

EMORY | lawyer

SUMMER 2024

The **manifest** dean

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New faculty

Summer stipends



A new beginning

FORTY-ONE YEARS AGO, Louise and I left our families and childhood homes in Southern California to come to Emory Law. Our son was two weeks old. We bought our first house (with a 12 percent mortgage), took a 40 percent pay cut, and moved 2,000 miles—all so I could start a job I had never done in a city in which we knew one person.

We did this because Emory Law was different from other academic options. There was excitement and ambition, a positive trajectory, and a clear core mission. And now—15,000 days later—I have the singular and humbling privilege to lead Team Emory Law as we embrace the same ambitious and bold spirit going forward.

Team Emory Law is strong. Our faculty is productive and engaged—recognized scholars of impact and dedicated teachers who inspire students to realize their potential. Our students are smart, curious, and diligent—poised to lead the legal profession in the years ahead. Our energetic, experienced staff enables us

all to excel. Our alumni bring rich credit to Emory Law with their professional accomplishments; in addition, we are deeply grateful for their steadfast investment of time, talent, and treasure in their alma mater. We are an integral part of a world-class university, which is robustly supportive of our mission. Atlanta, our home, provides unparalleled opportunities professionally, personally, and culturally.

And we are getting stronger. We are bringing new vigor to our core mission: to educate sophisticated, principled, world-class lawyers who can flourish in the practice of law anywhere. We ensure Emory Lawyers have the education, skill, and character to lead their legal and broader communities. Since

November, I have met and spoken with hundreds of alumni and friends of Emory Law. I am thrilled at the momentum we are building.

We have already taken exciting steps. Our Student Flourishing Initiatives take effect in August, when we welcome the Class of 2027. These include new courses designed to teach students about professional expectations and equip them to meet those expectations, succeed on the bar exam, and excel in the profession. **Kamina Pinder**, our director of academic excellence, will oversee implementation of these initiatives. This fall, the faculty will start a ground-up assessment of the curriculum to ensure that it prepares students for the legal world unfolding over the coming years. We will enhance and coordinate mentoring, creating a pipeline of support from undergraduates considering law school, through law school, and into the profession.

We will be hiring new faculty to build upon the remarkable recruiting success of Dean **Mary Anne Bobinski**. Specifically, we will enhance our scholarly and teaching heft in Civil Litigation and in Business Law—two of the pillars of our core academic mission.

I am honored to work with an exceptional academic leadership group: **Joanna Shepherd** as vice dean, **John Acevedo** as associate dean of students and academic programs, **Ifeoma Ajunwa** as associate dean of programs and partnerships, and **Matt Lawrence** as associate dean of faculty. We are enriched by their willingness to serve and lead.

Team Emory Law is indeed a team—a large, diverse, mutually supportive group of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends—with an exciting mission.

To lead Team Emory Law is the greatest honor I can imagine.

Richard D. Freer
Dean and Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law

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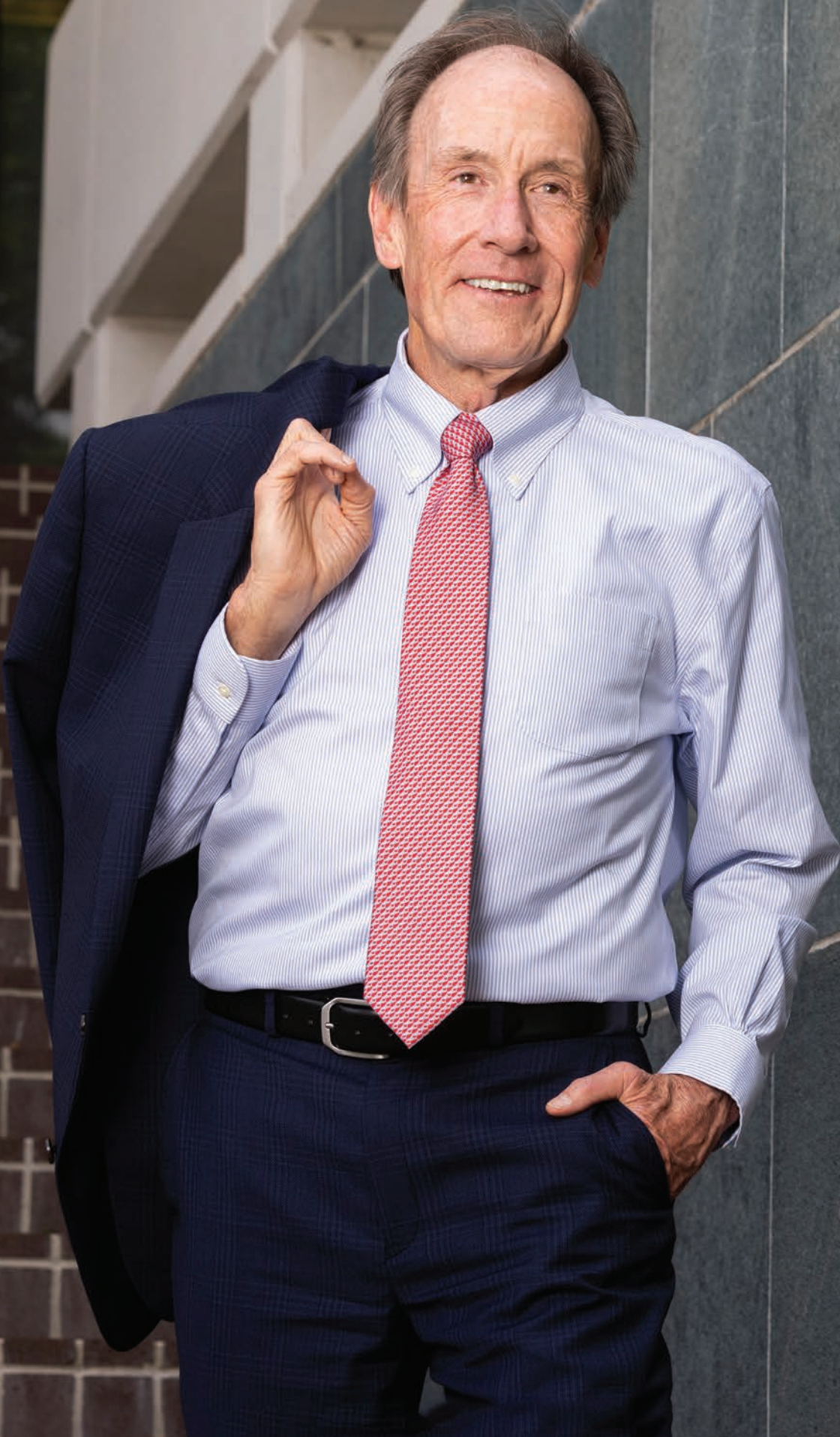
SCHOOL OF LAW

A familiar face in a new role

During 2024 Emory Law Alumni Weekend, alumni families celebrate their time at Emory Law with Dean Richard D. Freer who, for some, was once their professor.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNI GIRTMAN





The MANIFEST dean

BY CANDACE GIBSON • PHOTOS BY KAY HINTON

Emory has been my entire professional life.

AFTER 41 YEARS on the faculty at Emory University School of Law, **Richard D. Freer** officially became the dean on July 1. “I know this is not the typical career path,” he said candidly, “but I’m honored to be here, and if I can give back during this five-year term, I’m happy to do it.”

Freer has been honored eleven times as Most Outstanding Professor at Emory Law, including by the Class of 2024. He is active in advising and committee roles outside the classroom. He has been working quietly on his plans since the announcement of his dean-ship last November, and his day-to-day life will change dramatically as he steps fully into the role. “Next year I will not teach, and that breaks my heart,” confessed Freer. “Every year I get older, but my students don’t. They’re young and excited. It’s energizing. To see them grow through the years as lawyers and people, and to maintain friendships with them, is a blessing. Many are reaching retirement age, but I still consider them my students.”

That his students energize him is evident. Freer is warm, quick to laugh, and establishes an almost instant rapport in conversation. He is a Californian, and perhaps that explains his easygoing manner. “[My wife] Louise and I have had opportunities to go back to California. Louise said, ‘It’s just not home anymore.’ Not just that Atlanta is home; Emory is home. This is where we’ve invested,” said Freer.

The investment will be paying off for Emory Law. Freer has worked with the school’s faculty, students, alumni, curriculum, and operations for four decades. Right now, Emory Law is facing some challenges. The solutions are embedded in the people who comprise the school, Freer says. “I look forward to emphasizing a team focus,” said Freer, “and to ensuring that those on the team have the support they need to thrive. And I get to trumpet the accomplishments of our faculty, students, alumni, and staff. And yes, this team is full of incredible people.”

He lauds outgoing dean, **Mary Anne Bobinski**, and recognizes her leadership in difficult times. “She has dealt with the pandemic, a generational turnover on faculty, and yet

has been able to hire fabulous new faculty members. She’s done a great job,” said Freer. During his time at Emory, he has worked with ten deans and interim deans, some recruited internally and others externally. “There are just different times in the life of the law school where maybe you spend energy in different directions,” he said.

Freer calls for a people-focused approach to mold a strong faculty culture, help students flourish, and engage alumni. He has a reputation for making time and listening—ensuring that every member of the law school—past and present—is recognized, heard, and involved. Relationships are the key to breaking down silos and underlie a holistic set of goals. His priorities are not ranked but, rather, are being approached with the understanding that positive change in the faculty begets positive change in the students who become even more engaged alumni.

Faculty team-building
I will always have their back.

When Freer joined Emory Law, its faculty was in a similar state of turnover with retirements and new hires. “The law school was on the move, and that’s why I chose it over other schools,” he said. There was an eagerness to build a new culture and to know one another as scholars and people. That feeling is still here, the dean believes, but can be strengthened, particularly with the successful recent hiring of new faculty members.

“I want us to spend more time with each other. This is how you build a team. We’re going to have a more inward focus at the outset. I want us together to talk widely about scholarship, collaboration, pedagogy, and to brainstorm as a group,” Freer said. “We have fabulous scholars and teachers on this faculty; I want us to know each other as people. We are also going to be avid in celebrating scholarship, teaching, and service.”

Longtime colleague **John Witte Jr.**, Woodruff Professor of Law and faculty director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion, reflects on the new dean’s talent for connecting people. “He is a highly respected member of the law school faculty who gets things done effectively and efficiently. He places a high premium on scholarly excellence,



professionalism, community-building, fairness, and faculty service to students, alumni, the bench, the bar, and the business, and health and service professionals of the city and region. And he brings diverse people together in all manner of formal and informal ways,” said Witte.

Ani B. Satz, professor of law and public health, has worked with Freer for two decades. “When I first arrived at Emory Law, I had an office without much light,” said Satz. “Rich Freer bought me a lamp.” She looks forward to his leadership and underscores the dean’s ability to build community. “Over the last 20 years, I have witnessed Rich’s persistent dedication to the faculty community, students, and scholarly excellence. Having taught large classes at Emory and more than 500,000 BARBRI bar candidates nationwide as well as being active in the local bar, Rich is poised to inform and enhance the student experience and to build alumni connections.”

Freer praises the faculty’s scholarly impact. “My colleagues are active and productive; they have built Emory’s reputation as a leading scholarly hub, a reputation we will continue to build.” At the same time, the faculty is

dedicated to student success. “Faculty can disagree on this or that, but when it comes to the quality of education and the student experience, it is ‘all hands on deck.’”

Student flourishing
Flourishing is a long-term investment.

Freer is quite clear on this point: “Student flourishing is not the same as happiness. There are days in law school, as in life generally, when we are not happy.” Flourishing is about digging in, working hard, and being prepared to serve a client. “Law school is not college. From the first day, it is a professional school. You have chosen a profession, and it is all about service,” he said.

Flourishing happens in real time, though it is most evident in retrospect. It is about being prepared, supported, and guided. When students look back on their time in law school, they should see exactly how it prepared them for their jobs. “We’re putting together a first-year course that expands orientation to give students the skill set they need to start law school. We set expectations, and we will never

expect something of you for which we do not give you the skill set,” said Freer. His decades in the classroom have shown him what skills students need in law school: how to prepare for class, how to take notes, and how to review for exams. “It’s a different learning experience from college,” he said. “You read raw materials, you read case law, statutes, regulations. The classroom is interactive and participatory, and 100 percent of the grade is on the final exam.” He lets the last part land, and, with his trademark good humor, laughs. “Gee, that’s a Pepto Bismol moment!”

The law school skill set must take the student beyond exams, of course. In his second year, he plans to do an honest, heavy lift on curriculum—something that has not been done in 15 years. Is the current curriculum still serving lawyers in this decade? The next decade? Does it anticipate the changes coming with artificial intelligence? And does it reflect changes to the bar and changes in law practice? “If law schools need to be emphasizing different skills, let’s be ahead of the curve,” said Freer.

In addition to seeking insights from law offices and general counsels about what skills they are looking for in young lawyers, Freer is also engaging at the student level to learn where they want to take their skills.

Freer is “one of the most student-focused faculty members,” said **Olivia Davis 25L**. “His leadership style is about serving the student population and ensuring everyone has a seat at the table and adequate representation,” said Davis.

A student feels ownership over his or her path when advised well and matched with a mentor whose career can illuminate the path forward. Emory Law has a huge pool of alumni willing to mentor law students; in fact, mentoring is one of the primary ways that alumni stay engaged. But what positive change might come if law students themselves took a more active role as mentors? This is something Freer is committed to.

