

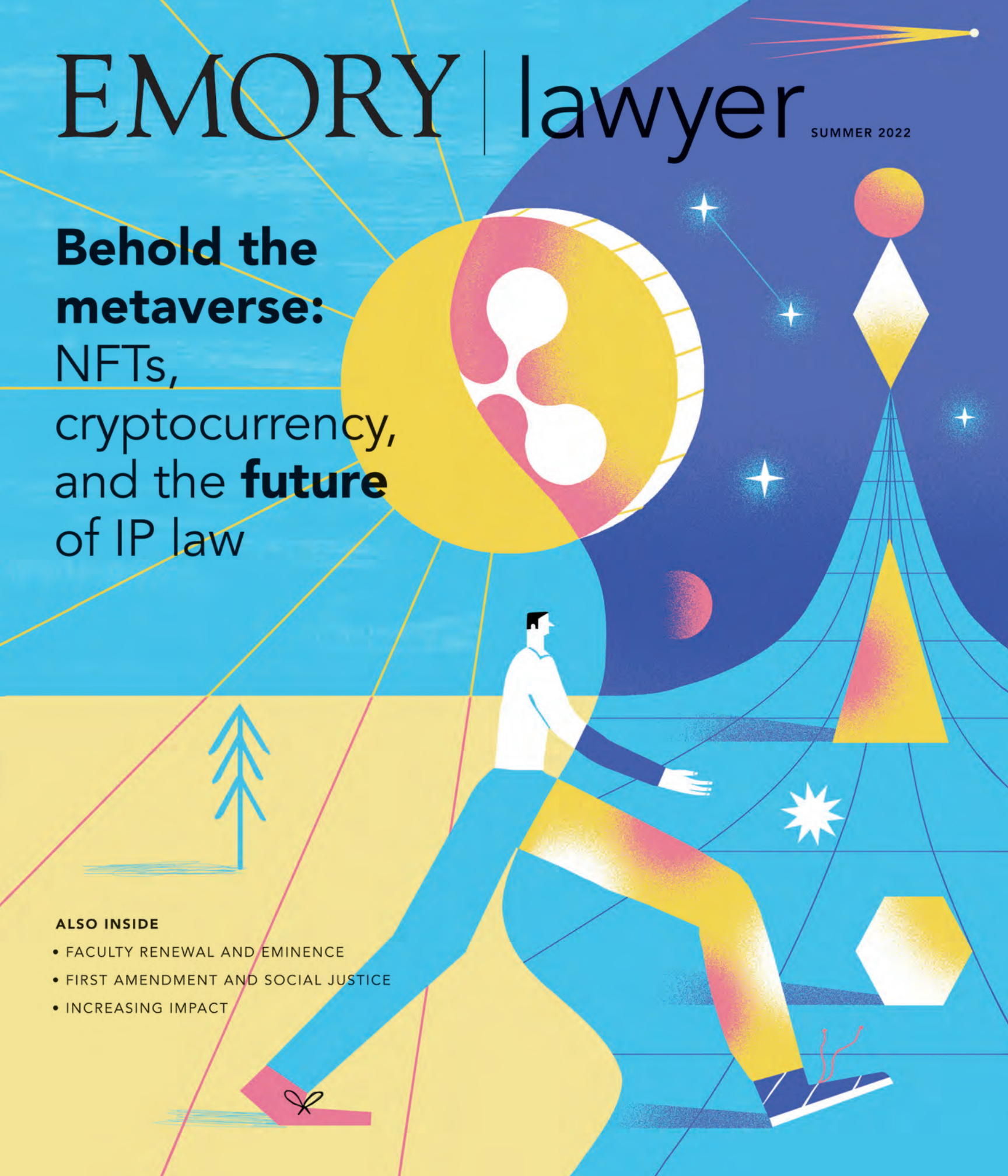
# EMORY | lawyer

SUMMER 2022

**Behold the  
metaverse:  
NFTs,  
cryptocurrency,  
and the **future**  
of IP law**

## ALSO INSIDE

- FACULTY RENEWAL AND EMINENCE
- FIRST AMENDMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
- INCREASING IMPACT





## Future focused

**COVID-19 HAS BEEN A PERVASIVE THEME** during my first three years as dean. In previous editions of *Emory Lawyer*, we've focused on our community's response to the challenges presented by the global pandemic.

Recently, I had my own direct experience with becoming ill from the virus, which caused me to miss commencement and the opportunity to congratulate our graduates in person. My recovery provided time to reflect on our major achievements despite the pandemic, including significant advances in achieving the student-focused goals of our strategic plan. I have appreciated the opportunity to share so much positive news with our Law Advisory Board and Law Alumni Board this year as well as with admitted students, alumni, and donors at events in Atlanta, Chicago, DC, New York, and Miami. We admitted one of the most highly academically-

credentialed and diverse classes to the law school in Fall 2021. Our July 2021 bar pass rate in Georgia, at 90.9%, was the highest rate since 2014. Employment rates are at a 10-year high, with the Class of 2021 at 92% employment overall and 88.9% in "Gold Standard" positions (jobs for which a JD required/preferred that also meet other criteria). Alumni have offered outstanding support to our graduates through key initiatives such as the Bar Mentoring Program and our Employment Task Force.

The focus of this issue is the future, both through emerging areas of law that deal with NFTs and

cryptocurrency and, also, the fundamental change we are experiencing with faculty renewal and eminence. Within this issue, we celebrate much beloved faculty who are retiring while simultaneously welcoming new scholars to our ranks who will help shape the promise of the school for generations to come. We are celebrating developments in two of our programs, with a new director for the Center for Civil Rights and Social Justice and a new gift to the Environmental and Natural Resources Program. Our 2L students recently completed the law school's mandatory trial techniques program, thanks to continued strong support from members of the bench and bar across the United States.

While the faculty transitions discussed elsewhere in this issue are vitally important, it is also important to recognize the incredible strength of our continuing faculty leaders. Woodruff Professor **Martha Fineman** received two major honors this past year. She was named "Outstanding Scholar" by the American Bar Foundation and was also elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the highest honors any academic can receive. In earning these accolades, she joins a prestigious group that includes John Adams, Jonas Salk, and Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

There is much to celebrate at Emory Law, and I hope you enjoy reading this edition that captures so many of those accomplishments. As our ability to travel changes, I look forward to meeting many more of you at events here in Atlanta and much farther afield. As so many of this year's accomplishments demonstrate, alumni engagement and support are vital to law school and our students.



Mary Anne Bobinski  
Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law

# contents



12

Professor **Barbara Woodhouse** addresses celebrants at a faculty retirement reception.



15



16

### FEATURES

#### 4 Shield or sword?

The First Amendment and the fight for social justice

#### 8 Behold the metaverse

NFTs, cryptocurrency, and the future of IP law

#### 12 Faculty renewal and eminence at Emory Law

Honoring the past and keenly focused on the future

*Emory Lawyer* is published semiannually by Emory University School of Law and is distributed free to alumni and friends. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send letters, news, story ideas, and class notes to [lawcommunications@emory.edu](mailto:lawcommunications@emory.edu) or Emory Law, 1301 Clifton Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30322. Submit changes of address at [alumni.emory.edu/updateinfo](http://alumni.emory.edu/updateinfo).

### CLASS NOTES

#### 21 EmoryLaw@Work

Partnership program supports student success

#### 22 Alumni Awards

Spotlight on outstanding alumni

### WORTH NOTING

#### 32 Faculty growth

Increasing impact and eminence

### DEPARTMENTS

2  
In camera

18  
Class notes

26  
Worth noting

[law.emory.edu/lawyer](http://law.emory.edu/lawyer)

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Carolyn Bregman 82L

Timothy Holbrook  
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs and  
Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law

Jennifer Crabb Kyles 98Ox ooC  
Managing Senior Director of Alumni  
Engagement

Natasha Patel  
Senior Director, Center for Professional  
Development & Career Strategy

Joanna Shepherd o1G o2G  
Vice Dean and Thomas Simmons  
Professor of Law

Anthony Spatola  
Director of Admission

Courtney R. Stombeck  
Associate Dean of Advancement  
and Alumni Engagement

DEAN  
Mary Anne Bobinski, Asa Griggs Candler  
Professor of Law

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF  
COMMUNICATIONS AND EDITOR  
A. Kenyatta Greer

CONTRIBUTORS  
Lisa Ashmore, Susan A. Clark, Andrew  
Faight, A. Kenyatta Greer, Laura  
Kuechenmeister, Justin Latterell

PHOTOGRAPHY  
Greta High/From the Hip, Caroline Joe,  
Stanley Leary

ILLUSTRATION  
Adam Cruft, Adria Fruits, Laura Liedo

ON THE COVER  
Illustration by Laura Liedo





## Barristers' Ball

"Barristers' is a great way to take a break from law school. Students are able to dress up, have fun with friends, and dance the night away! After missing out on Barristers' the last two years it was great to celebrate with all of our peers."

— Jadyn Taylor 23L, Student Bar Association President 2021 – 2022

PHOTOGRAPH BY STANLEY LEARY





# Sword or shield?

## THE FIRST AMENDMENT AND THE FIGHT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

BY LAURA KUECHENMEISTER • ILLUSTRATION BY ADRIA FRUITOS

Thousands took to the streets in protests during the summer of 2020 in a massive expression of first amendment rights nationwide. Despite the surging COVID-19 pandemic, city-wide lockdowns, and being labeled ‘rioters’ by political opponents, the murder of George Floyd stirred the public to action—inspiring over 11,000 demonstrations in the name of social justice and antiracism.

“The Floyd death in particular led to international global anti-racist activism,” said **Darren Hutchinson**, professor of law at Emory University School of Law, and the keynote speaker at the 2022 Thrower Symposium held at the law school on February 4, 2022. “There aren’t that many moments [historians] can point to where you have this global movement, this flashpoint that was really bigger than Floyd... In many ways, this was about contesting antiracism, systemic racism, and the almost permanent status of people of color as second-class citizens.”



**H**utchinson's scholarly work looks at the impact of law on a wide range of civil rights and social justice issues. For **Sami Harrell 22L**, symposium editor for the *Emory Law Journal*, it was important to acknowledge Hutchinson's work as the inaugural John Lewis Chair for Civil Rights and Social Justice and its relevance to recent current events while noting Emory Law's emphasis on civil rights law. "When researching for the symposium, many laws were coming out that sought to limit First Amendment rights," she said. "We thought it was important to look at the ways the First Amendment gives voice to citizens."

## "ARE WE IN A SPECIAL MOMENT, AND ARE THINGS CHANGING IN SPECIAL WAYS, OR HAVE WE BEEN HERE BEFORE, AND THESE ARE OLD SONGS?"

In his opening remarks, Hutchinson noted that the First Amendment and expression rights are often "neglected as a very important tool or resource for social justice movements," instead overshadowed by reliance on equal protection and due process rights. And due to its importance, he said, he's not surprised that the current countermovement against antiracism is directing its attention towards the First Amendment.

"This is a moment of anti-antiracism," said Hutchinson. His supporting evidence is lengthy and includes: President Trump's use of protests against racial violence as an opportunity to rally his supporters to the polls; state legislation that would immunize people who drove vehicles into protests; new restrictions on voting; and—perhaps the most pervasive political buzzword of 2021—bans on any instruction related to critical race theory, or CRT, in schools.

"I was struck by the proliferation of that movement," Hutchinson said, referring to CRT. "It happened quickly and went to a low level of politics like school boards" all around the nation. Looking more closely at these policies, like one he referenced in Florida, he explained that not only are teachers prevented

from discussing critical race theory in schools, they're also unable to instruct students in any way that indicates racism is systemic or caused by anything other than individual bias. "That has dramatic implications for speech rights," he said. "The first amendment governs access to information, and I expect to see litigation on this, if we haven't already." Even in schools, he emphasized, children have the right to access information.

Today's countermovement is becoming broader than just "codifying racial resentment," Hutchinson said as he listed proposed bans on education that reference feminism, a bill in New Hampshire that requires teachers not advocate for communism or socialism, and a Tennessee school board's recent ban on

*Maus*, a book about the Holocaust. "It's bigger than anti-antiracism; it's really anti-anti-subordination," he said.

### The right to know

"What would be the use of giving to Americans freedom to speak if they had nothing worth saying to say?" Barry Sullivan, a professor of constitutional law and history at Loyola University, quoted philosopher Alexander Meikeljohn's famous question to open the first panel of the Thrower Symposium and suggested that lacking information, speech loses its worth. Access to information, Sullivan said, "is one of the conditions necessary for the existence, and hopefully the flourishing, of a vibrant inclusive democratic society."

While Sullivan referred to access to government information and the Freedom of Information Act, Aziz Z. Hug, professor of law at the University of Chicago, addressed information on social media. "In recent years, online platforms for speech, such as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, have been criticized for their systemic role in undermining democratic institutions and dispositions," he began. However, Hug described this argument as "stuck between a rock and a hard place," and

asked, "If you distrust both the state and the market with respect to the democratic public forum, who exactly controls the space?" He explained, "The rock is a profound concern about state control of the public sphere. The hard place is a worry about concentrated private power being used to undermine democracy, using the speech tools that democracy makes available."

"This is not a new debate," Hug said. He suggested that instead, it mirrors a "long and lively debate" about militant democracy—the idea that democracies need to take liberal measures in response to the threat of fascism—and that our society can find its answers to questions of social media regulation in lessons learned here.

Later in the panel, **Gerry Weber**, an adjunct professor at Emory Law and senior staff council at the Southern Center for Human Rights, discussed the rights of private citizens to gather information by filming police activity. "Cameras have become kind of the eyes, the ears, and the truth tellers of what happens with law enforcement," he said, and listed eight names: Philando Castile, Eric Garner, Oscar Grant, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Daunte Wright, Rashard Brooks, and Ahmaud Arbery—some of the Black males whose deaths by police shooting (or in the Arbery case, by three white men in Brunswick, Georgia) were captured on film, and subsequently led to "protests, prosecutions, lawsuits, and sometimes—too rarely—to change."

