, and he ended the evening in dramatic fashion: stunning Dean David Meyer by presenting him with a gold-plated briefcase containing $1 million. It turned out to be a fabulous gag, as the currency was convincing, but counterfeit. After Jimmy had his laugh, he assured Dean Meyer that the briefcase was symbolic of more “good things” coming to the law school.
Honor Roll of Donors

Tulane Law School thanks our donors, whose generosity raises the national standing of the law school and helps us continue to provide an exemplary education for our students. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors for Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017).

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Maureen Groll Johnston  
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David D. Meyer and Amy Gajda  
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L. David Cromwell  
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Regan Alford Forrester  
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Julie Livaudais George and Edward N. George  
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John F. Hills and Wendy Delery Hills  
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Douglas Inge Johnstone  
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Adrienne Mouton Landry  
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WALTER E. BLESSEY JR. (A&S ’67, L ’70) says that some of his earliest childhood memories were of toddling on Tulane University’s leafy campus.

In May 2017, he was back under the oaks at the Audubon Tea Room, just a stone’s throw from campus, accepting a Lifetime Achievement Award from Tulane University’s Alumni Emeritus Club.

Blessey was born into a family with deep Tulane roots. His father, Walter Blessey Sr., was a two-time Tulane graduate and a beloved member of the school’s engineering faculty for 42 years. Tulane’s Civil Engineering Building was renamed Blessey Hall after the professor’s retirement.

Walter Blessey Jr. followed his father to Tulane, earning an undergraduate degree in engineering in 1967 and his law degree in 1970. As a law student, Blessey was elected president of the Tulane University student body and played a key role in defusing several student-administration conflicts during those turbulent times.

Blessey went on to a storied career as a businessman and entrepreneur. After early success trading in oil, he founded Blessey Marine Services in 1978, building it into the nation’s largest fleet of inland tank barge and towing vessels, carrying fuels, feedstocks, LNG and other energy products across the eastern United States. The company now has more than 70 vessels and 800 employees.

Law School Dean David Meyer presented the award, calling Blessey a “phenomenal success” in business who also showed a “deep sense of decency” in his dedication to his employees. Meyer also credited Blessey with personally supporting Tulane Law students, including opening Blessey Marine to annual visits by students to learn about the business and the important roles that lawyers play in stoking entrepreneurial success.
Reunions

On November 3–5, 2017, more than 550 Tulane Law alumni and friends came to New Orleans to reconnect with one another at Reunion Weekend. The reunion, complete with a luncheon at the law school, CLEs, an all-class cocktail party, Homecoming football tailgate and individual class parties, had record-breaking attendance and inspired historic reunion giving.

More than 330 reunion celebrants pledged over $1,325,000 to Tulane Law School. To all those participated, thank you! Your support will create scholarships, expand skills-training programs, and help raise the national standing of the law school. Tulane also extends a special thanks to all reunion class committee members, who helped make the event a great success.

If you are celebrating a milestone reunion next year and would like to learn more about the program and how to get involved, please contact Adam Kancher, Director of Law Alumni Relations, at akancher@tulane.edu or (504) 865-5909, or Maggy Baccinelli, Director of the Law Annual Fund and Reunions, at mbaccine@tulane.edu or (504) 314-7756.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAULA BURCH-CELENTANO AND TRACIE MORRIS SCHAEFFER
1950s

LEON “SONNY” VIAL III (L ’58), who practiced law for 60 years and served as St. Charles Parish Attorney for 23 years, is retiring effective Dec. 31.

1960s

RUSS HERMAN (L ’66), an attorney with Herman, Herman & Katz, spoke to Tulane Law students in November. Herman is one of Louisiana’s most prominent litigators and a nationally recognized trial attorney for his work securing an almost $600 million verdict against Big Tobacco, $4.8 billion against Merck and $1.1 billion against suppliers of tainted Chinese drywall.

1970s

RICHARD WEISS (L ’77) is the recipient of the 2017 Claude Pepper Outstanding Government Lawyer Award, presented by the President and Government Lawyer Section of the Florida Bar. Weiss is the first attorney in private practice to receive the accolade.

> RUSS HERMAN

> JUDGE FALLON WITH THE STAFF OF THE TULANE LAW REVIEW

THE TULANE LAW REVIEW HONORED U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE ELDON FALLON (L ’62) as its Alumnus of the Year at the journal’s annual banquet in April 2017.