Alumni engagement
I could not be prouder of our alumni; we need their continued engagement.

“We do mentorship well at a lot of levels,” said the incoming dean. “I want us to get this pulled

together in a more coordinated way. I think of it as a pipeline.” All first years will get a mentor from among the second- and third-year law students who know the ropes. “Because of our selfless alumni, any student who wants an alumni mentor can have one. There’s so much activity here,” he said. “From your first day of law school and well into your career, you’ll have a mentor, and then you will become one.”

He envisions a pipeline that makes mentors of first years, too. Freer plans to host open houses for undergraduates from Emory and other local colleges. “We want to tell them about law school, and first years will mentor undergraduates in this process,” explained Freer. “As a 1L, you have information that’s valuable to these undergraduates.” Furthermore, playing a mentoring role gets people involved. “Maybe some of these undergraduates will come to Emory Law, but either way, they will learn about the law school experience from Emory students and professors.”

Emily Baker 98C 01L, a partner at Jones Day and Emory Law Alumni Board president, has stayed connected to Emory and is counted among the highly engaged alumni. “It’s hard to imagine anyone who has inspired more Emory lawyers or knows what Emory Law has to offer better than Professor Freer,” said Baker.

“His commitment to this community runs deep, and the future is bright for Emory Law under his leadership as dean.”

For alumni who have fallen out of the pipeline, Freer insists that they are still making valuable contributions to the school. “By being a consummate professional – a sophisticated, principled lawyer – you are reflecting glory on us,” he said. That is giving back.

A second term?

His five-year plan is mapped out, but there is enough work to fill a decade—or more.

“My friends ask me why I haven’t retired,” laughed Freer. “But I am having too much fun to leave. God willing, I have five years in this term. I’ll do the best I can. I want to build collaboratively, work strategically, and put the school in position to move higher and higher.” He recognizes retirement as an eventual theoretical possibility. “Tennis, writing, piano, travel are all great, but we have work to do. There’s time to think about later, later.”

Judicial decision-making

Scholarship at the juncture of legal understanding and social science

BY ANDREW FAUGHT | ILLUSTRATION BY FRANZISKA BARCZYK



THE US SUPREME COURT’S 2010 ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* did more than just open the floodgates for billions of previously restricted campaign contributions—so-called dark money from unnamed donors—to influence state and national elections.

The high court opinion also challenged ideas around judicial decision-making, the long-revered process in which judges interpret, weigh, and apply legal principles to help determine the structure and outcome of a case. While experts say that personal, ideological, and political factors are bound to figure into a judge’s logic, there are new pressures affecting elected jurists in light of the landmark ruling.

“It basically means you can get as much justice as you can buy,” says **Joanna Shepherd**, Thomas Simmons Professor of Law, who notes that until the 1980s judicial candidates often ran uncontested and sometimes didn’t raise a single dollar in campaign funds. “True justice is at risk if the people who contribute more to judges’ campaigns get more justice when they’re in court, and that doesn’t really sound like justice to me.”

Emory Law’s cadre of legal experts turned social scientists

Shepherd is one of many cross-disciplinary scholars at Emory who are researching the changing face of judicial decision-making through the lens of the social sciences. While law schools around the country are known to discuss how judges arrive at decisions, few programs take a deep dive into the dynamics affecting decisions.

Citizens United isn’t the only factor influencing judicial decision-making. In recent decades, state tort reforms, initially promoted by business lobbies, influenced special interests in other ways. From the 2000s to early 2010s, single-issue plaintiff groups—such as those supporting gay marriage bans—launched an “onslaught” of campaign contributions to judicial candidates friendly to their aims, Shepherd says.

With former Emory Law Professor Michael Kang, Shepherd wrote a book—*Free to Judge: The Power of Campaign Money in Judicial Elections*—that highlights challenges to judicial decision-making.

The authors propose a solution: elect judges to a single, lengthy term, say, 14 years—the average duration of a state supreme court judge. Judges who don’t face reelection are more likely to make decisions closer to the law than be influenced by political forces, says Shepherd, who teaches a course on torts.

“Reelection is unique to America, and we propose getting rid of that,” she says. Most countries, she notes, don’t elect judges at all.

Jonathan Nash, Robert Howell Hall Professor of Law, also gives judicial decision-making a twist. His course, Judicial Decision-making, considers judicial decision-making beyond the letter of the law.

“It merges legal understandings, which most students have, with information and insights from social science,” he says. “So while most law classes look at what the law says the outcome of a case should be, we look at how the judge’s background might influence a case and resolve an issue.

“It could be gender, it could be religious background, it could be which law school you attended,” Nash adds. “Judges are humans wearing robes. Decision-making can go off the rails when these other factors overtake legal considerations.”

Still, Nash and Shepherd say there are studies that show judges are, for the most part, following the law. Perceptions endure that justice is transactional, however. As for the Supreme Court, Nash notes that some of his students think the body is “entirely political,” but “I think the class actually dispels that quite a lot.” Other students believe that court operates wholly based on judicial rectitude.

The course considers lower courts and how judges are selected. Students are asked to consider a number of questions. How are jurisdictions filling judgeships? Are there better or worse ways for doing so? How can positions be filled while minimizing the risk of politicizing the bench?

Two cases that often are identified as politically influenced are those involving abortion, and the 2000 Supreme Court opinion in *Bush v. Gore*, in which justices controversially ended a Florida presidential ballot recount, allowing a vote certification by state leaders and giving Bush the presidency. The decision remains controversial.

Nash urges caution in weighing abortion decisions, for example. “A judge may think, ‘this is just my approach to judging that leads me to this conclusion, and it happens to align with the theological movement, but I’m not voting based on ideology,’” he says. “They might be masking that in their own mind, or it might actually be true. It’s very hard to pick apart.”

In his course, Nash has students listen to Supreme Court arguments in real time. Students draft opinions and have accurately predicted outcomes in each case, evidence that suggests the law plays a substantial role in results.

Nash developed an interest in judicial decision-making while pursuing his doctorate in political science while teaching at Emory Law. His class draws social science students who are interested in learning how the law intersects that discipline.

“Students find it interesting, and it opens lawyers’ eyes to how judges might be thinking,” Nash says. “That’s important to factor in. Taking a class like this prepares them for a clerkship, and I think when judges see it on their transcript, it shows that they’ve thought about judicial decision-making at a different level.”

Critiques of judicial decision-making aren’t new, but the depth and number of those critiques has expanded since the dawn of the new century. Nash says some of the earliest conversations came 75 years ago, “when political science was becoming more empirical.” The academic world began to see the synergy of law, economics, and social science, he notes. Research opportunities have expanded at the same time computing power and machine learning have developed deeper insights into data sets.

The emergence of the annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies more than two decades ago has united the disciplines and created “more bridges” to combine research. Emory will host this year’s conference in November.

Laughter at the highest court

One example of this new generation of scholar is **Tonja Jacobi**, professor of law and Sam Nunn Chair in Ethics and Professionalism. She holds a law degree and a doctorate in political science.

Her 2019 study, “Taking Laughter Seriously at the Supreme Court,” considered how levity is not all as it seems. The groundbreaking research, co-written with Emory Professor of Law and Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Data Science **Matthew Sag**, received global press coverage.

The pair studied every instance of laughter in oral argument transcripts between 1955 and 2017—6,864 incidents in 9,000 cases, they found. The researchers wrote that so-called lighthearted jesting was often used by senior justices as rhetorical tools against less experienced justices to influence decisions.

“It’s basically picking on the loser or picking on the person you don’t like or who you’re going to vote against,” Jacobi says. “We also showed it’s part of a trend of judicial strategy for the



— Tonja Jacobi, professor of law and Sam Nunn Chair in Ethics and Professionalism

“... [The justices] use laughter to basically mock the argument they don’t like and undermine it in that way. It’s not really about humor at all; it’s about derision.”

A subsequent article by the researchers indicated the paper “didn’t have as much of an effect as Sotomayor described.” Adds Jacobi: “The gendered interruptions actually continue to this day.”

Her research relies on prior sociological and psychological studies that show powerful people, traditionally men, interrupt more and view their speech as “more important.” While change may be slow to come at a hidebound institution such as the Supreme Court, she’s encouraged that people are at least talking about how interruptions and laughter can affect judicial decision-making.

Jacobi highlights such dynamics in her seminar course, Supreme Court Decision-making, which focuses on oral arguments. Students listen to oral arguments and analyze cases for prejudices.

When Jacobi began teaching law at Northwestern Law a decade ago, she said students graduated law school without ever having listened to an oral argument.

“Oral arguments are really important, because they’re a window into how justices make decisions,” she says. “If you’re an advocate, you need to understand this to know how to play the game and be an effective attorney.”

Similarly, **Kevin Quinn**, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law, has been researching judicial decision-making for more than 25 years, relying on the growing field of natural language processing.

The machine learning technology allows computers to interpret, manipulate, and comprehend human language. In ongoing research, Quinn is using the technology to research how randomly assigned three-judge panels on the US Court of Appeals will likely rule on a matter.

“It’s pretty close to a randomized experiment that allows us to ask questions and get pretty good answers,” he says. “What we were looking at is the propensity to cite past cases.”

Quinn joined Emory last year and splits his time between the law school and the Department of Quantitative Theory and Methods at Emory.

“There’s a really strong group of people here at Emory, both in the law school and in other units on campus, studying judicial decision-making, and that’s rare,” he says.

Raising *the* bar

BY JASMINE REESE

THE EMORY LAW FACULTY will be bolstered this summer by two renowned scholars whose expertise will enrich the academic breadth of the law school's offerings in artificial intelligence and property.

Former Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law **Mary Anne Bobinski** shared her eagerness to have these distinguished scholars join our esteemed faculty. She said, "My colleagues and I are delighted to have been able to recruit Professor **Jessica Roberts** to Emory and Atlanta. Professor Roberts is an outstanding scholar and teacher who offers specialized expertise in emerging areas such as artificial intelligence in health care law and genetics and the law. Professor Roberts will join a nationally regarded group of Emory Law faculty members who are experts in the intersection of AI with traditional legal doctrines impacting our economy and society."

She continued enthusiastically, "Emory Law is extremely pleased to have recruited Professor **Dave Fagundes** to join our faculty, too." Professor Fagundes is a well-known scholar and an

award-winning teacher whose expertise spans critically important fields such as property law, copyrights, real estate, and wills and trusts. We look forward to welcoming him."

The excitement surrounding the new faculty extends to others within the administration who express eagerness to collaborate with their accomplished colleagues. "We are thrilled to have Professor Roberts and Professor Fagundes joining our faculty," said Associate Dean for Research **Kay Levine**. "Individually, they are world-class scholars and dedicated teachers; together they are a powerful addition to Emory Law's faculty."

Collectively, these scholars will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to their classrooms, further solidifying the law school's commitment to academic excellence.



Jessica Roberts

Acting Professor of Law in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Data Science

Jessica Roberts' expertise is in the legal and ethical issues related to genetics and emerging health technologies, disability rights, and antidiscrimination law. She received her JD from Yale Law School and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Southern California. Her groundbreaking scholarship has received many distinguished honors, including being named Health Policy Scholar at the Center for Medical Ethics & Health Policy, Baylor College of Medicine and earning the 2022–2023 University of Houston Law Center Alumni Association Faculty Distinction Award.

Roberts' research has garnered much acclaim, and her scholarship has appeared, or is forthcoming in *Yale Law Journal*, *Columbia Law Review*, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*, *Science*, *Nature Biotechnology*, and *JAMA Health Policy*, among others. Cambridge University Press published her book *Healthism: Health-Status Discrimination and the Law*, co-authored with Elizabeth Weeks Leonard, in 2018. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health and the Greenwall Foundation.



David Fagundes

Acting Professor of Law

David Fagundes joins the Emory Law faculty, bringing with him expertise and scholarship in property-related matters, including copyright, real estate, and wills and trusts. He is a graduate of both Harvard Law and Harvard College, receiving his JD in 2001 and a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1996. His research focuses on property's abandonment doctrine, the Second Amendment and the constitutional status of municipal corporations, and the intersection of copyright and administrative law. Fagundes's research was published in *Cornell Law Review*, *William & Mary Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, and

Northwestern Law Review, among others. He was elected to the American Law Institute in July 2020.

Fagundes began his teaching career at Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles, California, where he was a professor from 2007 through 2016. Before entering academia, he worked as a Bigelow Fellow and lecturer in law at the University of Chicago Law School, an associate at the Washington, D.C. office of Jenner & Block, LLP, and a clerk to Judge David S. Tatel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.

FROM THE ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

New leadership, strong alumni: a great time to be at Emory Law

One of Emory Law's treasured alumnae, Judge **Dorothy Toth Beasley 08L**, recently passed away. Judge Beasley was a trailblazer. She was the first woman appointed and then elected as judge to the State Court of Fulton County in 1977. Seven years later, she would become the first woman appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals. After leaving that Court in 1999, she continued to lead a life of service, and, among her many contributions to the law school, Judge Beasley served on the Emory Law Alumni Board and the EPIC Advisory Board. Her alumni leadership and commitment to excellence at the law school is something we all can and should aspire to.



As you work in and serve your professional and personal communities, I encourage you to reflect back on the ways in which alumni engagement enriched your law school experience. You, too, can inspire future generations of Emory lawyers by acting as a mentor, judging competitions, teaching adjunct courses, serving as Kessler-Eidson Trial

Techniques faculty, employing our graduates, providing financial support, and in a myriad of other ways, large and small. If it has been some time since you connected at an alumni event or with the law school, there has never been a better time to do so. If you have been an active alumnus, thank you for supporting your alma mater and our students. Your engagement strengthens Emory Law.

