

LOYOLA LAW



Digging deep

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works to release rehabilitated
people from prison

Breaking new ground in bail reform

State Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr.
(JD '07) pushes a pioneering
package to become law

Making a huge impact

Natasha Townes Robinson
(JD '14) helps serve
justice for George Floyd

2024 ISSUE

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Message from the dean

These are exciting times in the law field. Every day, there seems to be a new challenge in the legal world, and we as a collective are more than up to the task. The School of Law remains strong, and we remain steadfast in our mission to prepare students to be ethical advocates for justice and equity and to strengthen the communities we serve.

So many of you, our esteemed alumni, are fighting for a more just world, working toward reforms that will transform society. This issue of *Loyola Law* focuses on several alumni

“Our alumni and friends are always willing to step up.”

Natasha Townes Robinson (page 16), and Arti Walker-Peddakotla (page 18). Their stories are so inspiring, and it's our honor to shine a light on the life-changing work our alumni do. We are always looking to share stories about our amazing alumni in every area of the law. If you have a story to share, please contact our director of communications, Kristi Turnbaugh, at the email in the masthead.

I am so thankful to all of you for your ongoing dedication to serving your communities and your law school. Each of you embodies the principles of integrity, justice, and service that are the bedrock of the School of Law. Our alumni and friends are always willing to step up to mentor students, place students in internships, and share knowledge. Your steadfast support is invaluable. Thanks for all you do, every single day. I hope to see you at our 2024 Reunion Weekend and Alumni Awards Dinner, September 12-14.

Michèle Alexandre

MICHÈLE ALEXANDRE
Dean and Professor of Law



dedicated to criminal justice reforms, including Elgie R. Sims Jr. (page 6), Nadia Woods (page 10), Thomas More Donnelly (page 13),



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Student teams triumph in competitions

Loyola's strong advocacy tradition continues to result in wins in moot court, mock trial, dispute resolution, and transactional competitions. During the 2023–24 academic year, 134 students participated on 30 teams and in 46 competitions.

The School of Law co-hosted the InterNational Academy of Dispute Resolution Law School Mediation Tournament and hosted the L. Edward Bryant, Jr. National Health Law Transactional Competition. Loyola also hosted our 48th Annual Intraschool Moot Court Competition and welcomed to campus the Honorable Sara Ellis of the Northern District of Illinois, the Honorable Young Kim of the Northern District of Illinois, the Honorable Freddrenna Lyle of the Illinois Appellate Court, and the Honorable Jennifer Boal of the District of Massachusetts to serve as the final-round panel of justices for the competition. The finalists were partners and national champions from the Health Law Moot Court team: Emma Goodman-Fish (champion) and Zahrah Khan (runner-up). Finally, Loyola partnered with other Chicagoland law schools to host the inaugural Chicago Cup mock trial competition. ■

Here are the top awards taken home by the School of Law:

2024 American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy Competition
Regional Champions

2024 Anderson Center Seventh Circuit Moot Court Competition
7th Circuit Champions

2023–2024 American Bar Association Negotiation Competition
Regional Co-Champions

2023 Chicago Cup Mock Trial Competition
Best Preliminary Round Advocate

2024 InterNational Academy of Dispute Resolution Law School Mediation Tournament
1st Place Advocate/Client Team

2024 International Trademark Association Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court Competition
National Champions
Regional Champions
Regional Best Oral Argument
Regional Best Brief

2024 National Black Law Students Association Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition
Regional Champions
Regional Best Prosecution Advocate in the Final Round

2024 National Black Law Students Association Thurgood Marshall Moot Court Competition
Regional Champions
Regional Best Oralist
Regional Best Respondent Brief

2023 National Health Law Moot Court Competition
National Champions
Best Oralist Overall

2024 National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare and Adoption Law
Best Brief

2024 Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition
National Champions

2023 Quinnipiac University School of Law American Bar Association Criminal Justice Trial Advocacy Competition
Best Direct Examination



Student teams

1. INADR Mediation team: Nate Weaver, Kate Petri, Liz Hazekamp, Lea Goldstone, Alejandro Queija, Lyndsey Case, and Emily Ferguson. Alejandro Queija took home the 1st Place Advocate/Client Team award as part of a bye team.

2. Health Law Moot Court team: Emma Goodman-Fish, Zahrah Khan, Rachel Dudley, and Emily Mirabella. Goodman-Fish and Khan were the national champions as a team, and Dudley received the Best Oralist award.

3. ABA Negotiation team: Valeria Alejandro Leal, Jenna O'Toole, Taylor Rathwell, Nicolas Espinosa, Ethan Mora, and Maxwell Savin. Mora and Savin were the regional co-champions listed. All six students competed at Nationals.

4. Saul Lefkowitz Moot Court team: Chance Austin, Iris Gomez, and Jackie Clemence, pictured with coaches Themis Frangos (JD '10) (far left) and Marron Mahoney (far right).

5. Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial team: Kelechi Asonye, Constance Young, Kamryn Sutton, Nakisha Bryant, Sabrina White, and Isiaha Kyles. The team took home the Regional Championship and won third place at Nationals; Sutton received a Best Advocate award at the regional competition. This team also participated in the Chicago Cup competition, and Kyles was the recipient of the Best Advocate award.

6. Anderson 7th Circuit Moot Court/Weekend JD team: Rachel Wright, Michelle Yang, and Davey Shepherd, pictured with Justice Kirsch, Justice Lee, and Chief Judge Rosenstengel.

7. Quinnipiac Mock Trial/Corboy team: Inder Gunnala, Gill Dunlop, Johnny Novi, and Jack Balch. Novi won the Best Direct Examination award.

ANNIVERSARY

Study abroad program in Rome celebrates 40 years



Alumni joined students studying abroad to kick off a special event celebrating 40 years of the School of Law's study abroad program in Rome.