Nominated to the federal bench in 1995 by President Bill Clinton, Fallon has emerged as the nation’s go-to judge for complex, multidistrict litigation cases involving thousands of plaintiffs and hundreds of lawyers, including the drugs Xarelto, Vioxx and Propulsid, and the Chinese drywall litigation.

He also received his undergraduate degree from Tulane in 1959 and spent 18 years as a Tulane Law adjunct professor. Earlier in April, the Tulane University Alumni Association presented him with its Professional Achievement Award, celebrating his national leadership on the bench, accomplishments in private practice, leadership of the bar and long service to the law school.

> CLASS NOTES

Learn what our alumni are up to!
Submit your news to this address, lawcommunications@tulane.edu, or call us at (504) 865-5976.
1980s

Attorney JOHN ALLELO (L ’87), a senior Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development, received the 2017 Fellows Award from the ABA Young Lawyers Division at its annual gala. Allelo built his career in public service promoting peace and democracy in turbulent postings around the world. He also spoke at Tulane in October about his work with USAID.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie nominated THOMAS BUCK (L ’88) of Milltown, N.J., to the state’s Superior Court. Buck has been in private practice in Milltown since 1999. Before that, he was with Robert Schecter & Associates and is a former assistant Middlesex County prosecutor.

JOSE R. COT (L ’88) gave a lecture, “Doing Business in Cuba,” at the 38th Annual Tulane Business Forum sponsored by the Tulane Association of Business Alumni and the A. B. Freeman School of Business. Earlier this year, Cot addressed—in both English and Spanish—new citizens and their families at a naturalization ceremony held at Loyola University and presided by District Judge Mary Ann Lemmon of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana in New Orleans.

LILLIAN E. EYRICH (L ’85), a senior associate at Steeg Law Firm, LLC in New Orleans, has been included in Best Lawyers in America 2018 for Real Estate Law (10 years).

THOMAS FLANAGAN (L ’89) received the 2017 Arceneaux Professionalism Award from the New Orleans Bar Association, awarded to a member whose record “exemplifies the highest ideals of integrity, honor and civility,” and reflects “the highest levels of professionalism.” Flanagan, who is also an adjunct professor of law at Tulane (civil law torts) handles complex business litigation and civil appeals in state and federal courts in Louisiana.

TIMOTHY FRANCIS (L ’84) and his wife, Ashley, recently donated several works of art to the law school in hopes of inspiring others to give art to Tulane.

ROBERT J. HEATH (L ’87) was named to the Best Lawyers in America 2018 in his specialty, health care (20 years). He is an attorney with Reinhart Boemer Van Deuren SC in the firm’s Milwaukee office.

JUDY PERRY MARTINEZ (L ’82) received the prestigious Presidents’ Award from the New Orleans Bar in October. The award recognizes professional excellence, integrity and dedication to service in the highest ideals of citizenship. Martinez, president-elect of the American Bar Association and former partner at Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn, served as vice president and general compliance officer for Northrop Grumman before pursing a fellowship with Harvard’s Advanced Leadership Initiative.

1990s

RAVI BHALLA (L ’99) was elected as the first Sikh mayor of Hoboken and in the state of New Jersey. Bhalla, who had been serving on the City Council, bested a six-person field of challengers.

ANDREA GUNN EATON (L ’99) has been named top lawyer at the University of California (Irvine), heading the Office of Campus Counsel, which advises the chancellor, the executive vice chancellor and provost, the vice chancellors, deans, healthcare executives and other campus management on a broad range of complex legal issues.

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MELINDA PHELAN (L ’94) was named chair of the Baker McKenzie North American Tax Practice Group. A partner in Dallas, Phelan has more
than 20 years of international tax experience advising multinational companies on sophisticated international tax planning and transfer pricing matters.

**Jenny Ramo (L ’99)** has been working with New Mexico Appleseed to end hunger and homelessness and to lift families out of the generational cycle of poverty. Her work to secure a Hunger Free Students' Bill of Rights was featured on CBS Sunday Morning with Jane Pauley in November.

U.S. Rep. **Cedric Richmond (L ’98)**, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, spoke at Tulane Public Law Center's International Legislative Drafting Institute in June. The two-week training session provides hands-on experience for staff and members of representative bodies from across the globe to encourage open government, best practices in drafting laws and citizen engagement in the legislative process.

**David Rieveschl (L ’97)** joined Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann LLC as special counsel in the firm’s New Orleans office and will be a member of its Corporate and Business Litigation Service Group, and provides advice and representation to regional and national clients regarding their business transactions.