Dean Freer put it best when he recently said, "what a great time to be at Emory Law." I could not agree more. This issue features only some of the reasons why—the dynamic new faculty hires, 300 newly-minted law school graduates, and an outstanding class of alumni award recipients. We are also so fortunate to have Dean Freer at the helm. I hope you enjoy learning more about his vision for the law school.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Alumni Board president, as I take the reins from my predecessor, **Ben Fink 92L**. Like Judge Beasley, a former alumni award recipient, and the alumni award recipients highlighted in this issue, Ben represents the very best of Emory Law, and we are fortunate to count him among our ranks.

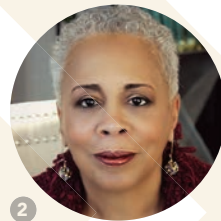
I look forward to hearing your ideas for the betterment of the law school, and I hope to see you at an alumni event or around the law school soon.

Emily C. Baker

Emily C. Baker 98C 01L is a partner at Jones Day in Atlanta.



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In 2023, **Jerry A. Maddox 57B 64L** was selected for inclusion in *Who's Who in America*.

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1 Congressman **Sanford D. Bishop Jr. 71L**, a senior member of the US House Appropriations Committee, has been appointed to the Board of Visitors for the United States Military Academy at West Point.

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Terry Adamson 68C 73L was named co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Henry Luce Foundation, where he has been a director since 2007. He also is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carter Center and the Asia Foundation.

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Phyllis Karasov 76L was selected by *Minnesota Lawyer* as one of the "Top Women in Law."

2 Retired Michigan Court of Appeals Judge **Cynthia D. Stephens 76L** was inducted as a member of the 2023 Michigan Lawyers Weekly Hall of Fame.

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In June 2023, **John C. Sammon 74C 77L** received the Georgia State Bar's 2023 Distinguished Service Award during the Bar's annual meeting. He was honored for 46 years of service, including 10 years as a member of the Board of Governors and Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia. Sammon was elected as the youngest president of the State Bar of Georgia in 1993.

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3 **Jim Cohen 79L's** book, *Modern Judaica: Today's Makers, Today's Sacred Objects*, was launched by Schiffer Publishing in February 2023.

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4 **Steven R. Block 80L** has joined Blank Rome LLP as co-chair of the firm's new Dallas office. He is a partner in the firm's Corporate, M&A, and Securities Group.

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Freed Grant LLC has been named to the 2024 Best Law Firms® by Best Lawyers®. Both named partners, **Gary S. Freed 81L** and **Thomas C. Grant 98L** were selected as expert attorneys in their fields. Both were also included in the 2024 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*.

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In 2023 Berman Fink Van Horn, PC, celebrated a 25-year milestone—the day the firm's named partners **Jeffrey N. Berman 82L**, **Benjamin I. Fink 92L**, and **Charles H. Van Horn 94L**, started their practice.

5 In June 2023, **Diana Simon 82L**, associate clinical professor of law, received the Distinguished Early Career Scholar Award from the University of Arizona's James E. Rogers College of Law.

84

J.B. Harris 84L's article "An Army of One: How I Helped to Disbar and Indict a Psychopath," was published in *Attorney at Law* magazine. It details a years-long saga of dishonesty, disbarment, RICO prosecutions, Ponzi schemes, the NFL, the FBI, and a long trail of bilked clients and investors.

85

6 In January, **Marian Exall 85L**, an award-winning author of mystery and historical fiction, published a new novel, *Daughters of Riga*.

Gregory Hanthorn 85L was elected to The American Law Institute in July 2023. There were only 20 practitioners among the 2023 class of 61 members. The remainder represent the judiciary or academia.

7 **Kelly Rowe 85L's** new poetry chapbook, *Child Bed Fever*, is available from Seven Kitchens Press. Her full-length collection, *Rise Above the River*, was the 2021 winner of the Able Muse Book Prize.

86

Julie I. Fershtman 83C 86L of Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC, was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 edition for Commercial Litigation and Insurance Law.

87

8 **David Akins 87L** is included on the 2023 Super Lawyers List for skill in estate planning and probate. He is a shareholder at Dean Mead in Orlando.

88

9 **Alex Foster 88L's** first novel, *Gavel to Gavel*, came out on June 27, 2023. The legal thriller is the first in Foster's planned Seneca County Courthouse Series, which draws on his experience as both a prosecutor and criminal defense attorney.

In June 2023, **Andrew R. Klein 88L** joined Wake Forest Law as dean following a national search. Klein was a Robert W. Woodruff Fellow and editor-in-chief of the *Emory Law Journal*.

90

Jennifer Hightower 90L was promoted to executive vice president and chief legal officer of Cox Enterprises in September 2023.

91

Michael J. Abrams 91L hammered in a golden spike alongside fellow Lathrop GPM LLP partners at a 2023 groundbreaking for Kansas City's Rock Island Bridge project, which will create what organizers say is America's first entertainment district on a bridge. The firm negotiated contracts, assisted with platting and title work, and laid the groundwork for \$5.5 million in private investments.

James Milano 91L has joined McGlinchey Stafford's Financial Institutions Compliance practice group as a member (partner) in the firm's Washington, DC, offices.

Jonathan R. Sigel 91L, a partner and chair of the Labor, Employment and Employee Benefits Group at Mirick O'Connell, was named to the 2023 Massachusetts Super Lawyers list. He also was included in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2024 edition for Litigation-Labor and Employment and Employment Law-Management.

92

Former Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit District Attorney **Chris Arnt 92L** was named a Superior Court judge by Georgia Governor Brian Kemp on Feb. 22, 2023.

Delaware Superior Court Judge **Eric M. Davis 92L** presided over the closely watched 2023 *US Dominion Voting Systems, Inc. v. Fox News Network* trial.

John J. Jacko III 92L won a Burton/Law360 Award for Distinguished Legal Writing in spring 2023. The competition exists to honor clear, concise writing, and only 25 attorneys and 25 students received 2023 awards.

10 **Scott Moskol 92L**, partner and co-chair of Burns & Levinson's Financial Restructuring & Distressed Transactions Group, has been selected for inclusion in the 2023 Lawdragon 500 Leading Bankruptcy & Restructuring Lawyers guide.

94

Jim Albertelli 94L is among the 11 Emory alumni who were honored in April 2023 by the Emory Entrepreneur Network.



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10

In September 2023, **Mark Duedall 94L** joined Baker Donelson in Atlanta as a shareholder in the firm's Corporate Restructuring and Bankruptcy Group.

Dean R. Fuchs 94L was honored by the Pro Bono Partnership of Atlanta as one of its six 2022 Volunteers of the Year. The PBPA provides free legal services to community-based nonprofits that operate programs benefiting low-income or disadvantaged individuals.

Brian H. Lamkin 94L, of counsel at Mirick O'Connell in Massachusetts, is on the 2023 Massachusetts Super Lawyers list. He is with the firm's Labor and Employment Group.

95
George Choundas 92C 95L's new essay collection, *Until All You See Is Sky*, received the 2022 EastOver Prize for Nonfiction. It features 13 of more than 75 pieces Choundas has published in journals and magazines.

11 In May, **Jacqueline J. Herring 95L** joined Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP as a partner in the Chicago office.

96
Wright Mitchell 96L, founder of the Buckhead Heritage Society, assumed leadership of the Atlanta-based Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation in August 2023.

97
Jason T. Barnes 97L has joined Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC in Dallas. He is a director in the firm's Business & Corporate practice.

Carlos Kelly 97L has been named a 2023 Florida Super Lawyer in the category of Business Litigation. He is a stockholder at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt in the firm's Fort Myers offices.

At the North Carolina Bar Association Board of Governors' annual meeting in June 2023, **Jennifer Mencari 97L** was elected to the Board.

Laura Plunkett 93C 97L has joined Baker Donelson in New Orleans as a shareholder in the Tax Group.

98
12 At the June 2023 American Lawyer Media gala, **Mark Chalos 98L**, a managing partner at Lief Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein in Nashville, received the Distinguished Leader Award. He is president of the Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association and co-chairs the Class Action Section of the American Association for Justice. In national opioids litigation, he served on the team that successfully tried the City of San Francisco's claims against opioids manufacturers, distributors, and a national pharmacy. He handles complex litigation nationwide and was appointed to the Plaintiffs Executive Committee in the East Palestine (Ohio) Rail Disaster.

01
Effective January 1, **Jeffrey Thiede 00L** is one of 27 new partners at Faegre Drinker.

99
Alison DeGregorio 99L has produced and directed a video in support of Ukraine that features the faculty, staff, and students at St. Anne School, in Seattle, Washington. DeGregorio wrote music and lyrics for the video's song and worked with CNN to license footage of the war and world protests.

13 In May 2023, **Jason S. Lichtstein 99L** was named office managing partner and head of Akerman LLP's Atlanta office, where he focuses on cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields and other contaminated sites in the Southeast.

Earl Martin 99L has joined Steptoe & Johnson PLLC as of counsel in the firm's Louisville office.

Chad I. Michaelson 99L has been elected to the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County. He is a partner at Pittsburgh's Meyer, Unkovic & Scott.

00
Todd Baiad 00L was named 2023 Lawyer of the Year for Admiralty and Maritime Law for Savannah, Georgia, by Best Lawyers. He is a partner in the litigation department of Bouhan Falligant.

Effective January 1, **Jeffrey Thiede 00L** is one of 27 new partners at Faegre Drinker.

01
In February 2023, top-ranked trial lawyers and former federal prosecutors **David M. Chaiken 01L** and Kamal Ghali announced the launch of Chaiken Ghali LLP, an elite white-collar trial and investigations law firm based in Atlanta.

Shawn Kalfus 01L writes that his firm, Stone Kalfus LLP, has opened a new office in Park City, Utah.

02
In April 2023, **Matthew Skolnik 02L** was promoted to senior deputy attorney general. He is one of only four civil litigation "SDAGs" in Pennsylvania's Office of the Attorney General.

03
At the June 2023 American Lawyer Media gala **Rachel George 03L** received the In-House Impact Award. She is executive vice president, general counsel, corporate secretary, and chief corporate affairs officer at Aaron's Company in Atlanta.

Christopher Nace 03L was elected to The American Law Institute in July 2023. There were only 20 practitioners among the 2023 class of 61 members. The remainder represent the judiciary or academia. In 2023, Nace was also named Barry J. Nace Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Trial Lawyers Association of Metropolitan Washington, DC. The award was named for Christopher's father following Barry Nace's passing in November 2021.

05
Evan M. Kwarta 05L has joined Hinshaw & Culbertson in New York, where he is a partner in the Aviation and Aerospace Industry Group.

06
14 As of November 2023, **Karime Barry 06L** is one of 30 new shareholders nationwide at Polsinelli. She is in the firm's Atlanta offices.

Sammy Epelbaum 06L has joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney's Miami office's litigation section as counsel.

15 **Iruka Nduibuizu 06L** has been named director of partnerships at The Tony Elumelu Foundation in Nigeria.

Neil Weinrich 06L was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* article, "FTC Proposes Banning Noncompete Clauses for Workers." He is a shareholder at Berman Fink Van Horn.

07
Shawntel Hebert Clark 07L, Vanderlande Industries' managing attorney-employment, won a Rising Star Award at the 2023 *Atlanta Business Chronicle* annual gala.

16 **Katharine "Kate" A. Coffey 07L** has been named co-chair of Day Pitney's Real Estate and Environmental practice. She is a partner based in the firm's New Jersey offices.

In August 2023, **Gary Feldon 07L** was elected to partner at Hollingsworth LLP. He is a litigator in the Washington, DC, office and focuses on Complex Litigation, Pharmaceutical Products, Toxic Torts, and Products Liability.

08
At the Georgia State Bar annual meeting in June 2023, former Volunteer Clinic for Veterans Senior Staff Attorney **Carlissa Carson 08L** received the Georgia State Bar's Marshall-Tuttle Award, which honors lawyers who work on behalf of Georgia's more than 700,000 veterans. She was recognized for helping veterans with civil matters, which can make a profound difference for those who were injured during their service and are seeking VA disability benefits.



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09
17 **Michael Eber 09L** has joined Caplan Cobb LLC as a partner, where he focuses on complex business litigation and appeals.

Effective March 1, 2023, **Andrea L. Pollak 09L** is one of 13 new partners at Fried Frank. She focuses on executive compensation and ERISA in the firm's New York offices.

10
In January, Venable LLP announced 20 new partners promoted within the global firm's stateside offices, including **Joseph R. Hicks 02C 10L**.

11
Aarti Sharma 11L was honored on November 2, 2023, at the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* '40 under 40' event. She is vice president, policy and strategy, at redefinED Atlanta.

12
Rohani Mahyera 12L was promoted to special counsel at Fried Frank in New York, where she focuses on financial law.

18 Effective February 1, 2023, **Melissa Softness 12L** is a new partner in Rumberger|Kirk's Miami offices. She focuses on casualty litigation and product liability, and employment and labor.

Tony Stewart 12L was honored in the category of corporate counsel at the 2023 *Atlanta Business Chronicle* awards event. He is ParkMobile's chief legal and privacy officer and won for General Counsel- Small Legal Department.

13
James Boone Baxter 13L joined the US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas in 2022.

Effective January 1, **Lauren Bewley 13L** has been promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in New York.