A group of alumni joined students to celebrate 40 years of the School of Law's study abroad program in Rome. The three-day alumni event (May 30–June 1) included a visit to the Attorney General Office of Italy, a lecture on how Italian art has shaped U.S. art law by John J. Waldron Professor of Law Anne-Marie Rhodes, and a tour of St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican by Adjunct Professor Christina Mifsud, who is based in Rome. The celebration also included a special mass and aperitivo/wine-tasting event at Loyola's beautiful John Felice Rome Center.

"Returning to the Loyola Rome campus for the 40th anniversary, after 25 years, was

magical," says Jackie Taylor Holsten (JD '99). "The campus improvements, dedication to mission, and enthusiasm for life were evident in the events planned, professors and alumni participation, and general feeling of la dolce vita!"

Since 1983, the study abroad program in Rome has introduced students to comparative and international law. The opportunity to study in Rome, the seat of the Italian government and the site of European Union offices, private law firms, banks, and corporations, introduces students to the Italian legal system while providing a deeper understanding of American legal culture. ■

RESEARCH

New study examines child labor trafficking

A new study coauthored by Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Center for the Human Rights of Children's Katherine Kaufka Walts and Chlece Neal (MSW/ JD '13, MS '18) is the first comprehensive examination of child labor trafficking in the United States.

Understanding the Trafficking of Children for the Purposes of Labor in the United States, supported by the National Institute of Justice, explores how labor trafficking impacts a wide range of children who experience individual and structural vulnerabilities. It also explores the contexts of abuse and how to best meet the needs of these young survivors—both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. For more information, go to LUC.edu/CHRCNIJ. ■

ACCOLADES

Loyola Law recognized for excellence

Loyola University Chicago School of Law continues to be recognized as one of the nation's top law schools. *PreLaw* magazine grades the school in the following ways:



Other *PreLaw* accolades:

Weekend JD Program
Among the 23 best online JD programs

Moot Court
Among the top 25 schools

Public Interest
Among the top 25 schools

LLM Program for Foreign Attorneys
Named to the *International Jurist* Honor Roll

U.S. News & World Report ranks the School of Law:

No. 4
Health Care Law

No. 23
Trial Advocacy

No. 11
Part-time JD (Weekend JD)

WISE WORDS

Congratulations, class of 2024

The Office of Alumni Relations asked School of Law alumni to provide a few words of encouragement and congratulations to 2024 graduates.



"Curiosity is the strongest tool a lawyer can possess. Curiosity takes you to exotic places, subjects and answers. The journey alone is worth it."

– **JoAnne Gazarek Bloom (JD '76)**

"Congrats on becoming a Loyola Law alumni member. We are a fantastic group and are here to help you as you grow into your career and learn to love the law more than you ever thought possible."

– **Gina DiVito (JD '96)**

"A good attorney learns from connecting with peers and those who have come before. Law school is an excellent foundation, but to really perfect your skills, connect with attorneys who have the experience you lack. Don't be afraid to take on new challenges; clients are looking for honesty and loyalty."

– **Tosh Chandy (JD '16)**

For more about Commencement 2024, see page 34.

GIVING



A RECORD-BREAKING DAY FOR PHILANTHROPY

On March 19, 2024, the School of Law raised over \$56,000 from 128 supporters, successfully unlocking all four donor-sponsored challenges during Rambler Rally, Loyola University Chicago's annual day of giving. Thanks to the generosity of our outstanding alumni community, this was a record-breaking day for philanthropy!



Did you know?

In 2023, Illinois became the first state to eliminate cash bail.

BREAKING NEW GROUND IN BAIL REFORM

As state senator, Elgie R. Sims Jr. (JD '07) guided a pioneering criminal justice reform package to become law

BY GAIL MANSFIELD

Illinois State Senator Elgie R. Sims Jr. (JD '07) was driving through Springfield one evening in 2021 when another driver pulled in front of him, slammed on the brakes, and pointed a gun in his direction. Alarmed, Sims—who believes the man was reacting to the senator's legislative license plate—tried to drive away. The infuriated motorist gave chase through the streets of the state capital.

Police responded to Sims's call, and the road-raging driver was arrested. He paid \$15,000—10 percent of his \$150,000 bond—and was released from custody the same night.

In September 2023, Illinois became the first state to eliminate cash bail. The reform is a centerpiece of the sweeping package of criminal justice reforms called the Safety, Accountability, Fairness and Equity-Today (SAFE-T) Act, which Sims quarterbacked through the Illinois senate before it became law in 2021.

Sims says his harrowing experience illustrates why bail reform was urgently needed. Though the driver who threatened him was later charged with unlawful use of a weapon, aggravated assault, and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon, the man, like many people of means, avoided

detention because he could afford bail. Meanwhile, people with limited funds, charged with low-level and nonviolent crimes, had no choice but to remain in jail while awaiting trial. People of color were disproportionately affected.

“For instance, on the day cash bail was eliminated in Illinois, one of the first people released from the Cook County Jail was a woman with three pending nonviolent drug possession cases,” Sims says. Under the cash bail system, the woman had been given a bond of \$150,000, the same amount as the driver who threatened Sims. This defendant couldn't afford to pay \$15,000 to be released from jail on these nonviolent cases. After cash bail was eliminated, “the accused's cash bond was replaced with electronic monitoring,” Sims says.

Achieving balance

The end of cash bail is having a meaningful, positive effect on the daily lives and economic stability of lower-income defendants.

“In discussions with public defenders and attorneys representing criminal defendants, one of the things I hear



“Criminal justice reform is not a zero-sum game, and jail is not the only way to achieve accountability,” Sims says.

TRAILBLAZER

Snapshot of Senator Sims

SPRINGFIELD SERVICE—Senator for the 17th Illinois Senate District, which includes portions of the South Side of Chicago, Chicago’s south suburbs, and Will and Kankakee Counties; previously served as state representative of Illinois’s 34th House District and as budget director for the Illinois Senate Democrats under former Senate President Emil Jones, Jr.