In September 2017, **Matthew J. Spark (L ’93)**, a partner with Zuber Lawler & Del Duca LLP in Los Angeles, became Chair of the State Bar of California’s Intellectual Property Law. He also was the Planning Chair for the IP Law Section’s 42nd Annual IP Institute held in Newport Beach, Calif., in November.

**Rod West (L ’93)**, utilities president for Entergy Corporation, delivered the keynote lecture to 75 students enrolled in the Masters of Jurisprudence in Labor and Employment Law (MJ-LEL) program.

**John Wingo (L ’94)**, a partner with Stites & Harbison PLLC, has been elected to the Nashville Transportation Management Association Group’s 2017–19 Board of Directors. Wingo is a member of the firm’s Business Litigation Service Group, and provides advice and representation to regional and national clients regarding their business transactions.

**Jon Phelps**, a 2012 graduate, has been promoted to general manager of the Grand Rapids Drive, the NBA Development League team of the Detroit Pistons. Phelps enrolled at Tulane for the Sports Law program and took the classes required for a Sports Law certificate, including antitrust, intellectual property and labor law. He also served as a research assistant for Professor Gabe Feldman, director of the program, and a nationally known authority on some of the high-profile issues in the industry.

When both the NBA and the National Football League had player lockouts during Phelps’ second year, he said, “My classmates and I were able to study many of the legal issues surrounding these professional sports leagues in real time,” he said.

During his third year, he was symposium editor for the Tulane Law Review’s symposium issue on the role of antitrust law and labor law in shaping the landscape of professional and intercollegiate sports.

**2000s**

**Kendra Huard Fershee (L ’03)** is running for Congress in West Virginia’s First Congressional District. Fershee and her husband, **Josh Fershee (L ’03)**, are both law professors and associate deans at West Virginia University College of Law. They both serve on the Tulane Law Review Board of Advisory Editors.

**Dan Greening (L ’01)** recently published a mystery novel called Written in Blood. The book is about a big-city detective who moves back to his hometown in North Carolina and investigates a murder staged like the crime scene in Crime and Punishment. Greening is an award-winning writer in a variety of genres.

**Kaveh Kashef (L ’01)** has joined Butzel Long law firm as a shareholder practicing in the firm’s Bloomfield Hills, Mich., office. He specializes in complex litigation in the fields of automotive, shareholder disputes, employment, commercial, construction, riparian rights and real property law. He has prepared and succeeded in numerous trials, arbitrations and appeals in various states across the country.

In October, **Meagen E. Leary (L ’04)** received the Margery Reed Professional Excellence Award from the Duane Morris, LLP, Women’s Impact Network for Success. Leary was honored for her work helping advance women in the legal profession, and was chosen for her ability to establish and nurture client relationships.

In November 2017, **Antoinette Marshall (L ’00)** joined Snell & Wilmer in Las Vegas, focusing on corporate and securities. Marshall has worked advising small to medium sized businesses and high net worth clients on federal income tax planning, entity structuring, estate planning, asset protection planning and business succession planning.

**Ryan M. McCabe (L ’07)**, a partner at Steeg Law Firm, LLC in New Orleans, Louisiana, has been selected to the Super Lawyers 2018 Louisiana Rising Stars list in real estate law.
LAW ALUMNA ON TRACK TO BECOME ABA PRESIDENT

CALLING ON THE LEGAL PROFESSION to champion democratic values and achieve justice, Tulane Law School alumna JUDY PERRY MARTINEZ (L ’82) addressed the American Bar Association House of Delegates as ABA president-elect nominee.

In February of this year, during the ABA’s Midyear Meeting in Vancouver, Martinez called on the nation’s largest legal organization and one of the world’s largest voluntary professional organizations with over 400,000 members to embrace technology and become more “nimble” as it serves its members, and continue to use its voice to “trumpet the essential values of our democracy.”

If elected in August, Martinez, who is an attorney with Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn in New Orleans, will serve a one-year term as president-elect, before becoming president in August 2019.

Since graduating with honors from Tulane Law School, Martinez has had a career rooted in public service. She held a succession of key leadership positions within the ABA, including chairing the ABA’s Presidential Commission on the Future of Legal Services, and the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judiciary. Locally, she was among a group of young lawyers who in the early 1980s launched the New Orleans Pro Bono Project.

