GUNS IN MODERN AMERICA

The Thrower Symposium explores law, policy, and social movements

INSIDE

The Barton Center
Real-world work experience
Turner at twenty
AS I WRITE THIS, the search for a permanent dean for Emory University School of Law is in its final stages. The search committee has assembled a strong pool of legal scholars from peer and aspirant institutions who have a range of professional experiences and/or have held positions relevant for a deanship of Emory’s caliber. The applicant pool represents considerable diversity regarding gender and underrepresented minority status. By the fall, the law school should have some new faculty members and a new dean, someone to guide the school to new levels of eminence in legal education. Serving as your interim dean has been the honor of my 27-year career at Emory. The past two years have given me a broader view of the impact of what we do as well as a deeper connection to our alumni. These are experiences I look forward to maintaining in the coming years.

Alumni, your dedication to the school has been and remains an inspiration to me. Your engagement, your financial support, your service as adjuncts and advisors and, most of all, your deep involvement with our students is a crucial part of Emory Law’s current and continued success.

By the fall, the law school should have some new faculty members and a new dean, someone to guide the school to new levels of eminence in legal education. Serving as your interim dean has been the honor of my 27-year career at Emory. The past two years have given me a broader view of the impact of what we do as well as a deeper connection to our alumni. These are experiences I look forward to maintaining in the coming years.

Alumni, your dedication to the school has been and remains an inspiration to me. Your engagement, your financial support, your service as adjuncts and advisors and, most of all, your deep involvement with our students is a crucial part of Emory Law’s current and continued success.

Thank you for your support during my tenure as Emory Law’s interim dean. We turn toward our next chapter together, buoyed by optimism and enthusiasm for our shared future.

James B. Hughes Jr.
Interim Dean
A community of learners

From gun control to greater environmental responsibility, Emory Law is where difficult conversations can lead to greater understanding, mutual respect, and the skills it takes to change the world for the better.

PHOTOGRAPH BY KAY HINTON
The Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic, part of the Barton Child Law and Policy Center, serves a challenging population: at-risk youth, a population of children under the age of 17 who have been referred to the juvenile justice system, many of whom are also neglected or abused within their homes and communities. The Metro Atlanta youth who come to the Barton Center for representation in the juvenile justice system are all alleged to have violated a state criminal law. These violations range from minor trespass and making threats over social media to theft and possession of drugs or weapons.

“We’re all better than the decisions we made when we were four years old,” says Professor Melissa Carter, executive director of the Barton Child Law and Policy Center. Many of these children are engaging in “normative teenage behavior for youth of all races,” Professor Randee Waldman, director of the Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic, says, but only some find their transgressions escalated to court.

At the Barton Center, children are treated holistically, receiving legal services in their juvenile court proceedings; represented at their schools’ special education and disciplinary hearings; and provided with resources enabling them to gain access to mental health and housing services, among other resources the state provides.
THE BARTON CENTER KEEPS its young clients’ circumstances confidential, but to understand a typical case, consider this hypothetical scenario:

Joseph is being raised within the foster system, though his maternal grandmother has contact with him and sees him occasionally. He has a special education teacher for a few subjects at school but has trouble paying attention in class because he’s often tired from working evenings at a part-time job. One night, Joseph is commuting home after work on MARTA and encounters a few friends when he disembarks his train. Their casual greeting stretches into a longer, bigger, louder conversation as other classmates join them. Joseph misjudges how to conduct himself when an officer approaches the group with a few questions. What is he doing? How long has he been there? What’s in his backpack? John, like most teenagers, does not know how he’s expected to cooperate or what he’s obligated to answer. Before the interaction ends, Joseph is charged with loitering and obstruction of a law enforcement officer.

Imagine dozens of Josephs, unaware of their rights and uncertain how to defend themselves against charges—whether innocent or guilty of the accusation. Helping children navigate the system is not simply an act of benevolence; rather, it is an essential, rehabilitative service owed to children by the state. And there is a remarkable need for this service in metro Atlanta.

The Barton Child Law and Policy Center, established in 2000, exists as a result of a gift made after a high-profile Atlanta child fatality case. The child’s death, as Carter describes it, “put Georgia on the cover of TIME magazine and Oprah’s couch, and became the catalyst for demanding greater system openness.” Given that Georgia’s child welfare systems are taxpayer-funded, the public has a “need to understand how those systems are operating and the outcomes the systems are achieving,” Carter says. The Barton Center’s aim is to intervene correctively to promote children’s rights in the juvenile court system and to support at-risk youth through a three-pronged clinic approach. On a fundamental level, the Barton Center’s clinics comprise a complete portfolio of protections for children: preventive research and legislative advocacy; legal advocacy and representation; and post-conviction relief.