HOMEGROWN TALENT—Chicago born; lives in Chicago’s Chatham neighborhood and is active in many civic and community organizations.

FAMILY TIES—Married to Shivonne Sims, father to daughters Kennedy and Mackenzie. Kennedy, a psychology and criminal justice major at Loyola, recently texted her father when her criminal justice professor was discussing the pretrial practices portion of the SAFE-T Act in class, saying, “Dad, we’re talking about your bill!”

LEGAL LIFE OUTSIDE THE LEGISLATURE—Of counsel to Foley & Lardner LLP, where he focuses on government affairs, municipal finance, cannabis regulation and operations, and the state attorneys general practice as a member of the firm’s government solutions and public finance practices.

LOYOLA LOVE—While pursuing his JD degree at Loyola, Sims was profoundly influenced by his experience at the law school’s Community Law Center Clinic. “I got a chance to see the criminal legal system up close and learn how the law intersects with individuals on a daily basis,” he says. This hands-on learning helped spark the commitment to criminal justice reform that still fuels his work. “I’m only sitting here because of the educational opportunities I got at Loyola.”

most often is that the removal of money considerations from these proceedings brings a level of relief for families that was just not there when they had to choose between paying the rent, buying groceries, or purchasing their loved ones’ freedom,” says Sims, noting that during just a few days’ detention, accused people can lose jobs, housing, and other essential life resources.

Contrary to critics’ claims that the new law will put more dangerous criminals back on the street, Sims says it doesn’t require release of people who are safety risks, regardless of income. “Those

charged with gun offenses or other violent offenses are seeing more restrictive outcomes, which is exactly the balance the legislature wanted to achieve,” he says, explaining that he and colleagues designed the law to give judges significant leeway in determining whether to detain a defendant. The driver who threatened Sims, for example, checked several boxes under which a judge could have denied release: a public safety risk, a risk to a specific individual, and a flight risk.

“We’ve gotten into trouble in our criminal legal system when we try to be too formulaic,”

Sims says, “so we built in a lot of discretion for the judge, who is the trier of fact and closest to the case. Some of the language in the pretrial practices section of the act came directly from our work with the Illinois Supreme Court.”

Sims and his cosponsors also relied on research conducted by Loyola Chicago Center for Criminal Justice codirectors Don Stemen and David Olson, which finds that releasing people from jail without making them pay money has no impact on public safety. Though critics of the SAFE-T Act have worried that defendants are more likely

to reoffend if they’re not held in custody, the center’s findings align with multiple other studies showing that cash bail reforms actually reduce recidivism.

Comprehensive reform

Bail reform is just one piece of the SAFE-T Act (House Bill 3653), a sweeping package of legislation that covers several areas of criminal justice reform—policing, pretrial, and corrections—as well as expanding the rights of crime victims (see sidebar, page 9). Crafting and

passing the act was a “huge team effort,” Sims says, explaining that preparation for the bill included nine public hearings, more than 30 hours of testimony, and numerous cosponsors, including Senator Jacqueline Y. Collins (JD ’20).

“Criminal justice reform is not a zero-sum game, and jail is not the only way to achieve accountability,” Sims says of the act’s elements. “It’s necessary to differentiate between who we’re afraid of and who we’re angry with or disappointed in. In reimagining public safety, we acknowledge that incarceration should be reserved for those who pose threats to public safety or are flight risks. And other issues, like mental health challenges or substance use disorders, require addressing the underlying issues that cause people to engage in behaviors that are unhealthy and destructive.”

Accountability for everyone

As chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member of the Senate Criminal

Law Committee, Sims sees much work ahead in his drive to eliminate inequity and reduce racism in the criminal justice system. One focus is ensuring that all defendants have better access to sufficient counsel—a well-established right that Sims says sometimes fails in practice in Illinois when a single public defender covers a large geographical area. Sims was also a leading senate sponsor of House Bill 3140, which prohibits keeping youth in solitary confinement and went into effect this year.

The SAFE-T Act and his other reform work “are all about reimagining our definition of our criminal legal system and public safety,” Sims says. “That forces us to invest in economic opportunities, an educational system that works, and adequate health care to address trauma and other underlying conditions that contribute to criminal behavior.

“When you have a criminal legal system that addresses all those issues, you end by incarcerating those individuals who should be incarcerated and getting treatment for others. That’s real accountability for everyone.” ■



Sims serves the 17th Illinois Senate District.

LEGISLATION

Highlights of the SAFE-T Act

The provision of 2021’s Illinois SAFE-T Act that has received the most public and media attention is the elimination of cash bail, but the act is a complex package of criminal justice reform legislation with many provisions. Some highlights:

- Moves Illinois from a system of pretrial detention that prioritizes wealth to one that prioritizes public safety
- Diverts low-level drug crimes into substance use programs and treatments
- Modernizes sentencing laws and streamlines the victims’ compensation system
- Expands training opportunities for officers, requires health and wellness services for officers, and protects officers from unjust lawsuits based on their reasonable actions
- Sets statewide standards on use of force, crowd control responses, de-escalation, and arrest techniques
- Requires the use of body-worn cameras by police departments statewide
- Professionalizes policing through a more robust certification system and sets clear standards and processes for decertification
- Expands accountability across police departments by requiring permanent retention of police misconduct records and removes the sworn affidavit requirement when filing police misconduct complaints
- Requires police departments to develop plans to protect vulnerable people present during search warrant raids
- Eliminates license suspensions for unpaid fines and fees due to red-light camera and traffic offenses
- Ends prison gerrymandering (counting inmates as residents of the legislative districts in which they are imprisoned)
- Expands services for crime victims



Did you know?