She joined Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn in 1982 as a commercial litigator, where she became a partner and later a member of the management committee. In 2003, she joined Northrop Grumman, an international aerospace and defense company, where she worked first as assistant general counsel managing a portion of the company’s litigation, and later as vice president and chief compliance officer.

In 2015, she retired from Northrop Grumman and became a fellow at the Advanced Leadership Initiative at Harvard University, where she spent a year in residence before returning to her New Orleans firm of Simon, Peragine, Smith & Redfearn.

Throughout her career, Martinez has been a strong advocate for the legal profession through the ABA, chairing the 174,000-member Young Lawyers Division, serving on the Commission on Women, and chairing the Commission on Domestic Violence.

Martinez is a member of Tulane Law’s Dean’s Advisory Board and remains closely involved in supporting students.

As she spoke about the future to ABA members in Vancouver Martinez was true to her roots in public service. She called on lawyers to face new challenges boldly and innovatively, particularly within the nation’s justice system.

“The world is fundamentally changing, and with those changes come challenges and opportunity,” Martinez told members. “We, the lawyers, will lead, by instilling in the public a renewed sense of confidence in our justice system.”

TULANE LAW ALUMNA JUDY PERRY MARTINEZ (L ’82) IS THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION’S PRESIDENT-ELECT NOMINEE. ONCE CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT-ELECT IN AUGUST, SHE WOULD SERVE A ONE-YEAR TERM IN THAT ROLE BEFORE BECOMING ABA PRESIDENT IN 2019.

THOMAS KENNEY (L ’05), a partner with San Mateo, Calif., firm Hanson Crawford Crum Family Law Group, published an article, “Unanswered Questions: The Disposition of Frozen Embryos in California,” which focused on a high-profile trial he and partner Joe Crawford had involving the disposition of embryos in a San Francisco divorce case.

San Antonio District Attorney STALEY HEATLY (L ’00) has been named Texas Prosecutor of the Year by the State Bar of Texas and the Texas District and County Attorneys Association (TDCAA). Heatly received the award Sept. 20 at the TDCAA’s annual criminal and civil law conference in San Antonio. The award is given to the prosecutor who that demonstrates outstanding service to the criminal justice system by improving the quality of justice through leadership and efforts to shape public policy.

JULIE DESORMEAUX ROSENZWEIG (L ’05) has been named director of the Sierra Club’s Delta Chapter in Louisiana. Rosenzweig is the first Delta Chapter director, and is expected to bring increased visibility to issues to protect Louisiana’s natural environment.

JOSH SCHNELL (L ’04) has joined Ice Miller LLP as a partner in the Firm’s Federal Government Contracts Practice. He is located in Ice Miller’s Washington, D.C., office. Schnell advises clients on all aspects of federal contracts and grants.

JULIE DESORMEAUX ROSENZWEIG (L ’05) has been named director of the Sierra Club’s Delta Chapter in Louisiana. Rosenzweig is the first Delta Chapter director, and is expected to bring increased visibility to issues to protect Louisiana’s natural environment.

2010s

GEORGE ASARE-AFRIYE (LLM ’17) has joined the faculty at Gimpa Law School in his native Ghana.

ROSALIE M. HAUG (L ’17) joined Chaffe McCall as an associate in its New Orleans office, as part of the firm’s ongoing regional growth and commitment to the development of new attorneys. Haug graduated from Tulane in May 2017, and served on the Tulane Law Review and was a member of the Moot Court Board.
IN MARCH, “FAIRLY TRACEABLE,” THE NEWEST PLAY BY MARY KATHRYN NAGLE (L’08), premiered in the Wells Fargo Theater at the Autry Museum of the American West in Los Angeles. Delving into climate change’s impact on Native American communities, the work was inspired by Nagle’s experience in Tulane’s environmental law program. The play even includes a character based on professor Oliver Houck.

Set post-Katrina, the legal drama is a love story between a Ponca man and a Chitimacha woman who is a Tulane law student.

A nationally acclaimed playwright, Nagle is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a partner at Pipistrem Law Firm in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She also serves as executive director for the Yale Indigenous Performing Arts Program.

JOE NGUYEN (L’15) spent three days as a Jeopardy! Champion, reaching a three-day winnings total of $77,202.

ZACHARY I. ROSENBERG (L’12), an associate at Steeg Law Firm, LLC in New Orleans, Louisiana, has joined the Board of JNOLA.