Carter, who directs the Barton Center, also oversees the Public Policy and Legislative Advocacy Clinic. Within this clinic, Carter, who has devoted time to foster care and child advocacy scholarship, including topics such as medical oversight for children in the system, works with Emory Law students to research contemporary children’s issues to provide fact sheets, talking points, and other resources for children’s advocates and lawyers, or to partners involved in strategizing for legislative changes. “We conduct research, write op-eds, and attend a lot of meetings as thought partners,” Carter says. “The nature of the
work is to be present for conversations and use our research and data to develop policies and guide decisions of those in positions of authority.”

**Carter Makes a Simple but Significant Point in the Justice System, Children are Treated Differently from Adults Because Children are from Different from Adults. Perhaps the biggest difference is that the juvenile justice system aims to be corrective rather than punitive. Within the Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic, established in 2006 and directed by Waldman, Emory Law students provide legal representation to children accused of violating Georgia criminal law. “Professor Waldman makes sure that children are understood as full people with complex backgrounds and strengths,” Carter says. Every child in the system has a story, and Waldman makes sure that story is represented in court. “These are kids who’ve done something we’ve disappeared of,” Waldman says. “They’re not bad kids—but some of them do require intervention to correct the path.”

Conveying the children’s perspectives and circumstances is an essential part of advocacy. Carter points out, “Someone standing accused before the court is more willing to accept the outcome if they feel like they’ve been heard and understood correctly.”

“There are five students working with her in the clinic to ensure that children’s stories are heard start to finish—and with appropriate context—in a way that represents what the child truly believes has taken place. Accordingly, youth are more complaint with service interventions and in building self-reflection about what they’ve been accused of doing,” Carter says. “They accept the social and legal norms around them and conform their behavior in a pro-social way.”

In those rare instances where cases have gone to trial and youth have been sentenced, Waldman notes in the juvenile justice system, favorable outcomes are the desire, Waldman says, “It’s rare for cases to even go to trial. Either something happens in preparation for the case that will cause it to be dismissed or for the youth to be understood in his or her innocence, or we will reach an agreement with the state as to an appropriate resolution of the case gives all of the facts and circumstances.”

In those rare instances where cases have gone to trial and youth have been sentenced, Waldman notes in the juvenile justice system, favorable outcomes are the desire. Waldman says, “It’s rare for cases to even go to trial. Either something happens in preparation for the case that will cause it to be dismissed or for the youth to be understood in his or her innocence, or we will reach an agreement with the state as to an appropriate resolution of the case gives all of the facts and circumstances.”

In those rare instances where cases have gone to trial and youth have been sentenced, Waldman notes in the juvenile justice system, favorable outcomes are the desire. Waldman says, “It’s rare for cases to even go to trial. Either something happens in preparation for the case that will cause it to be dismissed or for the youth to be understood in his or her innocence, or we will reach an agreement with the state as to an appropriate resolution of the case gives all of the facts and circumstances.”

In those rare instances where cases have gone to trial and youth have been sentenced, Waldman notes in the juvenile justice system, favorable outcomes are the desire. Waldman says, “It’s rare for cases to even go to trial. Either something happens in preparation for the case that will cause it to be dismissed or for the youth to be understood in his or her innocence, or we will reach an agreement with the state as to an appropriate resolution of the case gives all of the facts and circumstances.”
During his 23-year career as a trial attorney, Jeremy Stein 94L has done it all. He was a criminal defense attorney in Atlanta. He worked in civil practice and family court. He was a prosecutor with the attorney general's office in Washington, DC. And from 2014 to 2017, he was the managing partner for a major northeastern firm. Stein’s was a career that would be the envy of any newly minted law school graduate.

Yet, despite all of his success, something was missing. “The reason I became a lawyer in the first place is because I wanted to help people,” Stein said. “I thought what I did as a lawyer would have a greater impact on people’s lives, but I was really just a cog in a broken system.”

Stein said that while he had a positive, even life-changing impact on an individual level with clients, he wanted to do something on a larger scale: He wanted to work on gun violence prevention. For Stein, this was more than a public policy interest. It was personal.
It's gun owners vs. non-gun owners. That's not the debate I use as an advocate," he said. According to its website, CATF's mission is to reduce gun violence in Connecticut and the way the organization does that is by enacting and protecting the state's gun safety laws, ensuring their effective administration and supporting nonlegislative measures to reduce gun violence.

As a measure of success, Stein points to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence (named for former Arizona Rep. Gabby Giffords), which ranks Connecticut's gun laws third strongest in the nation. Giffords also tracked the death rate from gun violence as the fifth lowest among the 50 states.

In the 2018 election, CATF revamped its process of endorsing candidates. They looked at gun-related votes going back 10 years and even included amended and committee voting, endorsing only those candidates Stein called "true leaders" on the issue. More than 60 percent of CATF-endorsed candidates won.