Nearly 30,000 people are imprisoned in Illinois, four times as many as in 1971.

Source: Illinois Prison Project



“There’s very little focus on clemency for folks who have been rehabilitated,” Woods says. “We’re constantly thinking about how to do our work in a way that is replicable.”

“We spend months getting to know our clients, their families, their communities, to really understand their stories.”

Digging deep

Nadia Woods (JD '21) works to release rehabilitated and terminally ill people from prison

BY LIZ MILLER

As a staff attorney at the Illinois Prison Project, Nadia Woods (JD '21) strives to secure release for people serving long prison sentences who have experienced rehabilitation or are medically incapacitated. She is also an adjunct professor at the School of Law, where she works to inspire students to follow her lead.

What drew you to social and criminal justice work?

With Southern roots, I was cognizant at a very early age of how folks are systematically treated differently. Then in my teenage years, I got involved with organizing, especially around reproductive justice. That’s how I began to understand how social justice and bottom-up organizing are all about helping folks live in a way that they’re supported by their society, not oppressed by it.

Tell us about your work with the Illinois Prison Project.

IPP is focused on decarceration in Illinois, and clemency is the bread and butter of our work. We believe [society] should embrace the value of rehabilitation in the criminal legal system. If folks have been in prison for decades—even if they are guilty of the crime they were convicted of—they should be granted mercy so they can rejoin society and contribute in a way that benefits themselves and others.

Most of the work I do at IPP right now is on medical release cases. These folks are terminally ill, expected to live less than 18 months, or they are medically incapacitated and rely on corrections staff to support them every day with activities like using the bathroom or eating. We help give them the opportunity to die surrounded by their loved ones instead of by prison staff.

I personally have supported five folks through that mechanism, and IPP as a whole has helped get more than three dozen folks

DIGGING DEEP

home. Still, there are dozens and dozens more incarcerated people eligible for medical release, but there are not dozens and dozens of attorneys lining up to represent them.

What is the key to a successful clemency petition?

Before we file anything, we spend months getting to know our clients, their families, their communities, to really understand their stories [and] include the full context in the petition. Oftentimes our clients tell us this is the first time that their full, nuanced story has been told. We can do that because clemency cases are not as restricted as trial-level filings or criminal court filings. The work emphasizes our writing and storytelling skills.

How big is the problem of overincarceration?

The problem is way bigger than most folks could ever imagine, and yet it's not acknowledged by society. Cases in which people were wrongfully convicted do get some attention, but there's very little focus on clemency for folks who have been rehabilitated. Our small team at IPP can't do all there is to do, so we're constantly thinking about how to do our work in a way that is replicable—in a way that other folks can use what we've learned, through failure and through success, to advocate for others.

What's a question you get frequently?

People often ask us how we can represent folks who maybe took someone's life. My answer is always the same: I wish you

could sit down with one of my clients [and] hear directly from them how remorseful they are, how they have changed, and what they've been doing during 30 years of incarceration to give back to other people.

The realities of incarceration are hidden from society, but if folks had some descriptive detail about what people deal with in prison, I believe more would support our work. I encourage people to listen to podcasts like *Violation* or *Ear Hustle* and read publications like *Stateville Speaks*; they all feature stories by and about incarcerated folks. They show that humanity ties us all together.

What criminal justice reforms are most urgently needed?

Station house representation is a big issue in Chicago. Once somebody has been arrested and taken to a police station, they are legally allowed to have an attorney there to advocate on their behalf, and they're also allowed to assert that they will not answer any questions without an attorney present. As recently as five years ago, something like 5 percent of folks arrested in Cook County were receiving that attorney. The urgency is to educate people so that they know their rights and so that, 20 years later, they're not still trying to prove their innocence after a coerced confession.

Another urgent issue has to do with parole. Because of the way parole laws are structured in Illinois, the vast majority of people in [Illinois Department of Corrections] custody who are eligible for parole are older men sentenced before 1978. Many have been denied parole dozens

of times, in part because they don't have representation, which isn't required. But I think the other reason is that there isn't enough monitoring of how parole decisions are made by the Prisoner Review Board. The PRB is made up of laypeople who get paid to make huge decisions about other people's lives. More than 95 percent of the cases that we handle at IPP are decided by the PRB, and we see some disturbing patterns from certain board members—like some who tend to vote “no” regardless of the incarcerated person's growth or situation. Going up in front of the board can feel like going up in front of the politics of those specific members. It shouldn't be political; they should be doing right by these folks and acknowledging rehabilitation where it exists.

What can attorneys practicing in other areas of the law do to support your work?

IPP has cohorts of pro bono attorneys, so anyone interested in learning how to represent folks in the clemency process should reach out to IPP. We have one cohort specifically focused on survivors of domestic violence who are incarcerated as a result of how they survived. Attorneys can also volunteer to represent folks at police stations through organizations like the National Lawyers Guild. Maybe the easiest way they can get involved is to invite us to their office or organization so we can talk about clemency and the importance of humanizing your clients. ■

Faculty research

Some recent and forthcoming School of Law faculty publications related to criminal justice

Blanche Cook, *Something Rots in Law Enforcement and It's the Search Warrant: The Breonna Taylor Case*, 102 *Boston University Law Review* 1 (2022)

Adam Crepelle, *Military Societies: Self-Governance and Criminal Justice in Indian Country*, *Public Choice* (2022) (with Tate Fegley and Ilia Murtazashvili)

Adam Crepelle, *Making Red Lives Matter: Public Choice Theory and Indian Country Crime*, 27 *Lewis & Clark Law Review* 769 (2023)

Maria Hawilo, ed., *Dismantling Mass Incarceration: A Handbook for Change* (Macmillan, 2024) (with Premal Dharia and James Forman Jr., eds.)