HUGO WOOD (LLM’14) was named recipient of a Schwarzman Scholarship for graduate study at Tsinghua University in Beijing, one of China’s premier institutions. He was one of 142 selected to the Schwarzman Scholars Class of 2019 out of more than 4,000 applicants. Wood is a lawyer, social entrepreneur and human development advocate who serves as public policy advisor and chief speechwriter to the vice president and minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Panama.

JUSTIN WOODARD (C’11) has joined Jones Walker LLP as an attorney in their Business and Commercial Litigation practice group in New Orleans. Woodward spent the last year working as a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

“Navigating Federalism in Corporate and Securities Law,” it drew top scholars from across the United States to tackle a range of problems.

Lipton is at the forefront of exploring ways that courts and regulations can improve the way corporations operate, bringing her experience working at the Securities and Exchange Commission and in representing shareholders against major companies into her research and the classroom. For her talent as a young scholar, Lipton was named 2017 GORDON GAMM FACULTY SCHOLAR, and she used the award to organize the conference.

The Gordon Gamm Faculty Scholar position is designed to give early-career Tulane law professors resources to expand their research and engagement with other scholars and the broader public. By sponsoring the event, Gamm, (L’70), continues to support Tulane Law School with his unique legal perspective through a passion for comparative law.

Gamm, a successful trial lawyer now living in Boulder, Colorado, was among the conference participants who engaged in the free-wheeling discussions.

Past Gamm Faculty Scholars at Tulane Law School have hosted national or international conferences relating to equality law (Prof. Saru Matambanadzo) and comparative law (Prof. Sally Richardson). In 2018, the Gamm scholarship enabled Professor of Law Robert S. Westley, who holds the LOCHEF Professorship in Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, to launch a March conference that explored the legal and practical challenges of racial reconciliation around the world.
AYLMER E. MONTGOMERY JR. (B ’50, L ’54), 88, a retired attorney and insurance executive, died Feb. 4, 2017. A veteran of the Korean War, Montgomery worked in his family’s company, the Montgomery Insurance Agency, Inc. The company eventually became Community Financial Center, one of the largest agencies in Louisiana. Montgomery served as Ouachita Parish Police Juror and was appointed to the Louisiana Insurance Rating Commission by former Governor Edwin W. Edwards for two terms.

JAMES (JIM) F. PINNER SR. (B ’51, L ’54), 85, an attorney and certified public accountant, died Sept. 9, 2016, in Metairie. He was a legal officer in the Navy during the Korean War. In 1958, he began working as a CPA, and later returned to law, working in his own practice. He taught accounting at Tulane and Loyola universities for several years. In 1978, he was Alumnus of the Year at Tulane.

MARIAN MAYER BERKETT (L ’37) blazed an incredible trail for women, for lawyers and, most of all, for her fellow Tulanians. In 1937, during a time when women rarely even attended law school, she graduated first in her class from Tulane University Law School. Berkett was also the first female attorney hired by a Louisiana law firm—Deutsch Kerrigan, where she spent more than 70 years.

Berkett attributed much of her success to the incredible education and support she received from Tulane. As a proud alumna, Berkett left Tulane a generous gift in gratitude. “No organization of any kind was closer to her heart,” said Bobette Sears, Berkett’s niece.

Marian Mayer Berkett was an institution at Tulane, at Deutsch Kerrigan, in the New Orleans legal community, and even more broadly throughout the Gulf South. A natural inspiration, she motivated her colleagues with her diligence, talent and steadfast dedication to excellence. Berkett’s legend continues to inspire generations of law students, who look to her ambition, commitment and success as a springboard to their own.

Tulane Law School Dean David Meyer said she built “a legendary career as one of the South’s most accomplished and formidable lawyers.”

In 2013, Tulane Law helped Berkett celebrate her 100th birthday, honoring her among the inaugural inductees into the Tulane Law School Hall of Fame. That year, she also spoke to the graduating class, encouraging them to find their way, even in a challenging economy, just as she had in the years after the Great Depression. “It will require your ingenuity and your determination,” she said, “whether you attack your problems as a group or each with a plan of your own. So, be brave. Good luck!”

“Marian Mayer Berkett was a singular figure and inspired generations of lawyers to look past barriers in their quest for excellence,” Dean Meyer said. “She personified the very best of Tulane Law School.”

Berkett passed away in June 2017, at 104 years old. She was Louisiana’s oldest living attorney and the last surviving member of the legendary 1937 class of Tulane Law, and she left an indelible legacy at Tulane and throughout the state. She will be fondly remembered and revered for years to come, and we will forever be grateful for her gracious gift.
A LIFE OF GIVING BACK: REMEMBERING JULIAN MURRAY

THREE THINGS STIRRED passion inside Julian Murray: His family, singing and the law.