"We hear the argument a lot," Stein said. "It's gun owners vs. non-gun owners. That's not even the debate anymore. Most gun owners, I've heard, are a permit, support background checks and safe storage. It's the gap between zealots and people who want to be safe in their communities."
Real-world work experience

Experiential and practical learning programs take students out of the classroom and place them into a world of opportunity.

BY LISA ASHMORE • PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANN WATSON
“When you’re sitting in an interview and somebody asks you something specific, and you can respond and say I’ve actually done that, I think it’s a tremendous advantage,” says Cody Keetch ’19L. Emory Law’s varied experiential opportunities were part of the reason he chose to attend, and he completed four externships in three years. In fall 2018, he was an extern at Arshack, Hajek & Lehrman in New York City, where Lynn Hajek BSL ’85L is a partner. He expects to join Garfunkel Wild as a health care associate in their New York office this fall.

Keetch worked with Director of Externships and Professor of Practice Sarah Shall to structure the 2018 externship, where he was typically in the office three to four days a week.

“It was absolutely incredible. Being there almost full time allowed me to have my own caseload—under supervision, of course—but I was treated like an associate,” Keetch said. “I got to go to court with them and see everything—see a case develop from start to finish. I got to sit in on strategy meetings and have my voice heard, meet judges, and see how the entire New York court system operates.”

Keetch said, and he spent four weeks in the CDC medical malpractice rotation. He researched Emory Law graduates who specialized in medical malpractice, approached Hajek, and they met for coffee.

“At that point, I wasn’t looking for a job or an externship, it was just a casual ‘How did you get here?’ Then in May I was thinking about doing this … I emailed Lynn after I got permission from Professor Shall, and Lynn agreed to let me be an extern for her.”

Emory Law also offers a small-firm externship program that exposes students to the business of running a small practice. Students apply and rank preapproved firms they’re interested in, and the firms, in turn, rank students.

“Then I match them based on their respective rankings of each other,” Shall said. “If I run out of positions with firms we’ve worked with before, I reach out to other firms I know of or who have been recommended to me, who work in the practice areas the student is interested in. Those attorneys provide the content for the course—the they come to the class and do Q-and-A with the students on topics related to small-firm practice.”

Since moving from Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore to Emory in 2012, Shall has expanded Emory’s web of opportunities in the Atlanta area and beyond. One of her favorites is at The Coca-Cola Company, which offers legal externships only to Emory Law students.

“They take 10 to 15 students every semester, in everything from commercial litigation to global marketing. They have a weekly meeting for externs where they hear from leaders throughout the company about their perspective on the business and the work that the lawyers at the company do,” Shall said. She also mentioned Atlanta Legal Aid, which placed about 24 Emory Law students this past semester in offices throughout metro Atlanta.

Another unique opportunity is with US District Court Judge Amy Totenberg, who oversees the New York court system.

“She’s a multidisciplinary child law program pursuing multiple aims simultaneously,” Carter said. “She’s always about promoting and protecting the rights and interests of children who are involved in the juvenile court, child welfare, and the juvenile justice systems. We want students to get real world experience what it means to be a child advocacy professional and to have impact—from the classroom, to the courtroom, to the courtroom. Students get a holistic experience because of Emory Law’s quest for an educational process that will adapt students for academic analysis of family law.

“We have some of the top scholars in child law and children’s rights,” she said. “The doctrinal work and those studies complement what we do here on the experiential learning side. Students can gain both knowledge and practice solving real-world problems on behalf of real clients—and we do all in a way that feels fulfilling and expands their knowledge and expands their skills.”

“The Barton Center gave me the opportunity to work with real clients, which provides a sense of fulfillment because you can see how your legal knowledge directly helps a child in need.”

“Day-in-day-out, students in our clinics are doing the important work of general child law practice and appellate advocacy on behalf of our clients,” Carter said. “Our child-clients experience great value from having an advocate in the courtroom who represents their interests in family court.”

Students post-graduation, but they can also be proud of the clinic’s overarching mission.

“The work of the Barton Center, whether it be in our direct representation clinics or our system improvement efforts, is really about making sure that the institutions and agencies are there to serve and protect vulnerable children do so with integrity,” Carter said.

Emory Law’s experiential learning opportunities provide work experience in different types of practice so students can determine which suits them best and develop relationships—and confidence in their abilities—that will continue as they begin their legal careers.
A fundamental privilege of being an alumnus (and some would say an obligation) is using our skills and resources to make communities better places to live, work, and raise families.

Whether through pro bono work or dedicating your professional career to an underserved segment of the population, Emory lawyers have served important civic roles seeking social justice for more than a century, and we are still going strong.