Weber suggested that although circuit courts that have addressed this issue have uniformly held that there is a first amendment right to film in public places, there are hurdles remaining. For example, more protections are needed to prevent the arrest of people filming as a pretext and means of stopping the filming. Weber offered the city of Atlanta as an example, and explained, "Certain crimes, like being in the street [and] disorderly conduct, are not actionable under the city code if the primary purpose of the citizen was to engage in First Amendment rights."

To close, panelists discussed questions regarding the impact of developing technology on the First Amendment and whether our social media platforms are any worse than the yellow journalism of the early 1900s. Moderator **Matthew Lawrence**, associate



Darren Hutchinson

professor of law at Emory Law, restated these questions and asked, "Are we in a special moment, and are things changing in special ways, or have we been here before, and these are old songs?" He recalled the idea of repeated history

from Hutchinson's keynote. Paraphrasing General George C. Marshall, Sullivan ended with the observation, "You know, democracy demands the most of citizens of any form of government."

### The right to assemble

In a subsequent panel, Justin Hansford, who teaches law at Howard University and directs the school's Thurgood Marshall Civil Rights Center, served as a legal observer during protests in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014. One of five, he noted that he was "the only Black legal observer and the only legal observer arrested during that time" to begin his discussion of race and the freedom of assembly. Hansford described the unequal treatment of protestors as an "ongoing issue," most recently brought to light when comparing the 2020 protests and the January 6, 2021, riots at the US Capitol. "Many people commented on the disparity in the response of police to those two assemblies," he said. "It's continued to raise this question of race when it comes to assembly."

The freedom of assembly has always worked as a "racial project," Hansford argued in a *Yale Law Review* article, describing how it offers "fragile protection... for those who fight for racial justice." He suggested that one of the core theories of Derrick Bell Jr., a founder of critical race theory, applies. "In short, the theory says that the principle of interest convergence applies: the interest of Blacks in achieving racial equality will be accommodated only when it converges with the interests of whites," Hansford explained. He described Bell's work analyzing historical instances of racial reform to demonstrate that these reforms depended upon "sociopolitical and socioeconomic context in which the benefit of the racial reform did not just go

to the minority group, but also went to the majority group."

During the Civil Rights Movement, Hansford said, the Supreme Court upheld the rights of protestors in many decisions in a "positive trend" through the 1960s that seemed to expand the space for civil rights protestors to engage in freedom of assembly. However, a "sharp turn" occurred in 1966, the same year the Black Panther Party was founded. "We saw protests shift from protest against segregation," Hansford said, "... to protests against police brutality... that were seen as more militant." Hansford referenced *Adderly v. Florida* and *Walker v. City of Birmingham* as examples of when "we see the Court no longer taking this view of accommodation towards some civil rights protests."

Earlier in the panel, Tabatha Abu El-Haj, a leading expert on the First Amendment who teaches at Drexel University, described other limitations on first amendment protection for protestors and people who gather for political purposes. The "doctrinal root of the problem," Abu El-Haj said, is "the way that the Court has collapsed the First Amendment rights of assembly and speech into one another, creating a sort of pre-expression doctrine in which speech reigns." Protestors' "weak shield" is caused by a differential between protections for speech compared to public assembly. For example, although the Warren court "threw out various convictions of civil rights protestors for trespass and other disorderly conduct sorts of crimes," it "repeatedly indicated that the right of assembly... did not protect what [Abu El-Haj] would call nonviolent but disruptive protest." As a result, she said, "it always reassured states that had those protestors broken the law by, for example, obstructing traffic or failing to have a lawful permit they could have been arrested as individuals or dispersed as a crowd."

Abu El-Haj argued that freedoms of speech and assembly should have comparable protection: "I agree, actually, that in the speech context the line should be violence. But... I'm pushing that for the right of assembly, the line should also be violence and that there's a payoff for beginning to apply the right of assembly as an independent doctrine." In this way, nonviolent protestors could have more confidence that they will not be arrested.

The clarification would also help define the line between a constitutionally protected assembly and a riot. Abu El-Haj listed cases related to the Capitol insurrection and militant white supremacist groups at Unite the Right rallies and explained that many of these defendants have successfully argued against the Federal Anti-Riot Act by claiming their speech was protected. She emphasized, "Currently, the protestors that most benefit from the doctrinal setup—in which all the analysis is about speech—are actually violent protestors."

### Repeating history

Harrell expressed shock at the first-hand accounts of panelists on their experiences with "attempts to chill legal First Amendment expression." She said she hopes the symposium will give participants information to use every day. "I know many of my fellow classmates in attendance have served as legal observers at protests and hearings in the past, and I hoped that this knowledge might inspire others to act and interact with the nuances of the law."

"What do we do with this stuff?" Hutchinson asked as he closed his remarks, reminding viewers that everything he discussed has happened before. "Some of the earliest civil rights activity was met with brutal resistance, and so we are seeing a repetition of history," he said. "Racism is extraordinarily resilient—it finds a way to come back, to try and defeat anything, so drawing on history is extraordinarily important."

Everything happening today, he said, we've already experienced as social justice movements of the past. Hutchinson finds encouragement in John Lewis's words to today's activists, who expressed frustration "with the need to continue fighting issues that we've been fighting for centuries."

He closed by sharing Lewis' response: "That every generation has to continue liberation struggle. Liberation is not an event. It's not a moment that is accomplished. It is a constant struggle, he said, to find a way in which people can live their lives free of subordination and inequality."

Hutchinson said that he'll take that idea with him as he and others try to get to the "beloved community" that Lewis strived to achieve.



# Behold the metaverse: NFTs, cryptocurrency, and the future of IP law

BY LISA ASHMORE  
ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA LIEDO



**IN 2018**, cryptocurrency carried more than a whiff of criminality, as the City of Atlanta was brought to its digital knees by hackers who demanded a ransom of roughly \$50,000 to be paid in bitcoin.

But things change. By 2021, digital currency was corporate. Super Bowl LVI was awash in cryptocurrency ads, including one for Crypto.com starring Matt Damon. On January 27, TI:GER Program Director and Professor of Practice **Nicole Morris** addressed the next blockchain frontier with this year's TI:GER Innovation Conference, "What You Need to Know about NFTs, Digital Assets and the Metaverse." Panelists included a licensing and open-source expert from Meta, educators and academics, tech lawyers, and a virtual reality pioneer. More than 250 attendees from nine countries participated in the livecast event.

Philippine artist Luis Buenaventura (CryptoPop) led the program with his story of how NFTs, or non-fungible tokens, changed his life and career. A connection made in a bar during a business trip to California in 2017 led him to become one of seven artists featured in Curio Cards, the first art NFT project on the Ethereum blockchain.

## Understanding the terms

What are blockchain, cryptocurrency, and NFTs? In simple terms, **blockchain** is a foundation for the other two—a chain of electronic data blocks, each linked to the next to create a digital ledger maintained across a worldwide network of peer-to-peer computers that can, among other things, document cryptocurrency transactions, store smart contracts, and create a registry for IP works and their sub-elements. Blockchain could enhance copyright protection because it can't be altered, deleted, or destroyed. It could also reduce the substantial hours of labor required in IP litigation by providing evidence of creatorship, provenance, smart contracts for digital rights, and anti-counterfeiting enforcement, among many other possible uses.

**Cryptocurrency** is digital money that's not regulated by banks or government entities. It exists on a decentralized blockchain that records transactions and manages how new units, or tokens, are issued. It relies on cryptography to prevent counterfeit and fraud. While bitcoin may be the first cryptocurrency you think of, there are thousands of others, including ether, dogecoin, itecoin, ada and ether, a stablecoin whose value is tied to the US dollar.

**NFTs** are digital assets that represent real-world items, from visual art or a sports video, to custom sneakers or music. Often purchased with cryptocurrency, they contain a digital signature that makes them unique and non-fungible. An example from the TI:GER conference: the first tweet

ever sent in 2006 by Twitter cofounder Jack Dorsey, which sold last year for 1,630.58 ether, equivalent to roughly \$2.9 million at the time. (It read, "just setting up my twttr.")

## A more level playing field

But back to artist Buenaventura: His dog-populated bitcoin cartoons caught the attention of some early Ethereum devotees he met at a 2017 bitcoin meetup held at El Rio, a bar in San Francisco. Based on this connection, his art was included in the 30-piece Curio Cards collection. The digital trading cards were initially offered for sale for \$1 each. He said at the time they sold "zero copies." He wrote it off and forgot about it.

But when interest in NFTs rose in 2021, crypto "archeologists" went looking to find the oldest tokens. They found Curio Cards, the first art-related NFTs created on the Ethereum blockchain, and also discovered that no more could be created. Prices jumped and Buenaventura's Twitter DMs blew up. Last year, a 30-card set ended up being sold at Christie's for 393 ether or roughly \$1.2 million.

NFTs democratized the art industry "in a way that no other technology has been able to do before," Buenaventura said. "I think that we're at a moment in time, where suddenly artists that are from countries like the Philippines—which is not exactly on the map when it comes to the global traditional art scene—we now have a shot, because no one cares what country you're actually from," he said.



"No one really cares what language you speak necessarily, as long as the art is good, and as long as you're able to kind of represent yourself in a way that is compelling."

Buenaventura has since launched the CryptoPop Art Guild, which represents about 200 underprivileged Filipino artists.

### From NFTs to the metaverse

To shift the discussion to virtual worlds, panelist Shayne O'Reilly, Meta's head of licensing and open source, said he gets the "What is the metaverse?" question a lot.

"It's really just a fully immersive environment that's connecting both the augmented and virtual reality, so ultimately it's an environment where you have mixed reality," he said. How to best deliver that experience is driving current research, O'Reilly said, including Meta's Oculus, an untethered system that uses motion-tracking sensors on each hand in addition to a headset. It's known for gaming but also has business applications, such as virtual training.

The tech challenge, he said, is how to get the device down to a size where it's comfortable and you're not constantly aware you're wearing what can feel like a hot helmet. The other challenge is legal: as with any new and profitable technology, the IP issue is how to protect your own innovations but still allow users to travel from one platform to another.

"Both Apple and Google are looking at mixed-reality headsets as well," O'Reilly said. "So there should be a lot going on within the space within the next year or two."

Beyond entertainment and profit, VR and the metaverse have applications that could improve lives.

Morris introduced Goizueta Business School's George S. Craft Professor of Information Systems and Operations Management **Benn Konsynski**, who's studied sensory immersion and synthetic worlds since the 1980s. He and others hosted "Second Life and Other Virtual Worlds: A Roadmap For

Research," the first international conference on virtual reality held in Montreal, 2007. One aspect of his research in sensory immersion included telepresence and stereoscopic lenses merged with flight simulators so that people with disabilities could experience life without them.

"With telepresence you could let people experience things that were beyond their

corrections will be developed, such as a vibration alert, or not being able to handle a beaker before acknowledging the heat.

Her biggest soapbox, she said, is to not create a metaverse that increases an already huge economic divide. "You have to think about accessibility; you have to think about humanity; you have to think about how to make access and exposure to this type of technology

The metaverse is "a fully immersive environment that's connecting both the augmented and virtual reality, so ultimately it's an environment where you have mixed reality."

experience," he said. If a short person wanted to see what it was like to be 6'3", it was possible. In Second Life, (a virtual-world platform from the early '00s) users could tailor their avatar's shoe size, eye color, and "the cut of their shirt." One of the people curious about virtual reality during the Second Life era was Jimmy Carter.

"I took President Carter into Second Life," Konsynski said. "I built an island in 2007, and it still exists."

Panelist Muhsinah L. Holmes Morris, an assistant professor and academic program director at Morehouse College, launched her Advanced Inorganic Chemistry course in virtual reality in the spring of 2021 (within a digital twin campus). Instead of breakout rooms and group chats in Zoom, VR "allows for the educator to be in this synchronous environment with their students," she said. In VR she can walk around and talk with students "just as if we're in class together." One drawback, though, can be safety issues in a real lab when students first learned in a virtual one.

"Sometimes they will forget about safety... like if you're in the headset you can reach for glassware that is on a Bunsen burner and not burn your hands," she said. But she foresees

and this type of knowledge for everybody," she said. That includes not only the marginalized, but also the vulnerable, young, elderly, and those with mental and physical disabilities.

"I urge everyone to start thinking about that when they think about the legalities and the real issues that come to play here," she said.

Southwestern Law School's John J. Schumacher Chair and Professor of Law Kevin J. Greene said his NFT concerns remind him of the appropriation that Black musicians since Bessie Smith in the '20s have experienced, which rob the artist but create huge profits for those running the industry.

"Are [artists] registering their copyrights? Do they realize that if they don't have a copyright registration, they can't enforce their rights, period?" he asked.

Tech attorney Nelson Rosario agreed, saying Green's point "speaks to human nature." "There is a big risk here of replicating the same kind of power structures and disparities."

"I think a lot of folks are getting into this space, particularly people who are new to tech, and they see this as a huge payday," Nicole Morris said. She added that artists entering the NFT marketplace need to observe existing

copyright law to protect themselves or be taken advantage of. "As creators you all really need to consult with someone about getting your copyright protected before you tinker around too far and head down a path of no return," she said.

### Ready or not

In February, Reuters reported Disney had created a new role—senior vice president of Next Generation Storytelling and Consumer Experiences, "to help define how consumers experience Disney's coming metaverse." The company foresees a virtual, immersive space that uses artificial intelligence, storytelling, computer design, and music. While there, avatars will interact with others, build the virtual environment, and create new experiences. Rather than scrolling through the internet, the metaverse will be like roaming inside it. And if Disney, Apple, Meta and Microsoft are making plans and spending money, the metaverse will probably happen.

