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 2004. Employment rates are at a 10-year high, with the Class of 2021 at 94.6% employment overall and 98.3% 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 Ginsburg.

There is much to celebrate at Emory Law, and I hope you enjoy reading this edition that captures so many of these 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 Robinski
Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law
**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 STEPHEN LOGNY
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 Thresher 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.”
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 overwhelmed by reliance on equal protection and due process rights. And due to its importance, Hutchinson said that the current countermovement against anti- 

cism is directing its attention toward the First Amendment rights. 

“This is a moment of anti-citizenship,” said Hutchinson. His supporting evidence was lengthy and inclusive. President Trump’s use of tests against racial violence as an excuse for admissory restrictions, 

public state legislation that would immunize people who drove vehicles into protests; new restrictions on voting; and—perhaps the most 

pervasive political buzzword of 2020—ban on any instruction related to critical race theory. 

“[CBI, in schools], 

I was struck by the proliferation of that movement,” Hutchinson said, referring to CRT. “It happened quickly and went to the very low level of politics like school boards” all around the nation. Looking more closely at these policies, like one 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 structural or institutional factors. 

“Healthcare 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 accurate information.

Today’s countermovement is becoming broader by just “codifying racial resent-
manship into law,” Hutchinson said as he pointed to the NAACP. 

Hutchinson said that rather than focus on education that references feminism, a law in New Hampshire that requires teachers not advocate for communism or socialism and a Tennessee school board’s recent ban on 

notes, “If you dress both in the state and the market with respect to the democratic public forum, who exactly controls the space?” He explained that the Supreme Court, in a landmark case, said that citizens have “a strong, if not absolute, right to raise issues about state control of the public sphere. The hard place is a worry about concentrated pri-

vate power being used to undermine democracy, using the speech tools that democracy makes available.”

“This is a long and lively debate,” he said. 

Hutchinson suggested that instead, it mirrors a “long and lively debate” about militant democracy—

the idea that change can come from grassroots measures in response to the threat of fascism—

and that our society can find answers to questions of social media regulation in lessons learned.

In a subsequent panel, Gerry Weber, an 

advice professor at American University and 

senior staff council at the Southern 

Center for Human Rights, spoke about the need for direct citizens to gather information by 

filing public revelation. “We have become keen of the eyes, the ears, and the truth tellers of what happens with law enforcement,” he said, 

and listed eight names: Francisco Caldoz, Eric Garner, Oscar Grant, Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Daunte Wright, Rashard Brooks, and Ahmaud Arbery, arguing that information about the use of force by police shooting (or in the case of some, by three white men in Brunswick, Georgia) were the only available witnesses, although the police’

“Many people commented on the disparity in response to those two阿森

ens. It’s been said, ‘It’s time to raise the question of race when it comes to assembly.’

The freedom of assembly has always been worked as a ‘racial project.’” 

Hutson argued in a Yale Law Review article, describing how enforcing 

the law of speech is a tool for social control, using the example of “Brown” as a tool for “political control.

He suggested that one of the core theories of Derricke Bell Jr, a famed scholar of critical race theory, is that the point of criminal justice is that the point of criminal justice is “the law of law.” 

He added that the theory that police power is the point of criminal justice is not only applicable to the law of discrimination, but also to the law of incarceration in its 

reduction to the citizens’ space. 

Abu El-Haj argued that freedoms of speech and 

assembly should have comparable 

protection to free speech in the First Amendment. 

“I argued that the first amendment was designed to protect citizens’ right to organize, and 

they have the right to organize and fail or failing to have a peaceful permission could be 

interdicted as individuals or dispersed as a group.”

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He described the argument as “the more general idea of organizing and taking actions that are not only protected, but necessary.”

