How to kill a leviathan
Opioid crisis litigation in America
Focusing in on our mission

ALTHOUGH WE ARE just halfway through the academic year, the New Year holiday allows us to reflect on our community’s accomplishments and to share our hopes for the future. It has been an honor and a pleasure to connect with our faculty, staff, students, and alumni in person over the past few months. Our faculty members continue to inspire students in the classroom and to lead scholarly efforts to understand and to shape our laws to meet the needs of our society. Our staff members work with dedication and creativity to support student success and faculty impact. Our students pursue their dreams with passion, energy, and commitment. And, our alumni are deeply involved in nearly every aspect of the school, from funding the scholarships that allow us to recruit top students, to serving on advisory boards, and to teaching and mentoring students. It has been wonderful to hear the hum of conversation in Gambrell Hall, to see students preparing for class in MacMillan Law Library, and to attend numerous events with thought provoking speakers and sophisticated discussions about complex legal issues and debates.

Emory Law’s recognition as a leading law school in the United States has been deeply connected to the excellence of our faculty members and the accomplishments of our graduates. In this edition of Emory Lawyer, you’ll read about faculty scholarship and alumni involvement in addressing the opioid crisis through litigation. We celebrate several of the new faculty members who have or will be joining the law school in the next few months. The law school’s recruitment efforts have had the strong support of the university provost and other senior leaders, especially through the university’s new innovative AI.Humanity Initiative, which will support 20–30 new faculty members with expertise in artificial intelligence and machine learning in the law school and in other units across campus.

The law school’s faculty, staff, and alumni are focused on student flourishing and success. The primary goal of Campaign 2036 for Emory law is to double our endowment with a focus of dedicating funds to students, enabling them to graduate with decreased debt loads, even better preparation for the bar, enhanced career outcomes, and enriched engagement with alumni mentors, faculty, and staff. As you are introduced to new people and new projects in these pages, you will also learn about curriculum developments, including new concentrations created in response to changes in the marketplace and employer demands. These correspond with a story about how career services have changed since many of us completed our law degrees. This issue also highlights the incredible work done by our Volunteer Clinic for Veterans.

Thank you for your continued interest in and involvement with Emory Law. We want to tell stories that help inform, update, and inspire thought. Let us know how we’re doing. Email lawcommunications@emory.edu, or share your thoughts and story ideas with our team.

Mary Anne Bobinski
Dean and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law
The Case for Reparations

At the 2022 Emory Public Interest Committee Conference, Donna Stephens, founder of the Chattahoochee Brick Descendants’ Coalition, and Dr. Joseph Carter, founder and project coordinator of the Linnentown Project, share a light moment at the dais. PHOTOGRAPH BY BRANDON CLIFTON
HOW to KILL a LEVIATHAN
Opioid crisis litigation in America

BY LISA ASHMORE • ILLUSTRATION BY CRISTINA SPANO
Since 2000, opioid overdoses have been responsible for more than a million deaths in the United States. In 2019, American life expec-
tancy dropped for the first time since World War II, and opioid overdoses contributed to the majority of that litigation.

Author Patrick Radden Keefe characterized the Sackler family’s wealth with his book title: Empire of Pain. He said the resulting opioid multidistrict litigation (MDL) has been called “the most complex civil action ever tackled by any American court.” Paul J. Geller ’93L is a partner with Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd and a court-appointed member of the MDL’s Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee. He is a partner with the firm’s Boca Raton offices.

“It is the most complicated, most challenging, most important case I ever had the privilege of handling,” Geller said. “I involved in a lot of complex class actions that are important, but they boil down to being about money. But this one is different. People are dying. Families are suffering. And the impact is felt by everyone—rich and poor, rural and urban. We are all someone who has lost a loved one to this crisis.”

Prior federal prosecution

In 2007, Purdue pleaded guilty in a US District Courtroom in Abingdon, Virginia, to federal criminal charges and paid $630 million in fines and settlement payments; investigators said the company had misled doctors, patients, and regulators about the potential for abuse and addiction. But the company marched forward, tobacco companies won individual cases by arguing that the consumer knowingly assumed the risks, and they kept selling a product they knew was addictive and caused lung cancer (and concealed that knowledge), Geller said.

Emory Law Associate Professor Matthew Lawrence is an authority on addiction who serves as a special advisor to the Drug Enforcement Agency. He notes similarities, but also some big differences.

“The crisis is still ongoing—and the $5 billion settlement between tobacco compa-

ies and states is a one-way street,” they write. “For a number of reasons (including price and ease of acquisition), those who graduate to the latter don’t get to go back to the former.”

“A similarity to the tobacco cases was a coalition of state attorneys general who drove litigation. While a unified front is effective, the number of parties involved and deciding who was entitled to what from the MDL settlement certainly contributed to the complexity of the case,” Geller said.

“With the governmental entities—states, cities, and counties—there is tremendous overlap in population,” he said. “In other words, if you live in Fort Lauderdale (a plaintiff), you also live in Broward County (a plaintiff) and also live in Florida (a plaintiff). This case involved a lot of very meaningful public litigation and in some cases postling—between local and state governments along with the usual litigation against very sophisticated defendants. The defendants—manufacturers, distributors, and retailers—all pointed fingers at each other. So this was new, and it is an incredibly complex constellation of both state and federal law. Involving different kinds of defendants, interrelated claims, and complicated applica-

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“I’m involved in a lot of complex class actions that are important, but they boil down to being about money. But this one is different. People are dying. We all know who someone who lost a loved one to this crisis.”
That’s why the work to certify a negoti- ation class was valuable even though the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals later rejected it, Geller said. He was one of the architects of the class, and says it was essential to determine distri- bution. They consulted with public health economists, local government representatives, and state attorneys general.

“It was a long and tedious process, and not everyone was happy,” he said. “Certain states like California believed that population should be the most important metric. Other states like West Virginia recognized that it shouldered a disproportionate burden based on impact and that population would skew distribution in a way it felt was unfair. We had a lot of valid concerns and opinions to deal with.”

In the end, states overwhelmingly opted in, to both stop deaths and to save tax dollars. They had to do so without knowing how much they would receive, but with the understand- ing a very structured distribution plan would be geared toward state factors such as population. It would distribute over $150 million for Native American programs and state attorneys general.

In November 2020, Purdue Chair of the Board Steve Miller appeared before US District Judge Colleen McMahon: “The bankruptcy court did not have jurisdiction to certify a negotiation class,” said Geller. “That’s why the work to certify a negoti- ation class was valuable even though the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals later rejected it, Geller said. He was one of the architects of the class, and says it was essential to determine distri- bution. They consulted with public health economists, local government representatives, and state attorneys general.

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A. James Elliott 66L
Professor of Practice
Professor of Law

Morgan Cloud
Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law

As interim dean of Emory Law from September 2017 through July 2019, Hughes cultivated the law school through a time of great transition, bridging the gap between the tenures of Deans David F. Partlett and Robert Schapiro and Mary Anne Bobinski. He stepped into the role with the calm-headedness and aplomb that are among his hallmark personality traits. A thirty-year member of the faculty, Hughes has seen more than most and really experienced the transformation of the law school through the past thirty years as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of California—Berkeley, and Emory University. The law school’s national and international profiles have increased dramatically, along with the range and depth of our curriculum. The breadth of scholarly inquiry has expanded dramatically with the addition of many exceptional faculty. The racial, ethnic, and gender makeup of faculty, students, and staff is far more inclusive. One might say, if in 1992 I arrived at Emory Law today it is Emory Law 2.0.”
Hughes was selected as the Most Outstanding Professor by the Emory Student Bar Association (2002) and as Professor of the Year by the Black Law Students Association (2006). In addition to serving as associate dean for academic affairs (at the law school 2002-2006 and 2014-2017), Hughes served as vice dean of Emory Law from 2006 through 2011. His extensive service impact on my students, that I would have a lasting impact on the institution. However, I would hope that I have inspired and had a positive impact on my students, that I have been a good colleague to my friends on the faculty and staff is far more inclusive. One might say, that I have brought commitment and integrity to all of my work on the law school’s behalf.”