The legal world has also awakened to the idea that almost anything of value can be tokenized (where sensitive data is replaced with non-sensitive data, or a token) for blockchain. However, a decentralized system that's still being called the wild, wild West and used for money laundering will likely conflict with existing laws, e.g., the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which gives individuals the right to have personal data erased. However, some lawyers see the plus side of blockchain—a future where bona fide legal documentation can be accessed at will.

Also, governance and enforcement are developing. In February, the Department of Justice arrested a couple for one of the most notorious thefts of cryptocurrency thus far, the 2016 hack of Bitfinex, worth roughly \$4.5 billion. In March, President Joe Biden signed an executive order directing the federal government to come up with a plan to regulate cryptocurrencies, including how to create a digital dollar. On the other side of the world, China's civil legal system has formalized its acceptance of blockchain evidence to document the existence or misappropriation of trademark secrets.

So, while much of the metaverse is still unwritten, it's coming fast.

## IP at Emory Law

Before joining Emory Law in 2015, Professor of Practice **Nicole Morris** was managing patent counsel at The Coca-Cola Company. She practiced patent law for over a decade, and worked as an engineer with 3M and Eli Lilly for six years. In addition to her JD, she holds a master's degree in chemistry, and a bachelor of science in chemical engineering.


During Morris's tenure at Emory, TI:GER has increased both its national profile and opportunities for students. In 2021, Morris was named principal advisor for the inaugural HBCU IP Futures Collaborative, a program that will connect leading faculty at HBCUs to foster best practices for teaching IP to non-law students. Last fall, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) partnered with TI:GER to improve market research on its technology transfer projects, including The Sandia Hand (Sandia National Laboratories) and Atomic Armor (Los Alamos National Laboratory). Morris is part of Emory Law's strong patent and IP law faculty, which also includes:

**Margo Bagley 96L** is among the world's foremost experts on international patent law issues. A member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, she currently serves on the Committee on Advancing Commercialization from the Federal Laboratories. In addition to five years in the practice of IP law, she is also a former chemical engineer and patent-holding inventor. In addition to her JD, she also earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

**Kristin N. Johnson** is an expert on securities regulation, fintech, and artificial intelligence as it relates to the law. An internationally recognized expert on financial markets regulation and corporate governance, her recent writing has called for the need to regulate cryptocurrency exchanges. Last year she was nominated by President Biden to serve as a commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and in January she was named chair of the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools' Section on Securities Regulation.

Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law and Vice Provost **Timothy Holbrook**'s recent work has explored the impact of 3D printing on patent law, the extraterritorial reach of US patent law, and the function of patent disclosures. After clerking at the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, he practiced patent law both here and in Hungary. He has written over fifty publications and given over 100 presentations around the world on patent law. His forthcoming book, *Patents, Property, and Possession: A Unifying Approach to Patent Law* is scheduled to be published by Cambridge University Press later this year.





# FACULTY RENEWAL AND EMINENCE AT EMORY LAW

BY A. KENYATTA GREER

**EMORY LAW HAS ACHIEVED** national distinction and global reach in its 106-year history. Academics, lawyers, and judges across the United States rank Emory Law in the top 20 law schools in the country in the reputational sub-rankings published by *US News and World Report*. The law school has also achieved recognition in specific fields, such as Business and Corporate Law and Contracts and Commercial Law (both ranked #23), Health Care Law (#23), and Constitutional Law (#26).

Emory Law's prominence stems in significant part from its outstanding faculty. Each new generation of law students has benefited from our faculty's leadership in their fields of expertise and their commitment to teaching. Our current tenure-stream faculty have a combined total of more than 770 years of legal scholarship and teaching at Emory Law. Our faculty complement has been shaped by the development of new areas of law—ranging from environmental law to the regulation of novel financial instruments—and by our continuing responsibility to educate future lawyers to meet the needs of their clients and our society in the decades ahead.





# Retiring faculty

BY ANDREW FAUGHT

**EMORY LAW IS POISED** for a period of significant faculty transition and renewal, with a dozen faculty members scheduled to retire within a two-year period. These planned retirements represent a significant inflection point for the law school. The law school is celebrating the accomplishments and impact of longstanding faculty leaders, beginning with **Abdullahi An-Na'im**, **Frank Vandall**, and **Barbara Woodhouse**.

At the same time, the law school is keenly focused on the future. The Strategic Plan (2021–26) established the scope of our ambitions:

*We will take advantage of transformations in the makeup of the faculty to develop a multiyear hiring plan to recruit and retain outstanding and diverse faculty members who have assumed or will assume leadership in their fields of scholarly expertise and who will serve as inspirational teachers for students preparing to use their legal knowledge on behalf of their clients and society.*

With strong university support, the law school has developed a multi-year hiring plan that carries out several key objectives. First, the law school seeks to hire faculty whose research and teaching will ensure Emory's continued prominence in litigation, corporate and transactional law, IP and innovation, health law, and civil rights and social justice. Second, the law school's hiring strategy is based on a careful study of its curricular needs. Third, the law school is drawing on existing and potential philanthropic support to recruit top faculty members with endowed professorships and a named chair. Fourth, and finally, the law school is benefiting from university resources, such as the new AI.Humanity initiative to recruit 40-60 new faculty members with expertise in the implications of developments in AI in a broad range of fields, including law. Overall, the law school plans to hire 4 to 6 tenure stream faculty members per year over the next 3 to 4 years.

The law school's faculty hiring cycle typically begins in late summer and ends by May of the following year. New faculty members join

the law school in the summer. The law school's ambitious 2021–22 hiring season is still underway. As of April 2022, Emory Law has successfully recruited three new tenure stream faculty members (**Tonja Jacobi**, **Mark Nevitt**, and **Matthew Sag**, featured later in this issue) and an outstanding visitor (**Sheldon A. Evans**, currently an Assistant Professor at St. John's University School of Law) to join the law school in the 2022–23 academic year.

"We looked for leaders in their fields who excel in scholarship and teaching. The individuals we successfully recruited are truly stars," says Professor **Fred O. Smith Jr.**, chair of the Faculty Appointments Committee.

**Marshall Sampson**, division director of human resources, notes, "The faculty members serving on the Faculty Appointments Committee have spent an incredible amount of time reviewing the qualifications of the more than 150 qualified applicants for our faculty positions. In this competitive job market, our faculty have ensured that Emory Law continues to attract high-impact scholars during our national searches. Their tireless work has led to significant hires who will not only define the future of Emory Law but also the legal education field."

The plan to grow the Emory Law faculty is ambitious, not unlike the ambitious plan to raise Emory Law's rankings amongst its peer schools across the nation. As Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law **Mary Anne Bobinski** focuses on the future of the law school, she says that the law school owes a sincere debt of gratitude to those who have invested so much in our success thus far. She says, "Faculty recruitment is an intensely competitive process. Our ability to recruit and retain eminent faculty members will depend on the strong support of alumni, who will ensure that Emory Law is able to establish endowed professorships in key areas of law and practice."



**Abdullahi An-Na'im**  
Charles Howard Candler  
Professor of Law

*The courage to  
think differently*

When **Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im** left his native Sudan in 1985, he vowed to uphold the legacy of the author and Islamic reform leader Ustadh Mahmoud Mohamed Taha, who had just been executed for apostasy for promoting a liberal understanding of the faith.

An-Na'im prepared an English translation of Taha's book "Second Message of Islam," and he since has worked to promote a "modernist" view of Islam. At the same time, he's pushed for human rights among different cultural and religious traditions spanning the globe.

"My primary motivation for getting into law has been the belief that I can contribute to promoting individual freedom and social justice," says An-Na'im, who got his law degree from the University of Edinburgh. "I have always found this field to be intellectually gratifying and emotionally fulfilling."

After serving as executive director of Human Rights Watch/Africa, An-Na'im joined Emory Law in 1995, where he is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law. An-Na'im's coursework focuses on human rights, international law, and Islamic law. He's also a senior fellow of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion.

Working at the law school and the center "have provided me the opportunity for advancing the causes of Islamic reform and human rights from an Islamic and African perspective," he says.

His current research focuses on the future of Sharia, the body of religious law that is a critical tenet of the Islamic tradition.

In 2020, the Carnegie Corporation of New York named An-Na'im to its annual list of "Great Immigrants," a recognition of individuals who have enriched and strengthened the United States and democracy.

His writings include the books, *What is an American Muslim?* (Oxford University Press, 2014), and *Muslims and Global Justice* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011).

Clinical professor of law **Laurie Blank**, who co-hosted with An-Na'im "Rwanda 20 Years After Genocide: Justice and Judicial Mechanisms," calls her colleague "a warm, welcoming and gracious mentor to students and supporter to colleagues."

Blank, director of the Center for International and Comparative Law and the International Humanitarian Law Clinic at Emory Law, says An-Na'im demands that his students think critically about subjects rather than accepting them at face value, constantly pushing them—and colleagues—to contextualize religion and human rights and see them both for their good and bad.

"In this way, Abduh is a role model for intellectual courage, honesty and passion—someone we can all be inspired by and continue to learn from for years to come," Blank says.

"In addition to his brilliant scholarship, Abduh leaves a legacy of his extraordinarily forward-thinking and innovative approach, in which he rejected anything doctrinaire in both religion and human rights."





**Frank J. Vandall**  
Professor of Law

## More than 50 years of doing what couldn't be done

While on a routine school bus ride, a seventh-grade **Frank Vandall** turned to his seatmate and announced that he'd one day become a lawyer. As a lawyer, Vandall recalls noting, he could help people.

However, Vandall's mother, an accountant at a Pittsburgh law firm, advised her son otherwise.

"I was counseled not to become a lawyer because nobody pays their bills," Vandall says.

So, he considered becoming a philosophy teacher, soon realizing that because of the difficulty breaking into academia, he might never get to teach, even if he earned a PhD in philosophy.

The law kept calling, and Vandall earned a law degree at Vanderbilt, studying with law dean and renowned torts authority John Wade. Not only would Vandall get the chance to teach—52 years at Emory Law, the longest by any faculty member—but he also played a critical supporting role in laying the foundation to sue Big Tobacco—one of the hallmark product liability litigations of the 20th century.

Vandall's speeches and his article, "The Application of Absolute Liability to Cigarette Manufacturers" (*Ohio State Law Journal*) played an important role in the 1996 lawsuit against tobacco companies that alleged predatory marketing and egregious efforts to normalize smoking.

"I think the most powerful thing I've done in my career is to be a force to increase the price of cigarettes and make it crystal clear how dangerous smoking is," says Vandall, noting that cigarettes kill more than 400,000 people a year. "My goal was always to push the law and make it apply to more people, to pick the most intractable subject to write about and not to piggyback on others."

It's an experience Vandall shares with his students; at Emory Law he teaches first-year torts and advanced courses in products liability and torts.

Since making headlines with his tobacco scholarship, Vandall has pushed his way into equally contentious terrain: in a 2020 article in the *Emory Law Journal*, he argued to hold the NRA liable for damages in gun deaths.

He doesn't parse words.

"The NRA runs this country," Vandall says. "My article suggests ways for suing the NRA."

Former Emory Law Dean **David Partlett**, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law, says Vandall made a difference through his writings; he even displayed his whimsy by writing a play that was based on his opposition to guns.

"Frank was a steady contributor to the product liability debates that raged over the last quarter of a century," Partlett says. "His popularity with students stemmed from his ability to empathize and have fun with them. He also had a deep faith in the power of ideas to help society."

"I started when it was a regional law school, and most of the students were from Georgia, Florida, and the Carolinas," Vandall says. "Now we're a national and international law school."

Assistant Professor of Practice Kamina Pinder said of Vandall, "It can be lonely to speak with conviction and bravery. Integrity is not always an easy thing, but it is because Frank was willing to speak out and take risks that this place was better for it. And it is because of his integrity and compassion that he is such a wonderful teacher, colleague, and friend."

If his seventh-grade self sought to become a man who would help people, his mission has certainly been accomplished.



**Barbara Woodhouse**  
Emory School of Law  
Distinguished Professor

## Unexpected career path leads to groundbreaking scholarship

Growing up poor in the woods of Cortlandt, N.Y., **Barbara Woodhouse** lived in a house built by her parents' own hands. There was no running water or electricity, but the youngster had potent outlets to transcend privation.

"We were poor in money, but rich in books and music," she says.

Woodhouse traveled to Italy—where college was cheaper—and earned a degree in Italian language, art and literature. It wasn't until 1980, with her youngest child in primary school, that her husband suggested that she consider a career in law.

When the couple adopted their son in 1973, they saw what a difference lawyers, judges and social workers made in the lives of special-needs and foster children.

"It had never occurred to me that a girl could be a lawyer," says Woodhouse, who enrolled at Columbia Law and took part in a pathbreaking multidisciplinary children's law clinic founded by the renowned children's welfare advocate Jane Spinak. "I had been drawn all my life to working with children, but I never imagined becoming a lawyer for children."

The specialty took time to develop, with Woodhouse helping to lead the way.

"When I started teaching law, the notion of representing a child as your client was so revolutionary that one senior colleague called it malpractice," she says. "Now it's mainstream."

Woodhouse credits her mentor, former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman on the High Court bench, with helping her develop her legal sensibilities; Woodhouse clerked for O'Connor.

After working in private practice and teaching law at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Florida, Woodhouse joined Emory in 2009 as LQC Lamar Chair in Law, recently renamed to the Emory School of Law Distinguished Professorship. Her coursework centers on adoption,

children's rights, comparative and international family law, equality and the Fourteenth Amendment, and intimate partner violence.

Woodhouse has published more than 75 articles and book chapters, and she has written or co-written influential amicus briefs in many appellate courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. Her latest work has focused on the comparative ecology of childhood in the United States and Europe.

Woodhouse's most recent book is *The Ecology of Childhood—How Our Changing World Threatens Children's Rights* (New York University Press, 2020). The *International Journal of Children's Rights* called the work "groundbreaking in providing a solid account of the theoretical model as it applies in today's world, complemented throughout by perspectives and narratives from actual children."