The clarification would also help define the line between a constitutionally pro-

tected assembly and a riot. Abu El-Haj listed cases of how different police forces respond to militant white supremacist groups at Unite the Right rallies and explained that many of these defenses and entitlements exist outside the 

framework of the Anti-Riot Act by claiming their speech was protected. He emphasized that in these cases, organizations use the doctrine from the doctrinal setup—in which all the analysts is about speech—are actually violent protest activities.

Repeating history

Harrell expressed shock at the first hand 

accounts of police on their experience with 

“attempts to chill legal First Amendment expression.” She said she hopes the symposium will give participants information to use every day when they put the legal strategies of their clients to adequate and adequate. They have been trained to be legal observers at protests and hearings in the past, and hoped that this knowledge might inspire others to act and interact with the nuances of the law.

“Do we do with this stuff?” Hutchinson asked as he closed his remarks, reminding 

viewers that everyone has experience with police interference. He said that “often the way to resist and defeat the police is a way to come back, try to defeat anything, 

something drawing on history is extraordinarily important.”

Everything happening today, he said, we’ve already experienced as social justice 

movements of the past. Hutchinson offered encour-

agement in John Lewis’s words to today’s 

activists: “It’s a unique moment. … We cannot 

let it happen.”

But he also mentioned the “collective response: ‘Every generation has to continue liberation struggle. Liberation is 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 subsection and inequality.”

Hutchinson said that he’ll raise that idea with him as he and others try to get into the “collective community” that Lewis tried to achieve.
Behold the metaverse: NFTs, cryptocurrency, and the future of IP law

BY LISA ASHMORE
ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA LIEGO

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 LVII was adorned with cryptocurrency ads, including one for Crypto.com starring Matt Damon. On January 27, TIGER Program Director and Professor of Practice Nicole Morris addressed the next blockchain frontier with this year’s TIGER 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 2019 led him to become one of seven artists featured in Caruso 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 substrates. 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 ownership, provenance, smart contracts for digital rights, and anti-counterfeiting endorsement, 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, tezos, ada and ether, and stablecoins 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 TIGER conference: the first tweet ever sent in 2006 by Twitter cofounder Jack Dorsey, which sold last year for $2.9 million, equivalent to roughly $2.5 million at the time. (To read, “just setting up my twt.”)

A more level playing field
But back to artist Buenaventura. His dog-populated bitcoin cartoons caught the attention of some early Ethereumdevotees. He met at a 2019 bitcoin meetup held at El Rin, a bar in San Francisco. Based on this connection, his art was included in the 30-piece Caruso Cards collection. The digital trading cards were initially offered for sale for $5 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 anarchists were looking to find the oldest tokens. They found Caruso Cards, the first artist-related NFT 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-year-old tweet ended up being sold at Christie’s for $37.5 million.

NFTs democratized the art industry "in a way that no other technology has been able to do before," Buenaventura said. "That’s because artists are now the creators of the art. They control the copyright, and they earn a royalty on each sale. NFTs have given artists a voice and a platform to share their work with the world. Before, artists had to rely on galleries and museums to exhibit their work, and they had to share their profits with those institutions. Now, artists can sell directly to collectors and keep all of their earnings. NFTs have opened up a new market for art, one that is accessible to everyone."
The metamere 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."
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 750 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.
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 (2011–16) established the scope of our ambitions:

We will take advantage of transformations in the endowment of the faculty to develop a multiyear hiring plan to recruit and retain outstanding and diverse faculty members who have assumed and 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 preeminence in immigration, 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 5 to 10 years.

When Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na‘im left his native Sudan in 1958, he swore to uphold the legacy of the author and Islamic reformist Ismail Umar Muhammad Mohamad 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 the arena has worked to promote a “modernist” view of Islam. At the same time, he has 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.”

When appointed 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 and human rights in Africa, Islamic and African perspectives,” 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 list of “Great Immigrants,” a recognition of individuals who have enriched and strengthened the United States and democracy.