This is one reason why Emory lawyers focus on issues touching many of our lives. No one can dispute that discussion and debate about the First Amendment is a near constant among politicians, in the courts, and around many dinner tables. As you will read, we explore the intersection of important Constitutional rights, mental health, and public safety that was at the core of the annual Thrower Symposium earlier this year. We also highlight the critical services Emory students and alumni provide through the Barton Child Law and Policy Center. Finally, you will read about Emory law’s commitment to insuring the availability of pro bono work and how students get involved as soon as they arrive their first year.

This spring, we again gathered to celebrate Emory Law Alumni Weekend (1x18). I hope that many of you were able to come to Atlanta to reconnect with classmates and see firsthand the wonderful programs and energy at Emory Law. In 2020, Emory will be held April 17–19. Please make every effort to attend, particularly those alumni in classes ending in 0, 5, and 0. This award isn’t given annually, but awarded periodically based on need. Feestman is a correspondent with Boice Courtade.

Joseph Negrón Jr. BS has been appointed senior vice president, general counsel, and chief compliance officer for the CEO Board in Boca Raton, Florida.

This day will be the 65th anniversary of my graduation from Emory Law School,” writes Marty R. Rabin ’91. “I am looking forward to the National Civil Rights Race on July 4th.”

Awards, which recognizes 18 EMORY LAWYER 6.2-mile Peachtree Road is using our skills and resources to make communities better places to live, work, and raise families.

This time in Emory lawyer focuses on issues involving many of our lives. No one can dispute that discussion and debate about the First Amendment is a near constant among politicians, in the courts, and around many dinner tables. As you will read, we explore the intersection of important Constitutional rights, mental health, and public safety that was at the core of the annual Thrower Symposium earlier this year. We also highlight the critical services Emory students and alumni provide through the Barton Child Law and Policy Center. Finally, you will read about Emory law’s commitment to insuring the availability of pro bono work and how students get involved as soon as they arrive their first year.

For his work featured Uber’s Tony 73, for his work featured

“The time has come to sail Too Many published by Kennedning Boldon on December 18, 2018. As vice president of human resources (Jill Hamm), has some fault in the most exclusive gated community in California—Death Row at San Quentin.” You see rows in Prescott, Arizona, with her husband, Nancy

William Hawthorne III BS, 1977, was named chief equity officer of the City of Atlanta by Mayoral Councillor Gaga Lintz, 77, was appointed as the chief of law enforcement in the most exclusive gated community in California—Death Row at San Quentin.” You see rows in Prescott, Arizona, with her husband, Nancy

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.

Kevin M. Kearney 87L was elected as judge of the Superior Court of California, Bell-Fairny Judicial District, on December 21, 2018. Scott “dillot” Duggill 74L was appointed as judge of the 18TH Civil District Court in Harrison County, Texas, on November 5, 2017.
Rohan Shah ODL was promoted to partner at Scavo Hollifield in Lynchburg, New Jersey, office.

Jennifer Fairbairn Deal 20 joined the firm’s Atlanta office as a shareholder.

Jeffrey D. Steele 12L joined Schiff & Shapiro in its San Francisco office as an associate in September.

Dan Slabik 04C 18L was selected as a recommended attorney for the 2018 edition of Legal 500 US for civil litigation investigations and defense for the second consecutive year. He is a senior associate in Hopen Lovelace’s Charlotte, North Carolina, office.

Barret Broussard 13L was elected vice president and president-elect of the New Orleans Bar Association. He is a personal injury and business attorney with the firm’s New Orleans office.

Nicole Bigman 18L joined the Salt Lake City office of Shands Graham Lepectam as an associate.

In memoriam

Jackson O. Studdiford 75L, on September 1, 2018.

Robert Thomas Ehrle Jr. 53L, on October 22, 2018.


George M. Babarco 52C 6L, on September 21, 2018.


Chester G. Rosenburg 74L, on November 23, 2018.

Roger Daniel Howard 76L, on January 23, 2019.

Timothy Samuel Mirchak 77C 7L, on November 5, 2018.

Edward P. Fitzgerald 79L, on September 21, 2018.

Stephan L. Thompson 77C 7L, on November 5, 2018.

Richard L. Wyatt Jr. 79L, on November 29, 2018.

A partner in the Washington, office of Hartung Andrews Kurth, Wyatt served as co-head of its litigation department. The highly regarded Emory law alumnus and current Emory law in honor of his mentor, Eric Phillips, who recently established an endowed scholarship, and the Richard L. Wyatt Graduate Program in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University.

Melissa Akhter 14L joined Winkle & Winkle as a real estate associate, where she focuses on commercial real estate transactions with an emphasis on multifamily and commercial development, leasing, and construction financing.

Nora Benavidez 14L was named executive of US Free Expression Programs at PEN America.

Craig Samuel 14L recently joined Hartman Semora & Wood in Atlanta. A member of the Corporate Practice Group, he focuses on mergers and acquisitions, private equity investments, and related commercial real estate transactions.