"Barbara is a great teacher because she has a heart for her subject matter and for her students," says **Randee Waldman**, director of Emory Law's Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic. "She has a deep dedication to children's rights, and to training the next generation of lawyers to advocate for those rights."

**Martha Albertson Fineman**, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law says, "Any discussion of Barbara's accomplishments and contributions must begin with the fact that she is an extraordinary scholar. Her Children's Rights Project provided the opportunity for students to do research and work on amicus briefs highlighting the impact on children from cases ranging from health law and marriage equality to foster care and adoption."

"During my 34 years of law teaching, I have witnessed an amazing transformation," Woodhouse says. "The fight continues for equal justice and against discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, minority and sexuality. But now, many of those who were marginalized and excluded are finally inside the tent."



# class notes

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your new president of the Emory Law Alumni Board. I am humbled by this chance to give back to the school that gave me the foundation for my professional career.



For those who do not know me personally, this year marks my 30th year at Berman Fink Van Horn in Atlanta (known by a different name when I first started), where my practice focuses on business and employment litigation with a particular emphasis on noncompete, trade secret, and other competition-related disputes. I am proud to be celebrating 25 years of practice with fellow Emory Law alumni **Jeff Berman 82L** and **Charles Van Horn 94L**. The fact that nine of our twenty lawyers are Emory Law graduates and that 100% of the Emory Law alumni in our firm have contributed to the annual fund every year for nearly a decade through the EmoryLaw@Work program are additional sources of pride for me and my firm.

I have several goals during my term, including:

- Increasing alumni engagement;
- Increasing alumni giving;
- Supporting the DEI goals of the law school;
- Supporting student and alumni career development; and
- Increasing awareness of and regard for Emory Law among all alumni and the legal community.

I hope I can count on you to help me achieve these goals. As my predecessor, **Annalisa Bloodworth 04L**, previously stated in these pages, “I invite you to think back on the foundation—in skills and in relationships—which you built at Emory Law. . . . To remain a place where great foundations can be built, Emory Law needs its alumni . . . to share our experiences and ideas, our help in launching new graduates, and our financial support.” If you are engaged with the law school, thank you for your time and commitment. If you have not been active with the law school in a while, now is a great time to get engaged. Please reach out if you want to discuss how you can do so. The entire Emory Law community is deeply grateful to Annalisa for her dedication and service.

Finally, my affinity for Emory Law runs deep. It is where I met my incredible wife **Robin 92L** and where our son **Henry 23L** is learning the “family business.” I am thrilled that Henry has had the opportunity to experience amazing professors like **Richard Freer**, **Frank Vandall**, and **Jeffery Pennell** like Robin and I did more than 30 years ago.

**Benjamin I. Fink 92L** is a shareholder at Berman Fink Van Horn in Atlanta.



**73**

**Terry Adamson 73L** retired in 2020 as vice president, Global Law Affairs, and general counsel, for Boeing International.



**74**

**Luther J. Battiste III 74L** has been inducted into the National Center for State Courts' Warren E. Burger Society. Also, he and his wife, **Judy Battiste 74C**, received the Fran Peacock Coker FLABOTA Community Service Award in July 2021.



**82**

**Jeffrey N. Berman 82L** was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2022 for Mergers and Acquisitions Law. He is a shareholder at Berman Fink Van Horn.



**84**

**Michael J. Willner 84L** has been appointed to the board of directors of Cardiol Therapeutics.



**85**

**Wayne Taylor 82C 85L** has been elected president of the American College of Coverage Counsel.



**86**

**Julie I. Fershtman 86L**, a shareholder at Foster Swift Collins & Smith in Michigan, has been selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2022, for Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law.

**Charles “Chuck” Palmer 86L**, a partner at Troutman Pepper in Atlanta, has been included in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*, for Administrative/Regulatory Law.

**87**

**Theresa L. “Terry” Kitay 87L** has joined the Litigation and Real Estate groups at Baker Donelson as a shareholder in the firm's Atlanta office.

**Brian T. Nash 87L** is among the dozen attorneys who launched Continuum Legal Group in Atlanta.

**89**

**Michael P. Saber 89L** has been named to *The Best Lawyers in America* 2022, in the categories of Biotechnology and Life Sciences Practice, Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions, Securities/Capital Markets, and Venture Capital. He practices with Smith Anderson in Raleigh, North Carolina.

**90**

**Ilene W. Berman 90L** is among the dozen attorneys who launched Continuum Legal Group in Atlanta.

**Diane Slinger 90L** has joined Jaffe Raitt Heuer & Weiss as a partner in Southfield, Michigan.

**91**

**Jonathan R. Sigel 91L** was recently selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2022, in the field of Employment Law-Management. He was also named a 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyer. He's a partner at Mirick O'Connell.

**92**

**Benjamin I. Fink 92L** has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2022 for Commercial Litigation, Litigation-Labor and Employment, and Employment Law-Management. He is a shareholder at Berman Fink Van Horn.

**Richard M. Morgan 92L** is among the 2022 *The Best Lawyers in America* for his expertise in Trusts and Estates. He is a partner with Morgan and DiSalvo in Alpharetta, Georgia.

**Scott Moskol 92L**, of Burns & Levinson in Boston, has been named president of the Turnaround Management Association, Northeast Chapter.

**94**

**Charles Van Horn 94L** was named *Best Lawyers' 2022 “Lawyer of the Year”* in Atlanta for Litigation-Real Estate. He was also recognized as one of *The Best Lawyers in America* 2022. He is a shareholder at Berman Fink Van Horn.

**97**

*Naples Illustrated* magazine named **Carlos Kelly 97L** a 2021 “Top Lawyer” for practice in the realms of business litigation, eminent domain, and condemnation law. He is a stockholder with Henderson Franklin in Fort Myers, Florida.

**Jennifer Mencarini 97L** became Fox Rothschild's first director of Diversity & Inclusion in September 2021.

**E. Marc Miller 97L** has been promoted to shareholder at Flaster Greenberg in West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.

**99**

**Jason Lichtstein 99L** completed his second term as president of the Florida Brownfields Association. He's a partner at Akerman LLP and recently relocated to its Atlanta office to grow the firm's regional and national brownfields and environmental practice.

**Chad I. Michaelson 99L**, a partner with Meyer, Unkovic & Scott in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been included in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, and Litigation-Construction.

**Shara Sanders 99L** is the new chair of the DeKalb Library Foundation Board of Directors.

**00**

**Mark Lefkow 00L** has joined Stites & Harbison in Atlanta as a member (partner) of the firm.

**C.E. Rhodes 00L** has joined Frost Banks's executive team as group executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary, in San Antonio, Texas.

**02**

**William D. “Billy” Newcomb III 02L** has joined Stites & Harbison in Atlanta as a member (partner) of the firm.

**03**

**David Wender 03L**, a partner in Alston & Bird's Financial Restructuring & Reorganization Group, has been elected a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy.

**06**

**Ryan J. Donohue 06L** has been appointed managing director, Legal and Compliance at Morgan Stanley in New York City.

**James McGuire 06L** was unanimously elected to serve a three-year term on the Executive Council of the State Bar of Texas' Environmental and Natural Resources Law Section.

**07**

**Caeden Curtis Drayton 07L**, intellectual property counsel at Stanley Black Decker was inducted to *Baltimore Business Journal's* “40 Under 40” list.

**Christine Ellice 07L** is one of nine new partners at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan in Los Angeles.







08

**Greg Reybold 08L** is director of healthcare policy and general counsel for the American Pharmacy Cooperative.



10

**Gregory W. Dewan 10L** has been named executive director, president, and CEO of the Frank H. Hiscock Legal Aid Society in Syracuse, New York.



**Angela Oliver 10L** has been promoted at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to director of the Office of Executive Secretariat.



11

**Nathan S. Brill 11L** is a new partner at Blank Rome's Washington, DC, offices.



**Allyson Gold 11L** has joined Wake Forest University School of Law as associate dean of experiential learning and director of the new Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic.

**Adam Keating 11L** is one of ten new partners at Duane Morris in Atlanta.



12

**Katie B. Blakey 12L** is a new shareholder at Littler's Dallas, Texas, offices.

**Gabrielle R. Mercadante 12L** has been promoted to counsel at Robinson+Cole in Miami, Florida.

**Benjamin A. Saidman 12L** is one of six new partners at Finnegan in Atlanta.

**David J. Topping 12L**, a partner at Phelps in New Orleans, made the "Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch" list in the 2022 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for Environmental Law.

13

**Elliott Leigh Coward 13L** was elected partner at Morris, Manning & Martin in Atlanta.

**Daniel B. Millman 13L** has joined Stites & Harbison in Atlanta as counsel.

Olshan Frome Wolosky has promoted **Jessica Stanton 13L** to counsel in its New York City Office's Real Estate Practice.

**Alex Tucker 13L** has been promoted to counsel at Cantor Colburn in Atlanta.

14

**Vivian Cheng 14L** is a new principal in Fish & Richardson's New York City offices.

**Karan Jhurani 14L** is a new principal at Fish & Richardson in Atlanta.

**J. Hunter Robinson 14L** has been promoted to partner at Bradley in Nashville, Tennessee.

15

Atlantans **MacKenzie James Emerson 16L** and **Katherine DeRosa Emerson 15L** welcomed daughter Blythe Katherine to the family on January 6, 2022.

**Campbell Williamson 15L** is a new partner at Schneider Hammers in Atlanta.

17

**Aaron Metviner 17B 17L** has joined Kirkland & Ellis in New York City as an associate.

18

**Peter J. Critikos III 18L** has joined Stites & Harbison in Atlanta as an attorney.

19

**Sydney Ford 19L** recently published the children's book, *Grief Came to Visit Today*. She is an assistant public defender in the juvenile division of the DeKalb County Public Defender's Office.

20

**Eric Arpert 20L**, general campaign manager for Jack Ciattarelli's 2021 New Jersey Republican gubernatorial campaign, has been named to the 2021 Insider 100: Millennial Power List, published by *NJ.com*.

**Hannah Krasny 20L** has joined Miller & Martin as a litigation associate in Atlanta.

## IN MEMORIAM

**John Thomas McTier 54C 57L** on September 8, 2021

**Otha Lamar Gray 58L** on September 4, 2021

**Russell J. Parker Sr. 63L** on January 8, 2022

**Arthur Mozley 63C 65L** on October 4, 2021

Judge **C. Richard Avery 66L** on September 2, 2021

Judge **John Wyman Lamb 67L** on September 1, 2021

**Prentiss Q. Yancey Jr. 69L** on November 28, 2021

**Thomas Edwin Lawrence Jr. 71L** on October 26, 2021

**Richard Garrett 70C 73L** on October 4, 2021

**Maria Shohat 81L** on August 22, 2021

**James D. Johnson 74G 84L** on January 27, 2022

**James Lesswing Bumbalo 87L** on September 29, 2021

**Victor Edward Henderson 87L** on August 10, 2021

**Duncan Hamilton Adams 98L** on September 5, 2021

**Jonathan David Rosen 00L** on October 8, 2021

**Taft N. Gearhart 16L** on September 25, 2021

## ALUMNI

## Partnership program supports student success

by A. Kenyatta Greer

## Emory Law@Work

At Emory Law, alumni are at the center of a vibrant community ecosystem. Their connection enriches the learning experience of current students and the work lives of those faculty and staff who benefit from their generosity every day.

EmoryLaw@Work is a program that has been in effect more than 20 years, encouraging continued alumni relationship with the school through their workplaces. The Advancement and Alumni Engagement team believes that partnerships with participating law firms help the law school remain relevant for alumni, keep pace with economic trends, and stay abreast of contemporary legal practice.

Participating firms are placed in the small, medium, or large category and participate in a firm-to-firm giving challenge. (Firm sizes are based on Emory Law alumni population at the firm—not the size of the firm itself.)

Alumni volunteers serve as firm captains for each of the participating companies. Instead of asking firm captains to participate in administrative work for the program, "We've brought the main communication efforts into our office," said **Jennifer Crabb Kyles 98Ox 00C**, managing senior director of alumni engagement. "Now, captains will thank donors, remind alumni who haven't given yet, and help think of ways that alumni might engage with the school." These might include a virtual meeting with the dean, helping to strengthen the interview process with the Career and Professional Development Center, or other means. Firms can host events and invite other local firms to come hear a professor speak or create networking opportunities—whatever is a good fit for their firm culture.

This year's challenge kicked off January 1, 2022, and concluded April 30, 2022, though

gifts submitted since September 2021 (the start of the fiscal year), will be included in challenge totals.

The program encourages attorneys to consider giving at least the equivalent of one

## Challenge group size categories

- Small – organizations with 10 or fewer law graduates
- Medium – organizations with 11 to 24 law graduates
- Large – organizations with 25 or more law graduates

billable hour to the Emory Law program of their choosing, and all gifts made during the program period will count towards a company's participation rate.

At the end of the challenge, firms in each group are recognized for achieving the highest percentage of alumni participation as well as for largest average gift. Challenge results were announced at the Alumni Awards ceremony on May 20 during Emory Law Alumni Weekend.

## 2022 winners

- Two-way tie: Berman Fink Van Horn led by **Neal Weinrich 06L** and Condon & Forsyth (NYC) led by **Allison Surcouf 06L** (fewer than 10 alumni)
- Jones Day led by **Emily Baker 98C 01L** and **Simon Hansen 13L** (10 to 29 alumni)
- Smith Gambrell Russell led by **John Ethridge Jr. 82L** and **Steve Forte 80L** (30+ alumni)

Condon & Forsyth (NYC) and Berman Fink Van Horn can boast 100% participation during the 2022 challenge period.

Despite the pandemic, the 2021 campaign raised more than \$100,000, which was accomplished with the generous gifts of over 160 donors.

For more information on how to become a firm captain, email [lawalumni@emory.edu](mailto:lawalumni@emory.edu).