At the June 2023 American Lawyer Media gala, three members of the Class of 2013 were named "Leaders on the Rise." They are **Anna Altizer Dix 13L**, a partner at Troutman Pepper; **Stephanie Nullman Eban 13L**, a partner at Thrift McLeMORE; and **Gautam Reddy 13L**, a partner at Kilpatrick Townsend.

14
Zachary Crowe 14L was promoted to partner at Morris, Manning & Martin, where he focuses on M&A and corporate law in the firm's Atlanta offices.

Dina Khismatulina 14L, a divorce and family law attorney with The Manely Firm, PC, was named a 2023 Super Lawyer.

Joel Gossner 14L is one of 11 new partners announced by Arnall Golden Gregory in January 2023. He focuses on corporate and finance law in the firm's Atlanta offices.

Lili Martin-Mashburn 14L is a new partner in Morris, Manning & Martin's Raleigh-Durham offices, effective January 1.

Allison Ng 14L was honored on November 2, 2023, at the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* '40 under 40' event. She is a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig.

Benjamin Smyser 14L was promoted to counsel at Finn Dixon & Herling, effective January 1, 2023.

15
Gerard Bifulco 15L was promoted to partner at Austin litigation firm Cleveland Krist PLLC. He represents individuals and corporate entities in complex commercial cases.

In April 2023, **Amy B. Cheng 15L** becomes the first Atlanta Bar Association leader of Asian, Asian American, or Pacific Islander descent in the Bar's 135-year history. She is a partner at Nelson Mullins.

Chanhee Han 15L has joined The Coca-Cola Company as senior legal counsel, international trade and sanctions, and focuses on trade and sanctions compliance legal review.

19 **Dylan Hooper 15L** is one of five attorneys at GrayRobinson recently elected to shareholder. He is a trial lawyer based in the firm's Orlando offices.

Wes Pickard 09B 15L is a new partner at Parker, Hudson, Rainer & Dobbs LLP, effective January 1.

At the June 2023 American Lawyer Media gala, **Jonathan A. Porter 15L**, partner, Husch Blackwell, was named a "Leader on the Rise."

16
At the June 2023 American Lawyer Media gala, **Caroline Gieser 16L**, an associate at Shook, Hardy & Bacon, was named a "Leader on the Rise."

17
Brian Gillespie 17L is a new partner at Nelson Mullins' office in Atlanta, where he practices with the Venture Capital and Technology Group.

Eliza Carmen Rodriguez 17L has joined the Oregon US Attorney's office where she is an assistant US attorney and the district's human trafficking coordinator.

Gurtegh Singh 17L is the new CEO at Miami's Social PayMe, a fintech platform that caters to social media influencers.

18
Allison Brennan Bailey 18L has joined Butler Prather as an associate in the firm's Atlanta offices.

Dorothea C. Hockel 18L has joined Arnall Golden Gregory in Atlanta as a staff attorney in the Immigration & Global Mobility practice.

20 In March 2023, **Nicole Schladt 18L** joined the Minnesota Department of Human Rights as the agency's general counsel.

Raymond Tran 18L received the State Bar of Georgia's "One to Watch" Award at the 2023 Commitment to Equality Awards. He is an associate at Seyfarth Shaw LLP in Atlanta

19
Pop Appropriation Artist **Sean Go 19B 19L** earned an MBA and JM at Emory. The Ti:GER program graduate and former hedge fund owner has been featured in CNN, *Esquire*, *Art+*, and the *Village Voice*. In October 2023, Go was profiled in *Paper*.

On March 13, 2023, **Brandon Scheck 19L** saw his client Sidney Holmes walk free after 34 years spent in prison for an armed robbery he did not commit. Holmes was 57 when released. When he was 22, he was sentenced to 400 years in prison.

Rebecca A. Shoot 19L is new executive director of Citizens for Global Solutions, which pursues "a unified world predicated upon peace, human rights, and the rule of law." She is the first woman and one of the youngest leaders in the DC-based nonprofit's 75-plus year history.

20
Diantha Ellis 20L has been promoted to professor of business administration at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

21
Emily Dabney 21L has joined Chamberlain Hrdlicka as a Trust and Estate associate in the firm's Estate & Income Tax Planning & Estate Administration practice group. She is based in Atlanta.

Ryan Smith 21L, a real estate associate at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, was recognized by the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation as its 2023 "Saturday Lawyer Program Attorney Volunteer of the Year."

Krithika Venugopal 21L has joined Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, PA, as an associate in the firm's Naples, Florida, offices.

22
22 **Felix Kloc 22L** has joined The Manely Firm, PC, as an associate in the firm's Savannah offices, where he focuses on family law and international family law.



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22



23 **Bryant G. Cross 23L** has joined Roberts & Stevens in Asheville, North Carolina, as an associate.



24 **Ahmad Mango 23L** has joined the Fort Lauderdale office of Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP.

Emily Spears 23L and **Megan Toomer 23L** received two-year fellowships from Equal Justice Works, based on projects they designed to help Georgia and Alabama citizens with little or no access to legal services.

IN MEMORIAM

S. Jarvin Levison 48B 51L, on November 9, 2023.

Richard A. Feldman 51B 53L, on March 20, 2023.

Theodore G. Frankel 55L, on February 19, 2023.

Frank Cushman Tindall 52C 55L, on October 22, 2023.

Fred E. Bartlett 50C 56L, on April 15, 2023.

William “Burton” Brown 55C 60L, on September 27, 2023.

Joseph Lefkoff 56C 60L, on August 13, 2023.

Edward J. Magner 60L, on October 2, 2023.

Edward A. Charron 61L, on November 20, 2023.

James F. Callaham 62L, on April 18, 2023.

Phillip Lee Aldridge 63L, on April 30, 2023.

Milton A. Carlton 61C 63L, on March 9, 2023.

Robert Austin Stebbins 63L, on May 18, 2023.

J. Edward Hall 61C 64L, on April 10, 2023.

Phillip Mitchell Landrum Jr. 64L, on February 15, 2023.

John M. Bovis 65L, on February 24, 2023.

William L. Floyd 65L, on August 31, 2023.

Alfred Louis Mullins Jr. 62C 65L, on June 9, 2023.

Robert Rex Smith 65L, on March 1, 2023.

Edgar R. Bowers 65 C 66L, on March 17, 2023.

O.T. Nichols 66L, on August 1, 2023.

Paul Scoville 66L, on May 1, 2023.

The Hon. Coy S. Temples 66L, on January 7, 2024.

The Hon. Marvin S. Arrington 67L, on July 5, 2023.

James W. Hart 68L, on September 9, 2023.

Ira L. Rachelson 65C 68L, on October 5, 2023.

David Crosby 69L, on August 7, 2023.

Jay L. Sacks 69L, on November 28, 2023.

Phillip Alexander Geddes 70L, on March 5, 2023.

Marshall S. Williams 70L, on December 13, 2023.

Carlyle Scarborough Crutchfield Jr. 71L, on May 30, 2023.

Michael P. Cielinski 72L, on January 6, 2024.

Robert Odom Loftis Jr. 72L, on October 23, 2023.

Michael B. Perry 72L, on March 8, 2023.

Dean Robert Davis 75L, on October 10, 2023.

Guerry R. Thornton 75L, on October 27, 2023.

Jerry Binger Hatcher 77L, on May 14, 2023.

Mindy Coffino Waitsman 77L, on September 6, 2023.

Daniel L. Merriman 78L, on October 12, 2023.

Elizabeth Collins Belden 79L, on June 23, 2023.

Edsel F. Matthews 79L, on April 14, 2023.

Nan Blumenfeld Bolz 80L, on September 12, 2023.

Robert Dean Hoffman Jr. 80L, on August 26, 2023.

Elizabeth B. Hudson 81L, on April 23, 2023.

Jerry Austin Landers 84L, on October 8, 2023.

Judge Stephanie Cecile Davis 85L, on June 29, 2023.

Dolores Daniel 86L, on November 15, 2023.

Homer Lee Walker II 86L, on March 17, 2023.

John Ray Skates Jr. 87L, on Monday, July 24, 2023.

Phillip R. Bowers 89L, on October 22, 2023.

Trevor Steven Williams 94L, on December 20, 2023.

Michael S. Rodgers 96L, on November 30, 2023.

Andrew F. Wilkinson 97L, on October 20, 2023.

Benish Shah 08L, on December 7, 2023.

Richard Josiah Tillery 09L, on March 21, 2023.

ACCOLADES

2024 Alumni Awards

by Lisa Ashmore

Emory Law honored four of its best at the annual Alumni Awards reception. Three are leaders in the fields of wealth management, personal injury/malpractice, and securities litigation. The fourth is a former US Navy judge advocate who co-founded Emory Law’s Volunteer Clinic for Veterans when he was a second-year student. The ceremony was held Friday, April 12, 2024, during Emory Law’s Alumni Weekend.



Left to right: Lee P. Miller 82L, Distinguished Alumni Award; Mary C. Gill 83L, Eléonore Raoul Trailblazer Award; J. Martin Bunt 14L, Young Alumni Award; Laurie Speed 96C 99L, Alumni Service Award

Share your milestones with classmates and the Emory Law community. They’re posted in the Alumni Class Notes feed and are archived by month and year. Many milestones also appear in *Emory Lawyer* magazine.

Submit a Class Note to emorylaw.wufoo.com/forms/alumni-class-notes-submission/.

LEE P. MILLER 82L

Distinguished Alumni Award

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

Lee P. Miller is regional director of Glenmede’s New York Metro region. In this role, she leads the Relationship Management team and oversees the day-to-day operations of this region. Miller also serves as a senior relationship manager and works with multigeneration families on wealth planning, family wealth education, and complex trusts.

An industry leader specializing in multigenerational wealth and legacy planning, trust administration, and philanthropy, Miller joined Glenmede as a founding member of the New York office.

Prior to joining Glenmede, Miller served as a member of the Management Team of Threshold Group, a multifamily office, and previously as a managing director and senior fiduciary officer for US Trust’s Wealth Management Group.

Miller received her Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in American history from the University of Pennsylvania, and her juris doctor degree at Emory University School of Law. She was sworn in at the US Supreme Court. Miller writes and lectures on a diverse range of trust and wealth management topics.

Miller is a member of the Board of Trustees of Emory University, a trustee of the Preservation League of New York State and serves on the Board of Governors of OFF the Record. She is an emerita docent at the Metropolitan Museum of Art where she is a member of the Professional Advisory Council. In 2015, she was selected as one of the “50 Most Influential Women in Private Wealth” by Private Asset Management.



LAURIE SPEED 96C 99L

Alumni Service Award

The Alumni Service Award honors an alumna or alumnus who has contributed significant, sustained leadership and outstanding service to the Emory Law community.

In her 20 years as a litigator, one case inevitably stands out on Laurie Speed’s bio—an \$11 million verdict against tobacco giant Phillip Morris on behalf of a double lung transplant client. But her smaller victories are important to her, too.

Speed has served as president of both the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers and the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association. In 2016 she received GAWL’s highest honor, the Kathleen Kessler Award, and in 2019 she received GTLA’s Lady of Justice Award. She is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, an invitation-only group that requires members to have tried a minimum of 10 civil jury trials to conclusion. She currently serves as that organization’s Georgia representative to the national board. Speed annually

repeats on the Top 100 Georgia Super Lawyers and Top 50 Women Georgia Super Lawyers lists. In 2017, she opened her boutique litigation firm, Speed + King.

A double eagle, the former Emory varsity swim team captain earned both All-American and All-Academic honors. She was Emory Law’s first Kessler-Eidson Scholar. After graduation, Speed started practice in Atlanta and never left. She’s served on the Emory Alumni Board and now with the Emory Atlanta Over 40 Network. A Kessler-Edison Program for Trial Techniques instructor, she fondly recalls attending an Emory Law swearing-in ceremony at the US Supreme Court where she met Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Despite two hip replacements, she’s still a swimmer and cyclist, but says her favorite pastime now is watching her 17-year-old daughter blow past her own collegiate swim times.



MARY C. GILL 83L

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.

Mary C. Gill’s legal career was driven by opportunity and determination. She was a rare 1L summer associate at Alston, Miller & Gaines, who returned as a 2L. After graduation, she joined the firm a few months after it became the powerhouse Alston & Bird. Seven years later, she was elected partner as a securities litigator.

During her career at Alston, she navigated complex business cases—including on the team that investigated the 2001 collapse of Enron, which generated a reported 40 million pages of documentary evidence, testimony from 300 witnesses, and billions of dollars in potential claims. Gill represented a wide range of businesses involved in healthcare, finance, banking, and other Fortune 500s in cases where millions hung in the balance. Her clients were often public companies and financial institutions involved in enforcement actions brought by federal agencies including the SEC and the FDIC.

In 1983, Gill was one of two women in the firm’s litigation department and was a trailblazer for those who followed. She founded the firm’s Women’s Initiative and chaired the Alternative Career Path Task Force, which revised the firm’s reduced-hour policy. In 2012 she received Alston’s Diversity Leadership Award. She was elected to the Partners Committee, on which she served from 2014 to 2018, including as chair in the last year. Gill is a staunch women’s ally, as evidenced by service on the boards of Planned Parenthood of Georgia and the Atlanta Women’s Foundation. She’s been on “Best Lawyers in America” lists since 2009. She recently celebrated 40 years of marriage to former Fulton County Public Defender and Woodward Academy teacher Dennis Kruszewski. Their family includes son Cory, his wife Katie, twin daughters Sydney and Kendall, and now a grandson, Oliver. Gill is an avid cyclist who’s toured Italy, France, Spain, and Portugal.