EMORY LAWYER SUMMER 2023

Abdullahi An-Na‘im
Charles Howard Candler
Professor of Law

The courage to think differently
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 retelling, 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 physician teacher, upon realizing that because of the difficulty breaching into academia, he might never get to teach, even if he had a PhD in physiology.

The law kept calling, and Vandall earned a law degree at Vandall, studying with law dean and renowned torts authority John Wade. Not only would Vandall get the choice 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—some 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 1995 lawsuit against tobacco companies that alleged predatory marketing and aggressive 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 a cruel and difficult habit to smoke at all,” 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, and to pick the most in deprived subject to write about and not to piggyback on others.” In an appearance Vandall shares with his students at Emory Law he teaches thirteen-tort and advanced courses in products liability and torts.

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

“He doesn’t pass很快就 reads, and Vandall says, “My article suggests ways for suing the NRA.”

Frank J. Vandall
Professor of Law

More than 50 years of doing what couldn’t be done

Growing up poor in the streets of Canton, 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 potable outlets to transcend Jim Crow.

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

Woodhouse learned to play the piano so she could perform on her own, and she was able to read the law by looking through the pages of her father’s law books.

“Today, I can’t imagine working without a music player. I have a real passion for music,” she says.

Woodhouse attributes her success to her parents’ hard work and determination.

“I have a real passion for music, and I can’t imagine working without a music player,” she says.

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Professor of Law

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“Today, I can’t imagine working without a music player. I have a real passion for music,” she says.
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 58th 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 50 years of practice with fellow Emory Law alumni Jeff Berman BSL, and Charles Van Horn 94L. The fact that nine of our twenty lawyers are Emory Law graduates and that so much of the Emory Law Alumni Board in our firm have contributed to the annual fund every year for nearly a decade through the EmoryLawWerk 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, Annalise Bloodworth 94L, previously stated in these pages, “I invite you to think back on the foundations—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, effort, and commitment. If you have not been active in 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 Annalise 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 22L is learning the “family business.” I am thrilled that Henry has the opportunity to experience amazing professors like Richard Freer, Frank Vandal, and Jeffery Pennington like Robin and I did more than 30 years ago.

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

Charles "Chuck" Palmer 90L, a partner at Hunsaker, Nipper in Atlanta, has been included in the 2022 edition of The Best Lawyers in America, for Professional Responsibility and Administrative Law.

Jonathan A. Sigel 95L, recently selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2023, in the field of Employment Law—Management. He has also been named a 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyer. He’s a partner at Mirick O’Connell.

Jennifer Montemurro 97L, became Fox Rothschild’s first district director of Diversity & Inclusion in September 2021.

David Vander 86L, is a partner in Alston & Bird’s Financial Restructuring & Creditors’ Rights practice based in Atlanta.

John L. Parhamton 66L, a shareholder at Foster, Swift, Corbin & Smith, in Michigan, has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2022, for Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law.

Mark LeBoutillier 98L has joined Sites & Harisson in Atlanta as a member (partner) of the firm.

C. J. Hedges 99L has joined First Bank's executive team as group executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary, in San Antonio, Texas.

William D. "Billy" Newman 82L has joined Sites & Harisson in Atlanta as a member (partner) of the firm.

D. E. Morgan 91L has been named to Atlanta Business Chronicle’s 2022 Top Women in Business: Class of 2022.

Erica Birch 97L is an associate at Fincher, Farah & Carr in Atlanta.

C. S. Motes 20L has joined First Bank's executive team as group executive vice president, credit controller, and corporate secretary, in San Antonio, Texas.

Jeffery Pennington 89L is an associate at Foster, Swift, Corbin & Smith, in Michigan, has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America 2022, for Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law.
Partnership program supports student success

By A. Kaye Custer Green

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.

Emory Law@Work is a program that has been in effect more than 20 years, encouraging continued alumni relationships with the school through their workplaces. The Advancement and Alumni Engagement team believes that partnerships with 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-sponsor giving challenge (firm size is based on Emory Law alumni population at the firm—not the size of the firm itself).