Maria Hawilo, *Past, Prologue, and Constitutional Limits on Criminal Penalties*, 114 *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology* 51 (2024) (with Laura Nirider)

Stephen Rushin, *The Effect of Police Quota Laws*, 109 *Iowa Law Review* __ (forthcoming 2024) (with Griffin Edwards)

Dean Strang, *Inaccuracy and the Involuntary Confession: Understanding Rogers v. Richmond Rightly*, 110 *Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology* 69 (2020)



Did you know?

Forty-five states have enacted laws supporting restorative justice, and 35 states have implemented it directly into the formal youth justice system.

Source: 2022 National Conference of State Legislatures report



A focus on repairing harm

The Honorable Thomas More Donnelly (JD '86) believes in restorative justice to help heal both victims and offenders

BY GAIL MANSFIELD

The Honorable Thomas More Donnelly (JD '86) has attended many restorative justice peacemaking circles: spaces where offenders, victims, their supporters, law enforcement and court officials, and community members seek to understand what happened and how to address the harms caused. One circle stands out.

The complainant was a police officer whose home had been burgled. He wanted the young person responsible to cover the cost of repairs needed after the break-in.

“In the peacemaking circle, the officer learned this kid had no job and no intact family to support him,” says Donnelly, now a Cook County Circuit Court judge. “The kid wanted to make restitution and pay for the damage he'd done, but he didn't have a job.” The police officer decided to hire the young man to do work around the house and earn enough to pay for repairs.

“That's sort of an ideal picture of restorative justice, where everyone's taking responsibility for one another,” says Donnelly. “That's what we hope

to bring into our justice system: a sense, as Pope Francis says, that we're all connected."

Donnelly is a prominent proponent of restorative justice, a set of principles and practices that moves away from the traditional approach to justice as solely punitive. Restorative justice focuses on repairing the harm caused by crime—for victims, survivors, offenders, and the community. Besides peace-making circles, restorative justice practices may include mediation, conflict resolution programs, family conferences, and community reparation boards.

"Our current, adversarial criminal system doesn't do much to restore the person who's been harmed in a crime; they're simply a witness to their own harm," Donnelly says. "Restorative justice first assists the person or people who've been harmed, next moves to helping the offender make reparations, and then helps the offender become a full, responsible member of the community."

Cook County operates three Restorative Justice Community Courts aimed at young adults, aged 18–26, who are charged with nonviolent felony or misdemeanor crimes. Yet, Donnelly says, restorative justice can be practiced formally or informally with offenders of all ages. "It can be something as simple as a public defender arranging to get a detained individual's keys released from the jail, so his girlfriend can move his car and avoid a tow," he says. "And two judges I know keep a closet of nice clothes they give juvenile defendants to wear for court, so these young people can appear in court with dignity. The judges compliment them on how good



1. Donnelly speaks at a public event sponsored by the Catholic Criminal Justice Reform Network, an initiative of the Lumen Christi Institute, aimed at fostering a conversation around restorative justice. 2. Attendees included prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, corrections officers, legal experts, and law enforcement officials, as well as victims of crime and their families. 3. Chicago Cardinal Blase Cupich was part of the panel and celebrated a Mass preceding the conversation. Photos: Lumen Christi/Travis Haughton.

they look. Those things are restorative justice, too."

Championing important legislation

Donnelly recently helped advance restorative justice when

he pushed for Illinois Senate Bill 64, which became law in 2021. Concerned that their words might be used against them later in court, many offenders had balked at participating in restorative justice gatherings.

The new law provides that

everything said as part of a restorative justice practice is privileged and inadmissible in any civil, criminal, juvenile, or administrative proceeding.

The bill passed with unusual bipartisan support, in part because Donnelly—a Democrat

whose work is guided by his Catholic faith and the example of his namesake, St. Thomas More—and other advocates appealed to religious convictions they held in common with evangelical Republican legislators. "The New Testament



tells us to try to settle our matters out of court before we reach the judge," Donnelly says. "As we explained the legislation, it's not about escaping accountability; it's a way of becoming fully accountable."

GOP legislators, he says, "became convinced that it was consonant with their religious and social values. Bridging that gap was really hopeful for me."

Commitment to restoring dignity

Donnelly has followed the threads of restorative justice throughout his career—even before he was familiar with the term. As a young public defender, he was strongly influenced by a mentor who told him to visit the homes of his clients to understand the challenges they faced.

Early in his career, he was devastated when a particular client was found guilty. "I came into the lockup after the verdict, and I was crying," he remembers. "My client wrapped me in her arms. I said, 'But we lost,' and she said, 'No, we didn't, because no one has ever fought for me as hard as you did today.'"

"It struck me then that this was my role," Donnelly says. "The purpose of fighting for people's rights is to restore lost humanity, dignity, and sense of identity. For offenders, that comes with degrading treatment from law enforcement and incarceration. And with those harmed, often no one—from police officer to state's attorney to judge—has talked to them about what's happened. Even when the defendant receives harsh punishment,

they're just left with their lives in shambles. That compounds the original injury."

A restorative justice mindset

Today, Donnelly brings his restorative justice mindset to multiple projects, including serving on an Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Pretrial Practices. His work on an Illinois Supreme Court statutory task force helped standardize criminal and civil court fees with a waiver for indigent defendants. He also championed a law that gives consumers transparency and protections from debt buyers, shortening the collection period and reducing maximum interest rates.

In his work on the bench, Donnelly finds restorative justice as valuable in the civil cases he hears as in the criminal cases he used to defend. "In commercial cases, in settlement conferences, people are also hurting and in need of healing," he says. "A lot of it is just listening—really listening."

Donnelly is a fan of the work of Yale University law and psychology professor Tom R. Tyler, whose research shows that when judges and law enforcement show citizens respect, give them voice, and demonstrate trustworthiness and neutrality, people are much less likely to commit crimes.