James A. Hughes
Associate Professor of Law

In 2017, Elliott was honored by the Committee to Promote Inclusion in the profession of the State Bar of Georgia and of its Young Lawyers Division. He has served on several Supreme Court commissions dealing with legal history and legal policy issues. “In some ways we accomplished more than I ever imagined possible when my family joined the Emory community; in others— not even possible. The Randolph Thrower Award recognizes an outstanding individual who has dedicated his or her career to providing opportunities that foster diversity, social justice and access to justice for the underserved. Elliott is an example of the seven top scholars who have been published in leading journals, including the Stanford Law Review, the University of Chicago Law Review, the Columbia Law Review, and the University of California—Los Angeles Law Review; and the UCLA Law Review. Elliott was honored with the Randolph Thrower Lifetime Achievement Award. The Randolph Thrower Award recognizes an outstanding individual who has dedicated his or her career to providing opportunities that foster diversity, social justice and access to justice for the underserved. Elliott is an example of the seven top scholars who have been published in leading journals, including the Stanford Law Review, the University of Chicago Law Review, the Columbia Law Review, and the University of California—Los Angeles Law Review; and the UCLA Law Review.

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David F. Partlett’s sixteen-year career at Emory (including a stint as dean from 2006 to 2011) followed an extensive career in his home country of Australia. “After my time at UWA I returned with [my wife] to Australia. I wanted to do work at the Australian Attorney-General’s Department on legislation being developed in the Human Rights Section on Racial Discrimination and Human Rights. While doing that work the dean of the Australian National University (ANU) called me to teach Tort on an adjunct basis. Much of that work was about to disappear with the introduction of a compensation scheme for personal injuries. Someone had to teach the dying area. I found that I loved teaching and my interaction with my students. When I had completed my work at the attorney general’s and at the Australian Law Reform Commission, where I led a research team, I was keen to come back to the law school. I was keen to combine my research and writing with teaching. The life of the mind has a great allure. I was lucky to be invited back to take a faculty position at the ANU. Hence my 46-year career commenced.”

Partlett says he came to Emory to make a highly reputed school even better. He had been as dean in the schools in the United States that had thrived in large part because of their superradical student-faculty relations and had learned that experience needed to be taken seriously. At Emory he found a similar dedication to diversity and inclusion. What I did not feel as tightly knotted to the mission of the school and became disconnected from the institution upon graduation, I think we improved student engagement during my time,” he says. “We set a continuing structure that valued alumni’s voices. During my time we were able to recruit outstanding faculty and retain many who shared the vision of Emory. The law school became more comfortable as a unit of the wider university, he says. “The Great Recession was not a friend to ambitious plans, but I think we built those pillars deep. I’m eternally grateful that I had such a fulfilling career.”
“My experience on debate teams in high school and college made me realize that issues of legal ethics and lawyer malpractice are of particular interest to me. Law school seemed the most direct—and intense—route for continuing and expanding that ambition.”

Timothy P. Terrell
Professor of Law

“Happily, I’ve been able to achieve all that I hoped to achieve when, in the summer of 2003, I became a member of the law faculty at Emory University.” Perry says. “As a Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law, I’ve been able to devote a major part of my time to my scholarship. I’ve also been able to teach the courses that complemented my scholarship. In my twenty years at Emory Law, I’ve written ten books, the final of which—titled Interrogating the Morality of Human Rights—is scheduled to be published in the summer of 2023.”

Professor John Witte wrote about Perry’s “characteristic empathy for the needs and vulnerabilities of others and his generous charity” as well as his “insistence on doing the big things in life alongside his beloved wife Sarah.”

Paul J. Zwier II
Professor of Law

Paul J. Zwier II is one of the nation’s most distinguished professors of advocacy and skills training. His decision to study law was “part calling and part practicality.” He was a history and philosophy major at a small religious college in Michigan where he was advised to read Gideon’s Trumpet and A Klansman, Mockingbird, and found the lawyers in these stories used knowledge and skill to make a real difference.

Zwier is the former director of public education for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and has taught and designed public and in-house skills programs in trial advocacy, appellate advocacy, advocacy mediation, motion practice, negotiations, legal strategy, e-discovery, supervisory and leadership skills, and expert testimony at deposition and trial for more than 20 years. Zwier has taught advocacy skills to international lawyers and judges around the world, and, in 1999, Zwier received NITA’s Prentice Marshall Award.

He says that over his nearly 20 years at Emory, he was continually amazed at the commitment, passion, and enthusiasm of his law students. He has built relationships with several colleagues that have affected him personally and professionally. He says fellow Woodruff Professor Martha Albertson Fineman “tolerated my questions and misunderstandings about vulnerability theory, which I still find provide some of the most important insights to my work, whether in dispute resolution, and in my rule of law work.” Then Dean Thomas Arthur, Morgan Cloud, John Witte, along with members of the hiring committee, encouraged him to develop new areas of emphasis and scholarship during his first years. Professors Frank Alessandro and Hal Berman offered warm welcomes. Professors Broyde, van der Vyver, and Abdalahi Ahmed An-Noor provided inspiration for new collaborations. And David F. Purpott has been a special colleague and friend who has shared drafts, coauthored articles, and taught me much, especially in the areas of remediation, law and religion, and ethics.

We have also fervently discussed the issues of rule of law and international politics, grand-children, and travel, often well into the night. I have shared good conversation and wine with he and his wife Nan from France to Poland, to Atlanta, and back.”

Michael Perry
Robert W. Woodruff Professor of Law

Paul J. Zwier II and Timothy P. Terrell
Professor of Law

While an undergraduate at Georgetown University (1964–1968), Michael Perry decided to attend law school. It was a time of civil rights marches and demonstrations. He wanted to become a civil rights lawyer.

While a law student at Columbia University during the early 1970s, he decided to become a law professor. He had come to understand that a career as a law professor—rather than as a practicing lawyer—would give him the opportunity to delve much more deeply into the issues and controversies that greatly interested him.

Michael Perry was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, received his AB from Georgetown University (1968) and his JD from Columbia University (1973). After graduating from law school, Perry served as a law clerk, first, to US District Judge Jack B. Weinstein (1973–1974) and, a year later, to US Circuit Judge Shirley M. Hufstedler (1974–1975).

Timothy P. Terrell has three distinct areas of teaching and scholarly reputation: legal writing, legal ethics, and legal theory. He has published extensively on all these topics, and frequently conducts continuing legal education programs on them as well. Concerning legal writing in particular, he has been among law faculty nationwide, the leading presenter of programs for practicing lawyers and judges, not just in the United States, but around the world. He has consulted often for law firms on issues of legal ethics and has served on numerous occasions as an expert witness in litigation involving issues such as conflicts of interest, confidentiality, and lawyer malpractice.

Regarding legal writing, Terrell has for more than a decade conducted the writing and editing portion of the training program for new appellate judges at NYU Law School’s Institute of Judicial Administration. In addition to presenting programs around the country to law firms and bar associations, he has been a consultant on legal writing to the international association of law firms called Lex Mundi and has conducted programs at member firms around the world. He is the creator of a popular text on legal writing, entitled Thinking Like a Writer: A Lawyer’s Guide to Effective Writing and Editing (3d ed., 2008, Practicing Law Institute).

“I have been deeply gratified by the positive feedback I have received from judges, lawyers, and law students concerning the substance and structure of the legal writing training I have provided—not only in the US, but in many other countries as well,” he recalls. “Introducing audiences to the deeper concepts of excellent writing feedback has been the unusual hallmark of my presentations.”

And he’s still going. He has one scholarly project that he hopes to continue to develop after retirement: a book on the structure underlying philosophical reasoning.
From Matlock to the Suits
The evolution of career advising
BY NATASHA PATEL, ASSISTANT DEAN FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

As I reflect on the employment achievements for the Class of 2021, the highest in ten years at Emory Law, I consider the significant role that career departments in law schools now play in the trajectory of a student’s legal career. From the 1L Career Strategy and Design Class, the one-on-one advisor meetings, optimization of the recruiting cycles, review of individual job applications, financial and salary counseling, and navigating offers and rejections, our career development office partners with every law student to launch them into their legal careers. We help students meet both short-term and long-term career goals, because most will hold several jobs during their professional lives.