The student scholars 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 over,” said Jennifer Crabbe. Kyles 980x0, marketing senior director of alumni engagement. “Now, captains will thank donors, remind alumni who hasn’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 4, 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 law school gift.

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

Inclusive shout 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 6 during Emory Law Alumni Weekend.

2022 winners

- Two-way tie: Berman Fink Van Horn led by Neal Weissrich 06L and Candres & Forsyth (NYC) led by Allison Surcoc 06L (Fewer than 10 alumni)
- Firms led by Emily Bakur 08L and Simon Hasson 13L (10 to 29 alumni)
- Smith Gambrell Russell led by John Elledge Jr. 82L and Steve Forte 80L (30+ alumni)

Condron & 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 500 donors.

For more information on how to become a firm captain, email lawalumnievents@emory.edu.

Many thanks to the 2022 EmoryLaw@Work Challenge participating companies:
- Asten & Bird
- Arnold Golden Gregory
- Berman Fink Van Horn
- Bryan Cave Leighton Peener
- Burr & Forman
- Condon & Forsyth (NYC)
- Dentons
- Eversheds Sutherland
- Finovar
- 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
- Spivey Patterson Beggs
- Taylor English
- Troutman Pepper

10 Gregory W. Dawson 10L has been named executive director, president, and CEO of the Frail K. Hirsch Legal Aid Society in Syracuse, New York.

13 Angela Oliver 13L has been promoted to the Office of Compliance, Control and Prevention, secretary to the Office of Executive Secretary.

17 Aareen Mettler 17L has joined Israelsen & Israelsen in New York City as an associate.

18 Peter J. Guntier III 18L has joined Sipes & Hardwick in Atlanta as an associate.

19 Sydney Ford 19L recently published an article titled “What Came to Van’s Today? She is an assistant public defender in the juvenile division of the Delaware County Public Defender’s Office.

20 Eric Aparo 20L, general campaign manager for Just Clothes 4 Little 21L, has joined the New Jersey Republican gubernatorial campaign. The campaign has announced a new fundraiser for the 2021 presidential election.

21 Darrin Hamilton Adams 21L has joined Robinson & Hutton in Nashville, Tennessee.

22 Rolando H. Magradante 22L has been promoted to associate at Robinson & Cole in Miami, Florida.
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 Atlanta law 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, accelerated 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 the 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 intern extern 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 500 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 State’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.
2022 Alumni Awards

We welcome nominations throughout the year. To submit an alumni award nomination, visit bit.ly/emorylawalumniawards.

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 B91L 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 35 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 U.S. 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 won the chief diplomat on charge of the international efforts to build and support strategic relationships between the federal government, state and local leaders, and their foreign counterparts. In 2019, 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 was born in Gangneung, South Korea, in 1965, 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 trialblazing 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 Association (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 overwhelming optimism were infectious. Choi shared his extraordinary zest for life with others in 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.
New JM concentrations
Data privacy and HR now available
by Susan A. Clark

Entropy 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; trade mark, 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 courses are specifically designed for working professionals. Students can also choose on-campus course options. The fully online format is comprised of six 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.

Center director named
Hutchinson to lead Center for Civil Rights and Social Justice
by Susan A. Clark and A. Kopytova Cover

Entropy 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 agreed 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 2022 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.
Finean elected to AAAS, named Outstanding Scholar

by A. Ketzpuaa-Cordero

Martha Albertson Finean, Robert W. Woodprofessor 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. Finean is among four Emory professors elected to AAAS this year and the only second from Emory Law to ever receive the honor.

Finean is an internationally recognized law and society scholar and a leading authority on critical legal theory and feminist jurisprudence. In response to her honor, Finean 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 to scholarship.