Donnelly says, "I see all those things as restorative justice practices. We're all accountable for what we do, but we can't ever efface the dignity with which we're imprinted." ■

RESEARCH

Restorative justice yields benefits for all parties

A GROWING BODY OF RESEARCH demonstrates that restorative justice, inspired by Indigenous beliefs in relationships as the foundation for community well-being, produces multiple benefits for victims, offenders, and the community.

The Chicago Appleseed Center for Fair Courts and Chicago Council of Lawyers recently studied the Cook County Restorative Justice Community Courts and found that a year after release, 13.1 percent of participants were charged with a new offense, compared with 65.2 percent of a matched control group.

The U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance says that "restorative justice reduces recidivism, increases victims' satisfaction with the justice process, and reduces the psychological trauma of crime." The bureau has made increasing access to restorative justice a priority.

A 2021 Department of Justice review of studies from the U.S. and abroad found that, while results depend on the offense category and the type of restorative justice program, "Overall, youths who participate in restorative justice programs are less likely to reoffend, compared with youths who are processed in the juvenile justice system." In addition, compared with those not exposed to restorative justice, "youth who participate in restorative justice programs are more likely to express satisfaction with how their cases were handled, accept responsibility for their actions, and complete restitution agreements."

Making a huge impact

Natasha Townes Robinson (JD '14) worked on the team that prosecuted Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for George Floyd's 2020 murder

Never were the problems in policing more visible to the world than in the case of George Floyd. Natasha Townes Robinson (JD '14), a member of the team that prosecuted Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin for Floyd's murder, talks about the changes to police conduct she hopes the case inspired.

I hope the Derek Chauvin case had—and is still having—a huge impact on policing, especially to incorporate better training on ways to de-escalate. I hope police departments are taking a look at their understanding of brutality.

The first responding officers were pointing weapons at George Floyd on the *allegation* he *could* have *maybe* passed a counterfeit \$20 bill. They weren't responding to a situation involving extreme violence. If they had known proper de-escalation tactics or followed proper policing in general, I think Mr. Floyd would be here today.

Most police departments' policies probably say, in some way, "don't brutalize people." But policies without action are just pieces of paper. If brutality is still an accepted part of the officer mentality—if it's the culture of a police department to terrorize communities—then policy reform doesn't really matter.

I'm not anti-police; I'm anti-bad-police. I think we need

to take a really hard and close look at the police officers in our communities. If an officer has many complaints against them [Editor's note: Chauvin had 18, according to the Minneapolis Police Department in 2020], why is that officer still on the street?

I think every officer who puts on a uniform for the wrong reason—to exercise and exert their dominance and control over marginalized communities—should not get to keep their job.

We can't have the attitude that, because police put their lives on the line every day, whatever they do is right.

We have to look at leadership. We have to look at the chiefs of police who can have an effect on culture. We have to try to dismantle some of this system from the inside.

When people say cases like Chauvin's make it too risky for police to do their jobs fully, I reject that argument. If you're scared your actions are going to make you end up like Derek

Chauvin, then be better than Derek Chauvin. Do your job in a way that makes sure that doesn't happen.

There are medical malpractice suits every day. Do we look at doctors and surgeons and say they can't be expected to do their job because there's always the risk of a lawsuit? No. We expect doctors and surgeons to exercise extreme care and diligence in their approach to their work.

People, particularly people in the Black and Brown community, should not have to fear encountering a police officer. This issue plagues Black communities and Black families. And we still have a long way to go.

Again, I am not anti-police. I don't want to live in a community where there's no police force, but I also don't want to live with the anxiety that my husband or my brother will meet up with a Derek Chauvin one day. —*as told to Liz Miller*

Natasha Townes Robinson is now a senior associate attorney at *Fredrikson & Byron P.A.* Motivated by the Chauvin case, she sought a firm with an ingrained commitment to pro bono work. She spends her volunteer hours on racial justice issues such as wrongful convictions and expungements. Robinson has been named a 2023 *Up & Coming Attorney* by *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine, received the 2023 *Outstanding Young Lawyer Award* from the *National Bar Association Women Lawyers Division*, and has been named to *Top 40 Under 40* lists by the *National Bar Association* and the *National Black Lawyers*.

Robinson stands in front of a mural of George Floyd, located down the street from where he was murdered in Minneapolis. This artwork, created a few days after Floyd's death, remains a place to pay tribute to him.

Did you know?

Each year, fewer than 3% of killings by police result in officers being charged with a crime.

Source: policeviolencereport.org



“Policies without action are just pieces of paper.”



Did you know?

Black drivers in Illinois were 1.7 times more likely to be stopped by police than white drivers in 2022.

Source: Illinois Department of Transportation



Walker-Peddakotla cofounded the community group Freedom to Thrive Oak Park, which conducts and publicizes research on policing in order to reimagine community safety.

Community minded

Arti Walker-Peddakotla (MS '12, JD '24) fights for change as a scholar, activist, and abolitionist

BY ANDREW SANTELLA

In 2021, while she was a Weekend JD student at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, Arti Walker-Peddakotla (MS '12, JD '24) wanted to create a new course about abolishing police forces and prisons.

Her interest in the topic was more than academic.

While attending law school, Walker-Peddakotla worked as a community organizer and served as a trustee on the village board in west suburban Oak Park. Her experiences in both

roles helped convince her that the nation's system of policing and incarceration was so ineffective and so oppressive that it had to be completely dismantled.