This is unlike the law school experience a generation ago (GenX, in my case) in which a career office had one person who made sure certain job and internship resources were readily available in alphabetically kept binders, while offering a compassionate ear to anyone who desired it. The paradox of the information age is that it necessitates the ability to review and synthesize the myriad of ever-changing legal market information to make it palatable and relatable to the recipient. For a law student, that is the career and professional development office.

My entire team comprises first-generation lawyers or business professionals. When we say to a student “we’ve been there,” we are honest. None of us had known a legal professional until law school and yet our experiences are quite different. I learned about lawyering from Matlock. The current students learned from Suits. Matlock, a diligent, slow-paced, thoughtful show, wended its way to resolution. Suits is exciting, dynamic, fashionable, and clever, with multiple, fast-paced resolutions.

My classmates wallpapered bathrooms with the rejections that trickled in through snail mail. Today, a student logs on at 5:01 p.m. to view fifty accepts or declines—or a combination therein—from an employer. Immediate and harsh.

We’re the bridge between the professional reality that the students face and the secluded law school environment. A professor is more willing to alter deadlines than a judge. Exceptions can be the norm in a learning, academic environment, but exceptions encounter tough obstacles in practice. Every student at Emory Law is the shining example in their communities, each deservingly special. And now that community is the larger legal profession. As the community gets larger, the students are called upon to advocate more determinedly for themselves, all while becoming advocates for their clients. They are required to distinguish their talents and experiences to compete. We assist students through our tailored, individual advising approach and by engaging with employers to demonstrate how every student with an Emory Law degree is worthy of a job.

This past year, employer recruitment increased by twenty percent, and both our at-graduation employment rate and the bar required or JD preferred jobs our students secured was at a ten-year high. Our students are succeeding across the country. Legal careers, like many other professional ones, may meander, bend, curve, twist, and zigzag along a paved, crooked, or cracked path. One thing I know for sure is that careers are long. Ultimately career satisfaction is rooted in sustainability. Our students are most successful when they embrace becoming long-term contributing members to this noble profession. The legal profession, at its heart, is a service one. The work our office does is to make sure students are primed for their roles in this profession—and positioned for long-term success.
Morris named director of new tech initiative

Professor Nicole Morris has agreed to serve as the inaugural director of the Innovation and Legal Tech Initiative (ILTI). In this role, she will lead Emory Law’s efforts to address the implications of advances in legal tech for faculty and for students preparing for the future of legal practice in the 21st century. She may also develop programming for students enrolled in the law school’s other graduate-level programs and/or the executive education program.

Morris will work with the administration to identify academic activities that may include the creation of new courses, the modification of existing courses to address changes in legal practice, and the development of modules, workshops, or programs designed to ensure that Emory Law students and graduates are prepared for changes in legal practice associated with advances in legal technology.

Joanna Shepherd, vice dean of Emory Law, says of Morris’s appointment: “We are delighted that Professor Morris has agreed to lead the effort to expand Emory Law’s focus on innovation and legal technology.”

“THIS NEW INITIATIVE WILL DEEPEN EMORY LAW’S CURRICULAR STRENGTH IN BRINGING TOGETHER LAW AND TECH.” — Nicole Morris

Preparing students for changes in the legal profession has always been a priority for Emory Law, and it is an important part of our strategic plan. Professor Morris has both the expertise and the experience to develop programming that teaches students how innovation and technology are employed in the modern legal market.”

Morris’s areas of expertise include patent law, patent litigation, patent prosecution, IP licensing, and strategy. She is director of the T-GrE Program (Technological Innovation: Generating Economic Results). The T-GrE program has evolved over the years to include the annual T-GrE Innovation Conference which draws renowned scholars in the tech realm to Emory Law to discuss various aspects of innovation. The law school ended its joint academic instruction with Georgia Tech in May 2022, and the Emory Law T-GrE program will continue with external partners such as the National Nuclear Security Administration within the Department of Energy.

In 2022, Morris was named one of the Women of Legal Tech by the American Bar Association’s Legal Technology Resource Center. She was among a list of past 17 women across the country. The ABA Legal Technology Resource Center’s Women of Legal Tech initiative is intended to encourage diversity and celebrate women in legal technology. This initiative launched in 2015 with a list of innovators and leaders in legal technology and with this year’s additions, that list now includes 49 talented and influential women leaders.

Prior to joining the Emory faculty, Morris was the managing patent counsel at The Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta, Georgia. While at The Coca-Cola Company, she was responsible for the development and implementation of the company’s global patent strategy and providing day-to-day advice and counseling to business stakeholders.

Morris has almost twenty years of experience practicing patent law in large and mid-sized law firms. Morris also worked as an engineer for six years with JPM and E&H, and has thirty years of experience working with consumer products and technology companies.

She says, “I am thrilled to lead this inaugural innovation initiative. I am very committed to training future lawyers to use technology to make an impact on the profession. This new initiative will deepen Emory Law’s curricular strength in bringing together law and tech. In one to three years, I want to collaborate with legal tech startups and have Emory Law students using their tech tools to assist clients.”

Hfeoma Ajunwa’s, JD, PhD, will join the Emory University School of Law faculty in the fall of 2023, strengthening the school’s offerings in AI and employment law. As AI Humanity Professor of Law and Ethics, she will be part of the university’s interdisciplinary AI Humanity Initiative and become the founding director of a program dedicated to AI and the law. Ajunwa will also take up an academic leadership role at the law school starting in Spring 2024. An award-winning multidisciplinary scholar of artificial intelligence, law, and ethics, Ajunwa was recruited from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where she served as the founding director of the AI Decisions-Making Research Program. Her scholarship and teaching focus on the intersections of law and technology with an emphasis on the ethical governance of workplace technologies. In April 2023, Ajunwa visited campus as part of the AI Humanity Ethics Lecture series, delivering a lecture titled “The Unrealized Promise of Artificial Intelligence.”

“IM THRILLED TO JOINING EMORY LAW’S.” — Hfeoma Ajunwa

“I’m thrilled to be joining Emory Law,” says Ajunwa. “The Emory Law faculty is such a deeply vibrant and welcoming intellectual community. I am honored to join such a world-class faculty in a world-class city.”

“Dr. Ajunwa is a noted scholar and teacher whose insights about the challenges and opportunities associated with AI and the law have been recognized by scholars, lawyers, corporate leaders, and policymakers,” says Dean Anne Bobinski. “Dr. Ajunwa’s focus on AI will complement the work of other nationally and globally prominent Emory Law faculty members who focus on AI, IP and innovation, corporate law, health, and civil rights and social justice.”

A prolific legal scholar and sociologist, Ajunwa has won academic awards including the Fulbright Scholar Award. Ajunwa is also an engaged public intellectual with an extensive list of bylines. She is a columnist at Forbes and has published op-eds in the New York Times, Nature, Washington Post, Slate, and The Atlantic, among others. Her research and legal commentary have been featured by media outlets such as NPR, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, the Guardian, and the BBC.

She testified before the US House Committee on Education and Labor in 2020, and has also spoken before the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. A DEI expert, Ajunwa has consulted with Fortune 500 corporations on ethical issues associated with tech and has served as advisory board member for tech companies in Silicon Valley.

During a lecture at Emory University this spring, Ajunwa said, “Emory holds the reputation for being one of the oldest private institutions in the United States with a commitment to justice and inclusion. I see the AI Humanity Initiative as necessary work for upholding those principles amid the expansion of artificial intelligence.”

“AJUNWA IS A NOTED SCHOLAR AND TEACHER WHOSE INSIGHTS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY SCHOLARS, LAWYERS, CORPORATE LEADERS, AND POLICYMAKERS.” — Mary Anne Bobinski, Dean

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People sometimes ask why I spend my time and money supporting Emory Law. I rarely have time to explain all of the reasons because there are many.