The contributions she references have been made in a field that Finean pioneered. She is the founding director of the Feminism and Legal Theory (FLT) Project. Begun in 1984, the project holds workshops and "uncomfortable conversations," visiting scholars from around the world. The project has generated dialogues, including the realization that law: feminism and legal theory, the first published anthology of feminist legal theory, and Taming the Boundaries of Law: Generation of Feminism and Legal Theory, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the project. She is also the founder and director of the Vulnerability and the Human Condition initiative (VHC), which emerged from the FLT Project in 2009 and provides a forum for scholars interested in engaging the concept of "vulnerability" and "resilience" and the idea of a "resilience-based" 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 assessments of responsibility. These concepts are currently being used as a lens through which to examine numerous areas of law and sociology across the globe. Finean’s work resonates with principles 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, Slavonic Kulturban. Finean says

The elected Emory professors are among six newly-elected members of the American Academy. The other five professors were selected by 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 whose work focuses on the arts, democracy, global policy, and sciences.

"We are celebrating a depth of achievements in a breadth of areas," says David O. Lewis, president, American Academy. "These individuals have brought fresh insights to the policies that affect all of us. Their work has set new standards of excellence in ways that excite us and inspire us at a time when recognizing excellence, commenting expertise and working toward the common good is absolutely essential to realizing a better future.

KMCL makes gift for environmental law scholarships

by Susan A. Clark

Emily Law’s Environmental and Natural Resources Law program has received a gift from the Kempe-Mooney Cloud Leisure law firm (KMCL) to establish a new diversity, equity, and inclusion initiative to promote inclusive participation 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 law field. The program will also provide these students with opportunities to engage with prominent environmental attorneys, commerce professionals, government officials, and scholars through conferences, workshops, or other formal or informal interactions.

KMCL founded this initiative to Emory to build a pipeline of well-trained and diverse environmental lawyers. Rick Herder, one of the firm’s founding partners, says KMCL “is committed to creating diversity in the environmental field.”

"Emory was a key to long-term, concrete results is attracting the most bright 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 part of 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 environmental attorneys to help develop the Environmental Barover the course of the program is launched. Emory Law Dean Debra Ann Bolinski says, "Emory Law is committed to promoting diversity in the legal profession and is looking forward to working with KMCL to enhance the diversity of environmental lawyers.

Mindy Goldstein, KMCL’s director of Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program, said, "I look forward to working with our scholarship and recipient students become successful environmental attorneys, shaping environmental law and policy through our country."
Trial Techniques 2022
Which will win?
by Lisa Ashmore

A day before his death from pancreatic cancer, a father handwritten 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 Kreitler-Instructor Program for Trial Techniques (KIPP), 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 unfair influence, illness, and misinformation 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 traveled 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, KIPP’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 1989, 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 University of North Carolina Judicial College at Trial Advocacy 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 weeklong, May session kicked off April 30, right after final exams.

This year’s return to an in-person event involved 45 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 KIPP faculty help make the program exceptional, we especially thank our alumni faculty:

- Al Amadeo BLD (ABA Rule of Law Initiative); Emily Baker RBC 91L (James Day)
- Lysmyn Barron 09L (Mitchell & Martin); Steven Berne 87L (Law Office of Steven Berne); Natanya Brooks 13L (Brooks Injury Law)
- Marc Brown 14L (Marc Brown Law Firm); Chelese Champion 18L (Dekalb County Public Defender); Lawrence Cooper 80L (Cohen, Cooper, Epstein & Allen); Amos Davis 10L 10T (Ober Technologies);