J. MARTIN BUNT 14L

Young Alumni Award

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

Martin Bunt is an associate in King & Spalding’s Washington, DC, office and is a member of the firm’s Special Matters and Government Investigations team. He focuses his practice on government investigations, internal investigations, white-collar criminal litigation, and compliance counseling for private companies and government agencies.

Prior to joining King & Spalding, Bunt served nine years as a Navy judge advocate and was stationed abroad at US Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia (British Indian Ocean Territory) and onboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74). His duties ranged from

supervising criminal investigations and trying court-martials to advising commanding officers on international agreements and responses to vessel collisions.

Bunt attended Emory Law from 2011 to 2014. He was a member of the Mock Trial Team and co-founded the Emory Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans with fellow 14L, **Rachel Erdman**, Professor of Law Emeritus **Charles Shanor**, and retired King & Spalding Partner Lane Dennard. Bunt attended Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, where he played four years on the university’s golf team. He currently lives in Northern Virginia, with his wife, Dianna, and son, Parker.





COMMENCEMENT 2024

‘Dream in the future, live in the moment’

by Lisa Ashmore and A. Kenyatta Greer

On Sunday, May 12, Emory University School of Law graduated more than 300 students during ceremonies held at the Gas South Convention Center in Duluth. They earned doctor of juridical science, juris doctor, master of laws, and juris master degrees. This was the last time Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law **Mary Anne Bobinski** would preside over graduation as dean, as she closes her tenure and returns to faculty this summer.

Now Dean and Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law **Richard D. Freer** received the Most Outstanding Professor Award for the eleventh time, an honor which is bestowed by 3Ls each year. He addressed the Class of 2024:

“Years ago, you had a dream of going to law school. But you did not jump from that moment to this day. Earning your law degree is not an event, it’s a culmination of thousands of decisions and thousands of actions,” Freer

said. “You got here incrementally—case by case, question by question, class by class. And that’s the way it is all through life—our greatest accomplishments are rooted in individual moments and in those moments, we have a choice, and we choose to pursue the goal, pursue the dream. And when you put all of those moments, all of those choices together, you build something truly significant, which is exactly what you have done. We realize our goals by building what I call a bridge of days. We dream in the future, but we live in the moment.”

Other outstanding students and faculty received awards and special recognition:

- Associate Professor **George S. Georgiev**, Provost’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education
- Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law **Fred Smith Jr.**, Faculty Marshal

- **Sam Donaldson**, Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award
 - **Ryan Levin 24L**, Most Outstanding Third-Year Student
 - **Sydney Annette McCabe 24L**, Student Marshal (highest GPA)
- Ryan Levin served as Student Bar Association president at the same time his father, **Ian Levin 92L**, served as chair of Emory Law’s Advisory Board.

“These are your strongest relationships, and they do not end here today,” Levin told his classmates. “They will forever be the lifelines out in our professional and our personal lives. Even if we go up against each other in court or the conference room, we will share those bonds,” he added. “And now, it’s time for your next adventure. And even if that means you have no idea what you’re going to do tomorrow—well, isn’t that exciting?”



EPIC AWARDS

2024 awards go to public interest legends

by Lisa Ashmore



Left to right: Rhani Lott Choi 10L, Lawrence J. Bracken II, Paul J. Murphy 86L, Elizabeth Markowitz 90L, Atteeyah Hollie, Terrica Ganzy, Niamh Creedon-Carey, Randee Waldman

This year the Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC) honored a veteran public defender, a former investigator turned civil rights attorney, and an Am Law 100 firm partner who has logged hundreds of pro bono hours over nearly 40 years in practice.

Lawrence J. Bracken II, Atteyah Hollie, and **Liz Markowitz 90L** received EPIC Inspiration

Awards on Feb. 6, 2024. Emory Law Dean **Mary Anne Bobinski** called them “the champions of justice, the defenders of the vulnerable, and the architects of a more equitable society.”

Bracken received the Lifetime Commitment to Public Service Award; Hollie received the Unsung Devotion to Those Most in Need Award; and Markowitz was recognized

for Outstanding Leadership in the Public Interest.

Hollie was introduced by colleague Terrica Redfield Ganzy, executive director of the Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR), where Hollie is deputy director. Hollie works to end extreme sentencing, denial of the right to counsel for poor Georgians, illegally closed

courtrooms, wealth-based detention, and inhumane prison conditions.

“In a world where the scales of justice too often tip against people who are marginalized, it takes extraordinary courage and commitment to stand firm and say, ‘Not on my watch,’” Ganzy said. “Ateeyah musters this courage every single day as she has dedicated her entire career to fighting for the rights of people who are often targeted and oppressed by systems of injustice that criminalize nearly everything most especially race and poverty.” Hollie’s

was a calling for 32 and a half years. I had the honor of speaking for those most marginalized in our society.”

She was introduced by **Rhani Lott Choi 10L**, NITA’s education director, who recalled meeting Markowitz at an on-campus brown bag lunch during Choi’s 1L year.

“She was so kind, so smart, so passionate about what she did. She told us about her cases, and she talked about her clients not as if they were folks she was helping, but that they were folks who were part of her life, that these were

“In a world where the scales of justice too often tip against people who are marginalized, it takes extraordinary courage and commitment to stand firm and say, ‘Not on my watch.’”

—Terrica Redfield Ganzy, executive director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, introducing Atteya Hollie

work on the SCHR’s resentencing project has resulted in the resentencing and release of nearly 100 people across the South since 2015, Ganzy added.

Hollie addressed the students present who aspire to be public interest lawyers.

“No movement is a product of one person’s efforts or talents,” she said. “You will need each other and your communities because this work is just as devastating as it is rewarding. It is simply devastating to see the people that you grow to know and love be demonized, disregarded and demeaned, and it’s devastating to see the law constantly fail the people that we love. If you’re anything like me, you will likely question your impact—but never lose sight of the many, many forms that change can take.”

Markowitz is now chief strategy officer for the Fulton County Clerk of Court, but she spent three decades in Atlanta courtrooms as a public defender, while raising three children solo.

“To be honest, being a public defender is hard, and with absolute respect to the other professions that contribute to our society, I’m not sure there really is a harder job,” Markowitz said. “But the real truth is that for me, being a public defender wasn’t a job—it

people who she cared about,” Choi said. “And it changed everything for me.”

Since retiring as a PD last year, Markowitz visited Africa to work with NITA, Lawyers without Borders, and Justice Defenders to teach in-custody defendants how to try their own cases in a system that has no public defenders (and where 95% of defendants represent themselves). For seven years, she’s coached the Emory Mock Trial Society and three of her teams won the national competition.

Retired King & Spalding Partner **Paul B. Murphy 86L** introduced his good friend Bracken.

“Larry loves being a lawyer and all its trap-pings and responsibilities—after practicing law for almost 40 years and putting in punishing hours, I think Larry still wakes up every morning and announces to himself ‘I get to be a lawyer today,’” Murphy said.

Bracken has litigated insurance coverage, class actions, and commercial cases in federal and state courts for decades, but he has also zealously defended the rights of those who cannot afford representation for just as long.

“In 1986 I joined my law firm, Hunton Andrews Kurth, and I immediately knew that I

was at a place where public interest work and pro bono work was not merely encouraged but that it was part of the DNA of the law firm.” Bracken’s public interest work ranged from family law and housing issues to death penalty and habeas corpus cases in federal court.

“In 2001 my team and I were appointed to our first prisoners’ rights cases by Judge Hull [Frank M. Hull 73L] on the 11th circuit, and from there we took on an increased caseload of prisoner rights cases—habeas corpus, wrongful convictions, three-strikes cases, parole board petitions, and especially Eighth Amendment prison condition cases. I also had the privilege of working with Ateeyah Hollie and with the amazing lawyers of the Southern Center for Human Rights.”

Bracken is president of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation’s Executive Committee and in 2015 he received SCHR’s Justice Ally of the Year Award.

“Receiving this award from the Emory Public Interest Committee is both humbling and motivating,” Bracken said. “It has been a profound privilege to serve the community with my colleagues and our friends at the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation and Southern Center for Human Rights. I am deeply honored and will continue to offer my support to aspiring public interest lawyers and students along the way.”

Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic Director **Randee Waldman** announced that **Niamh Creedon-Carey 24L** received this year’s Mark and Rebekah Wasserman Public Service Award. Last summer, she worked at SCHR through an EPIC summer grant.

The Inspiration Awards are the primary fundraiser for summer grants, which allow Emory Law students to accept otherwise unpaid summer public interest jobs. In 2023, 49 students earned grants to work in organizations including the Justice Department’s Disability Rights Section, the Georgia Innocence Project, and nonprofits around the country who benefit from free legal assistance, e.g., Washington, DC’s Bread for the City and Catholic Charities Atlanta. Fundraising for this year continues, and EPIC expects to again award grants to dozens of rising 2L and 3L students doing unpaid public interest work, said Assistant Director for the Center for Public Service **Corey Fleming Hirokawa 00L**.

CENTERS

McDonald Agape Foundation awards \$2M to CSLR

by John Bernau and Whitney Barth

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion (CSLR) has been awarded \$2 million in new gifts from the McDonald Agape Foundation. This is the Foundation’s fifth major award to the Center over the past two decades, and these funds have helped to underwrite a long series of research projects, publications, and public programs in law and religion.

This new set of gifts will support the creation of a major new international cohort of McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellows, the appointment of two new McDonald residential scholars, and the continuation of the McDonald Distinguished Professorship, held by **John Witte Jr.**, CSLR Faculty Director and Woodruff Professor of Law.

Peter McDonald, president and CEO of the McDonald Agape Foundation, describes the Foundation’s partnership with CSLR over the past two decades as “ongoing, profound, compounding, and transformational. Under John Witte’s direction since 1987, the Center has emerged as a distinguished, global scholarly leader on some of the weightier matters of law and religion confronting the world today.”

A historic partnership

The McDonald Agape Foundation was founded by Alonzo L. McDonald, a 1948 Emory College alumnus and later member of the Emory Board of Trustees. A leader of church, state, and economy, McDonald served, among many others, as a professor at Harvard Business School, CEO of McKinsey and Company, US Ambassador for International Trade, and White House chief of staff under President Jimmy Carter. A devout Christian, McDonald had long taken an interest in scholarship that promised to deepen the place of faith in learning—a kind of putting into practice of Anselm’s credo ut intelligam (“I believe so that I may understand.”).

The McDonald Agape Foundation and CSLR have formed an historic partnership over the years. Prior to these latest gifts, the McDonald Agape Foundation had awarded nearly \$4 million to support CSLR initiatives. Included was generous support for back-to-back, multi-year research projects that brought together three dozen Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christian jurists, philosophers, theologians, ethicists, and historians tasked to develop new publications in law and religion. The McDonald funds also supported two dozen distinguished residential and nonresidential research fellowships, a long series of public lectures and conferences at Emory and Christ Church, Oxford, and a memorable international conference at Emory in 2017 on the five

hundredth anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. More than 800 scholars have participated in CSLR’s projects and publications sponsored by the McDonald Agape Foundation.

All told, McDonald-funded work at CSLR has yielded nearly 100 new volumes, with several more in press. Included is a series of introductions to Christianity and law commissioned and coedited by John Witte: volumes on Christianity and human rights, freedom, natural law, justice, agape, family law, private law, church law, international law, and the laws of conscience, market regulation, migration, and taxation, with a dozen more titles planned. Another series, on “Great Christian Jurists in World History,” is an ambitious effort to tell the story of law and religion through the lives of one thousand of the greatest Christian legal minds of the past two millennia. Commissioned volumes published in this series so far cover great Christian jurists in the first millennium and in the history of England, Italy, Spain, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Scandinavia, Russia, the United States, Latin America, and Australia. Most of these volumes have been published by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Eerdmans, and Mohr Siebeck.

All of this scholarly work has been in keeping with Alonzo McDonald’s sole criterion for academic philanthropy: scholarly excellence—and productivity. “Perfection is tolerated,” was one of his favorite lines.

New directions

With this new set of gifts, CSLR will launch several new initiatives, including the appointment of a new cohort of McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellows and Scholars and the extension of the McDonald Distinguished Professorship.

McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellowship

A new McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellowship Program will convene some fifteen law and religion scholars at the apex or cusp of their careers. This group will meet regularly in the United States and Europe

between 2024 to 2029 to encourage another generation of scholars and develop another integrated series of books and articles rooted in law and religion and their interplay. These will add fresh contributions to CSLR’s printed and digital scholarship. The cohort will be drawn from the Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox worlds and hail from elite universities across the US and Europe.

The new fellows will be announced later this year. This new fellowship program builds on the momentum of the most recent fellowship, which began in 2019 and is wrapping up this academic year. This fellowship program has produced numerous books, chapters, and articles by the dozen participating fellows, as well as three major symposia on “Christianity and Tax Law,” “Christianity, Liberalism, and the Constitution,” and “Law, Christianity, and Racial Justice.” During the tenure of this fellowship program, two of the fellows were promoted to tenure academic positions, six were promoted to new academic positions, two won prestigious federal judicial clerkships, and two secured prestigious fellowships.

Mark Storslee joins CSLR core faculty

With the generous support of the McDonald Agape Foundation, **Mark Storslee** has been named McDonald Distinguished Fellow in Law and Religion to complement his appointment as Associate Professor of Law at Emory Law School.