For me, I am incredibly grateful for the scholarship I received that allowed me to graduate from law school with a manageable amount of debt. Providing other aspiring lawyers with that opportunity is my way of paying it forward. If you benefited from a scholarship to Emory Law (and even if you didn’t), I hope you will consider giving back.

In addition, we live in a country and a world where the rule of law is sometimes taken for granted. We need lawyers who are well trained not only in the basic subjects taught in all law schools (contracts, torts, etc.), but who also have an appreciation for the critical role lawyers play in society on the decisions that rule the law. Emory Law provides more than just an opportunity to learn the law—it also provides incredible opportunities for students to learn skills that will position them to be leaders in their firms, in their companies, and in their communities as they proceed in their careers. By way of example, our dean, Mary Anne Bobinski, is co-teaching a seminar on Leadership for Lawyers this coming semester. In this class, students will hear directly from leaders in the legal field, business world, and nonprofit and government positions about the fundamental principles of leadership and develop leadership competencies relevant to lawyers and law students.

Engaging with law students is also incredibly rewarding. Having coffee, lunch or even just a Zoom meeting with a law student to talk about career opportunities is something I thoroughly enjoy. If you have not taken the opportunity to connect with Emory Law students, please make an effort to do so. You can reach out to me or to the law school’s staff for ways to connect. I am confident you will find the experience personally rewarding—and you may even learn something new.

We are also at a key juncture in the history of the law school, with many long-time faculty and in their communities as they proceed in their careers. By way of example, our dean, Mary Anne Bobinski, is co-teaching a seminar on Leadership for Lawyers this coming semester. In this class, students will hear directly from leaders in the legal field, business world, and nonprofit and government positions about the fundamental principles of leadership and develop leadership competencies relevant to lawyers and law students.

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FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
Quinn Yeargain 19L has been appointed assistant professor of law at Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mary Joanne Bell Kitrell 19L, a new associate at Parker Poe, part of the Atlanta office’s education practice.

Jennifer Marie Morgan 95L, a new associate at Tucker Bogardus & Linfante, named lead counsel for Damon Erik Elmors 96L, the executive director of the State Bar of Georgia, who recently completed a bicycle trip across Africa.

The Emory Law Dean’s Advisory Board and the Emory Law Alumni Board are pleased to welcome twelve new members for the 2022–2023 academic year.

The Emory Law Dean’s Advisory Board and the Emory Law Alumni Board, representing a diverse range of perspectives and geography, are appointed and work together to advise the dean and senior staff on the interests of the Emory Law community. The Advisory Board concentrates primarily on fiscal and operational strategic planning, and the Alumni Board focuses on strategic planning for alumni engagement. These volunteer leaders help to keep the law school apprised of and responsive to the current state of the legal profession and the concerns and needs of our alumni.

New members include: Elizabeth L. Fite 85L, who recently completed her term as president of the Georgia Bar Association, and Damon Erik Elmors 96L, the executive director of the State Bar of Georgia, who recently completed a bicycle trip across Africa.

Advisory Board New Members
Marc R. Bryant 95L
Damon Erik Elmors 96L
Angela Hu, Esq. 95L
Jennifer Marie Morgan 95L
Sasuke Scott Olsen 83L
Georgia Ranilo 89L
Brant Jameson Savage Sr. 78L
Jennie H. Wilson 89L

Alumni Board New Members
Elizabeth L. Fite 85L
The Honorable Rahn L. Gatewood 05L
The Honorable Steven Daniel Grimberg 98L
Thomas H. Hong 97L

IN MEMORIAM
James L. Cox 53C 54L, on June 20, 2022
Ralph Williams 59L, on June 20, 2022
Judge Jack Manning McLaughlin Sr. 65L, on April 8, 2022
Bessette Lea Kight 65C 66L, on June 11, 2022
Patrick Joseph McGee 66L, on June 16, 2022
Don Lee Hartman 67L, on May 24, 2022
James Edgar Long 69L, on April 29, 2022
Solomon Jackson Yezanen 64C 65L, on July 7, 2022

Richard Franklin Livingston Jr. 67C 70L, on June 8, 2022
Steven J. Martin 70L, on March 14, 2022
Gary L. Whitlock 70L, on November 29, 2021
Wilson Edward Frantz 71L, on June 7, 2022
H. Andrew Owens 71L, on April 15, 2022
T. Stanley Sunderland II 71L, on May 31, 2022
Robert D. Clark 73L, on May 5, 2022
Douglas N. Campbell 74L, on June 13, 2022
Kenneth Garre 76L, on May 20, 2022
Robert O. Van Norte 74L, on March 10, 2022
Willie Eugene Jessup 74C 75L, on February 3, 2022
Mark Oranges Shriver IV 72B 81L, on October 25, 2021
Dan B. Mauk 83L, on April 26, 2022
Brago Lovell Tolim 84L, on April 7, 2022
Deborah G. Kronenberg 92L, on February 10, 2022
Willie Charles Adams Jr. 94L, on February 19, 2022
Tiffany Nichole Porter 95L, on May 1, 2022
Laurie Blank

Blank, clinical professor of law, has been appointed as special counsel to the general counsel of the US Department of Defense. The role of the General Counsel provides advice to the secretary and deputy secretary of defense regarding all legal matters and policies. Professor Blank took leave from the Emory faculty for one year, beginning September 1, 2021, to take up her appointment in Washington, DC.

Blank is director of the International Humanitarian Law Clinic at Emory University School of Law, where she teaches the law of armed conflict and works directly with students to assist international tribunals, non-governmental organizations, and militaries around the world on cutting-edge issues in humanitarian law and human rights.

In her role as special counsel, Blank will focus primarily on the law of armed conflict and national security law. "I am incredibly excited about this opportunity to support the work of the general counsel. As the conflict in Ukraine highlights, this is a time of extraordinary tension and change in the international arena. I am honored to have this opportunity to contribute and look forward to getting to work on challenging issues with the talented and dedicated attorneys in the Office of the General Counsel." — Laurie Blank

Kristen N. Johnson

Johnson, Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law, was unanimously confirmed by the US Senate to serve a three-year term as a commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

Johnson is an internationally recognized expert on financial markets regulation and corporate governance, risk management, and regulatory issues. Her recent research examines the implications of introducing cryptocurrencies and stablecoins in the financial markets ecosystem. In addition, Johnson’s recent work explores broader technological innovations in society such as the integration of artificial intelligence technologies in commercial and consumer financial transactions, transfers, and assessments.

Smith is associate professor of law; he researches and publishes on health care finance, administrative law, and addictions. This semester, Lawrence is serving as special advisor to the United States Drug Enforcement Agency.

In addition to his teaching and scholarship, Lawrence possesses a wealth of experience in the federal government. He most recently served as a special legal advisor to the US House of Representatives Budget Committee (Majority). Previously, he worked on health care regulatory issues during the Obama and Trump Administrations as a trial attorney in the Department of Justice’s Federal Programs Branch and attorney advisor in the Office of Management and Budget’s Office of General Counsel in the Executive Office of the President. In 2016, he received an individual special commendation award for his defense of Affordable Care Act programs while serving as trial attorney in the US Department of Justice.

The State Bar of Georgia has awarded the Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC) the 2022 Law School Excellence in Access to Justice Award for demonstrating outstanding incentives in addressing the civil legal needs of the community. The committee was recognized for providing summer grants for students in public interest organizations and fostering a commitment to public interest work.

In their award letter, the committee wrote that EPIC “increased visibility for the need for greater access to justice across Georgia” and said they applaud the Emory law student contribution to the justice system through their work and activism.

Rita Shefky, assistant dean for public service, said of her EPIC students, “I am privileged and honored to work every day with the EPIC team and many other public interest students at Emory Law. Their energy, creativity, leadership, and commitment to serving others strengthen my optimism for a more just society.”

Smith has an extensive history of service to the profession, including current memberships in the Coalition of Virginia Law Schools and the Southern Association of Pre-Law Advisors, and he presents widely on various admissions-related topics, including first-generation law students, diversity in law schools, admissions essentials, and navigating the law school application process starting in high school.