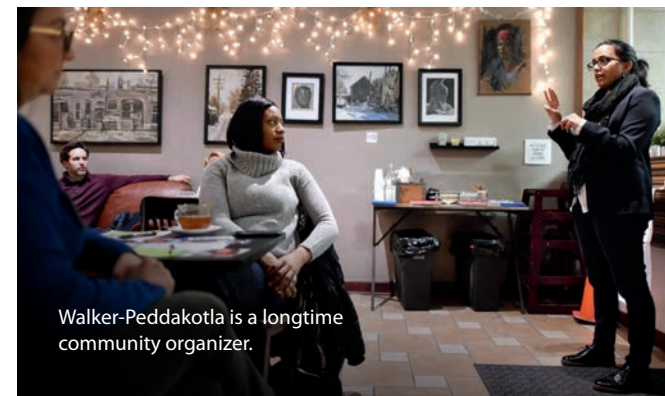
Here are four more things to know about Walker-Peddakotla.

Her U.S. Army service taught her the human costs of war.

Walker-Peddakotla was raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the daughter of immigrants from



In 2019, Walker-Peddakotla won a seat on the Oak Park Village Board. Photo: Paul Goyette.



Walker-Peddakotla is a longtime community organizer.

India. A survivor of child abuse and domestic violence, Walker-Peddakotla joined the U.S. Army and served for six years. As a histotechnologist deployed to Dover Air Force Base, she assisted on autopsies of service members killed in the U.S.'s post-9/11 wars. Her time in the army was a lesson, she says, "in the human costs of service that the public doesn't see. It changed how I thought about U.S. militarism and imperialism."

After earning a bachelor's degree in biology, she completed

a master's degree in microbiology and immunology at Loyola and then worked in information technology before contemplating law school.

She's an uncompromising activist.

In 2019, Walker-Peddakotla, a mother of three, cofounded the community group Freedom to Thrive Oak Park, which conducts and publicizes

research on policing in order to reimagine community safety. That same year, she secured a seat on the Oak Park Village Board, becoming, she says, "the only abolitionist." Fellow trustees urged her to compromise on policing, while local activists pressed her to hold firm on the abolitionist platform they shared. Walker-Peddakotla says she received death threats in response to her calls to defund the police. The stress of the job and a major surgery took a severe toll on her health, leading her to resign in 2022, just months short of finishing her four-year term.

"I never gave in to the immense pressure to compromise, and...I stayed true to my beliefs as an abolitionist," she wrote in her resignation statement. Among her accomplishments, Walker-Peddakotla helped organize to cancel the village's agreement with Oak Park and River Forest High School to maintain a uniformed police presence in the school. (That decision has since been rolled back, with a new policing agreement between the village and the school put in place after Walker-Peddakotla's resignation.)

She cocreated a course examining the need to abolish systems of oppression.

As a part-time law student, Walker-Peddakotla worked with Aisha Cornelius Edwards (JD '05), executive director of Cabrini Green Legal Aid and School of Law adjunct professor, to create a new course, Abolition and Movement Lawyering. Launched in spring 2022, the course aligns with the School of Law's renewed mission to dismantle racism and systems of oppression. "Law

students are rarely taught to consider how the law creates and protects systems of oppression," Walker-Peddakotla says. "The feedback we received from students was amazing."

She's a sought-after scholar.

Walker-Peddakotla describes herself as a "scholar-activist with one foot in the academy and one foot in community organizing." In 2022, the Open Society Foundations awarded her a prestigious Soros Justice Fellowship to create tools to help defund police and reinvest funds back into the community. In addition, Walker-Peddakotla's law school paper "The Potential Role of Data in the Goal of Abolishing the Carceral System," authored under the mentorship of Professor Dean Strang and selected for a 2023-24 Loyola Rule of Law Institute Research Award, analyzes how crime statistics are used to justify investment in policing and incarceration and considers how data instead could help communities create "alternatives to the carceral system rooted in safety and care."

In March, Walker-Peddakotla was selected as the 2024 William H. Hastie Fellow by the University of Wisconsin Law School. The fellowship is a two-year program supporting aspiring legal scholars and preparing them for careers in the legal academy. Walker-Peddakotla says the fellowship will give her more time to devote to legal research and publication. But even with one foot in the legal academy, she says she'll keep the other rooted firmly in abolitionist community organizing. ■

Recognizing outstanding service

2024 School of Law awards honor Tanya D. Woods, David Baker, Neil Williams, and Elizabeth Rochford

BY LIZ MILLER AND KELSEY SCHAGEMANN

IN A SCHOOL KNOWN FOR turning out graduates who pay it forward, these individuals stand out as particularly strong symbols of service. Here are the recipients of the 2024 Loyola University Chicago School of Law alumni awards, which will be presented at the Reunion and Alumni Awards Dinner on Saturday, September 14. (Visit LUC.edu/law/reunion to learn more about the event.)



Woods serves on the School of Law's Alumni Board of Governors and has worked as an adjunct professor.

“When I say I’m a ‘servant leader,’ I really mean it. I’m also a firm believer that you need to give back to the places that pour into you.”

Tanya D. Woods (JD '13)

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINA AWARD

The St. Robert Bellarmine Award recognizes a graduate who earned a JD within the past 15 years for distinguished service to the community, to the legal profession, and to the School of Law.

TANYA D. WOODS (JD '13) takes big risks because she has big dreams. When she started law school, Woods was a 39-year-old

widowed mother of two looking to channel a sense of purpose and desire to make a difference. “Loyola welcomed me with open

arms,” Woods says. “The learning and spiritual environments were everything I hoped for.”

But that didn't mean it was easy. Although Woods struggled academically, she leaned enthusiastically into experiential learning opportunities. She also found support from faculty mentors who encouraged her to think beyond graduation. How, they asked, was

she planning to leverage her law school education and natural leadership skills?

The answer to that question is evident in Woods's impressive post-law-school resume. After clerking for the Honorable Virginia Kendall (JD '92) and working for a business immigration law firm, Woods took a leap of faith and joined the Westside

Justice Center as executive director in 2016. The nascent nonprofit wasn't able to pay Woods for three months, but in her gut, the move felt right.