The long-time director of Tulane Law School’s Trial Advocacy Program spent a lifetime fervently honoring all three, from raising a family, singing whenever and wherever he could and defending the rights of those whose voice was rarely heard.

Murray died in late September after suffering a debilitating stroke. His death touched thousands of students, friends, academics and former clients, some of whom he had helped release from long prison sentences.

“My dad was larger than life,” said Murray’s son, Shawn Murray (L ‘99), a lawyer in Mandeville. “Since his passing, friends, colleagues of his have used the words to describe him such as mentor, champion, warrior, fearless, giant. No matter what the challenge or how insurmountable the odds, my dad always knew what to do, how best to do it and he always persevered until the job was done.”

During his long career as a criminal defense attorney, Murray touched the lives of many people and took on cases—often pro bono—that others would not tackle.

“He believed so deeply that everyone, no matter what they had done or who they were or where they came from, deserved to be represented, he took on cases no one would,” said his daughter, Kathleen Murray Beach, who for years worked alongside her father as a paralegal.

As a longtime adjunct professor at Tulane, Murray influenced thousands of students who took his courses, none more popular than those where he taught real-life courtroom skills.

“I was just one of the many people who went on to have a successful law career because I had the benefit of Julian starting that program,” said Lynn Luker (L ‘81, LLM ‘85, LLM ‘92), an adjunct professor and co-director of the Trial Advocacy Program with Murray. “He made such a difference in my life.”

Murray graduated from Tulane Law School in 1964, starting his career as a prosecutor and eventually opening his own practice.

By the late 70s, Murray was an adjunct professor of law at Tulane and began to press for a trial advocacy program, recruiting talented young attorneys like Luker to help him shape the curriculum.

“This was the first program that gave real-life training,” said Luker, who succeeded Murray as the program’s director.

Despite the schedule he kept, Murray dedicated extraordinary amounts of time to doing pro bono work. He represented such high-profile clients as Wilbert Rideau, convicted by an all-white jury of killing a bank employee during a botched robbery. Rideau sat in Louisiana’s Angola prison for more than 40 years, becoming an author and journalist in prison.

Rideau said Murray took the work for free, never asking for a cent.

“I guess Julian, so pure of heart himself, wanted his gift to me—my freedom—to be pure as well,” he said.

When Murray decided in 2008 to step down as director of the Trial Advocacy Program, he told the Tulane Lawyer that he knew two things to be true about being faculty: He tired much more easily than when he started and that the students never tire.

With that, Murray said he’d teach and pass on his wisdom as long as he could, warning, “Man proposes, God disposes.”

The Eason-Weinmann Chair Emeritus, Yiannopoulos reshaped major parts of Louisiana’s civil code and helped guide generations of students. He joined the Tulane Law faculty in 1979 after 21 years at Louisiana State University. Paul Verkuil, Tulane Law dean in 1978–85, was known to say luring Yiannopoulos to New Orleans was the greatest accomplishment of his tenure.

“It is impossible to overstate what he meant to our community, both professionally and personally,” Dean David Meyer said. “We who were lucky enough to call him a friend know that his accomplishments as a scholar, teacher, and colleague—as truly great as they were—are only a small piece of his enormous personal legacy.”

The Louisiana Bar Journal recently called Yiannopoulos “Louisiana’s most influential jurist in our time.”

Professor Ron Scalise (L ’00), one of his former students who co-taught a civil law seminar with Yiannopoulos, said in a 2016 profile that he had “an encyclopedic mind” and influenced every aspect of property law.

“There isn’t a significant property case decided in Louisiana that doesn’t cite, consult or refer to his work,” Scalise said.

Yiannopoulos also was generous with his time as a mentor. Grateful friends and colleagues honored him through an endowed scholarship and an endowed professorship at Tulane bearing his name. In 2015, Yiannopoulos himself created an endowed scholarship fund that he intended to grow into a full-tuition award for a Tulane student focusing on civil and comparative law.

Born in the port city of Thessaloniki in Greece, Yiannopoulos had earned a law degree and served in the army before traveling to the United States to study for a master of comparative law degree at the University of Chicago through a Fulbright Fellowship.

He then received an LLM and JSD at the University of California, Berkeley, where he became friends with then-Dean William Prosser, author of one of the most-enduring textbooks on U.S. tort law.