“I look forward to joining a great team with an emphasis on maintaining excellence exemplified at an international institution housed within Atlanta,” Smith says. “This city is the professional, cultural, and social hub of the Southeast—a city which attracts the best and the brightest and presents opportunities on par with any metropolitan area in the world.”

Smith holds a juris doctor, a master’s degree, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Florida, where he was also the captain of the football team. He ‘sired admission and financial aid functions at Campbell University School of Law and Florida Coastal School of Law and was also assistant director of career services at the University of Florida.

The Law School Excellence in Access to Justice Award was created by the State Bar of Georgia in cooperation with the State Bar of Georgia Young Lawyers Division. It is open to all law students currently enrolled in or graduating from an accredited Georgia law school and recognizes an individual law student or law student group activity. In the case of EPIC, the award specifically recognizes a law student-led group or activity that has demonstrated an effective mechanism in addressing the civil legal needs of the community or that has demonstrated a high level of participation and commitment of its members to provision of civil legal services to the poor in the community.

EPIC was formed in 1994 by students committed to making public interest jobs accessible to Emory students. EPIC has successfully undertaken a major fundraising effort that has provided summer grants for students who accept volunteer positions or clerkships in public interest organizations.
A 16-year-old locked himself in a hotel storage closet. He refuses to come out when ordered to do so, and when police officers attempt to remove him, he comes out swinging. He tries to hit and bite them, and he also throws glass cleaners, which go down one officer's throat. The resulting charges include aggravated assault on a peace officer. Even as a juvenile, it’s a serious charge.

Emory Law Barton Juvenile Defender Clinic students have represented hundreds of minors since 2006, but this case led to a June 2022, Georgia Supreme Court decision that Clinic Director Randee Waldman says is an important one for all young Georgians—the right to an insanity defense.

“When I first started, it was the practice in Georgia juvenile courts to not permit young people to raise an insanity or delusional compulsion defense,” Waldman said. “This decision changes that for all young people going forward.”

Four Emory Law Juvenile Defender Clinic students worked on the amicus brief Waldman filed in November 2020: James Farnan 21L, Raerani Reddy 21L, Michelle Montgomery 21L, and Aubree A. Aguinaga 22L. The resulting charges include aggravated assault on a peace officer, which goes down one officer’s throat. He refuses to come out when ordered to hit and bite them, and he also throws glass cleaners, which go down one officer’s throat. The resulting charges include aggravated assault on a peace officer.

Waldman's brief sums up her argument this way: “If adults can raise an affirmative defense of insanity, it is capricious to disallow the same opportunity to the underserved act even if they could not distinguish between right and wrong at the time of the offense. Waldman chose to file an amicus brief for In the Interest of T.B., a Child because of its compelling facts and a chance for students to gain appellate experience. They collaborated with Emory Medical School Department of Psychiatry fellow Sindhura Suryadevara for a section of the brief dealing with the prevalence of mental health disorders among young people. Dr. Sarah Y. Vinson, a forensic psychiatrist on the faculty of both Morehouse and Emory’s medical schools, also joined the brief as principal consultant for Lirio Forensics.

“This is an issue I’ve had my eye on for a long time,” Waldman said. T.B. had previously been diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder, Other Psychotic Disorder, and Substance Induced Psychotic Disorder, but a forensic psychiatrist found that following four months of treatment, he could understand trial and assist his attorney, making him competent to stand trial. His attorney filed a motion seeking to raise all of the policy implications at play. “It’s unknown whether the Barton brief influenced the Supreme Court because it wasn’t mentioned in the opinion written by Justice Verda M. Colvin.

“It’s always hard to know ultimately whether the court, but I’d like to think that the broader context was helpful,” Waldman said. “Our brief covered two areas, the prevalence of mental illness in young people and a constitutional argument around fundamental fairness and due process. In the end, the court used a statutory construction analysis to find that the defense was permitted by the existing code, so it did not reach the constitutional argument.”

The brief did, however, influence the prosecutors. In the intervening years, an election resulted in a new district attorney in Chatham County, Georgia, where the case began. While the original prosecutor objected to the insanity issue on appeal, the new district attorney reversed course and “joined in seeking the right to raise these defenses,” Waldman said. In doing so, the D.A.’s office cited the Barton brief. The passage reads: “Given the social and psychological support regarding child psychology, brain development and mental illness, as so clearly laid out regarding child psychology, brain development and mental illness, as so clearly laid out in the Barton Center’s amicus brief, it seems only right and even more pressing, that the insanity defense be made available to youthful offenders as well as adults.”

Two recent Emory Law graduates have been awarded national public interest fellowships based on proposals for two law projects they designed to address criminal legal needs. One focuses on criminal justice reform and human rights violations in New York City jails and the second will provide legal and social services for displaced Afghan immigrants in Georgia.

Aubree A. Aguinaga 22L and Zarah Aziz 160 18C 21L received two of the 34 Equal Justice Works Fellowships awarded this year, chosen from 385 applications submitted by law school graduates around the country.

Equal Justice Works annually selects public interest lawyers who design unique projects in partnership with legal service organizations. The 2022 class includes graduates from 49 law schools—their work at 76 legal services organizations across 20 states, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico. Projects are funded by law firms, corporations, private foundations, and individual supporters. This year’s 34 sponsors include law firms from the Am Law 100, and 15 Fortune 900 corporations. Aguinaga represents New York City pretrial detainees during disciplinary hearings and provides advocacy and education to meet the needs of low-income individuals who experience human rights issues at Rikers Island. She will partner with the Bronx Defenders to create educational training programs for lawyers on disciplinary hearings, provide legal representation for clients in disciplinary hearings, and provide oversight by suing Rikers and the Department of Corrections to challenge human rights violations. She is sponsored by Paul Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

“My Equal Justice Works Fellowship has afforded me the opportunity to serve members of the Bronx, the poorest congressional district and the borough with the largest Latino population. I want to directly support Latino communities by elevating the voices of the Bronx through advocacy in the plight of mass incarceration,” Aguinaga said.

In August 2021, nearly 80,000 Afghan nationals were evacuated to the United States after the rapid Taliban takeover. Aziz will work with the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network to provide wraparound legal and social services to displaced Afghans in Georgia who do not qualify for support through the traditional resettlement process, with a special focus on women and girls. She is sponsored by State Farm.

“My heart aches for the people of Afghanistan, who have endured unimaginable turmoil for decades. As an Afghan American woman, I am honored to serve this community by assisting them in obtaining stability in the United States,” Aziz said.

In the past three decades, Equal Justice Works has awarded more than 2,000 postgraduate fellowships; on average, 85 percent of those fellows remain in public service positions.
This summer, four Emory Law students volunteered at public interest organizations across the United States, thanks to grants funded by the Emory Public Interest Committee. The Emory Public Interest Committee, or EPIC, was founded in 1989 by students with a commitment to making public interest jobs accessible to Emory Law students. Volunteering within these organizations allowed students to gain real-world experience while truly discerning their potential future careers. Each student committed to 400 volunteer hours over ten weeks.

### Summers of service

**By Andrew Faught and Jasmine Reese**

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### Sonal Rastogi 24L

Growing up in India, Sonal Rastogi recalls the sight of impoverished children with polio-mangled limbs. The specter often was the end result of children with polio-mangled limbs. The specter often was the end result of a disproportionate burden on the Affordable Care Act to tobacco and opioid litigation. She discovered that policies that have “dramatically shifted or reversed” over multiple presidential administrations have been part of the challenge in American health care. “There aren’t necessarily concrete interpretations for how they can be applied,” Rastogi says. “There also exists a lag in how laws are applied in the real world.”

She plans to work in some form of health care law. The EPIC experience, Rastogi notes, allowed her to understand the “middle gray area” in which the law functions. “It’s different to understand or learn something from a textbook or case book than it is seeing it practiced and understanding the complexities of how the law is applied and navigated,” she says. “I was very glad for this opportunity.”

### Madison Dodge 23L

Madison Dodge enrolled at Emory Law with a personal imperative: “I came to law school wanting to be a public defender. I know it’s not going to be easy, but it’s what I’m passionate about.”