## Many thanks to the 2022 EmoryLaw@Work Challenge participating companies:

Alston & Bird  
Arnold Golden Gregory  
Berman Fink Van Horn  
Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner  
Burr & Forman  
Condon & Forsyth (NYC)  
Dentons  
Eversheds Sutherland  
Finnegan  
Fish & Richardson  
FordHarrison  
Greenberg Traurig  
Jackson Lewis  
Jones Day  
Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton  
King & Spalding  
Kitchens Kelley Gaines  
McDermott Will & Emery  
McGuireWoods  
Morris Manning Martin  
Nelson Mullins  
Ogletree Deakins  
Schulte Roth & Zabel  
Smith Gambrell & Russell  
Squire Patton Boggs  
Taylor English  
Troutman Pepper



## ACCOLADES

# 2022 Alumni Awards

by Lisa Ashmore • illustrations by Adam Cruft

The 2022 Alumni Awards honor Emory Law graduates who have provided distinguished service to the institution. They join a cadre of accomplished and celebrated professionals who are exemplars in the profession and in service to their communities.



LOUISE M. WELLS 74C 78L

## Eléonore Raoul Trailblazer Award

The Eléonore Raoul Trailblazer Award commemorates Eléonore Raoul 1920L, the first woman admitted to Emory University and a national leader in the women's suffrage movement. It is given to an Emory Law alumna who has blazed a trail for others through her own professional and personal endeavors.

**Louise M. Wells 74C 78L** is the former managing partner of the Am Law 200 firm Morris, Manning & Martin (MMM) and was the founding partner of its Residential Real Estate Practice.

Under her leadership the firm grew substantially, consistently achieving annual revenue and headcount growth. She viewed intelligent and intentional growth of MMM as a strategic imperative. To ensure the firm continued to meet and exceed client expectations, she continually evaluated, and as needed, accentuated MMM's capabilities in core industries and practice

areas. Wells was focused on maintaining the unique cultural aspects of the firm that allow it to be both a great platform for attorneys and a great place to work for staff. She led the firm's Executive Committee on the day-to-day administration of the firm, and the Management Committee, which is responsible for its overall strategic direction.

Wells has received numerous accolades for her contributions to the real estate industry. She's also a double Eagle who earned both her bachelor of arts and her juris doctor from Emory University.

SARAH BABCOCK 07L

## Alumni Service Award

The Alumni Service Award honors a graduate who has contributed significant, sustained leadership and outstanding service to the Emory Law community.

**Sarah Babcock 07L** is passionate about ensuring that all children receive the resources they need to build healthy and productive lives. As deputy director of Truancy Intervention Project (TIP), Babcock supports both staff and volunteers in serving TIP clients and their families. She joined TIP after six years as a litigation associate at Alston & Bird and three years as senior staff at Lawyers for Equal Justice, an incubator program for newer solo attorneys building practices with a focus on social justice. While at Alston & Bird, Babcock served on the firm's Pro Bono

Committee and was awarded the 2015 F.M. Bird Award for Pro Bono Service.

Babcock serves on the Georgia State Bar Access to Justice Committee, the Atlanta Bar Association Public Interest Law Section Board, the Emory Public Interest Committee Advisory Board, and the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers Foundation Board. She graduated magna cum laude from Brown University with a double concentration in international relations and Russian studies, and earned her law degree, with honors, at Emory Law.



LAURA HUFFMAN 08L

## Young Alumni Award

The Young Alumni Award recognizes the professional and personal achievements of a person who graduated within the past 15 years and has made notable leadership and service contributions to Emory Law and to the legal profession.

**Laura Huffman 08L** is a senior attorney in the Atlanta office of King & Spalding and a member of the firm's Trial and Global Disputes Practice, specializing in intellectual property. Her practice includes all aspects of intellectual property litigation and counsel, and she represents Fortune 100 clients in patent infringement lawsuits in federal district courts across the United States and the International Trade Commission, including cases involving optical devices and fabrication, optical systems, telecommunications equipment, and information systems. Huffman helps businesses protect and realize

value from their intellectual property. She is a member of Georgia Tech's Law, Science, and Technology Program faculty, and lectures on technology law and computer law.

Before attending law school, Huffman was an engineer and manager in the telecommunications equipment industry for a major global manufacturer, for more than two decades. She received her juris doctor, with honors, from Emory Law. She also holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, earned with honors.





## ACCOLADES

## 2022 Alumni Awards

We welcome nominations throughout the year. To submit an alumni award nomination, visit [bit.ly/emorylawalumniawards](https://bit.ly/emorylawalumniawards).



RETA JO LEWIS 89L

### Distinguished Alumni Award

Established in 1985, the Distinguished Alumni Award is given to a graduate who embodies the values of the school and has demonstrated extraordinary achievement in the legal profession and in service to society.

On February 9, 2022, **Reta Jo Lewis 89L** was confirmed by the Senate as president and chair of the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and later sworn in at the White House by Vice President Kamala Harris. Lewis is a senior executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience in international affairs, legal, public policy, business and regulatory affairs, and subnational diplomacy.

She was most recently a senior fellow and director of congressional affairs at the German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States. There, Lewis led and oversaw initiatives, programs, and bipartisan exchanges for members of the US Congress and their European counterparts, focusing on leadership development and subnational diplomacy efforts. Prior to her time at GMF, she served as the first-ever special representative for global intergovernmental affairs under Secretary Hillary Clinton, at the US Department of State during the Obama-Biden Administration. As

special representative, Lewis was the chief diplomat in charge of the international efforts to build and support strategic relationships between the federal government, state and local leaders, and their foreign counterparts. In 2013, she was awarded the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award.

Lewis was the first Black woman to serve as vice president and counselor to the president at the US Chamber of Commerce. She led initiatives focused on fostering strategic alliances between small businesses, especially women- and minority-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, and executives. She is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and member of the board of the Leadership Council for Women in National Security. In addition to her juris doctor from Emory Law, she also holds a master of science in administration of justice from American University, and a bachelor of arts from the University of Georgia. She is a native of Statesboro, Georgia.



HAN CHUN CHOI 93L

### Distinguished Alumni Award (posthumous)

Established in 1985, the Distinguished Alumni Award is given to a graduate who embodies the values of the school and has demonstrated extraordinary achievement in the legal profession and in service to society.

**Han Chun Choi 93L** was born in Gangneung, South Korea, in 1966 and immigrated to the US with his family while a toddler. They eventually settled in Little Rock, Arkansas. After graduating as salutatorian of his high school class, Choi attended Northwestern University in Illinois and graduated with honors in 1988, as a religion major. His passion to improve the lives of others led him to government service and soon after graduation, he joined the staff of then-Governor Bill Clinton. Choi accompanied him on his travels throughout Arkansas, and eventually became a policy advisor.

At Clinton's urging, Choi attended law school and graduated from Emory Law with honors in 1993. Soon after, he joined the Public and Corporate Finance Practice Group of King & Spalding in Atlanta. In 1997, he met his wife, Catherine Abrams, a registered nurse working at the Grady Infectious Disease Program.

Choi was a trailblazing attorney, widely known and respected throughout the US and South Korea. He became one of the first Asian American partners at a large law firm and later, one of the first AAPI managing partners of an Am Law Top 100 law firm, Ballard Spahr, where he worked until his final days.

Choi was deeply committed to the growth and development of young Asian Americans and AAPI attorneys, as demonstrated by his countless hours as a volunteer, officer, and board member of the Georgia Asian

Pacific American Bar Associations (GAPABA), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Associations (NAPABA), the International Association of Korean Lawyers (IAKL), and the Korean American Bar Association of Georgia (KABA-GA), where he was a founding member. He had a profound and positive impact on many young people.

Choi also channeled his seemingly boundless energy to serve his community. He chaired both the Georgia Center for Nonprofits and the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation; served as a board member for the Decatur Education Foundation; and served on the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia. He completed many hours of pro bono work for the International Women's House where Catherine served on the Board. Choi was a member of North Avenue Presbyterian Church where he served as a deacon and on the Endowment Committee.

His broad grin, spontaneous laugh, and everlasting optimism were infectious. Choi shared his extraordinary zest for life with others to the fullest. He enjoyed running, golfing, traveling, and crossword puzzles. A War Eagle through marriage, he wholeheartedly cheered on the Auburn Tigers.

Choi passed away peacefully on March 26, 2018, at age 52, after a valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. He is survived by Catherine and their three children: Christopher, David, and Hannah Choi.

# Distinguished





Allison Thornton, adjunct professor teaching in the JM program

## CURRICULUM

### New JM concentrations

#### Data privacy and HR now available

by Susan A. Clark

Emory Law has announced curricular enhancements for its juris master degree program—two new concentrations in data, privacy, and technology law; and employment law and human resources. The data, privacy, and technology law concentration covers topics such as privacy, ethics, and the use of artificial intelligence in the workplace; trademark, patent, and copyright law; and licensing and trade secrets. The employment law and human resources concentration explores topics such as employment at will, employees versus independent contractors, privacy in the workplace, worker's compensation, disability, and discrimination. These new concentrations expand the program's existing concentrations in business law and health care law.

The juris master degree follows a 30-credit hour program intended for professionals or individuals who want to improve their legal literacy and become more knowledgeable regarding the impact of law and regulation on their industry and field of expertise. Students gain legal knowledge and skills to assess organizational risk, make informed decisions, navigate complex regulatory environments, and contribute in more significant ways to their organizations. Students include C-suite executives, human resources directors, compliance officers, and health care administrators, among others.

"We are excited about these curricular enhancements to our juris master program curriculum," says Professor **Kay Levine**, who

directs the juris master program. "Our new offerings will be taught by industry experts, and the courses have been designed specifically to engage JM students in cutting edge conversations that are relevant to professionals in many industries."

The JM program's online, asynchronous classes are specifically designed for working professionals. Students can also choose on-campus course options. The fully online format is composed of 10 sequential asynchronous courses, with two synchronous online experiences, and can be completed in as little as 20 months. Students taking most of their courses on campus can complete the degree in two sequential semesters or take up to four years.

## CENTERS

### Center director named

#### Hutchinson to lead Center for Civil Rights and Social Justice

by Susan A. Clark and A. Kenyatta Greer

Emory Law Dean **Mary Anne Bobinski** has named Professor **Darren Lenard Hutchinson** to lead the Emory University School of Law Center for Civil Rights and Social Justice. The new center will enhance the law school's already rich focus on issues of civil rights, human rights, and social justice.

In a March interview with Rose Scott on WABE's "Closer Look," Hutchinson said many law schools do social justice work, oftentimes focused solely on producing and presenting research. "Our center will have that, but there must be a component that involves clinical education," maybe by placing students in institutions that are social-justice-related like the ACLU and Southern Poverty Law Center. "I also believe there should be a community component, where residents of the community and stakeholders in the community get to provide input on

the type of work that the center does, so that makes it a unique center, because it includes students in the mission and it includes community leaders in the mission, as well. I'm very happy the dean agrees with that mission."

The center was established in September, thanks to a transformative gift to Emory University from the Southern Company Foundation.

Hutchinson joined the Emory Law faculty during the summer of 2021 as the inaugural John Lewis Chair for Civil Rights and Social Justice. The philanthropically funded John Lewis Chair for Civil Rights and Social Justice is intended to serve as a lasting tribute to the legacy of "good trouble" advocated by the late congressman from Georgia's Fifth District and establish Emory Law as a leader in teaching, research, and community engagement related to civil rights and social justice.



FACULTY HONOR

# Fineman elected to AAAS, named Outstanding Scholar

by A. Kenyatta Greer

**Martha Albertson Fineman**, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, was recently elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, one of the nation's oldest and most prestigious honorary societies and a leading center for independent policy research. Fineman is among four



Emory professors elected to AAAS this year and only the second from Emory Law to ever receive the honor.

Fineman is an internationally recognized law and society scholar and a leading authority on critical legal theory and feminist jurisprudence. In response to the honor, Fineman said, "This is a recognition of the work that I've done that has not always been readily accepted. That means a great deal

to me. It means that the larger academic community recognizes my contributions."

The contributions she references have been made in a field that Fineman pioneered.

She is the founding director of the Feminism and Legal Theory (FLT) Project. Begun in 1984, the project holds workshops and "uncomfortable conversations," hosting visiting scholars from around the world. The project has produced 11 books thus far, including *At the Boundaries of Law: Feminism and Legal Theory*, the first published anthology of feminist legal theory, and *Transcending the Boundaries of Law: Generations of Feminism and Legal Theory*, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the project.

She also is the founder and director of the Vulnerability and the Human Condition Initiative (VHC), which emerged from the FLT Project in 2008 and provides a forum for scholars interested in engaging the concepts of "vulnerability" and "resilience" and the idea of a "responsive state" in constructing a universal approach to address the human condition.

The scholarly project of VHC is reconceiving the legal subject. Rather than valorizing abstract concepts like freedom or liberty, it begins by focusing on the insights to be gained from reasoning from the body, which represents and defines our shared human condition. Vulnerability theory explores how institutions and relationships can be structured justly—recognizing that many relationships are inherently unequal and require asymmetric assignments of responsibility.

These concepts are currently being used as a lens through which to examine numerous areas of law and sociology across the globe: Fineman's work recently inspired a symposium of the Law and Political Economy Project. She also wrote a piece for an art exhibit by Jody Wood, currently on display at Art Museum, Skövde Kulturhus. Fineman says

the exhibit, called Social Pharmacy, is within Woods' signature style of taking "significant social issues or practices to explore and combining the empirical insights of the social scientist with the critical and creative vision of the artist." Atieno Samandri is using vulnerability theory in her work on environment, shifting thought away from a rights perspective. She is working toward publishing a book on climate change and human vulnerability under international law and fostering collaboration with environmental law faculty at African and other universities through the Fulbright network. In this way, she's able to come up with a solution that's better able to serve more people.