Letitia Delan 93L (DeKalb County Public Defender); Perisha Dixon 15L (Fischer Deemark); Nick Duarte 10L (The Duarte Firm); Yonimca 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 81L (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Georgia); Drew Healy 13L (Dekalb County District Attorney’s Office); Judge Robert Hefnerfield 91L (State Judicial District Circuit Court of Arizona); Christopher Lambdon 19L (Paul Clay); Allison Lumpkin 15L (Squel Patent Boggs); Judge David Lyles 98L (Superior Court, Paulding Judicial Circuit); Elizabeth Markowitz 90L (Fulton County Public Defender); Marcela Mata 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, Gwinnett County Court); Joe Newman 73L (U.S. Attorney’s Office, retired);/pro-tem Georgia State Court judge; Shankar Ramamurthy 11L (U.S. Dept. of Justice); Claudia Sanit 87L (DeKalb County Public Defender); Kate Sandlin 14L (Smith, Gambrell & Russell); James Scharf 86L (U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of California); Jackie Schlicker 13L (Dekalb County Public Defender); Abe Shanor 74L (Abraham A. Shanor); James Sheinbaum 97L (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 (Draisher Law); Bruce Udell 7H (Udell, Udell, P.A.); Justin Victor 10L (Greenberg Sturcel); Sandy Wallack 94L (Wallack Law); Robert Webb 78L (Webb & O’Dwyer); Harry Winsogard 83L (Keller, Ramsey, Andrews, Winsogard & Wildstein); and Will Woosten 13L (Fulton County District Attorney’s Office).

The Emory Alumni Awards are an opportunity to reflect on the everyday champions, luminaries, 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 1966 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 desisting 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 alumni who have contributed 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.
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 and a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley, a law degree with first class honors and an undergraduate degree in mathematics and physics, both from the Australian National University. Professor Jacobi's high-impact research has been cited more than 970 times, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor has cited Jacobi's "judicial, interrupted" as having influenced the U.S. Supreme Court’s approach to racial 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 proceedings from various perspectives doctrinal, empirical, and some game theory."

Joanna M. Shepherd, JD, 2014, 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 fecund, pioneering, 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 seven 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 the Harvard Business Review. In her last year, Jacobi had a series of three related Op Eds published on Supreme Court reform, congressional reform, and election reform 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 genuinely 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 said.

Jacobi will join Emory in July 2023, 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 and Humanity Initiative. Professor Sag is currently the Georgia Rental 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—both 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 Matulich/Frank 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 Sam Roberts 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 copyright-related technology has become the leading analysis of why text data mining in AI is fair use and does not violate copyright," said Faculty Research and Development at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

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," said Dean Mary Anne Bebinski.

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 up to 10 faculty members with a focus on AI, but not limited to, four topical areas:

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

These hires will create a vibrant and cohesive 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 relevant and having Professor Sag join will open up new conversations and collaborations."

Sag will join Emory Law in July 2023, adding his expertise to Emory Law's strategic focus on research and teaching related to intellectual property and AI.
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 in forthcoming in the Washington University Law Review, Boston College Law Review, Georgia Law Review, UC Davis Law Review, Yale Journal of Regulation, and Harvard Environmental Law Review. He is a frequent contributor to NFU Law's Just Security blog, Lawfare, and the Yale Law Journal RegBlog. His commentaries have appeared in the Washington Post, Slate, Newsweek, and The Atlantic.

TERRI MONTAGUE 14T 14L
Scholar, attorney, leader joins CSLR
BY JUSTIN LATTERBELL

Before joining HUD, Montague was the founding president and CEO of Atlanta BeltLine, Inc., where she launched and led early implementation of the transformative $4.2 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's 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 White, 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 work, 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 the McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellow and Senior Lecturer in Law, a fellowship made possible by a generous gift from the McDonald Appage Foundation (MAF). “The McDonald Appage 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 commitment to bridging the bridge-building and thought leadership skills so needed to help address America’s racial and economic inequity.”

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 inevitable and timely opportunity to bring my leadership voice, multidisciplinary perspective, and practical experience to Emory,” Montague said. “I am deeply honored to collaborate with other Emory faculty and community stakeholders to educate for systems change and for just, affordable, sustainable communities of the future.”
‘Our world needs you now’
Sally Q. Yates addresses newest alumni

By A. Kenneth Cover • photographs by Gretta Schifano

More than 350 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 O’Hara welcomed 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 for Dean Mary Anne Bobinski, who was unable to attend the ceremony due to illness caused by COVID-19.