She traced her sensitivities to her teacher parents, who impressed upon Dodge the importance of empathy, and appreciating the circumstances affecting all aspects of the human experience. Through a John Paul Stevens Fellowship, Dodge was able to put her sensibilities to work this summer as an intern for The Bronx Defenders, a public defender nonprofit that every year works on behalf of 25,000 low-income residents in criminal, civil, child welfare, and immigration cases.

Dodge did pre-plea investigation reports, interviewing clients to come up with information that could mitigate their culpability. In one case, a misdemeanor conviction could have resulted in a client being deported. She praised the organization’s “holistic” defense model, which considers each case on its unique merits.

“My work with The Bronx Defenders made me hopeful, in the sense that I was learning from and seeing an office where they’ve tried to implement a model to address not only the criminal legal issues that people face, but also other collateral issues—such as immigration consequences or losing housing, or family court proceedings and losing your children,” Dodge says. She is guided to fight against “mass incarceration,” which Dodge says is a main impetus in enroll at Emory. “EPIC provided me a space in a community with other students interested in the same work, or with attorneys or alumni in the public interest community,” she adds. “Almost more than anything, it’s been valuable to my education.”

### Brianna Cruz 24L

Brianna Cruz decided she’d become a capital defense attorney in high school, after reading Bryan Stevenson’s “Just Mercy,” in which the legal scholar describes inquests contributing to death sentences. This summer, Cruz took a step closer to her dream. Through an EPIC grant, she interned with South Carolina’s nonprofit Justice 360, which works to reform policies and practices in capital and juvenile life without parole proceedings. The experience, she says, was pivotal: “It changed me.”

Cruz helped conduct research for lawyers challenging the constitutionality of the state’s newly adopted execution protocols. Justice 360 is representing a trio of convicted men, arguing that legislation authorizing the electric chair or firing squad is “barbaric.”

“The main goal is to get the death penalty off the table, and instead get life without parole. A lot of it isn’t challenging the guilt, but humanizing the clients on death row.”

—Brianna Cruz 24L

### Alex Passe 24L

Alex Passe enrolled at Emory Law for a paramount reason. It has one of the strongest public interest grant programs in the country. Through a summer John Paul Stevens Fellowship, Passe made good on his point. It was through an internship at the EPA Region I in Atlanta that Passe learned the niceties of law beyond the classroom. “You can’t be a lawyer without knowing the law, but you don’t learn how to be a lawyer in the classroom,” he says. “This was my first foray into the practice of law, and it was an incredibly enlightening experience for me.”

The internship allowed Passe to work on Clean Air Act violations, and he wrote a research paper on the topic. His law degree, Passe says, will build on the public health master’s degree he received at the University of Minnesota. He hopes to continue his work at the EPA. “I see my three-year journey at Emory as an extension of my education in public health,” he says. “My goal, my mission, is to improve public health.”

Passe’s says his work is committed to marginalized communities, which bear a disproportionate burden when it comes to pollution and environmental risks. “What was humbling about EPA work is seeing firsthand, and experiencing firsthand, how slowly change at that level works,” he says. “Deep down, there is a desire to be the hero who is going to have the biggest effect, to argue the Supreme Court case that totally changes the way the world works.”

“**My goal, my mission, is to improve public health. What was humbling about EPA work is seeing firsthand, and experiencing firsthand, how slowly change at that level works.”**

—Alex Passe 24L
Barth joins Emory Law

The Center for the Study of Law and Religion is delighted to announce the appointment of Whitney Barth as executive director. In her new role, Barth will manage CSLR daily operations; recruit and lead staff, post-doctoral fellows, visiting scholars, and student fellows; create and support research projects and programs; build relationships with members of the executive committee, academic units on campus, and organize events, including celebration of the Center’s fortieth anniversary in the 2022-23 academic year. Barth will also serve as the inaugural Charlotte McDaniel Scholar. CSLR Faculty Director and Woodrow Professor, John Witte Jr., calls Barth’s appointment “transformational.” “Whitney brings to the job a brilliant mind, rich academic experience, a learned pen, a generous heart, superb organizational strengths, and the refined legal skills needed to navigate bureaucratic complexities.” Barth will work with Witte and a small governing board to strategize for the Center’s future and then play a leading role in implementing that vision.

Barth joins CSLR after nearly three years as a litigator with a nationally recognized plaintiffs’ firm, Sanford Heisler Sharp, where she worked primarily on employment discrimination matters. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School and was executive comments editor of the Chicago Journal of International Law. Prior to law school, Barth served for nearly five years as the assistant director of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University. She received her master’s degree from Harvard Divinity School and her bachelor of arts magna cum laude from Miami University, where she earned a double major in comparative literature and religious studies.

Her research interests include, among other topics, the place and role of religion in American legal history, the development of the ministerial exception within US employment law, and the role of religious actors in the development of international human rights law. She has authored and co-authored pieces that appear in the Chicago Journal of International Law, the University of Illinois Law Review Online, Yale L.J., and Bloomberg Law. She has co-authored book chapters in volumes published by Oxford University and Georgetown University presses.

We sat down with Barth to learn more about her path to Emory and plans for the future. (The excerpt below is from a longer interview which you can read here: cslr.law.emory.edu/news).

Welcome to Atlanta! Your career includes an impressive array of graduate training, university project management, and legal work. What made CSLR the right place for your next phase of your career?

Thank you! I’m delighted to be here and grateful for the warm welcome I’ve received.

There were a few things that convinced me that CSLR was the right place for me. I think of my previous experiences as related yet distinct threads in my professional trajectory. I see CSLR as a place where I have an opportunity to intentionally weave those threads together to find creative approaches to my new role and to thinking about the Center’s future.

The Center is committed to examining, and fostering a deeper understanding of, the many ways in which law and religion can and do shape our public and private lives. That focus resonates with my own enduring intellectual and civic interests. Further, since its inception in the 1980s, CSLR has fostered interdisciplinary conversations and been able to advance that aspect of the Center’s mission into the future was particularly exciting to me.

Finally, with each conversation during the interview process, I became more excited to be part of such an inviting and intellectually curious community of scholars and practitioners. I’m thrilled that I now have an opportunity to be a part of welcoming others into that space. You’re joining CSLR on the eve of its fortieth anniversary. From your perspective, why is the study of law and religion important today? What are some of the challenges we can expect to face in the next forty years?

I think the study of law and religion is important today in so many small ways for the reasons it was important two generations ago: both are formidable forces that influence in and over people’s lives, often in profound ways. Over the next forty years, I suspect we will encounter new challenges in the law and religion space that pertain to the regulation of technological advances and environmental crisis, both of which are quickly pushing us to new frontiers in our thinking about humanity and the rest of the world of which we are a part and are building. I also think we’ll see some enduring challenges take on new or different forms, challenges such as what are the limits of rights and what should the law require when the exercise of different rights come into conflict, conversation, or conversation. I anticipate the complicated histories of law, religion, and race will also be sites for further examination.

Georgia ranks No. 7 in the country in veteran population, more than 300,000 veterans live here, and Fort Benning in Columbus is the fifth largest military base in the world. Carson says more than three million US servicemembers were exposed to radiation, which also expands benefits for Gulf War era and post-9/11 veterans.

The PACT Act also opens the door for more claims by Vietnam War veterans,” she said. “If you served in the Vietnam War and you have high blood pressure or MGUS, the VA now presumes those conditions were caused by Agent Orange exposure.” Also, specific events are now recognized to carry health liabilities. “If you helped with the cleanup of Esenwein Aitch or cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain, the VA now presumes you were exposed to radiation,” Carson added.

The clinic was founded in 2017 and currently more than 90 law students and over 20 volunteer attorneys and paralegals are at work on claims and legal help. Since Carson joined in January 2021, the clinic has secured more than $4 million in backed and future VA disability benefits and has assisted more than 300 veterans and their families. Volunteer work with low-income veteran on the clinic include disability claims, discharge upgrades, and estate planning.