After completing another doctorate at the University of Cologne, Yiannopoulos moved to Louisiana.

At Tulane, he helped launch the admiralty law program, continued to write the most-influential treatises available on Louisiana property law, brought international conferences to campus and taught a wide variety of civil law courses to thousands of students. He was elected a titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law and ran Tulane Law’s summer program in Greece for many years.

CIVIL LAW LEGEND AND EASON-WEINMANN CHAIR EMERITUS A.N. YIANNOPOULOS RESHAPED MAJOR PARTS OF LOUISIANA’S CIVIL CODE AND HELPED GUIDE GENERATIONS OF TULANE LAW STUDENTS.

HON. CLARENCE E. MCMANUS (B ’58, L ’61) 82, a retired chief judge in the 24th Judicial District Court and the Louisiana 5th Circuit Court of Appeal, died Sept. 22, 2016, in New Orleans. McManus practiced civil law in private practice and served as an assistant district attorney in Jefferson Parish (1970–1982) where he handled felony trials.

WALTER (ERIC) E. LUNDIN III (B ’60, L ’63), 79, a real estate lawyer and former Plaquemines Parish attorney, died May 18, 2018. In 2013, the Louisiana Bar Association recognized his 50th anniversary of practicing law. He served as president of the Louisiana Land Title Association, and represented the Mississippi River Bridge Authority in securing permits for the Crescent City Connection. In Plaquemines Parish, he was instrumental in founding the Mississippi River Bank, of which he also served as attorney and board member. After Hurricane Katrina he served as Plaquemines’ attorney during the recovery.

JAMES H. ROUSSEL (L ’64), 78, a maritime defense attorney whose career spanned 50 years, died Feb. 1, 2018. He worked for law firms in the New Orleans area, including Phelps Dunbar and Baker Donelson, and was involved in large-scale litigation including the BP oil spill class action lawsuit and was a lead counsel for the dredging interests in the Hurricane Katrina litigation. An avid maritime historian, Roussel...
THE HON. KALISTE J. SALOOM, JR. (L’42), who served four decades as the Judge for Lafayette City Court and transformed his beloved hometown, died Dec. 2, 2017 at the age of 99. Saloom, a decorated World War II veteran, was called a visionary by his local newspaper for his efforts in shaping Lafayette, where he was active in the Rotary Club, among other organizations.

Those who worked alongside him saw a brilliant legal mind. The son of Lebanese immigrants, Saloom lived through the Great Depression and opted for a profession that he believed could support a family.

After graduating as valedictorian from Cathedral High, Saloom earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Louisiana–Lafayette, formerly Southwestern Louisiana Institute. He graduated Order of the Coif from Tulane Law in 1942, immediately joining the military and serving in North Africa, France and Germany as a special agent in the U.S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps during WWII.

In 1946, Saloom opened his own legal practice before becoming a Judge in 1953. Saloom published many writings about the way a city court should be administered and received national honors for his work. He reformed the court system, which he considered corrupt. During his time as a judge, he was known to exchange mail with former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

An avid local historian, Saloom’s life was documented in a short documentary titled Judge Kaliste Saloom Jr., A Lafayette Legend. Saloom recounted his life, recollecting a great flood in 1927, capturing a two-star Nazi general during the war, and protecting British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The two-hour video was donated to the UL Lafayette library in a special dedication ceremony on May 15, Saloom’s 99th birthday.

Throughout his life, Saloom was a dedicated Tulanian, and his family represents five generations of graduates from Tulane and Tulane Law School. In honor of his life and his exemplary work in the legal profession, Saloom was inducted into the 2018 Tulane Law School Hall of Fame.

also mentored dozens of young lawyers throughout his career.

JOHN D. MORVANT (L ’65), 77, an attorney, journalist and educator, died Feb. 20, 2017, in New Orleans. He practiced law for years, later writing for The Times-Picayune and other publications, eventually breaking into television in Mississippi, Texas and Lafayette, La. In 1985, he was named news director of Western Systems, Inc., a chain of television and radio stations in Micronesia and Hawaii. There, he won local and regional awards and two national ACE awards for investigative reporting. After retiring, he became an adjunct professor of journalism at the University of Guam and was assistant to the university president.