There are scholars in Brazil currently translating some of Fineman's papers into Portuguese, and there are significant communities of scholars using vulnerability theory in several European countries and in China. The VHC held its first vulnerability workshop in Africa last year. And the initiative has had visiting scholars and researchers from Denmark, South Korea, England, China, Romania, Netherlands, Chile, Spain, Wales, Turkey, Nigeria, India, Sweden, Israel, Australia, Canada, Bangladesh, Italy, Iran, Ireland, Norway, Uganda, and Belgium, among other countries.

And the applications of vulnerability theory abound, as is evident through the numerous comments and articles on the VHC ScholarBlog.

An American Bar Foundation Lifetime Fellow, Fineman, earlier this year, was honored with the Outstanding Scholar Award from the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation. She is the recipient of the 2017 Ruth Bader Ginsburg Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Association of Law Schools, and served as the 2019–2020 Distinguished Lecturer, Hagler Institute for Advanced Study, Texas A&M University. She received the 2018 Kate Stoneman Award from the State University of New York, Albany, and gave the Seeger Lecture on Jurisprudence at Valparaiso University in 2017. She was awarded an honorary degree from Lund University in Sweden in 2013.

Prior to coming to Emory in 2004, Fineman served as the Maurice T. Moore Professor at Columbia University, then joined the Cornell Law School faculty, where she held the Dorothea Clark Professorship, the first endowed chair in feminist jurisprudence in the nation.

"I'm proud to see yet another distinguished class of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences include so many exceptional Emory faculty members," says President **Gregory L. Fenves**. "This is a highly deserved recognition of both the excellence and impact that these four scholars have had as researchers, educators, communicators, and innovators across a range of disciplines." Dean **Mary Anne Bobinski** echoed this praise, adding that Fineman's election is "a singular achievement."

The elected Emory professors are among 261 newly-elected members of the American Academy, which was founded in 1780 by John Adams, John Hancock, and others who believed the new republic should honor exceptionally accomplished individuals and engage them in advancing the public good. The academy's dual mission remains essentially the same more than 240 years later, with honorees from increasingly diverse fields and with work focused on the arts, democracy, education, global affairs and science.

"We are celebrating a depth of achievements in a breadth of areas," says David Oxtoby, president of the American Academy. "These individuals excel in ways that excite us and inspire us at a time when recognizing excellence, commending expertise and working toward the common good is absolutely essential to realizing a better future."

Earlier this year, Fineman was given the American Bar Foundation's 2022 Outstanding Scholar Award. She was recognized at the 66th Annual Fellows Awards Banquet on Feb. 15. The Foundation's first Outstanding Scholar Award was given in 1957, and previous recipients include Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Akhil Reed Amar, Lawrence H. Tribe, Judith Resnick, and Archibald Cox, among others. The ABF Fellows is a global honorary society that recognizes attorneys, judges, law faculty and legal scholars whose public and private careers have demonstrated outstanding dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession and to the welfare of their communities. Membership is limited to one percent of lawyers licensed to practice in each jurisdiction. They hail from nearly 40 countries, are nominated by their peers, and selected by the ABF Board.

CLINICS

# KMCL makes gift for environmental law Scholarships, stipends part of new DEI initiative

by Susan A. Clark

**EMORY LAW'S ENVIRONMENTAL** and Natural Resources Law program has received a gift from the Kazmarek Mowrey Cloud Laseter law firm (KMCL) to establish a new diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative to promote broader diversity in the practice of environmental law.

The new initiative at Emory will provide annual scholarships and summer stipends to students who will bring diversity to the environmental bar. The program will also provide these students with opportunities to engage with prominent environmental attorneys, community and business leaders, government officials, and scholars through conferences, workshops, or other formal and informal convenings.

KMCL founded this initiative at Emory to build a pipeline of well-trained and diverse environmental lawyers. Rick Horder, one of the firm's founding partners, says "KMCL is committed to increasing diversity in the environmental law bar, and we recognize that a key to long-term, concrete results is attracting the best and brightest diverse candidates to the field while they are in law school. We are privileged to make this gift to Emory Law

and proud to be a partner with such a leading institution." KMCL will be recognized as the founding partner of this new initiative, and Emory Law will seek to engage additional law firms, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and others eager to help diversify the environmental bar once the program is launched.

Emory Law Dean **Mary Anne Bobinski** says, "Emory Law is committed to promoting diversity, pursuing equity, and achieving inclusion for our law students and graduates. KMCL's gift will help Emory Law's Environmental and Natural Resources Law program to enhance the diversity of environmental lawyers pursuing careers in nonprofit organizations, law firms, corporations, and government agencies."

"The environmental diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative will provide students with the financial support and professional development opportunities they need to translate their interest in environmental law into an impactful career," said **Mindy Goldstein**, director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program. "I look forward to watching our scholarship and stipend recipients become successful environmental



Mindy Goldstein

attorneys, shaping environmental law and policy throughout the country."

Emory's Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program is a top-ranked, comprehensive program dedicated to teaching,

research, and public service in environmental law and policy. Led by Clinical Professor of Law Mindy Goldstein, who also directs the Turner Environmental Law Clinic, the program offers students extensive classroom, experiential, and extracurricular opportunities in environmental law. Building on Emory's location in the dynamic business, governmental, and civil rights center of Atlanta, the program boasts more than a dozen course offerings, three full-time faculty members, outstanding adjunct professors from law firms and federal agencies, twenty externships, and the Turner Environmental Law Clinic.



STUDENTS

# Trial Techniques 2022

## Which will win?

by Lisa Ashmore

A day before his death from pancreatic cancer, a father handwrites a new will that blocks all his children from inheriting a sizable estate. The new beneficiary? Dad's longtime caretaker. His children are outraged. Attorneys on each side arm themselves for a bruising trial.

For the past week, hundreds of Emory Law students have lived this fictional controversy via the Kessler-Eidson Program for Trial Techniques (KEPTT), a required course for all 2Ls. The program culminates in an intensive seven-day takeover of the law school and MacMillan Library. This year, half of the students represent the aggrieved children, and half, the estate. The children argue a combination of undue influence, illness and medication rendered their father incapable of testamentary capacity.

For seven days, students go through witness prep, voir dire, cross-examination, closing arguments, and Daubert hearings. By the end, every student has gone through both an evidentiary hearing and a jury trial, during which they meet working attorneys and judges who travel to Atlanta from around the country to participate as faculty.

"The energy in Gambrell and MacMillan is palpable—exhibited by both the students and the faculty," said **Mike Ginsberg**, KEPTT's program director. "We are energized to be back on campus after teaching the program on Zoom for the past two academic years."

The mock trial program integrates second-year law students' theoretical knowledge of evidence with practical trial skills. Since its founding in 1982, the program has grown into the nation's largest trial skills program and is among its most respected. Emory Law was an early adopter of the "learning-by-doing" methodology, which was developed by the National Institute for Trial Advocacy's program to teach practicing lawyers.

The program began earlier this spring with intensive workshops (held virtually this year) at Atlanta-area law firms, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the DeKalb County Law Office of the Public Defender. The week-long May session kicked off April 30, right after final exams.

This year's return to an in-person event involved 108 volunteer faculty from Atlanta and around the country, including as far away as Alaska. They include federal and state judges, public defenders, prosecutors, and private practitioners. While all KEPTT faculty help make the program exceptional, we especially thank our 45 alumni faculty:

**Al Amado 86L** (ABA Rule of Law Initiative); **Emily Baker 98C 01L** (Jones Day); **Lynsey Barron 09L** (Miller & Martin); **Steven Berne 87L** (Law Office of Steven Berne); **Natanya Brooks 13L** (Brooks Injury Law); **Marc Brown 14L** (Marc Brown Law Firm); **Chelsea Champion 18L** (DeKalb County Public Defender); **Lawrence Cooper 80L** (Cohen, Cooper, Estep & Allen); **Amos Davis 10L 10T** (Uber Technologies);



**Letitia Delan 93L** (DeKalb County Public Defender); **Perisha Dixon 15L** (Fincher Denmark); **Rick Duarte 10L** (The Duarte Firm); **Veronica Finkelstein 04L** (U.S. Attorney's Office); **Christopher Ford 81L** (Law Office of Christopher Patrick Ford); **Rachel Gordon 12L** (DeKalb County Public Defender); Judge **Steven Grimberg 98L** (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia); **Drew Healy 13L** (DeKalb County District Attorney's Office); **Judge Robert Herzfeld 98L** (22nd Judicial District Circuit Court of Arkansas); **Christopher Lambden 19L** (Pratt Clay); **Allyson Lumpkin 15L** (Squire Patton Boggs); Judge **David Lyles 98L** (Superior Court, Paulding Judicial Circuit); **Elizabeth Markowitz 90L** (Fulton County Public Defender); **Marcela Mateo 07C 10L** (U.S. Attorney's Office); **Michelle McIntyre 18L** (U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia); **Ruth Rocker McMullin 00L** (judge, Gwinett County Courts); **Joe Newman 73L** (U.S. Attorney's office, retired, pro tem Georgia State Court judge); **Shankar Ramamurthy 11L** (U.S. Dept. of Justice); **Claudia Saari 87L** (DeKalb County Public Defender); **Kate Sandlin 14L** (Smith, Gambrell & Russell); **James Scharf 86L** (U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of California); **Jamie Schickler 13L** (DeKalb County Public Defender); **Abe Sharony 74L** (Abraham A. Sharony); **James Sheinbaum 79L** (James B. Sheinbaum, Esq.); **Bradley Solomon 88L** (California Department of Justice, deputy attorney general); **Erin Spritzer 12L** (U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Georgia); Judge **Cynthia Stephens-Hill 76L** (Michigan Court of Appeals, retired); **Lauren Thrasher 15L** (Thrasher Law); **Bruce Udolf 79L** (Bruce L. Udolf, P.A.); **Justin Victor 10L** (Greenberg Traurig); **Sandy Wallack 94L** (Wallack Law); **Robert Webb 78L** (Webb & D'Orazio); **Harry Winograd 83L** (Bodker, Ramsey, Andrews, Winograd & Wildstein.); and **Will Wooten 13L** (Fulton County District Attorney's Office).

ALUMNI HONOR

# Cooper 67L awarded the Emory Medal



Cooper 67L, center, with Emory University President Fenves, left, and Emory Law Dean Bobinski, right.

The Emory Alumni Awards are an opportunity to reflect on the everyday champions, luminary leaders, and change-makers who call Emory home. This year, Judge **Clarence Cooper 67L** was awarded an Emory Medal as part of alumni recognition. This award is Emory's most prestigious alumni award and honors recipients who are leaders in their field as well as leaders in their local, national, and global communities. Emory Medal recipients are recognized for:

- service to Emory, the Emory Alumni Association, or a constituent alumni association
- service to the community
- achievement in business, the arts, the professions, government, or education

Cooper is accustomed to carving a path where there is none. He came to Emory University School of Law in 1965 and was among the first full-time African American students to graduate from the program. Cooper began a career in law during the Civil Rights Movement. This

turbulent time of desegregation and denial of voting rights fueled Cooper in his ascent as a lawyer.

Throughout his early career, he was the first and only Black person in many of the offices he served. He served as the assistant district attorney for the Fulton County District Attorney's Office for five years. Later, he was appointed to Atlanta's Fulton County Superior Court, where he presided over the Wayne Williams/Atlanta Child Murder case. Cooper is currently a senior judge on the US District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. He is a pioneer for African Americans in the field of law, and his legacy is one that all people can live by.

In 2017, Cooper was named one of the Emory Law 100, a group of influential contributors to Emory Law history. In 2021, the Emory Law chapter of the American Inn of Court was renamed to honor Cooper.

Watch his story at [together.emory.edu/alumni/awards/emory-medal](https://together.emory.edu/alumni/awards/emory-medal).



FACULTY GROWTH

# Increasing impact and eminence

## TONJA JACOBI

### SCOTUS expert joins faculty

BY A. KENYATTA GREER



This fall, Emory Law will welcome **Tonja Jacobi** to the faculty as the Sam Nunn Chair in Ethics and Professionalism, upon university confirmation. Her research centers on judging, particularly Supreme Court judicial behavior and public law. She uses a combination of doctrinal, empirical, and formal analysis to examine how judges respond to institutional constraints.

Jacobi is currently a professor of law at Northwestern Pritzker Law School. She holds a PhD in political science from Stanford University, a master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a law degree with first class honors and an undergraduate degree with first class honors, both from the Australian National University.

Professor Jacobi's high-impact research has been cited more than 1500 times, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor has cited Jacobi's "Justice, Interrupted" as having influenced the U.S. Supreme Court's approach to oral arguments.

"My work focuses on the Supreme Court and how they fit within the legal and political system. It raises important issues of legitimacy

and the role of the Court in shaping the most divisive issues," she explained. "I also write extensively in constitutional criminal procedure from various perspectives: doctrinal, empirical, and some game theory."

**Joanna M. Shepherd**, vice dean and Thomas Simmons Professor of Law, shared her anticipation over Jacobi's hire. "We are so excited that Tonja Jacobi is joining the Emory Law faculty. Professor Jacobi is one of the most accomplished and influential scholars in the areas of judicial politics, judicial and advocate behavior, and criminal procedure. Her rigorous empirical work has been path-breaking and impactful, not just in the academy but in the judiciary as well. The faculty is fortunate to have her as a new colleague, and I know she will have a tremendous influence on our students."

During her seventeen years as an academic, Jacobi has published more than forty articles in leading law reviews and peer reviewed journals along with numerous book chapters. She also regularly writes Op Eds in periodicals such as the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* and has written in numerous other forums, such as SCOTUSBlog, Forbes, Aeon, and *Harvard Business Review*. In the last year, Jacobi had a series of three related Op Eds published on Supreme Court reform, congressional reform, and election reform in *Bloomberg*, as well as publications in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* about Supreme Court oral arguments and the Court's approach to criminal procedure.