“The work we’re doing has a direct positive benefit on veteran’s lives,” Carson said. She is a lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force (Air National Guard) and previously served in the US Army Reserve.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act (PACT Act) benefits Georgia veterans

Volunteer Clinic for Veterans moves to refile claims

by Lisa Asmheure

A 99-year-old Air Force officer—a nonsmoker with no family history of cancer—died of esophageal cancer 17 years after he returns from Uzbekistan’s KabaKhodab (K2) Air Base. After 9/11, the former Soviet base was used by the United States for missions into Afghanistan to fight the Taliban and al-Qaeda. Despite K2’s notorious burn pit and its Dust-Off “Skinny” ponds, the Veterans Administration denied the veteran’s claim for disability benefits in 2017.

In 2019, the veteran’s wife called Emory Law’s Volunteer Clinic for Veterans, which refiled the claim. It included letters from his physicians and scientific studies to support the connection between his cancer and burn pit exposure, but it was again denied.

This summer, the PACT Act became law on Aug. 10, 2022, the clinic resubmitted the claim. Senior Staff Attorney Carlissa Carson OBL expects a different outcome—this time she believes the veteran’s wife will receive spousal benefits based on her husband’s illness and premature death. The VA has described the PACT Act as perhaps the largest health care and benefits expansion in its history.

“We are so happy the Act was finally signed into law,” Carson said. “It gives servicemembers presumptive service-connection for a long list of conditions such as brain cancer, GI tract cancer, COPD, and other life-threatening illnesses.” Servicemembers now don’t have to prove those conditions were caused by burn pit exposure—the law presumes any condition on the list is connected to toxic exposure, which creates easier access to VA disability benefits.

More than three million US servicemembers were exposed to toxic burn pits while deployed to countries including Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

Georgia ranks No. 9 in the country in veteran population, more than 700,000 veteran live here, and Fort Benning in Columbus is the fifth largest military base in the world. Carson says more than three million US servicemembers were exposed to toxic burn pits while deployed to countries including Uzbekistan and Afghanistan.

A growing number of them have developed severe health conditions due to exposure to burn pits, Carson said. Since its passage, the VA has added more than 20 burn pit and toxic exposure presumptive conditions, which also expands benefits for Gulf War era and post-9/11 veterans.

“The PACT Act also opens the door for more claims by Vietnam War veterans,” she said. “If you served in the Vietnam War and you have high blood pressure or MGUS, the VA now presumes those conditions were caused by Agent Orange exposure.” Also, specific events are now recognized to carry health liabilities. “If you helped with the cleanup of Esenwein Aitch or cleanup of the Air Force B-52 bomber carrying nuclear weapons off the coast of Palomares, Spain, the VA now presumes you were exposed to radiation,” Carson added.
2022: An exceptional new class

“...is the most highly credentialed class that we have admitted in at least a decade. Emory Law’s top-20 reputation among academics, lawyers, and judges no doubt rests in part on the strength of our student body, as well as the quality of our faculty and the accomplishments of our alumni.” — Dean Mary Anne Bobinski

Amaya Booker 25L earned a BA in political science at Hampton University. She plans to focus on civil rights and health advocacy and has spent more than 650 hours volunteering for medical, educational, and social organizations that advocate against inequity in health and justice.

Clisha D’Souza 25L earned her neuroscience and psychology degree at the University of Texas at Dallas. After graduation, she returned to Austin, where she unionized low-income renters, prevented pandemic evictions, and worked to increase the number of health insured in rural Texas. She wants to study zoning, land use, and tenant-landlord law “to strengthen tenant protections and build equitable cities in the American South.”

Madeline Muhlherr 25L holds a BA in philosophy from the University of Tulsa and minored in law, psychology, and Chinese. She’s interested in international law, and plans to study abroad, based on her two semesters doing so as an undergraduate. She’s from Houston and has worked as a legal clerk at a civil law firm there since she graduated.

Taylor Reilley 25L holds a BS in psychology from Florida State University. She double majored in English, with an emphasis on creative writing and earned a Certificate of Developmental Disabilities. She’s an active and longtime proponent of disability advocacy and inclusion and has worked with organizations including Special Olympics and Best Buddies.

The law school awarded four Robert W. Woodruff Fellowships this fall, to students with an array of post-law school ambitions. The fellowships are a university-level honor that enables Emory to recruit and reward students with exceptional character, scholastic abilities, and leadership qualities. It is the highest accolade an incoming student can receive.

First-year students are grouped into “houses” named for the city’s historic neighborhoods: Decatur, Druid Hills, Inman Park, Kirkwood, Midtown, Morningside, Old Fourth Ward, Sweet Auburn, and Virginia Highland.
This program is the longest standing mentorship program at Emory Law. It is worth noting that AS EMORY LAW CONTINUES to be a gateway for professionals to be matched with the study software each student is using. There are various programs, servicing different needs. The future of Emory Law rests in the hands of dedicated alumni who are agents of change. There are several ways to get involved by sharing your talents, time, and your experience directly with Emory Law students. The monastery’s traditional discipline of alumni mentorship is continuing to grow. The tradition of alumni mentorship is one that is integral to Emory Law. Jennifer Crabb-Kyles ’99, ’00, former managing senior director of the Office of Alumni Advancement and Engagement, conveyed how alumni engagement is in direct alignment with the Bar Mentor program that pairs students with lawyers who are BLSA alumni to aid students with goals ranging from securing a summer position to working in big law to discerning how they can get involved in probono work. The need for customizable mentorship opportunities grows constantly. A unique mentorship program that fits some of that need is the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Alumni Flash Mentor program, formed by the BLSA Alumni Advisory Board, it is a short-term mentor program that pairs students with lawyers who are BLSA alumni to aid students with goals ranging from securing a summer position to working in big law to discerning how they can get involved in probono work. Alumni mentors are matched with students based on which bar exam the students are preparing to take, along with the study software each student is using. This program is the longest standing mentorship program at Emory Law.

New student support endowments

The following student support endowments were established in Fiscal Year 2022.

Atlanta Law School Foundation Scholarship Endowment - Created in honor of the Atlanta Law School Foundation and David H. Flint ’71L (deceased), it supports students who demonstrate financial need and who have served in the military, who are supporting families while in school, and/or who are pursuing law school as a pathway in a second career. Class of 1997 Diversity Scholarship Endowment - Established by an anonymous donor, this scholarship will provide support for Emory Law students with a preference for underrepresented students. The donor seeks to encourage classmates to provide additional support to this fund as a tribute to the Class of 1997.

Greeneberg Family Scholarship Endowment - Established by Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law Margie Bagley has been actively involved in negotiations for two proposed treaties that the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and General Assemblies agreed to send to diplomatic conferences. Diplomatic conferences are the meetings through which multilateral treaties are adopted. Once convened, the conferences will consider a new Design Law Treaty and a treaty relating to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge utilization in the patent system. Bagley, as Board of the Chair of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC), has been involved in negotiations for both outcomes for the past eight years. She will also be heavily involved in the meetings building towards both treaties, in both cases serving as an expert advisor to the African Union.

The Design Law Treaty would “provide for a more streamlined, harmonized process for filing and protecting design rights around the world,” according to the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The Draft International Legal Instrument Relating to Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge Associated with Genetic Resources has the potential to “improve the quality, effectiveness and transparency of the patent system” in relation to the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources claimed in patent applications. “This outcome is a profoundly important step for both the international IP system and for indigenous peoples and local communities who steward genetic resources and create traditional knowledge. I am thrilled to have played a role in getting to this point and look forward to the culmination of this work in two new and inclusive IP treaties,” says Bagley. WIPO is the global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information, and cooperation. It is a self-funding agency of the United Nations, with 193 member states.

New mentorship programs

New mentorship programs

focus on course material. Their engagement directly contributes to the students’ ability to flourish in Gambrell Hall and beyond. The need for customizable mentorship opportunities grows constantly. A unique mentorship program that fits some of that need is the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) Alumni Flash Mentor program, formed by the BLSA Alumni Advisory Board, it is a short-term mentor program that pairs students with lawyers who are BLSA alumni to aid students with goals ranging from securing a summer position to working in big law to discerning how they can get involved in probono work. Alumni mentors are matched with students based on which bar exam the students are preparing to take, along with the study software each student is using. This program is the longest standing mentorship program at Emory Law.