Emory’s contributions of Big cats, big opportunities, and big honors are submitted by alumni and are not verified by the alumni office. Please send your updates to lawcommunications@emory.edu.
Alumni and advisory boards encourage, guide, and inspire

by Patti Ghezzi

In the lead
Alumni advisory boards encourage, guide, and inspire

The 3L ON THE SKYPE CALL

By Patti Ghezzi

Alumni and advisory boards encourage, guide, and inspire

by Patti Ghezzi

In the lead
Alumni and advisory boards encourage, guide, and inspire
Lee M. Gordon 77L, judge at the United States Court of International Trade in New York City, currently serves on the Advisory Board and previously served on the Alumni Board. “I love the law school, and I am happy to help,” he said. “It’s a way that I can continue to give back in a meaningful way.”

Gordon enjoys the in-depth discussions Advisory Board members have on questions posed by the dean. “It’s an advisory board, not just a Board by a board member a/f_ter an informal Board and previously served on the Alumni and Alumni governance documents for the Alumni and Advisory boards to clarify members’ roles and ensure everyone gets the most out of the experience. Board members serve three-year terms and are chosen through a nominating process. To be considered for a board, an alumnus must have a history of philanthropic support of Emory Law and a demonstrated passion for the law school. The boards value diversity in all forms, including background, careers, and geography.

Cohen was recruited to the Alumni Board by a board member after an informal chat about law school reunions. She serves on the board of the National Women’s Party, an organization founded in the early 1900s to advocate for suffrage, as well as other organizations, experiences that equipped her to be an effective Alumni Board member. She appreciates the opportunity to demonstrate how a lawyer can transition mid-career from big law to a smaller firm.

“I have a strong interest in the law school and in helping students explore their career options,” she said. “The more career pathways we can represent, the better. … For me, it has been an honor to serve.”

Big cats over big law
Alumna makes documentary about endangered tigers

Elizabeth Baldwin McGovern 95L became a lawyer so she could stand up for those who need a voice. Instead of standing in a courtroom, McGovern’s unconventional career path landed her in the wilds of India and Nepal, making a documentary about endangered tigers.

“The skills I learned at Emory Law are effective in advocating for animal rights,” said McGovern, who serves on the law school’s Advisory Board. “There is not one path, I knew eventually I wanted to end up in advocacy.”

She started her career in-house corporate counsel. She and her husband are both lawyers, but they are entrepreneurs at heart. They focused on their roles as venture capitalists, buying, growing, and selling companies. When they had the opportunity to give back, they started a foundation.

McGovern was interested in issues affecting populations, civil and human rights, animal welfare, and immigration. One of her companies used film to educate teachers, and through that venture McGovern realized what a powerful medium film is. “The beauty of film is in the art form, the way it triggers emotion,” she said. “It’s an incredible tool for advocacy.”

She took film courses at Emory and other schools and worked on film crews. From there she partnered with others who shared her interest in documentaries that inspire social change. Her latest project with Rescue Doc Films turns a lens on the tiger, which she calls “the most majestic apex predator.” Yet there are only about four,000 tigers remaining in the wild.

She and the Rescue Doc film team traveled to the United Kingdom, India, and Nepal. They learned that a largely unregulated market for tigers in the United States or exactly what happens to them. As they had the opportunity to give back, they started a foundation. McGovern is an example of creative ways Emory Law alumni use the skills they learned in law school. She started her career as in-house corporate counsel. She took film courses at Emory and other schools and worked on film crews. From there she partnered with others who shared her interest in documentaries that inspire social change. Her latest project with Rescue Doc Films turns a lens on the tiger, which she calls “the most majestic apex predator.” Yet there are only about 4,000 tigers remaining in the wild.

Her team plans to complete editing on the film by the end of the year. McGovern’s work turns federal legislation to stop private ownership of tigers and to require existing pet owners to register their big cats. The Big Cat Public Safety Act has bipartisan support but faces challenges among legislators who are reluctant to regulate exotic pets and associated breeding. McGovern, who promotes the issue as one of public safety. There have been cases of privately owned tigers roaming neighborhoods, being held in urban apartments, and jumping out of burning homes, endangering bystanders and first responders.

“No one knows how many tigers are owned privately in the United States or exactly what happens to them. As they cars they are used in fairs and traveling petting zoos to sell photo opportunities. Data suggests that when they mature, many are killed for illegal trade, fueling the market that is endangering tigers that live in the wild.”

Some advocates interviewed for the film believe that without dramatic intervention tigers will be extinct in 30 years. In many countries, advocates are using education to curtail poaching, human-tiger conflict, and deforestation. “But efforts will not be successful if we don’t work together to stop poaching and the overall demand for tiger parts,” McGovern said, adding that a portion of that responsibility involves the United States. She hopes the documentary will bring the public awareness necessary to influence legislators to support the ban on private ownership of tigers.