Storslee holds a JD from Stanford Law School and a PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia. He also holds two masters degrees from Duke University and the University of Edinburgh, as well as a BA from Furman University. After law school, Storslee clerked for Judge Diarmuid O’Scannlain on the United States Court of Appeals, and later for Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch on the United States Supreme Court. He also served as director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School. This year Storslee is completing his work as an appellate litigator at Williams & Connolly LLP, and will join the Emory and CSLR faculty full-time in the summer of 2024.

Storslee’s research explores topics in constitutional law, American legal history, and the interaction of law and religion. His work has focused especially on the meaning of the First Amendment protections of religious freedom and related questions concerning free speech protections. Storslee has published in the *University of Chicago Law Review*, the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *Review of Politics*, the *Journal of Law & Religion*, and other periodicals. He is also a co-editor of a four-volume collection on Comparative Religious Ethics: *Critical Concepts in Religious Studies* (2014).

In 2020, Storslee received the Harold Berman Award for Excellence in Scholarship by the Law and Religion Section of the Association of American Law Schools. His work is frequently cited in judicial opinions and legal briefs, including those before the United States Supreme Court. Storslee has received student-initiated teaching awards, and he is a frequent speaker at conferences and law schools, including at Stanford, Yale, Georgetown, Pepperdine, George Washington, and Notre Dame.

As a new residential McDonald Distinguished Fellow in Law and Religion, Storslee will be a core faculty member at CSLR and will help lead its projects and publications. “Mark Storslee’s appointment opens

a brilliant new chapter for Emory Law and for our Center,” says John Witte. “Mark has the scholarly gifts and discipline and the habits of heart and mind to become the scholarly leader of the global law and religion guild in the next generation. We are truly blessed to have him in our community.”

Thomas Jared Farmer joins CSLR Scholars in Residence

CSLR is pleased to welcome **Thomas Jared Farmer 12 MTS 13ThM** as the new McDonald Scholar in Residence. Jared will work closely with the CSLR leadership team on administering the new McDonald Distinguished Senior Fellows program. He will also provide research support for Witte and pursue his own scholarship. He joins two other McDonald Scholars in residence, **Terri Montague 14T 14L** and **Matthew Cavedon 15T 15L**, each serving in three-year fellowships dedicated to scholarship and teaching.

Farmer holds a BA in Philosophy from the University of Illinois, an MTS and ThM from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology, two more masters degrees in religion from Claremont Graduate University, and a PhD in the Philosophy of Religion from the University of Münster (Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster).

In a recent interview with CSLR, Farmer discusses his ongoing research in the philosophy of religion and reflects on his arrival at Emory.

“We are delighted to welcome Jared Farmer to our CSLR community,” says **Whitney Barth**, CSLR’s executive director. “His deep research gifts, administrative smarts, and public spiritedness will provide vital support for our Center’s new projects.”

Extending the McDonald Distinguished Professorship

As part of its new philanthropy, the McDonald Agape Foundation will also extend John Witte’s appointment as McDonald Distinguished Professorship through 2031. Witte has held this appointment since 2008, and it has provided vital support for his scholarship, teaching, and project direction. Witte has published 45 books in 15 languages, as well as 315 articles and 18 journal symposia. He has delivered more than 400 lectures around the world, and directed 20 major international research projects, including all five McDonald-sponsored projects. He has taught some 8,000 Emory Law students since his debut in 1987.

With this extension, Witte plans to finish his books on the Protestant Reformation and law; the history of marriage and family law; and the history and comparative law of religious freedom and human rights. He also plans to work more systematically on what he calls the “weightier matters of the law.” That will include taking up “central questions concerning the nature and purpose of law and authority, the mandates and limits of rule and obedience, the rights and duties of officials and subjects, the care and nurture of the needy and innocent, the justice and limits of war and violence, the nature of fault and the means of punishing it, the sources of obligations and the procedures for vindicating them, the origins of property and the means of protecting it.”

ALUMNI

What makes a legacy? Meet the Levins.

by Lisa Ashmore



In 1989, **Ian Levin 92L** arrived at Emory Law as a 1L from New York. The world was shifting under waves of unrest and protest as the Berlin Wall fell and students defied tanks in Tiananmen Square.

Over 30 years later, Ian’s son, **Ryan Levin 19C 24L**, arrived at Emory Law after earning a master’s in public policy at George Washington University. His 1L year was also marked by global headwinds as the world slowly recovered from a full-blown pandemic. Masked but back on campus, the Class of 2024 started with over 300 students and had the strongest academic credentials in the law school’s recent history.

Ian Levin is a partner at Schulte Roth & Zabel in New York City. On May 12, he was on

the speaker dais to watch his son graduate, and to charge the Class of 2024 in his role as chair of Emory Law’s Advisory Board. Ryan, Emory Law’s Student Bar Association president, received the “Most Outstanding 3L Student Award.” Before accepting the award, Ryan paused a moment and held up his phone, but not for a selfie—characteristically, he turned away from the podium to capture his classmates as a group one last time.

Despite the decades between them, Ryan says he and his dad are a lot alike.

“Whether either of us like it or not, we are very similar. We are both hardworking, tenacious, and like to get involved. We don’t stop when the job is finished, we always think there is something more that can be done,” Ryan

said. “We’re huge weather nerds, huge Marvel fans, and we have the same sense of humor. We have way too many inside jokes that literally only we think are funny.”

“When I told my dad I was thinking of declaring as a political science/economics double major, he looked at me and said, ‘How many times have I told you over your life not to go to law school!’” Ryan said. “He was half-joking, but the other half was in an ‘oh God, he’s too much like me’ tone. And while I took some detours along the way, I never looked back.”

Ian’s devotion to Emory started when he met his wife, **Lisa Kring Levin 92B**, here when she was a Goizueta MBA student. His surprise proposal happened in the penthouse tower of graduate student housing three years after they met in the lobby. Two of their sons have earned Emory degrees and while the third has not, his middle name is Emory—something Ian said he’d been negotiating for since Ryan was born.

Father and son both thrived on campus and put in considerable work to achieve their ideals. Ian is former chair of Emory Law’s Center for Transactional Law and Practice Board and strongly believes in its worth. This spring, he taught a weekly course there (Doing Deals: Employee Compensation & Benefits, full/waitlisted). Since his practice is in New York, it’s a tricky and time-consuming commute.

“A lot of alumni and attorneys say, ‘Gee, the Atlanta commute is just so difficult. I can’t possibly cross town during rush hour to get to the law school to teach in the evening or any point during the day,’” Ian said. “So, I like teaching and I decided to serve as an example—if I could make it every week from New York to Atlanta, and teach on Monday morning, from 10:30 to 1:30, every single week for the spring, then certainly someone could get in a car and cross town and teach.”

“I love it,” he said. “I can mentor, I can give students a real live view of the practice of law,”

he said. “And I think that they’re better prepared for beginning their careers after taking my class.”

Ryan’s academic resume shows an enviable range of experiences.

“I’ve always been very, very interested in policy,” he said. “I got a master’s in public policy before I came to law school and that fascination with the academia side of things, as well as being able to combine political science and economics and actually help people... that’s really what sent me down this path to law school.”

He spent a semester doing research for Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law and Commodities Futures Trading Commission Commissioner **Kristin Johnson**. He was an SEC Scholars legal intern, and this spring, externed at Coca-Cola. As executive editor of the *Emory Bankruptcy Developments Journal*, his comment won the Keith J. Shapiro Corporate Bankruptcy Writing Award (with guidance from Associate Professor **George S. Georgiev**, he’s quick to add).

“I’m extremely proud of that because it just

shows how much my writing has improved since undergrad and is a pure academic accomplishment,” Ryan said.

But leading a large, sharp, and opinionated student body as SBA president provided another kind of education. He started as a 1L representative.

“Over the past three years, my focus has been on helping students as much as possible and doing what I can to make sure administration, faculty, and staff do the same,” Ryan said. “I’ve wanted to bring a culture back to the school where everyone’s got each other’s back, everyone’s happy, everyone’s doing something to promote the school. And I think that’s the legacy that I want.”

“I’m proud to have helped change the SBA into what we need and want it to be: the prime advocate for students,” he said.

Ian added: “When I became chair of the advisory board, I wanted to break the mold and be a much more active, energetic, and involved chair. And you’ve done the same through the SBA and left behind a precedent that hopefully others will follow and be as

actively involved as you’ve been.”

Back in 1989, Ian had Dean **Richard Freer** for Civil Procedure. “I have no greater memories than my memories from my first year of law school with Professor Freer,” Ian said. “Really, there’s no other person on this planet who has relationships with as many generations of Emory Law School graduates as Professor Freer, and I think that he’s already, and he will, generate excitement that will really invigorate the alumni base and draw the community closer together.”

This spring’s commute allowed time to think about the future. He and Lisa have decided to retire in Atlanta, which suits his son fine.

“My short-term goals are to stay in Atlanta,” Ryan said. “My partner lives down here, my middle brother is here, my partner’s sister is here, my family is moving down here, my friends are here. And while I grew up in New York, the vast majority of my adult life has been in Atlanta and I love it here. I’m just excited for what’s to come next.”

PUBLIC INTEREST

New stipend for public interest summer jobs

by Lisa Ashmore

This spring semester, Emory Law has launched a new stipend program for first- and second-year juris doctor students who accept summer volunteer jobs at legal public sector and public interest organizations.

“Many valuable summer legal experiences are unpaid, and we want students to be able to consider them,” said Emory Law Assistant Dean for Career Development **Natasha Patel**.

The new public sector stipends are designed to encourage students to pursue summer legal experiences, including judicial internships, that they might not consider because of financial concerns, Patel said.

“The stipends will be awarded to students who have accepted positions that clearly

reflect their career goals,” Patel said. “The intent is to defray living expenses for students who have accepted pro bono summer jobs at a nonprofit or government agency, including the judiciary.”

To qualify for the \$3,500 award, the position must last a minimum of six weeks, working 35 hours per week. On-campus jobs will not be considered, but the stipend can be used for qualifying work abroad. Students will receive 80% of funding at the start of their internship, and the balance upon completion. Students may only receive one stipend per summer, and it cannot be combined with an Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC) summer grant or other public interest fellowship.

Since 1989, EPIC has awarded competitive grants. Last year, the committee awarded 49 summer grants so students could work at organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union, The Southern Center for Human Rights, and prosecutor and public defender’s offices around the country, among others. EPIC grants have more requirements, such as logging 1L pro bono hours and attending pro bono conferences and events prior to applying.

The new stipends will not replace or impact those grants, Patel said. EPIC is a student-run organization that fundraises throughout the year to provide students with summer opportunities. The new stipends will be funded and administered by the law school, Patel said.

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS

Pathways to the Profession

MLK Weekend with Emory Law *by Jasmine Reese*

Emory Law held its second MLK Weekend with Emory Law event. Building on last year’s success, this year’s event was an opportunity for invited prospective students from some of the country’s top universities to learn more about Emory Law and be immersed in Atlanta culture.

The event remains rooted in intentional action toward diversifying the overall legal profession. ABA (American Bar Association) data reports, “Nearly all people of color are underrepresented in the legal profession compared with their presence in the US population.” In fact, as of 2020, around 5% of attorneys are Black. Law schools across the country are seeing low numbers of Black male applicants.

The Admissions team doubled their number of prospective student attendees and increased the range of represented universities to include schools such as Princeton, American, Howard, University of Central Florida and Indiana University.

Prospective students hailed from many prestigious undergraduate institutions including Stanford, Princeton, Duke, and Emory. This year’s group consisted of 32 applicants for the program and 27 attendees (18 male and

9 female students), up from 15 from last year. Selection and outreach were fixed on expanding the reach regionally and deeply engaging the prospective students to increase bonding, comfort, and true immersion in Emory culture.

Office of Admission representatives visited LSAC (Law School Admissions Council) forums and schools in Ohio, Florida, Indiana, Connecticut, Iowa, Washington, DC, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, inviting the most credentialed applicants to the event. Some of the institutions they visited are some of the best feeder schools for students in general and for high-performing African American students.

This year, the program experienced growth, adding a keynote speaker to the programming (**Pia Flanagan 96L**, head of mass markets at Mass Mutual).

The event was invite-only, and each prospective student received personalized invitations outlining their weekend, including a notification that all their travel and lodging would be covered by Emory Law.

The Admission team doubled their number of prospective student attendees and increased the range of represented universities to include schools such as Princeton, American, Howard, University of Central Florida and Indiana University and included engagement between former Dean **Bobinski**, Dean **Freer**, and prospective students.

Programming this year mirrored last year’s, including a welcome reception at Smith Gambrell; a breakfast, tour of the law school, mock class, and panel discussions. Students engaged with alumni, members from both the Advancement and Alumni Engagement and Office of Admission teams, faculty, staff, and administrators. **Ka’myia Gunn 24L**, **Jordan Smith 26L**, **Jamie Sipp 24L**, **Benjamin Brown 26L**, **Jerome Miller 24L**, and **Sheridan Hill 25L** shared their unique experiences with the prospective students.

Tristin Carmichael, EdD, joined Emory Law as senior director of admission, financial aid, & partnerships in August of 2023. He came to Emory Law from Goizueta Business School and was elated to learn of the MLK Weekend event. He worked closely with the Admission team to produce the enhanced event.