"I came to give a talk at Emory about four years ago and had such a wonderful experience with an engaged, positive audience. I thought then what a good place it would be to work. Emory has a generally amazing reputation. I know and have good relationships with a few members of the faculty there, and the strength of your public law faculty is astonishing. I believe I will contribute to that high standing."

Jacobi will join Emory in July 2022, adding her expertise to Emory Law's strategic focus on research and teaching related to litigation and ethics.

## MATTHEW SAG

### Emory Law welcomes expert in IP and AI

BY A. KENYATTA GREER



**Matthew Sag** is preparing to join Emory Law as the first law faculty member who will be supported by the university's bold new AI.Humanity initiative. Professor Sag is currently the Georgia Reithal Professor of Law and the associate dean for Faculty Research and Development at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

Sag studied economic history, political science, and law at the Australian National University, where he graduated with honors. He clerked for Justice Paul Finn at the Federal Court of Australia and has practiced law in Australia, the United Kingdom and in the Silicon Valley in the United States.

His primary specialty is intellectual property, and he is particularly well known for his contributions to empirical studies of intellectual property and copyright theory. Professor Sag's widely cited scholarly work has been published in leading journals, including the *Georgetown Law Journal*, the *California Law Review* and the *Notre Dame Law Review*. He is one of the leading U.S. experts on copyright issues raised by text data mining research, including the use of text data mining in conjunction with machine learning and AI—one of the core legal issues in law and AI.

From 2013 to 2015, Sag was the principal author of an influential series of amicus briefs filed on behalf of "Digital Humanities and Law Scholars" in the landmark *HathiTrust* and *Google Books* lawsuits. These briefs were cited in the judgments and discussed at multiple oral arguments. Since 2016, he has served on the Advisory Board of the HathiTrust Research Council, advising on copyright and related issues in relation to academic digitization and text data mining research.

He was part of the faculty and organizational team behind the Building Legal Literacies for Text Data Mining Institute (2020), funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He was a key advisor to the clinical team at the Samuelson Law Technology & Public Policy Clinic at

UC Berkeley in their successful application on behalf of the Authors Alliance for a new exemption to DMCA section 1201 to enable text data mining research on e-books and films.

"Professor Sag's theory of 'non-expressive use' in the context of copy-reliant technology has become the leading analysis of why text data mining in AI is fair use and does not violate copyright law, influencing both other academics and the courts. Professor Sag's scholarly work in emerging issues relating to Copyright and Artificial Intelligence will add to Emory Law's national and global research profile and his leadership in IP will directly benefit Emory Law students in the classroom and beyond," says Dean **Mary Anne Bobinski**.

AI.Humanity is Emory's new hiring, research, and scholarship initiative exploring the intersection of artificial intelligence and other disciplines within the university. Over three to five years, Emory University will hire 50 to 60 faculty members with a focus on, but not limited to, four topical areas:

- AI and Health
- AI and Social Justice/Law
- AI and Business/Economics and Entrepreneurship/Law
- AI and the Humanities and Arts

These hires will create a vibrant and coherent research and teaching community that represents the diverse interests of Emory's schools and units and expand offerings to undergraduate, graduate, and professional school students.

"I'm particularly excited by the AI Humanity initiative. As a society we're on the cusp of yet another great technological transformation, and it's exciting that Emory wants to be on the cutting edge of that," Sag said.

"I've been at the forefront of investigating copyright issues and AI for over a decade now. A lot of my work involves talking with people in other areas in computer science and humanities and libraries. My research is already very outward looking. Helping other researchers navigate the legal issues that come up in their research. That's something I plan to keep doing."

Sag will join Emory Law in July 2022, adding his expertise to Emory Law's strategic focus on research and teaching related to intellectual property and AI.



FACULTY GROWTH

# Increasing impact and eminence

## MARK NEVITT

### Environmental law scholar joins faculty

BY SUSAN A. CLARK



Professor **Mark Nevitt** will join the Emory University School of Law as associate professor of law starting June 1.

Nevitt teaches courses in environmental law, climate change law, national security law, constitutional law, and natural resources law. His current research focuses on how climate change is destabilizing numerous areas of law and climate change's security implications.

Nevitt's scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in the *Washington University Law Review*, *Boston College Law Review*, *Georgia Law Review*, *U.C. Davis Law Review*, *Yale Journal of Regulation*, and *Harvard Environmental Law Review*. He is a frequent contributor to NYU Law's Just Security blog, Lawfare, and Penn Law's *Regulatory Review*; and his comments or writing have also appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Slate*, *Newsweek*, and *The Hill*. He is also a frequent podcast guest and contributor, appearing on the *American Bar Association National Security Law Today Podcast* and *Penn Kleinman Center for Energy Policy Podcast*, among others.

"Professor Nevitt's expertise on climate change and national security will be a welcome enhancement for Emory Law's environmental and natural resources program," says **Mary Anne Bobinski**, dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law. "Accelerating climate crises will require new legal and policy solutions and our students will benefit from learning how this field of law impacts the security, health, and welfare of every citizen."

Nevitt joins Emory from Syracuse University where he served as an associate professor of law. Prior to that, he served as the Distinguished Professor of Leadership and Law at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. From 2017 to 2019 Nevitt was a Sharswood Fellow and lecturer-in-law at the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

In 2017, Nevitt was honorably discharged with the rank of commander after 20 years of service in the US Navy. As a naval officer, he served as both a tactical jet aviator and held several important roles in the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG), including Regional Environmental Counsel for the Department of Defense in Norfolk, VA; International Law Advisor, US-Iran Farsi Island Incident with the US Fifth Fleet/Naval Central Command; and Attorney-Advisor & Deputy Division Director, Administrative Law within the Office of the Judge Advocate General at the Pentagon. As an aviator, he flew more than 1,000 flight hours and accumulated more than 290 aircraft carrier-assisted landings. He was awarded the Navy's Air Medal for "meritorious achievement, superb airmanship, perseverance, and loyal devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions." He was commissioned as a naval officer from the University of Pennsylvania's Naval ROTC program.

Nevitt earned a JD from Georgetown University Law Center, where he also completed his LLM, with distinction, in Environmental Law. He earned his BSE from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the District of Columbia Bar (active) and Maryland Bar (inactive).



## TERRI MONTAGUE 14T 14L

### Scholar, attorney, leader joins CSLR

BY JUSTIN LATTERELL

**Terri Montague 14T 14L** is a multi-disciplinary scholar, attorney, and leader who joins Emory's Center for the Study of Law and Religion (CSLR) following a seven-year tenure in the Office of General Counsel at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where she served as program counsel for federal housing and community development grant programs; there she closed on \$1.14 billion in federally assisted and FHA-insured residential, mixed-use, and healthcare transactions. Most recently, Montague helped HUD develop guidance and tools to systematically embed an equity framework and redress inequities in HUD policies and programs, pursuant to the President's Executive Order 13985, "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government."

Before joining HUD, Montague was the founding president and CEO at Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., where she launched and led early implementation of the transformative \$4.8 billion BeltLine project that is enriching Atlanta with parks, trails, affordable housing, transit, environmental remediation, and economic development. Montague has earned degrees in law and theology (Emory), religion (Gordon-Conwell), city planning and real estate development (MIT), and economics (University of Chicago).

"It is a true joy to welcome back to our CSLR community one of our brilliant former students," said **John Witte, Jr.**, director of CSLR. "Terri Montague brings to CSLR deep learning, wide experience, and exemplary leadership in society, church, state, and economy. Her career has been a textbook example of how to integrate theory and practice, faith and works, stewardship and service in the field of law and religion. We are privileged to have her as an academic colleague and to join a formidable team of powerful leaders in our center."

Montague will be McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Law, a fellowship made possible by a generous gift from the McDonald Agape Foundation (MAF). "The McDonald Agape Foundation could not be more thrilled to support Terri Montague as she joins the outstanding team of scholars at CSLR," said Mark Berner, senior program officer at MAF. "Terri is a rare talent who combines an outstanding academic pedigree; accomplished civic, executive, and public policy leadership experience; and deep Christian faith graced with the bridge-building and thought leadership skills so needed to help address America's racial and economic divides."

Montague's scholarship, teaching and community engagement work will focus on some of the most pressing challenges facing communities in the United States. "This is an invaluable and timely opportunity to bring my leadership voice, multi-disciplinary perspective, and practical experience to Emory," Montague said. "I look forward to collaborating with other Emory faculty and community stakeholders to educate for systems change and for more equitable, sustainable communities of the future."



COMMENCEMENT

# ‘Our world needs you now’

## Sally Q. Yates addresses newest alumni

by A. Kenyatta Greer • photographs by Greta High

More than 360 law students recently gathered in person and virtually at Emory Law’s Degree Candidate Recognition Ceremony, held on Mother’s Day, which featured an address by former US Deputy Attorney General Sally Q. Yates.

Associate Dean for Research and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law **Margo A. Bagley 96L** lauded the students, saying, “You have attended law school during a global pandemic ... your journey has not been easy. In the best of times, law school is intellectually and personally challenging. You have accomplished so much in circumstances that few other Emory Law graduates have encountered—including myself.”

Bagley stood in for Dean **Mary Anne Bobinski**, who was unable to attend the ceremony due to ill-timed COVID diagnosis.

Bagley recognized special guests, including **Ian Levin 92L** and **Benjamin Fink 92L**, Emory Law Advisory and Alumni board leaders; **Lee P. Miller 82L**, university trustee; and the 15 students who, despite the special circumstances the pandemic presented, completed at least 75 pro bono service hours (50 for LLM students) and earned the Pro Bono Publico Medal.

The law school also honored several faculty members for outstanding service to the community:

- Adjunct Teaching Award: **Gary Marsh**, adjunct professor
- Provost’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education: **Randee J. Waldman**, clinical professor of law
- Most Outstanding Professor Award, chosen by the students: **Fred Smith Jr.**, professor of law

### An exhortation for justice

In his address to the students, Smith said, “No matter what your understanding of justice is, I hope that you use this law degree to do justice. ... Lawyers are uniquely positioned to deal in evidence and to marshal evidence to make persuasive arguments. And you as lawyers are uniquely positioned to shake people from their apathy and help people understand the stakes.”

Yates also challenged the graduates to take action: “I’m going to skip the pleasantries and get right to it: Your country needs you. Our world needs you. And we need you now. When you leave here today ... you’re going to be lawyers, and with that you have not just the ability but also the concurrent responsibility to make the world more just. To hold our country to its founding promises of liberty and equality, and while this has always been a weighty duty, it’s particularly critical today.”

Yates reflected upon a recent trip to the Civil and Human Rights Museum and quoted Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s 1963 March on Washington speech, saying, “We have come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is not a time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real promises of democracy. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God’s children.”

She added, “Another tranquilizing drug of gradualism also threatens our democracy, and that’s the normalization of the erosion of democratic institutions and values and individual rights that have defined what it means to be Americans. ... Lawyers have always been on the front lines of defining who we are as a country, or at least who we aspire to be. ... You decide what you believe our country stands for and take action to make it happen.”

### Student honors

**Danielle Kerker Goldstein 22L** holds the highest grade point average in her class and earned the title of Most Outstanding 3L Student from her peers. She celebrated her first Mother’s Day at the ceremony, having finished editing issue four, Vol. 71 of the *Emory Law Journal* just a week prior to the birth of her first child in March. Goldstein earned a JD and MBA dual degree and provided a frame of reference for the day:

“I am here to remind you, as I often have to remind myself: when life gets stressful and overwhelming, remember to have perspective. You may find that in a purpose, goal, or conviction. For me, I find it in relationships. ... What matters most to me are the people around me: my daughter. My husband. My grandfather, in the stands today, who escaped Auschwitz and survived the Holocaust, cancer, and now COVID. My parents, my siblings, my friends. And the kind strangers who sent messages of encouragement and support,” she said.

“In January, I reminded myself my tombstone won’t read, ‘editor in chief, *Emory Law Journal*’ or, ‘made someone angry on Twitter.’ It won’t record billable hours, class rank, GPA or a 1L torts grade,” she continued. “I know you’re going to go out there and be incredible lawyers. I hope you follow your convictions. Build your village. And be open to those who disagree with you. But above all—I hope you maintain perspective—ground yourself in what is important to you.”

As the Class of 2022 joins the Emory Law alumni community, they will find that their villages have grown by 13,000 supportive alumni overnight.





## STUDENT PROFILE

## Anthony ReFour 22L

### Education off the back burner

by A. Kenyatta Greer



“Even after 15 years as a police officer, I have learned things about myself, and I’ve learned things about the law.”

So says **Anthony ReFour 22L**, who earned a juris master degree from Emory University School of Law in May 2022. He’s spent the last five years in undergraduate and graduate school, after delaying his academic aspirations for years. Now, a journey that began working at Emory is beginning anew with a degree from the school of law.

ReFour had been building his law enforcement career ever since he started working at a sheriff’s office at 18. A DeKalb County police officer in 2013, he and some of his colleagues were assigned to work an Emory commencement ceremony. Among the thousands gathered to celebrate graduating Emory students, he met several Emory Police Department officers who told him stories about working at the university. He also heard about the courtesy scholarship that Emory employees could use after meeting certain service requirements.

“A lot of people don’t understand that Emory is one of the best kept secrets in the game. It’s such a good place to work. The

police department is also really hard to get into, but I gave it a shot and applied, and they accepted me.” But now that ReFour had his dream job, his education was put on hold once again. In 2017, he finally prioritized himself, starting an undergraduate program at Reinhardt college studying criminal justice. Four years later, he spent his last two weeks of his senior year overlapping with the first two weeks of his graduate academic career.