McGovern, who has traveled to all seven continents, splits her time between Santa Rosa Beach and Atlanta. Her team plans to complete editing on the film by the end of the year.

Courtney Stombock, associate dean for Advancement and Alumni Engagement, calls McGovern “an entrepreneur and philanthropist in the grandest sense.”

McGovern is an example of creative ways Emory Law alumni use the skills they learned in law school. Said Stombock: “She embodies that idea that law school is excellent training no matter what path you follow or where your passions lead.”
Leadership, devotion, commitment

EPIC recognizes 2019 Inspiration Award winners

On February 5, Emory Law hosted the 23rd annual Emory Public Interest Committee’s (EPIC) Inspiration Awards, which honored a retired professor, a community member, and an Emory Law graduate for exceptional public service.

Frank S. Alexander
Lifetime Commitment to Public Service

Frank S. Alexander is founding director of Emory’s Center for the Study of Law and Religion and Sam Nunn Professor of Law Emeritus. Alexander’s distinguished career spans more than four decades of exceptional achievements in law, education, and scholarship.

In 1978, Alexander earned a JD at Harvard Law School and an MTS at Harvard Divinity School. Simultaneously with his real estate law career, first as associate and then of counsel with Rutak Rock, he joined the Emory University faculty full-time. There, he was instrumental in leading and developing the joint degree program between Emory University School of Law and Candler School of Theology, as well as founding the Center for the Study of Law and Religion. “I’ve always been drawn to moral philosophy and the law,” Alexander explains. “As an educator, I gravitate toward those topics, and in my law career, my passion for working with vulnerable populations is heavily influenced by those ideas.”

Alexander’s lifetime of work in the field of real estate finance and local government law—with a focus on affordable housing and community development—allowed him to put his passion for making a difference into action. Early in his career, he worked to find housing for the homeless and for adults with chronic mental illness. He served as senior fellow at the Carter Center, working on “The Atlanta Project” to alleviate poverty through low income housing and neighborhood redevelop- ment. And he was co-founder and senior advisor for the Center for Community Progress. Alexander’s commitment to Emory and his support of EPIC’s efforts to raise the profile of public interest law have helped public service remain accessible to students. As interim dean of Emory Law, he matched donations raised by EPIC—donating $80,000 in funds from the Deans Discretionary Account—and, since 2015, he has facilitated a $200,000 increase in EPIC’s permanent endowment. “It has been a great privilege and honor to be a part of this community for these many years,” Alexander reflects upon his recent retirement.

Jason Costa 99C 06L
Unsung Devotion to Those Most in Need

Jason Costa 99C 06L was recognized for his tireless efforts in advising and advocating for indigent clients on behalf of the DeKalb County Public Defender’s Office, providing not only expert legal representation, but compassion for the men and women counting on his aid.

“For most people, being charged with a criminal offense is among the most stressful and challenging experiences of their life,” Costa explains. “I try to focus my efforts on helping them through this incredibly difficult experience by listening to them, giving them the best advice I can, and being a zealous and passionate advocate on their behalf.”

Costa’s experiences at Emory Law and his relationship with EPIC further confirmed his calling into public interest law—including being part of the Georgia Innocence Project team that uncovered evidence exonerating Clarence Harrison, who served 17 years in prison for a crime he didn’t commit. “I had phenomenal experiences at Emory that still shape the lawyer I am today,” he says.

“EPIC was my greatest passion in law school, and my work in supporting public interest both in the Emory community and beyond was incredibly rewarding,” says Costa. “That time is where I feel I began to really do the important work of helping others.”

In addition to his role as supervising attorney for the DeKalb County Public Defender’s Office, Costa shares his expertise and knowledge in the classroom as an adjunct professor at Emory Law. “The most rewarding aspect of public interest law, for me, is seeing the impact that my work has on real people every day,” Costa reflects. “The legal process can be so intimidating, but when I see my client’s excitement when I get a case dismissed, or if I negotiate a good plea or verdict at their trial, just knowing I’ve affected the direction of their life in a substantial way, that’s a great feeling.”

Azadeh Shahshahani
Outstanding Leadership in the Public Interest

Legal and Advocacy director for Project South, Azadeh Shahshahani’s exceptional leadership in the public interest arena—working primarily to advocate for and defend the human rights and civil liberties of immigrants and Muslim, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities—is an expression of her long-time passion for justice for all.

With a JD from the University of Michigan Law School, she took a position with the ACLU of North Carolina, serving as interim legal associate and Muslim/Middle Eastern Community Outreach Coordinator. “This was the height of the post-9/11 government crackdown on Muslims,” she recalls. “There wasn’t anything in place to protect the human rights of the state’s large Muslim community. So, I started the work. Soon I realized that combating discrimination and surveillance against Muslim and immigrant communities fits well into the kind of human rights work I really wanted to do.”