Carmichael said, “Being a qualitative researcher who loves reading and hearing stories from marginalized communities, I felt it was a professional and personal responsibility to give access and space to others who often would not have an opportunity. So yes, the second year of this event was personally illuminative. As such, for the MLK event, it was pivotal to double the number of registrants and participants to continue our dedication to having a diverse student population.”

In a full-circle moment, **Benjamin Brown 26L**, who attended the inaugural MLK Weekend at Emory Law event in 2023 as a prospective student, participated in this year’s event as a first-year student. Brown spoke on the student panel on behalf of the Black Law Students Association. He said, “My journey from a prospective student to a proud member of the Emory Law community is a testament to the power of this event. It not only influenced my decision to attend Emory Law but also affirmed my belief in the importance of a legal education that values diversity, inclusivity, and excellence. The MLK Weekend event was a turning point in my academic and professional journey. It showed me that Emory is more than just a law school; it is a place where you can thrive, contribute, and embark on a path to become not just a lawyer, but a leader. I am excited for the future students who attend this event and join us in this journey at Emory Law.”



SCHOLARSHIP

Emory Law honors Fineman’s legacy and dedicates FLT archive

by A. Kenyatta Greer

On April 5, 2024, Emory University School of Law celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Feminism and Legal Theory Project (FLT) with a day of panels featuring prominent international and US feminist legal theorists. The event culminated in the dedication of the FLT archive in Emory University’s Hugh F. MacMillan Law Library.

Initiated in 1984 by **Martha A. Fineman**, Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, the Feminism and Legal Theory Project has remained steadfast in its interdisciplinary exploration of the intricate interplay between law and culture. Organizers underscored the project’s enduring commitment to scrutinizing how these forces influence societal norms, policies, and practices pertaining to gender,

while also delving into intersecting issues of age, race, class, ability, and sexuality.

The project transitioned to Emory Law when Martha A. Fineman joined the school two decades later. Fineman not only spearheaded the FLT initiative but also established a robust visiting scholars program. This program serves as a conduit for fostering collaboration among academics worldwide, further amplifying Emory’s scholarly impact both domestically and internationally.

The ceremony commenced with a series of engaging panels, where feminist scholars shared personal insights into the transformative journey of the FLT project and its profound influence on their scholarly trajectories. The culmination of the event was in MacMillan Law

Library, where a poignant dedication ceremony honored the newly unveiled FLT archive.

Reflecting on the significance of the archive, Fineman remarked on its rich repository of working papers and workshop materials. These resources chronicle pivotal moments in the realms of social transformation and policy evolution, particularly in the aftermath of landmark movements such as gender equality and no-fault divorce. Additionally, the archive houses a treasure trove of recordings and videos capturing the dynamic dialogues and evolving debates surrounding these seminal issues, making it an invaluable resource for scholars engaged in the study of intellectual history and critical thought.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Juris Master program takes new name

by A. Kenyatta Greer

Beginning with the next admitted class, the Juris Master (JM) degree will have a new name: Master of Legal Studies (MLS). After extensive research on the evolution of the Juris Master degree across academia—and benchmarking against peer institutions—Emory Law administration determined that the moniker “Master of Legal Studies” is more in line with what schools are now naming programs that offer similar experiences and opportunities. In addition, this new name is more descriptive of the coursework at Emory Law.

Recently retired Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Assessment **Lesley Carroll** says of the program, “I have worked behind the scenes on the JM/MLS program for one and a half years. I have been so impressed with the quality of our students. They are accomplished professionals, and many have earned many advanced degrees. I am proud of some changes we made to make the program better for our students, including the more recognizable name change and moving all classes online. We created several new courses and hired new faculty members who are experienced and dedicated to instructing our students about the law to help them in their careers. We also hired a

new marketing partner and are excited about the increase in visibility the program will have. I am retiring, and think the program is poised to grow tremendously and continue being a leader in the field.”

The Master of Legal Studies program prepares students to navigate their varied industries. Students complete online, practical coursework to understand the legal landscape, regulatory frameworks governing an array of industries, and the nuances of federal and state governance. A legal studies master’s degree can benefit professionals in a variety of fields by offering an expansive introduction to the law and the US legal system. There are four concentration options for students to specialize their learning:

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- Cybersecurity, Privacy, and Technology Law

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ACCOLADES

Celebrating student success

by Jasmine Reese

This spring semester, students were acknowledged for their legal scholarship, advocacy skills, and unwavering dedication to public service. These students have distinguished themselves through their contributions to the profession and the academy.

Federalist Society

The Federalist Society received the Alexander Hamilton Award for the Most Improved Chapter by the National Federalist Society. This award is given annually at the Federalist Society National Student Symposium hosted at Harvard Law. The award recognizes the chapter that has made significant progress in terms of their events calendar, attendance at Federalist conferences, membership growth, regional leadership, and creative advertising. The award is named after Alexander Hamilton, who was an illegitimate child in the Caribbean but who became a successful lawyer, a co-author of *The Federalist Papers*, and the first secretary of the Treasury. The Most Improved Chapter award is designed to appreciate the chapters that have used hard work and creativity to build on modest foundations, just like Hamilton did. **Sophia Bavaro 24L**, the outgoing president of Emory’s organization, received this award with the incoming president, **Adelena Nini 25L**, pictured below.



Intellectual Property Society

Emory Law placed as one of the five 2024 National Patent Application Drafting Competition (NPADC) regional finalists. The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), with the support of several collegiate law school programs and the USPTO’s regional offices, hosted five virtual regional rounds of the NPADC on March 9. Five regional finalists from 58 teams competed at the national competition at the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. The competition provides law students and students studying patent law the opportunity to develop patent prosecution skills by applying legal principles to a hypothetical invention scenario.

Mock Trial Team

Emory’s Mock Trial Society has won multiple awards at recent competitions. Their dedication to courtroom excellence and sharp legal minds have paid off, solidifying their reputation as a force with which to be reckoned on the national stage.

The Summit Cup National Tournament at Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver: Semi-Finalist

Team Members: **Monica Hess 24L**, **Melanie Magwood 24L**, **Nikki Hurtado 24L**, and **Karian Chard 24L**

Only schools with several championship wins under their belt are invited to participate in this tournament, and this year, an all-3L team was selected to compete. The Emory Law team consisted of Karian Chard and Monica Hess (defense) and Nikki Hurtado and Melanie Magwood (plaintiff). The team beat out some of the best teams in the country and were named semi-finalists. They also received several tens for their performance as advocates and plaintiff’s counsel even achieved a perfect ballot in the semi-final round. The team was coached by **Liz Markowitz 90L** and **Justin Norman**.



TYLA National Trial Competition Region VI at Stetson Law: Semi-Finalist

Team Members: **Nikki Hurtado 24L**, **Monica Hess 24L**, and **Karian Chard 24L** (pictured above)

The 3L team consisted of Karian Chard (prosecution), Monica Hess (prosecution/defense) and Nikki Hurtado 24L (defense). The team beat out some of the best teams in the country and, out of 25 teams, was named semi-finalists. Defense even went 6-0 in preliminary rounds.

John L. Costello National Criminal Law Mock Trial Competition National Championship: Winner

Team Members: **Martin Berg 24L** and **Jordan Mahan 24L**

This is the second year in a row that Emory Law has won this prestigious competition. These teams were coached by **Zach North** and **Will Fowler 19L** for all three competitions.

Trials and Tribulations Mock Trial Competition at University of South Carolina School of Law: Quarter-Finalists

Team Members: **David Alden 24L**, **Aryssa Mansfield 25L**, **Jordan Mahan 24L**, and **Martin Berg 24L**

This was a unique competition that featured three parties: one plaintiff and two defendants. The team consisted of Alden (plaintiff/defendant 1), Mansfield (plaintiff), Mahan (defendant 1 and 2), and Berg (defendant 2), witnesses **Jackson Downs 25L** and **Micah Jones 26L**, and coaches **Rhani Lott Choi 10L** and **Jerry Mason**. Alden won Outstanding Advocate.

Moot Court Society

Congratulations to competitors **Claudia Cornelison 24L**, **Dean Mattschull 24L**, **Katelyn Hunt 24L**, and **Christopher Katrakis 24L** and coaches **Cory Conley 24L** and **Rachel Hendrix 24L** for placing in the top 16 teams in the world at the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition during the international rounds in Washington, DC.

The team advanced to international competition after winning the US Eastern National rounds in February. This year’s Jessup began with 642 teams from 85 countries, and of those 642, only 150 teams qualified to compete at the international rounds. Individual recognition is due to 3L competitors Katelyn Hunt, who finished as Jessup’s Top Oralist in the world, and Christopher Katrakis, who was the 8th Best Oralist. Together, the two of them also won the Best Overall Respondent Side award.

Also, 2L competitors Claudia Cornelison and Dean Mattschull remained undefeated across their national and international Jessup rounds. And lastly, this year’s success would not have been possible without the dedicated support of 3L coaches Conley and Hendrix.

Jennifer Romig, professor of practice and moot court advisor, shared her excitement on being an advisor for 10 years. “One of our students has been recognized as the Top Oral Advocate in the world. Graduating 3L Katelyn Hunt received this special recognition at the Jessup International Rounds this past weekend. Other members of our Jessup team received many other superlatives including Best Respondent Side and overall Top 16 team—again, in the world. Their achievement is just remarkable!”

Pro Bono

Amanda Shaheen 24L was named to the Association of American Law Schools’s (AALS) 2023 Pro Bono Honor Roll. The AALS Pro Bono Honor Roll is an annual honor roll that acknowledges and highlights the exceptional work of individuals engaging in, expanding, and/or supporting their law school community in providing pro bono legal services. For the purposes of this award, pro bono is defined as work that is primarily legal in nature, supervised by a licensed attorney (for law students), not for pay or academic credit, and of service to underserved individuals, groups, or those with barriers to access to justice. The Honor Roll recognizes up to one faculty member, one staff member, and one law student per member school.



HONORS

John Witte elected to AAAS



John Witte Jr. has been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS)—the third Emory Law scholar to receive this honor.

Witte is Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, McDonald Distinguished Professor of Religion, and faculty director of the Center for the Study of Law and Religion. A leading specialist in legal history, human rights, religious freedom, marriage and family law, and law and religion, Witte has published 45 books in 15 languages plus 325 articles and 18 journal symposia; he has also delivered 425 public lectures around the world since joining the Emory Law community in 1987. As center director, he has raised \$26 million and directed 19 major international research projects on issues of faith, freedom, and the family.

“It’s a joy to see three of Emory’s exceptional faculty scholars celebrated for their intellectual contributions to society,” says **Ravi V. Bellamkonda**, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs. “Election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is

a high honor that speaks to the powerful role academics can play in raising important questions, generating novel ideas and shining a light on challenges that face us all. I congratulate Emory’s newest Academy members on this outstanding recognition by their peers.”

Professor Witte has delivered lectures throughout the world, including the Franke Lectures at Yale, the Pennington Lectures at Heidelberg, the Jefferson Lectures at Berkeley, the Beatty Lectures at McGill, the McDonald Lectures at Oxford, the Cunningham Lectures at Edinburgh, and the Gifford Lectures at Aberdeen.

He is series editor of *Emory Studies in Law and Religion* (Eerdmans) and *Cambridge Studies in Law and Christianity* (Cambridge University Press), and he coedits the *Journal of Law and Religion*, *Brill Research Perspectives on Law and Religion*, and the new *Colección Raíces del Derecho* (Aranzadi). He has been selected twelve times by the Emory law students as the Most Outstanding Professor and has won

dozens of other awards and prizes for his teaching and research.

Earlier this spring, Brill Publishers released a book of essays in honor of Witte. The collection is edited by Rafael Domingo, Gary S. Hauk, and Timothy P. Jackson, former colleagues and enduring friends of Witte. The

book is free and open access. *Faith in Law, Law in Faith—Reflecting and Building on the Work of John Witte, Jr.* | Brill includes 31 chapters by friends and former students in North America and Europe and opens with a foreword by Emory President Emeritus **James T. Laney**.

The Academy was founded in 1780 by an illustrious group that included revolutionary war leaders such as John Adams. The organization “honors excellence and convenes leaders from every field of human endeavor to examine new ideas, address issues of importance to the nation and the world and work together ‘to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honor, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people.’”

Former Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law **Mary Anne Bobinski** noted in an address to Witte’s colleagues, “Election to the AAAS is a high honor that recognizes John’s lifetime accomplishments as a leading scholar of law and religion.”

You can find out more about the AAAS, its distinguished members, and its work at amacad.org/.

“Election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is a high honor that speaks to the powerful role academics can play in raising important questions, generating novel ideas and shining a light on challenges that face us all.”

— **Ravi V. Bellamkonda**, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, Emory University

STUDENT PROFILE: JD

Nikki Hurtado 24L

Hurtado balances resilience with service, sets sights on trial law

by A. Kenyatta Greer

After finishing college in three years—and with two bachelor’s degrees—**Nikki Hurtado 24L** applied to Emory Law as an Early Decision student. She was the consummate overachiever: President’s Scholar. Foote Fellow. Magna cum laude graduate from the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in Sport Administration and one in Human and Social Development.

“I remember receiving my admissions letter from our previous associate dean of admissions, **Ethan Rosenzweig 02L**. One of the things he wrote was, ‘I hope you will explore your commitment to service with our community, including our Student Bar Association (SBA) and Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA).’ I am graduating as a two-time president of LALSA and vice president of Academic Affairs of SBA. I have never questioned if I made the right choice. I know I did!”