Bagley part of WIPO negotiations

Treaties headed to conferences

by Anne Scott Reave

GIVING BACK

GIVING BACK

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by Jasmine Reese

FACTORY

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by Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Law Margie Bagley

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Investing in student flourishing

by Jasmine Reese

The law school recruits a diverse and highly qualified student body by recognizing outstanding merit while expanding financial access, reducing student loan debt, and delivering an exceptional education through significant investments. Generous philanthropy has allowed Emory Law to award millions of dollars in scholarships to students over decades.

Emory Law is deeply invested in providing students the opportunity to enter into Emory and have the opportunity to go there. My interest was in civil rights and children. So, I chose Emory because of their Barton Policy and Advocacy Clinic— and the fact that it’s one of the few clinics in the country where you are required to lobby and put that work towards your learning. Also because Emory has a great public interest program.

So, when you were admitted to Emory, were scholarships and financial aid part of your admission package? I ended up getting half of my tuition covered. Because of that, and other financial means, I only had to take out minimal loans, and my loans are now under $20k. I was able to buy a home and feel financially secure. It provided me with flexibility. The future that you want to have in law and how you want to use your law degree don’t have to be influenced by debt.

None of that is possible without financial support that permits you to avoid taking out a ton of loans. If you want to work in public service, or you want to work in public interest, you should be able to do so without that debt looming over.

You were the beneficiary of the Henríksen scholarship and then the Latham scholarship. What did having your admisions to go to law school mean to you? One cannot speak of Emory Law without mentioning philanthropy. I went to undergrad on an ROTC scholarship, which led to deployments and so years as an Army infantry officer. The absolute future active duty public service scholarship (that is, they knocked down by the GI Bill $20k, it would not have been feasible to consider Emory without substantial scholarship. Having scholarships probably led to me envisioning myself as an investment more than the average person. However, even before the scholarship I had the chance enrolling of interns with dual Eagle Judge Robyn Nash 75N 78L, who sat as the judge in my juvenile case. He mentored me, helping to set me on a path to have a stable home, finish acclimating my Eagle scout, and eventually go off to college. It is serendipitous to carry the same torch forward to the next wave of students. And it feels nice to know I’ve contributed to the communities that invest so generously in students.

Erica Swibel 02C 08L Partner and Co-Chair of the Chicago litigation and trial department at Latham & Watkins What made you decide to go to law school? I, like everybody, was looking at a number of different law schools, and nothing comes as the best one that I could get myself into was the reality. I had a great experience in undergrad at Emory I met my future wife there. I loved being in Atlanta. And it just was a very comfortable fit.

How have your experience at Emory and the scholarships that you received contributed to your success in your career so far? The Emory community invested in me as a person. Not just as a student, but as a local community member. I had the privilege of helping to conduct mock interviews, panel discussions, and alumni coffee engagements in the common areas to help the next wave of Emory law students realize beyond the horizon. Everyone’s general demeanor to pay it forward makes Emory Law more than just a school. And I’ve always found it easy to go back to the communities that invest so generously into me. It’s really the people that I genuinely miss the most: the staff who strive to create the conditions for complex learning and the professors that help shape more capability into our minds. Emory’s a constant beacon of lights to reflect upon, and it feels nice to know there is always an open door. I feel agency with the school, and I’ve enjoyed the near familial relationships I’ve made with my scholarship donors and other alumni over the years.

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You received a philanthropic scholarship as a student at Emory Law. How significant was that for you? The scholarship I earned was brand new at the time, and it was a misinformed scholarship. I was very fortunate because I was able to do law school without student financial aid. It was very important to me and a huge booster. Starting off at law school is a little terrifying for everybody, I think. So having success, from an academic perspective, added a sort of wind at your back when you get told that you’re just earned a scholarship.

NEAL WEINRICHL 06L Shareholder, Jones Day What was the determining factor for you choosing Emory law school? I chose Emory because I received a scholarship. I had other scholarship offers but not as impressive as the scholarship I received from Emory Law. I visited Emory Law and felt like it would be a good place for me. Ultimately the incredible scholar- ship was the deciding factor in where I went to law school. I’m tremendously happy with the experience I had at Emory and the career I’ve had so far. The practice I’ve built for myself in Atlanta from the experience and network I gained at Emory is proof of that. I still reconnect with my Emory classmates. We’re now all in practice together, and it’s always great to connect. The scholarship doesn’t go away with me, and it goes with me through every career. The financial burden that other law school graduates have for some significant portion of their early law school or their early career as law students often stresses them in a direction based on needing to repay loans. I didn’t have that. So, what are some of the things you’ve done over the course of your career to sort of pay that forward to others? I’ve recently been involved with the EmoryLaw@Work program and helping to raise funds from other law schools in our office. I have contributed to Emory Law financially. Although I’m not actively doing public service work, I take pro bono cases here and there and help other people that don’t necessarily have access to outstanding legal services. I provide for that. I give them what I have to offer as a lawyer, resources they wouldn’t otherwise have access to.

WINTER 2023 WINTER 2023 EMORY LAWYER EMORY LAWYER 35 14
EMORY LAW HAS ADDED three new curricular concentrations to the JD program—civil litigation and dispute resolution, criminal litigation, and law and religion—on top of the existing health law concentration, transnational law certificate, and the innovative TI:GER certificate.

Emory Law students will generally apply for any of the concentrations offered during the spring semester of their first or second year. The program advisors may consider awarding the concentration to other students that have met the requirements on a case-by-case basis, and participation is limited.

“Concentrations will help students select classes to prepare them for practice in a particular area. Taking many focused classes will help students evaluate whether they do, in fact, want to litigate, for example,” says Lesley Carroll, associate dean for academic programs and students. “The students seem very excited about the concentrations. They will be able to indicate they are pursuing a concentration when they apply for jobs, and they have more guidance in terms of course selection.”

The curriculum required of each concentration includes important concepts and skills classes plus an additional 11 to 18 required credits—depending upon the concentration—in various related categories.

For the civil litigation and dispute resolution concentration, core courses include Civil Procedure, Evidence, Legal Profession, and Trial Techniques. Students must take an additional 11 to 15 credits in other related categories.

To earn the criminal litigation concentration, students must take Criminal Law, Evidence, and Trial Techniques, plus an additional 12 to 18 credits that include Criminal Procedure: Investigations, among others, plus a capstone experience.

The law and religion concentration contains two possible tracks: (1) a practice track and (2) an academic track. The practice track emphasizes the skills and knowledge relevant to practicing law with a specialization in law and religion. The practice track prepares students to litigate cases that involve religious freedom questions, to represent and advise religious organizations, to practice religious arbitration or within religious legal systems, and to work in legal advocacy with or on behalf of religious communities. The academic track emphasizes the skills of academic research and writing. The academic track prepares students for training and scholarship in the legal academy and for PhD or JD (doctor of juridical science) study in the areas of law, religion, theology, or associated fields.

To earn the law and religion concentration, students complete 11 to 15 credits in law and religion, including the two required courses, one religious legal systems course, one law and religion elective, and a capstone experience. A thesis option, in addition to the capstone, is also available and encouraged for students pursuing the academic track.

The health law concentration, offered starting fall of 2021, has 12 hours of required and elective health law courses and a capstone experience.

The programs are advised by faculty with interest and impact in the fields:
- Health Law—Matthew Lawrence, Associate Professor of Practice
- Civil Litigation—Richard Freer, Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law; and Thomas C. Arthur, Emory School of Law Distinguished Professor
- Criminal Litigation—Kay Levine, Professor of Law and Associate Dean of Research
- Law and Religion—Whittney Barth, Executive Director, Center for the Study of Law and Religion

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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
General Counsel, Riskonnect

A legacy of heart and mind—200 years in the making.
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EMORY LAWYER WINTER 2023

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EMORY LAW JOURNAL THROWER SYMPOSIUM

The Future of America’s Efforts to Promote the Rule of Law Abroad
Thursday, February 2, 2023, Tull Auditorium
Register at https://emorylaw.wufoo.com/forms/2023-randolph-w-thrower-symposium
5.5 CLE credits available