In the fall of 2005, Shahshahani became interim legal director at the ACLU of Georgia, rising to the role of national security/migration rights project director, where she fought to ensure that treatment of immigrant and refugee communities in Georgia was on par with constitutional and international human rights standards. She served as president of the National Lawyers Guild and has served in her current role at Project South since 2010.

Shahshahani’s work has a profound impact that has been recognized on numerous occasions; she has received the US Human Rights Network’s Human Rights Movement Builder Award, the American Immigration Lawyers’ Association Advocacy Award and the UGA Law School’s Equal Justice Foundation Public Interest Practitioner Award. “What I find to be the most rewarding is working with directly impacted community members and organizing,” says Shahshahani. “Knowing that our legal work helps support the movement for social justice is greatly satisfying.”
For the good of the people
Center for Public Service helps students find pro bono opportunities
by A. Kenyatta Greer

In January 2015, Emory Law established a center that would be dedicated to supporting students who plan for careers in public interest and government and who seek postgraduate judicial clerkships or postgraduate public interest fellowships. The new Center for Public Service also began helping students find pro bono volunteer opportunities to satisfy their personal goals and professional requirements.

The center’s students, staff, and faculty often work closely with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. In fact, the society—which provides free legal civil legal aid to low-income people across metro Atlanta—hosted a training session for students in the fall of this academic year. In this session, students learned how to assist with client intake and screening. This is a common activity for students, especially during the fall. October is regularly a month of show and tell for the center, as the spotlight is on pro bono activities nationwide. The American Bar Association celebrates Pro Bono week then, and many state bar associations and other organizations have adopted month-long celebrations for pro bono activities and education. Emory Law has unofficially extended the week to include the entire month. Also in October, the school held its annual pro bono dinner recognizing returning students who received certificates for providing at least 25 more pro bono hours during the previous year. This event kicked off the 2017–2018 Public Interest Dinner Series, during which Stephen Bright, former director, president, and senior counsel of the Southern Center for Human Rights, shared his experiences and holding elected office, among other things.

The Center for Public Service has helped to stoke interest in public interest careers among students. Just four years into Sheffey’s stint as director of the center, its profile has been expanded and students have been exposed to opportunities that might broaden their experience, expand their capacity for empathy, and provide access to legal representation for a population who might never have found such help before.

“Public service makes a lawyer happier and more well-rounded, and it benefits the communities in which we live and work.” Rita Sheffey, Director of the Center for Public Service

The annual honor, which was first awarded in 2012 to Sheffey herself, celebrates the assistant dean as the creator of the Emory Public Interest Law Section and former resident of the boards of the Atlanta Bar Association, the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, and the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation.

Pro Bono is an essential element of being a professional, Sheffey says, and it comes in many forms: pro bono legal work for low-income individuals and non-profit organizations, service on non-profit boards, government service, and holding elected office, among other things.

The Center for Public Service has helped to stoke interest in public interest careers among students. Just four years into Sheffey’s stint as director of the center, its profile has been expanded and students have been exposed to opportunities that might broaden their experience, expand their capacity for empathy, and provide access to legal representation for a population who might never have found such help before.

“Public service makes a lawyer and law student, happier and more well-rounded, and it benefits the communities in which we live and work. As lawyers, we are uniquely suited to provide access to justice for those who otherwise could not afford it.” Sheffey says.

PUBLIC SERVICE

Students soar

Journal leadership

Please join us in congratulating the new members of the Executive Board for Volume 69 of the Emory Law Journal

Editor-in-Chief: Rashmi Borah 20L
Executive Articles Editor: Christine Thomas 20L
Executive Notes and Comments Editor: Rashmi Borah 20L
Executive Managing Editors: George Brewster 20L, Austin Paalz 20L, Linden Wait 20L, Noreen Broussaux-Coutard 21L, and Event Coordinator Matthew Freifeld 20L

Burton Award

The finest law school writers of 2019 were announced by the Burton Awards, a national non-profit program, which is run in association with the Library of Congress, presented by lead sponsor Law360, and co-sponsored by the American Bar Association. Tyler Quinn Yeargain 19L was among the ten winners for his piece, “Discretion Versus Supervision: Calibrating the Power Balance Between Local Prosecutors and State Officials.”

Scholarship recipient

Noémie Broussaux-Coutard 21L was chosen to attend the International Trademark Annual Meeting in May.

IRAP Award

Emory Law’s chapter of the International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) received the IRAP Best Chapter Award for 2018—chosen by IRAP’s national leadership—among 31 student chapters in the US, Canada, and UK. The award was given on September 29, 2018, at the annual IRAP National Student Summit, held in New York.