Hurtado’s resilience is a family trait. She says she owes all her success to her parents. “Their experiences as Cuban and Mexican immigrants and entrepreneurs have made them into the two most resilient people that I know. They have fueled my drive and motivation to do better, be better, and work hard for my dreams every day.” Along with her siblings and her best friends, they are who keep her going.

And she has been going strong since the beginning.

She is the winner of numerous awards and scholarships, but her start to law school was not without its challenges. “I remember that the first law school class I attended was during Orientation with Professor **Jennifer Romig**,” she says. “It was an introductory Legal Analysis, Research, and Communication class. That was the first time I had ever read a case in its entirety, rather than seeing excerpts in the news or college textbooks. It felt like I was reading something in a completely different language.”

She ended up meeting four of her best friends in that class, and she felt assured that she would not be on her journey alone. She has made a slew of connections along the way—relationships that would sustain her through the labor of law school. “I really did not know what I needed to be worrying about as a fall semester 1L. My career advisor, **Lauren Jirak**, always made time to answer any of my



questions and guide me in the right direction. She helped me with countless resumes and cover letters and was always available to talk through job options. Throughout the last three years, I felt a lot of support from people like Stephanie Dingle, Professor **Paul Koster**, my mock trial coaches, and the amazing teams in the Admissions, Alumni, and Communications offices. Their words of encouragement always reassured me that I was on the right path.”

One of Hurtado’s favorite professors, Koster (her other favorite is Dean-designate **Rich Freer**), said of her: “Nikki is an

outstanding law student and future lawyer. She constantly strives to further her legal knowledge and lawyering skills, cares deeply about the effect of law on society, and seeks to utilize her expertise to impact others meaningfully and positively. She is also a tremendous leader within the Emory Law community, always aiming for the best for our community and inspiring others along the way.”

“Being an Emory Law alum means being open-minded and never turning away from new, intimidating experiences.”

— **Nikki Hurtado 24L**

As an aspiring trial attorney, Hurtado will graduate with a Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution concentration. After she graduates and passes the Florida Bar, she will join The Ferraro Law Firm in Miami, FL, as an associate attorney. The Ferraro Law Firm handles a broad range of mass tort and personal injury cases involving mesothelioma, pharmaceuticals, environmental toxins, and commercial cases.

She takes with her a legal maxim learned in her favorite course, Remedies, taught by 2016 first honor graduate, Adjunct Professor **William Eye 16L**. Eye introduced her to the phrase, “Equity aids the vigilant, and not those who slumber on their rights.”

She also takes with her a pride in becoming an Emory alumna. “Being an Emory Law alum means being open-minded and never turning away from new, intimidating experiences,” she said. “It means learning something from every obstacle you encounter, every new face you meet, and every adventure you take.”

STUDENT PROFILE: JM

Morieka Johnson 94C 24L

EPD head of comms earns juris master, becomes Double Eagle

by A. Kenyatta Greer



Traditionally, most law school graduates go on to be lawyers. But for **Morieka Johnson 94C 24L** and other recipients of the juris master degree, there is the opportunity to learn from world-class legal scholars and take that knowledge into a number of careers that require one to look at situations through a legal framework.

Her work isn't just law adjacent. She is on staff at the Emory Police Department, a cohort of 43 sworn officers who serve the Emory University, Oxford College, and Emory University Hospital Midtown campuses along with 28 administrative staffers.

Johnson is director of communications in the Department of Campus Safety at Emory University. She is co-chair of the Emory Black Employee Network and recipient of Emory's Friend of Residence, Sorority, and Fraternity Life Award. Now, 30 years after earning her bachelor's degree in creative writing from Emory, Johnson will become a Double Eagle.

She shared some insights about her law school experience with *Emory Lawyer*.

What made you decide to enroll in the JM program?

I learned about the JM program when I read a profile on my colleague Sgt. **Ayinde Luqman**, a 2020 graduate. At the time, I was considering a role with the Emory Police Department. After joining the team, I was proud to see that EPD strongly encourages employees to pursue continuing education. My role involves strengthening EPD's connections to the community we serve. I realized that the JM program would enhance my skills and my contributions to the department.

Were you nervous at all about starting the program and, if so, why?

As an Emory alum, I knew the coursework would be challenging. I had some concerns about balancing the workload, but EPD program graduates Sgt. Ayinde Luqman and Lt. **Anthony ReFour (JM 22)**, were so supportive. It also helped me to go through the program with a coworker.

Describe how you felt before your first class.

The night before class, I was extremely nervous. When we started the virtual bootcamp session, I took a screenshot as a memento. We dove right into legal concepts with Professor Robert Parrish and Professor Allison Thornton and I remember thinking, "There's no turning back."

Do you have a concentration in the program?

I concentrated on Employment Law, which includes the courses Employment Discrimination and Employment Law for Professionals. This concentration has given me valuable exposure to important legal concepts that will serve me well in my role with EPD, and beyond. My goal is to consult other agencies on implementing community policing

practices. Transformative work often begins with a focus on employees.

How do you use this degree in your current work?

My role incorporates data analysis, legal concepts, marketing, mediation, and storytelling. Courses such as Dispute Resolution, Law and Legal Professionals and Business Oversight and Compliance have enhanced my approach to the role.

What was your favorite class?

Every class made me better. However, Contracts was probably my favorite. Contracts seem intimidating, but we enter agreements every day, from buying a car to accepting terms before updating a phone app. It's so important to consider the details in these agreements. Fortunately, Professor **Mindy Goldstein** was incredibly engaging. She made this complex topic much more approachable.

Did you have a favorite professor?

I loved that Professor Goldstein gave us engaging, creative assignments that made difficult concepts more approachable. I also consider Professor **Virginia Mellema** a favorite. She taught Employment Discrimination for Professionals. This course has helped me advise colleagues on best practices regarding compliance with equal employment opportunity laws.

Who is your personal support system?

The program is challenging. Whenever I got discouraged, I remember a message from my pastor: "The grace that brings you to a challenge will carry you through a challenge." I also benefited from having my colleague, Sgt. **Christian Theis**, go through the program with me. We have been able to keep each other uplifted and focused.

EPD officers get schooled: legal studies degree boosts skills, confidence



Left to right: **Ayinde Luqman 20L**, EPD Patrol Sergeant – Atlanta campus; **Christian Theis 24L**, EPD Partnerships Recruiting and Outreach (PRO) Team Sergeant; **Morieka Johnson 24L**, EPD Communications Director; **Ryan Andrews 24L**, Regional Claims Coordinator for Auto-Owners Insurance Company (former EPD PRO Team Sergeant); **Bridget Mourao 19L**, Fire Safety Manager & Campus Fire Marshal for the Georgia Institute of Technology (former Emory Fire Safety Director); **Anthony ReFour 22L**, EPD Patrol Lieutenant – Atlanta campus. Not photographed: **Xavier Nixon 21L**, EPD Patrol Sergeant – Midtown campus

Seven EPD employees have completed the juris master program at Emory Law, and one more is on deck to participate in the next cohort, the graduates of which will earn the Master of Legal Studies degree, as the program has recently been renamed.

Anthony ReFour, a 2022 graduate of the program said upon finishing 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."

Johnson answers some questions about the department's participation in this program.

Why do you think so many EPD officers find this degree valuable?

EPD encourages officers to pursue higher education and apply that knowledge on the job. Several colleagues have bachelor's and master's degrees. Courses in this JM program, including Dispute Resolution, Law and Legal Professionals, and Employment Discrimination, align with EPD's mission to provide professional police services in partnership with the community we serve, making it a perfect fit.

Will you continue to encourage EPD staff to consider the program?

I'm proud to share that one colleague recently was accepted into the program. I absolutely look forward to passing the torch to another EPD staffer.

What kind of support did you get from the institution during your time in school?

Emory offers the Courtesy Scholarship, which is a major benefit. Additionally, VP Cheryl Elliott, Chief Burt Buchtinec, and the team have been very supportive of me during my time in the program. They allowed flexible scheduling and cheered me on during the process.

STUDENT PROFILE: LLM

Pamela Bispo da Silva 23L

Brazilian attorney sails past language hurdle

by Lisa Ashmore



Good lawyers have to be great storytellers—which is impossible without a command of language. So, when a lack of fluency in English was standing between **Pamela Bispo da Silva 23L** and her dreams, she left the small town of Rio Claro, Brazil, and accepted an au pair job in Pennsylvania. She arrived knowing zero English but as a certified attorney with a Brazilian LLB degree.

Two years later, she knew her second language well enough to enroll in an associate paralegal degree in Atlanta. But not long after, COVID-19 shut down in-person classes.

“I was still trying to get used to the American school system, which was very different from what I was used to. Having to take classes online helped me to create systems to manage my time well and stay on top of all my assignments, but I definitely missed being able to be in a classroom and socialize,” Bispo da Silva said. “Because I do not have family here, I was hoping that school would help me to connect and meet new people, but the pandemic had other plans.

“I had not seen my family in three years,”

she said. “I remember feeling very anxious and overwhelmed with the thought that my family could be affected, and I would not be able to see them again. To cope with anxiety and the uncertainty, I focused all my energy on my studies.”

She’s wanted to be a lawyer for as long as she can remember. She earned a full scholarship at Methodist University of Piracicaba in Brazil (for a five-year legal degree program) at age 17. She passed the Brazilian bar exam with the highest grade in her class, a 9.9 out of 10. After graduation, she interned with both a public defender’s office and in family law for roughly a year, then started seeking in-house counsel positions.

“But every time I applied for a job, I was denied because they required fluency in English,” she said. Another setback was that despite earning a coveted spot in a legal post-graduate program, she realized the expense was too great, so she applied to the au pair program.

After moving to Atlanta and earning a paralegal degree, her Optional Practical Training (employment allowed as part of a student visa) was about to expire. She applied to Emory Law and received a partial scholarship. She’s been at Copeland, Stair, Valz & Lovell, LLP, here since 2022 in various capacities. As a full-time student taking 15 credits per semester, she couldn’t work while earning her LLM, but during summer break she returned to CSVL and completed Emory Law’s yearlong LLM program late last year.

“At the end of my clerkship, they offered me a job as an associate upon my graduation,” she said. “After I graduated in December 2023, I took a couple of months off to prepare for the Bar.” She’s worked at CSVL as a full-time law clerk since March 2024, and graduated to associate in April, after passing the Georgia Bar Exam on her first attempt.

“I really enjoy working there,” she said. “I do not plan on moving anytime soon. I want to be able to join some sections of the Georgia Bar and expand my network.”

She says her favorite Emory class was Alternate Dispute Resolution.

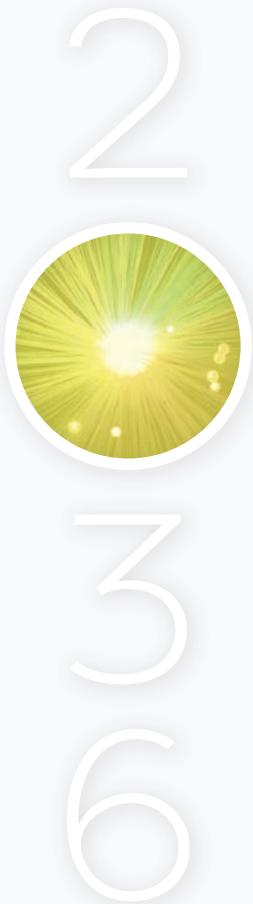
“I loved ADR. The classes were on weekends and very dynamic,” she said. “I was able to play different roles, such as a negotiator, a mediator, and an attorney. The class helped me improve my interpersonal skills and taught me great persuasion skills.”

English is no longer a problem, even navigating the sometimes-arcane language of law.

“It was my privilege to meet and work with Pam,” **Kirsten Schaetzel** said. She’s assistant director of Emory Law’s Legal Education Program and an English Language Specialist who has worked with many international students. “She was a stellar student as well as a great part of our LLM community,” Schaetzel said. “She served as secretary to the LLM Society and was our teaching assistant for the summer Legal Foundations program for international students. Encountering Pam and her ‘to-do’ attitude and wonderful smile was always a bright spot in my day.”

“I had a great experience at Emory Law,” Bispo da Silva said. “I wish I had more time to enjoy Emory’s campuses, but as with many law students, most of my time was spent at the law library. But I felt welcomed by Emory’s professors and staff. They always showed interest in knowing my story and my experience as a foreign attorney.” She said they demonstrated they wanted to help her succeed.

“As I was preparing for the Bar, I had professors checking on me weekly and sending tips and words of encouragement,” she said. “Because I do not have my family here, having the support of my professors through that tough moment made a lot of difference and I will be forever grateful.”



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 85Ox 88C 04L

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Associate Dean Emeritus Jim Elliott 66C 66L (1941–2024)

A. James Elliott 66C 66L, who was both an alumnus and associate dean of Emory Law, passed away on January 14, 2024.

Before joining Emory Law, Associate Dean Elliott was a leading attorney for 28 years with Alston & Bird. As a lawyer, Associate Dean Elliott led many important initiatives to improve access to justice and to promote ethics, integrity and public service within the legal profession. In 1971, as a member of the Bar's Young Lawyers Division, Elliott was instrumental in founding Georgia's Legal Services Program, which has provided legal services to almost one million poor Georgians. He also co-founded Georgia's Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts program (IOLTA) which has raised \$1 million for legal charities, primarily to provide civil legal services for indigent persons.

In 2009, Emory Law established the A. James Elliott Community Service Award, which is given annually to the

3L demonstrating the greatest commitment to community service while at the law school.

Read more at
qrco.de/jelliott.