**I’ve been involved in the criminal justice system for 17 years, but having this master’s degree has honed my critical thinking and analytical skills. It’s such a good program, because the law permeates so many careers. —Anthony ReFour 22L**

One of ReFour’s co-workers had graduated from the Emory Law juris master program in 2020 and told him that “a degree from Emory is like a key to anything.” ReFour agrees. “I feel like a completely different person from when I started the program. I’m so much more confident in my abilities and understanding of my job. I can grasp some of the finer mechanisms of the legal system in the US. I’ve been involved in the criminal justice system for 17 years, but having this master’s degree

has honed my critical thinking and analytical skills. It’s such a good program, because the law permeates so many careers.”

He adds, “Reading documents and understanding the laws and the administrative rules behind your job is very important . . . so is having a deeper understanding of the case law, the history, the precedents and how police powers are employed across the United States.”

Adjunct Professor **Heather Ellis Cucolo**, who ReFour says taught one of his most impactful classes, Mental Health Law, with passion and zeal, recalls his contributions to the class: “His insight into the issues discussed in the course provided a crucial perspective from law enforcement and highlighted his role in addressing and combating the failures in community mental health support and provisions.”

“My co-workers have been a huge support, texting me muscle emojis to tell me to stay strong—I have a lot of people in my corner who understand the stresses of being in a program like this and who also understand the rewards,” ReFour says, noting that his wife understood why he needed to do this program. He says she’s been “more supportive than necessary,” recognizing that graduate level education requires a great deal of concentration that meant she spent more time focused on their child. “Now it’s her turn to live out her dream,” he says. “My only regret is that I put my education on the back burner for so long. This experience has been wonderful, and I’m so happy.”

## STUDENT PROFILE

## Tejas Dave 22L

### Input = hard work. Output = A whole new future.

by Lisa Ashmore



The popular image of a lawyer is one engaged in fiery cross-examination before a rapt jury. But in reality, attorneys’ work is often a silent calculus. The ability to weigh mounds of data and detail against case law and legislation explains why lawyers are essential to regulation and governance.

**Tejas Dave 22L** was already a success in high-level finance when he arrived at Emory Law for the juris doctor

program three years ago at age 25. As a research assistant at UC-Berkeley (where he earned an economics degree) he wrote code for quantitative analysis on topics ranging from super PACs to how U.S. monetary policy announcements ripple across global markets. He’s worked at the Federal Reserve twice. He interned on Capitol Hill as an undergrad. He’s also a thoughtful writer who sees the law as both a tool and a boundary.

“The field I want to go into, bank regulation, is constantly changing,” he said. “Every day is a new thing and that sort of constant change is what makes it exciting. And what I hear from a lot of practitioners is that no two days are the same because there’s always a new set of challenges.”

One example is the work he did last spring to assist Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law **Kristin Johnson**, who recently was confirmed as a member of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The research involved cryptocurrency regulation and her testimony before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to think about the regulatory framework around financial innovation and see how some of that thinking influenced policy discussions,” he said. Dave’s paper for Johnson’s seminar class addressed special purpose bank charters and access to payment rails.

In addition to graduating with high honors and joining the Order of the Coif, Dave will also receive the Keith J. Shapiro Corporate Bankruptcy Writing Award for his paper, “Rethinking Roadblocks to Municipal Bankruptcy,” which argues federal bankruptcy courts could be the best venue to resolve municipal distress. Dave was co-president

of Emory Law’s American Constitution Society chapter last year, and a Notes & Comments editor for the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*.

While he considered getting a PhD in economics, he ultimately chose law school.

“I was really interested in being back in an environment where you’re learning new things every day. Especially during 1L year I felt that every day I was learning something new, and I was learning something new in four or five different classes,” he said. He laughs when asked if he still uses Python or Stata.

“A friend told me how quickly I was going to forget how to code,” he said. “But I thought it was a pretty good way of thinking about law school exams—that you have this fact pattern and all sorts of input that’s all over the place. And you put it through this process—the law and the rules that you’ve learned—and you come out with a conclusion.”

Dave says Emory Law stood out because of its strong alumni network, especially in New York. He attended an admitted students event in the city and was impressed that both Emory Law’s dean and dean of admission attended. “And it was good to see so many [alumni] show up on a weekday evening at 6 p.m.,” he adds. He was already considering practice in New York (where his wife is completing a PhD in neuroscience) and the alumni network made it plain that was possible.

Dave was a teaching assistant for Assistant Professor of Practice **Kamina Pinder**, and also earned the highest grade in her Contracts class.

“I feel really lucky to be able to teach and mentor such wonderful students,” she said. “But even among such an impressive student body, Tejas is exceptional.” She called him a natural mentor who “consistently pays it forward.”

“He went above and beyond as my teaching assistant—he offered advice on how to perform well in my class and general law school tips and job search advice. He helped make students feel welcome and supported as they navigated the challenges of the pandemic,” Pinder said. “He is a superstar at Emory, and I expect nothing less in the future.”

Following commencement, Dave starts prep for the New York Bar exam and will join the international firm, Debovise & Plimpton, this fall. He was a summer associate there and recalls “a lot of discussion about fintech and crypto and how these things interact with the traditional banking sector.” He looks forward to exploring the boundaries and frontiers of global finance.

“There’s always room for being creative and being thoughtful; to say if we want to get from A to B then these are the regulations that we have to navigate through,” Dave said. “I think it opens up a lot of creative problem-solving opportunities, and I think that’s the kind of stuff that will keep me motivated over the course of years in the future.”

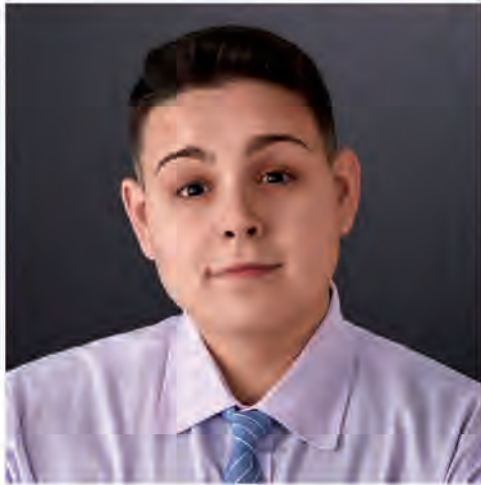


STUDENT PROFILE

## Marissa Cohen 22L

### A First Amendment class that changed everything

by A. Kenyatta Greer



**Marissa Cohen 22L** already had a JD when she came to Emory Law— she graduated from Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University in 2021. So, why invest in a master of laws at Emory?

“My first reason—and the nerdiest—for pursuing my LLM was the realization that my JD wasn’t enough to quench my thirst about the law,” she says. Her second reason for taking on a fourth year of law school was to become a legal educator focusing on cannabis law, constitutional law, and criminal procedure.

“What made Emory so perfect for me was what I call its ‘buffet style’ LLM versus a ‘fixed menu’ LLM. For example, many ‘fixed menu’ schools require a strict focus, commonly on tax law, and don’t allow much time to explore other nonrequired courses,” she said. “Emory Law’s ‘buffet style’ allows for a more self-guided degree, which essentially made me feel like a kid in a candy store. The school’s expansive and unique course offerings gave me the freedom to take classes totally unavailable to me if I never came to Emory.” Another driving factor for choosing Emory, Cohen added, was the impressive level of faculty scholarship.

Their writing, she says, has been instrumental in her areas of study.

In 2016, Cohen managed the first cannabis dispensary on the Las Vegas Strip, a rare hands-on industry experience that most lawyers will never have. “Once I began law school, I started giving lectures on cannabis taxation at law schools, for New York CLEs, and CMEs for health care providers interested in understanding the legal landscape of medicinal cannabis. This is a burgeoning field and I know students will enjoy exposure to it.”

**Though a Con Law nerd, I confess the First Amendment hadn’t inflamed me the same way the Fourth Amendment did. But, wow! Professor Witte’s course changed all of that. — Marissa Cohen 22L**

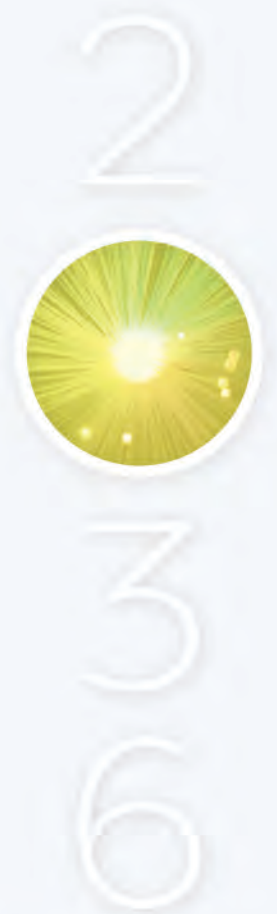
She believes in the idea of “Pop Culture Constitution,” a reference to how the Constitution touches everything in our daily lives. While guest lecturing in a former professor’s criminal procedure class, she explained it thusly: “I put up on the screen a ‘hypothetical,’ which was actually the lyrics to Jay-Z’s ‘99 Problems’s,’ second verse. We listened to it, and the students started dancing and rapping along. Then we went through line-by-line to see what Supreme Court cases were involved in determining the constitutionality of perhaps the most famous pre-textual traffic

stop of my generation. We found 19 cases on the Fourth Amendment in the verse that the students had memorized.”

Despite her own lecturing experience, Cohen said Professor **John Witte Jr.’s** First Amendment class changed the trajectory of her career. “[It] was hands down the most surprisingly influential course I took. Though a Con Law nerd, I confess the First Amendment hadn’t inflamed me the same way the Fourth Amendment did. But, wow! Professor’s course changed all of that. So much so that I ended up changing my postgraduate plans to take a job litigating religious liberty and intra-faith disputes in Manhattan. Never in a million and 35 years would I have guessed that’s where I’d be headed, and all this awesomeness is Professor Witte’s fault!”

Witte, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, McDonald Distinguished Professor, and CSLR director, said this of Cohen: “Ms. Cohen is the model student that every professor covets. She sat in a front row seat, never missed a beat in class, made powerful interventions, challenged me regularly, and led many class debates about fundamental questions, often employing a formidable left hook. She is a serious legal talent who will be going places in her career!”

Cohen mentions other influential faculty. “Professor **Gerald Weber**, who teaches Constitutional Litigation, is in the trenches of protecting plaintiffs every day from constitutional rights violations,” she says. “Professor **Randee Waldman** is in the trenches fighting for students and children to have their most basic needs for survival met. I saw some powerful leaders dedicated to making the world a better place, and what this degree showed me is I need to get in the game and use my skills like them. It’s such a privilege to have a law degree, and it’s my responsibility to take it and help protect anyone I can.”



## THE FUTURE STARTS WITH YOU

**“I know there are current students—and students to be—who are going to change the world. If there’s something that I can leave behind to help them do that, then I have a responsibility to do all that I can.**

Growing up, I looked at Emory as a place that was attainable for those who worked hard and valued learning. I was honored to receive the Woodruff Scholarship, and I vividly remember that I chose to attend in large part because of Mr. Woodruff’s generosity. Giving for me is deeply personal. I grew up in a family that not only valued education, but believed in giving back. Service was the air we breathed.”

– **Michael Ridgway Jones** 850x 88C 04L

General Counsel, Riskconnect

**A legacy of heart and mind—200 years in the making.**  
[giftplanning.emory.edu](https://giftplanning.emory.edu) 404.727.8875

EMORY





EMORY  
LAW

Office of Marketing and Communication  
Emory University School of Law  
1301 Clifton Road NE  
Atlanta GA 30322-2770

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

EMORY  
UNIVERSITY

## John Witte Jr.'s six new books on faith, freedom, and family



"Faith, freedom, and family together form the bedrock of a good life and a good society," writes **John Witte Jr.**, to open one of his six new titles published this past academic year. "But this foundation has suffered seismic shifts of late from vibrant religious pluralism, profound political changes, and new conceptions of marriage and family."

In these new volumes, Witte retrieves the major legal and theological teachings that have shaped these institutions and

outlines ways to strengthen, reform, and integrate them anew for a post-modern liberal culture beset by bitter culture wars.

Witte is Woodruff Professor of Law, McDonald Distinguished Professor of Religion, and director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion. He has published 45 books and 300 articles in 15 languages and has given 350 public lectures around the world.

These six new titles, together comprising nearly 2600 pages, are "the ironic benefit" of COVID, Witte says. For two years plus, "I was off the road and at my writing desk, with unprecedented time to focus."

All these books feature Witte's trademark interdisciplinary method of retrieving the wisdom of the Western tradition, reforming it for our day, and reengaging various confessional and professional perspectives on fundamental legal, religious, political, and social questions.

Three of the books are new monographs. *The Blessings of Liberty: Human Right and Religious Freedom in the Western Tradition* (Cambridge, 2021) explores the role that religion played in the development of rights from antiquity until today, and the complex interplay between human rights and religious freedom norms in modern domestic and international law. *Faith, Freedom, and Family* (Mohr Siebeck, 2021) documents and defends the value of all three of these institutions historically and today, while mapping and measuring necessary and effective modern reforms. *Religion and the American Constitutional Experiment* (5th ed. Oxford 2022), coauthored with Joel Nichols (Emory Law Class of 2000, JD and MTS degrees) and Richard Garnett, critically analyzes the shifting laws of American religious freedom from the founding era to the latest machinations of the United States Supreme Court. Earlier editions of this volume, a standard teaching text, have been translated into a half dozen languages, including recent Chinese and Spanish editions.

Three of the books are new anthologies. *Great Christian Jurists in German History* (Mohr Siebeck, 2021), coedited with Mathias Schmoeckel, presents case studies of two dozen leading Catholic and Protestant statesmen and churchmen who shaped German public and private law in the second millennium. This is another title in a fifty-volume series Witte is editing on "Great Christian Jurists in World History." Finally, a pair of volumes, coedited with Michael Welker, study the impacts of the family and of education respectively on *Character Formation, Ethical Education, and the Communication of Values in Late Modern Societies* (EVA Leipzig, 2022).

"I am deeply grateful for the generous benefactors and brilliant Emory colleagues who have helped inspire and support this work," Witte says, while running off to the library to work on several new writing projects.