Bagley recognized special guests, including Ivan Levin 92L and Benjamin Pink 92L, Emory Law Advisory and Alumni Board leaders; Lee P. Miller 22L, majority 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 see this law degree as giving you the means to pursue and achieve it. … Lawyers are uniquely positioned to deal in evidence and to marshal evidence to make persuasive arguments. And you as lawyers are uniquely positioned to shape people from their quality and help people understand the stakes.”

Yates also challenged the graduates to take action: “I’m going to skip the gloom and get right to it: Your country needs you. Our world needs you. And we need you now. When you have been 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 worthy charge, it’s particularly critical today.”

Yates reflected upon a recent trip to the Civil and Human Rights Museum and qued 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 path of least resistance. 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 transatlantic drug of globalization 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 Student from her peers. She celebrated her first Mother’s Day at the ceremony, having finished editing issue 49, Vol. 7 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 10, 12,600 grade,” she continued. “I knew 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 5,400 supportive alumni overnight.
Anthony ReFour 22L
Education off the back burner
by A. Kenyatta Giver

"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's degree from Emory University School of Law in May 2012. He's spent the last few years at Emory's undergraduate law school, after delaying his academic aspirations for years. Now, a journey that began working at Emory's 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 in Ala. A DeKalb County police officer in 2012, 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 that generosity scholarship that Emory employers 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 iron, 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 his law school, starting an undergraduate program at Emory's 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's program in 2010 and told him that "a degree from Emory is like a key to anything." ReFour agrees. "I feel like a completely different person from where 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 roles 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 Cuccolo, 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 coworkers have been a huge support, teaching me muscle 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 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 dreams," 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 happy."

The popular image of a lawyer in court is riddled in fiery cross-examination before a rape jury, but in reality, an attorney's work is often a silent calculus. The ability to weigh mounds of data and detail against case law and legislation requires 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 U.C.-Berkeley (where he named 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 he wants to join, big regulatory, 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 in the work he did last spring to advise Ana Griggs, Candiller Professor of Law Kristin Johnson, who recently was confirmed as a member of the Community 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 tools.

In addition to graduating with high honors and joining the Order of the Coif, Dave will also receive the Keith J. Shapton Corporate Bankruptcy Writing Award for his paper, "Participating 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 National Law Journal 40 Under 40 editor for the Emory Journal of Developmental Law. While he considered getting a PhD in economics, it ultimately chose law school.

"It helps you connect in being back in an environment where you're learning new things every day. Especially during that year I felt that every day I was learning something new, and I was learning something new in four or five different choices," he said. He laughs when asked if he still uses Python or Stats.

"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 format 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 it was possible.

Dave was a teaching assistant for Assistant Professor of Practice Kamira Finder, 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," Finder 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, Debevoise & Plimpton, this fall. He's a summa cum laude there and recalls a "lot of discussion about frontier crypto and how these things interact with the traditional banking sector." He looks forward to exploring the boundaries around that global frontier.

"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. "But navigating creative problem-solving opportunities, and it's that kind of stuff that will keep me motivated over the course of years in the future."
Their writing, she says, has been instrumental in her areas of study.

In 2018, 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 CMEL for health care providers interested in understanding the legal landscape of medical 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 2L

She believes in the idea of “Pop Culture Constitution,” a reference to how the Constitution shapes 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 hypotheti- cal, which was actually the lyrics to Jay-Z’s ‘99 Problems’s’ second verse. We licensed 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 9 cases on the Fourth Amendment in the verses 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 fighting religious liberty and infra-faith disputes in Manhattan. Never in a million and 99 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 CERL director, said this of Cohen: “Mr. 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 constitu- tional 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 power- ful leaders dedicated to making the world a better place, and what this degree showed me is that 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 BBC 04L

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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.