IRAP President Linden West 20L, keynote speaker former USUN Ambassador Samantha Power, First-Year Representative Kamal Javid 21L, Caseworker Nourlette Nunes 21L, and Event Coordinator Matthew Freifeld 20L.

During the 2017–2018 academic year, students accomplished the following:

99 students reported more than 3,600 hours of pro bono work.

This work supported numerous nonprofit and government organizations.

2 Emory Law volunteer clinics and Emory Law’s

5 academic credit clinics—beyond what is required for credit.

30 graduating students received the coveted Pro Bono Publico medal to wear at Commencement. JD students must provide at least 75 hours of pro bono service during their tenure at Emory Law to receive the medal, LLM students receive a medal for at least 50 hours of service while at Emory.

60 students received a Pro Bono Certificate for completing at least 25 pro bono hours.
IN THE MID-SEVENTIES, Lois Gibbs, a housewife raising her family in a quiet Niagara Falls, New York, neighborhood, noticed that her children and many of their friends were getting sick. She started asking questions, and when she didn’t get answers, she went door-to-door and formed an advocacy group. The Love Canal Homeowners Association, as it would be called, would eventually uncover that the housing development was built on a toxic waste dump and that highly toxic chemicals were leaching into the groundwater.

Gibbs’s activism became the foundation of American environmental law. The Turner Clinic’s reputation for filling in gaps helped it gather a who’s who of other lawyers, academics, and former government officials, developed a complex, multiyear legal strategy to protect the nation’s public lands. As a first step in implementing this strategy, the clinic used the Freedom of Information Act to force the Department of Interior to make important decision-making documents publicly available.

IN THE MID-SEVENTIES, Lois Gibbs, a housewife raising her family in a quiet Niagara Falls, New York, neighborhood, noticed that her children and many of their friends were getting sick. She started asking questions, and when she didn’t get answers, she went door-to-door and formed an advocacy group. The Love Canal Homeowners Association, as it would be called, would eventually uncover that the housing development was built on a toxic waste dump and that highly toxic chemicals were leaching into the groundwater. When she didn’t get answers, she went door-to-door and formed an advocacy group. The Love Canal Homeowners Association, as it would be called, would eventually uncover that the housing development was built on a toxic waste dump and that highly toxic chemicals were leaching into the groundwater.

Gibbs’s activism became the foundation of American environmental law. The Turner Clinic’s reputation for filling in gaps helped it gather a who’s who of other lawyers, academics, and former government officials, developed a complex, multiyear legal strategy to protect the nation’s public lands. As a first step in implementing this strategy, the clinic used the Freedom of Information Act to force the Department of Interior to make important decision-making documents publicly available.
Ensuring access

An Emory Law education ensures our graduates are prepared to enter the workforce and make an immediate impact—whether that is in a law firm, in government, in public interest, or in the corporate world. The generous support of our alumni and friends helps to offset the expense of a quality legal education. Highlighted here are a few of these gifts.

Thomas L. Bisanz 75B 80L and Susan H. Bisanz made a gift to establish the Thomas L. Bisanz Endowed Scholarship for the Center for Transactional Law and Practice. Bisanz serves apartment management and leasing companies as a designated broker throughout the United States. He is a licensed broker in more than four states and the District of Columbia in which he represents clients. Bisanz has been actively licensed as an attorney specializing in real estate for more than three years. His designated broker representation of clients has become a full-time practice for him. He has worked with the apartment industry his entire career.

David S. Cohen 94L and Craig A. Benson made a gift to support the Volunteer Clinic for Veterans and increased their estate gift to the David S. Cohen Scholarship in Law. During his time at Emory Law, Cohen received an award that covered a quarter of his tuition. Cohen is a litigator at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy who made partner in 2002. Cohen serves on Emory Law’s Advisory Board. In addition to creating the David S. Cohen scholarship, he and his husband, Craig, host the annual admitted students reception in Washington, DC.

The law firm of Levin Papantonio Thomas Mitchell Rafferty & Proctor made a five-year commitment to support the Institute for Complex Litigation and Mass Claims. Since 1995, Levin Papantonio has earned a reputation as one of the most successful personal injury law firms in the nation. Their attorneys handle claims throughout the country involving prescription drugs, medical devices, defective products, consumer protection, and all other types of personal injury claims.

EMORY LAW ALUMNI WEEKEND

connect

THEN • NOW • FOREVER

April 17–19, 2020

Have you planned your legacy?
giftplanning.emory.edu  404.727.8875
The 2019 TI:GER® Innovation Conference: Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and Knowledge Management was held Thursday, March 28, in Tull Auditorium. The public debate centered around the ethical and societal implications, as well as the policies and laws, regarding the use of AI. Topics included the use of AI in the legal profession and the role of lawyers; handling bias, data privacy, and the design of AI and machine-learning algorithms; and how to protect AI innovations and the need for a legal framework for managing smart machines powered by AI.