WARREN A. GOLDSTEIN (L ’67), 74, who had the distinction of graduating first in his Tulane Law School class, died Nov. 14, 2017, in New Orleans. While at law school, he was the editor of the Tulane Law Review and was a member of the Order of the Coif. He served in the Judge Advocate General Corps after graduating law school, and was admitted to the Louisiana Bar in 1967. He was a partner with Stone Pigman until he entered private practice in a career that spanned 50 years. Goldstein was a philanthropist, and was elected Jewish Children’s Regional Service’s president, a favorite charity where he established numerous scholarship funds.

EDWARD GORDON “NED” RANDOLPH, JR. (L ’67), 74, former five-time Alexandria, La., mayor, died Oct. 4, 2016. He served in the Air Force Reserves and JAG Officer Corps of the Louisiana National Guard. He practiced law at Phelps Dunbar in New Orleans before returning to central Louisiana to open his own practice. He served three terms in the Louisiana Legislature as both a senator and house member. During his tenure as mayor, he helped Alexandria manage the closure on England Air Force Base, converting the facilities to businesses and an industrial park.

PHILIP JACKSON BRAY (L ’68), 74, a former attorney for Allegheny Power, died Dec. 8, 2017, in Hagerstown, Md. Bray graduated with honors from Colgate University and Tulane University Law School. After three years of private practice with the Baltimore firm of Venable, Baudet and Howard, Bray worked for 36 years as an attorney in the legal department for Allegheny Power. He was a former president of the Washington County Bar Association, a member of the Optimist Club of Washington County, and served on the John R. Marsh Cancer Education Committee.

FRED JENKS KING JR. (L ’70), 72, a former lead attorney for Tulane University’s Legal Assistance Program (TULAP), died May 4, 2017, in New Orleans. An avid competitive rower, King coached for the New Orleans Rowing Club and was proud to assist with the Tulane University crew. In the course of his extensive rowing career, he won seven gold medals, five silvers, and a bronze.

JOHN (JACK) H. NORMAN (L ’73), 74, a New Orleans attorney for more than four decades, died Sept. 29, 2016, in Huntsville, Ala. Norman owned Casey Title in New Orleans and was a member of numerous carnival organizations.

SCOTT CROUSE (L ’02), 39, a tax lawyer, died March 9, 2017, in Alabama. After graduating from Tulane Law, Crouse received a Master’s in Tax Law from the University of Miami. He eventually maintained a law office with Alabama State Sen. Tom Whatley.

JINGYI ZHANG (L ’09), 32, a contract and immigration lawyer, died Sept. 5, 2017, in California. Zhang graduated from Tulane Law in 2009, successfully passing the bar in California and New York before starting her legal career.

GWENDOLYN ARCHARD (L ’12), 31, a criminal defense attorney and a champion for the rights of the disabled, died Aug. 25, 2016, in New Orleans. Archard was born with cerebral palsy and made her mark as an undergraduate at the University of Virginia when she and a partner researched and presented “Trailblazers: The History and Lives of Students with Disabilities at the University of Virginia,” which highlighted the struggles of early UVA disabled students.
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9
- Tours of Tulane Law School
- Welcome luncheon with Dean David Meyer and State of the Law School Address
- Lectures and panel discussions featuring faculty and alumni (free CLE credit)
- Downtown cocktail party for all reunion classes and members of the Tulane Law Fellows

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10
- Tulane Law School Homecoming Tailgate
- Tulane Homecoming Game at Yulman Stadium
- Individual class parties at favorite New Orleans venues or a classmate’s home

For more information about Reunion Weekend and to see hotel blocks visit lawreunions.tulane.edu. To join your Class Committee and help make your reunion a success, email lawalumnirelations@tulane.edu.
“We’re counting on you. We’re counting on you to be our Generation Empathy, our Generation Cares, our Generation Gamechangers.”

HELEN MIRREN, UNIFIED COMMENCEMENT 2017

The Docket

DEPARTMENTS

2  Dean’s Memo
3  Briefs
10 Faculty News
28 Law School Events
39 Philanthropy
HONOR ROLL OF DONORS
52 Class Actions
REUNIONS • CLASS NOTES
• IN MEMORIAM

FEATURES

16 > LEGAL EDUCATION IN THE REAL WORLD
FROM CIVIL RIGHTS TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, TULANE LAW CLINICS PUT PRACTICE INTO PRACTICE.
By Linda Campbell

24 > 30 YEARS OF GOOD
TULANE’S PRO BONO PROGRAM HAS LOGGED MORE THAN 220,000 HOURS AND SHOWS NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN. By Alina Hernandez