Located in Garfield Park, Westside Justice Center makes an impact through direct legal services, community navigation support, and advocacy efforts. The center is also one of the founding organizations and a grant administrator of Illinois Access to Justice, a statewide network of legal and community services.

“We launched this initiative with our partner, the Resurrection Project in Pilsen, because we saw a need in both the Black and Brown communities,” Woods says. “Too many of our people were being stopped from lawful employment because of something in their background or status.”

This take-action philosophy is typical for Woods. A certified mediator, Woods runs a solo law practice, serves as a member of the Chicago Board of Education, and holds a real estate broker's license.

“When I say I'm a 'servant leader,' I really mean it, like, 'How am I serving others?’” Woods says. “I'm also a firm believer that you need to give back to the places that pour into you.”

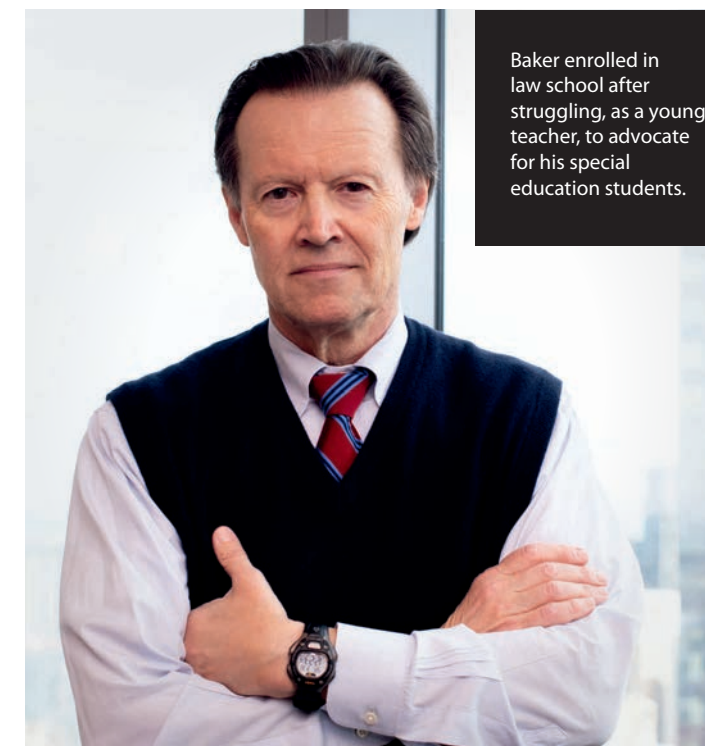
To that end, Woods serves on the School of Law's Alumni Board of Governors and has worked as an adjunct professor and volunteer judge for coaching and mediation competitions.

“The pleasant surprise for many of us who went to Loyola to earn a law degree and get a job is that we came out with so much more,” Woods says. “We're better people. We're better mentors. We are advisors. We are leaders.”
—KS

David Baker (JD '79)

FRANCIS J. ROONEY/ST. THOMAS MORE AWARD

The Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award recognizes continuous, outstanding loyalty and dedicated service to the School of Law.



Baker enrolled in law school after struggling, as a young teacher, to advocate for his special education students.

WHEN DAVID BAKER (JD '79)

visited an adolescent psych ward for a pro bono project in 2019, he was alarmed to learn that many of the patients had been victims of bullying. In fact, Baker couldn't stop thinking about it. As he mulled possible solutions to this crisis, Baker thought of someone who could help: Diane Geraghty, director of the School of Law's Civitas ChildLaw Center.

Baker contacted his former mentor and proposed a new initiative. Thanks to Baker's generous funding and passionate involvement, the Civitas ChildLaw Center's Anti-Bullying Program launched four years ago. The program offers free legal services for children experiencing bullying and supports anti-bullying policies and systemic reform.

Those who know Baker aren't surprised by that story; Baker has never been satisfied with the status quo. He enrolled at Loyola Law after struggling, as a young teacher, to advocate for his special education students. “I thought maybe people would take me more seriously if I was a lawyer,” Baker says.

During law school, Baker served as an editor for the *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* and applied himself academically. “Loyola was very good at providing a diverse curriculum and strong foundation,” Baker recalls. He joined McDermott Will & Emery full time at the beginning of his third year.

Forty-five years later, Baker is still with the firm; he is the partner in charge of estate, trust,

and guardianship controversy, the practice group he founded. Baker's responsibilities align with his abiding interest in improving people's lives. “More often than not, this work has a material impact on families,” Baker says. “The human scope of it is something that I've always enjoyed.”

Baker was inspired to write his nonfiction book, *Death Is No Excuse*, after speaking with clients who felt mystified by topics such as probate, estate planning, life insurance, and guardianship. The book also digs into the legal complexities around marriage, surrogacy, elder care, and more.

A prolific writer, Baker is also the author of *Patriot Acts*, a political satire and legal thriller featuring a lawyer protagonist. “It's very topical,” he says. “There's a child separation at the border and a school bullying subplot.”

Eagle-eyed alumni will spot a Loyola Law reference before the novel begins. Baker dedicated the book to Geraghty and the Civitas ChildLaw Center. “I had very good teachers at Loyola, and she was among the best,” Baker says. “I'm glad we've stayed connected.”
—KS

“Loyola was very good at providing a diverse curriculum and strong foundation.”



Williams has taught at the School of Law for 35 years.

“I tell my students that they’ve been given the gift of a legal education at Loyola, in an immersive and intellectually rigorous environment steeped in social justice issues.”

Neil Williams

MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

The Medal of Excellence honors a member of the School of Law community who exhibits the qualities of character, intellect, and social and professional responsibility that the School of Law fosters.

NEIL WILLIAMS could have taken a different path. Spending his earliest years in the Jim Crow South—a still-sharp memory of his mother snatching him back from a “whites only” drinking fountain—could have left him without hope for social progress.

Instead, it motivated him to prove that world wrong.

After becoming the first African American valedictorian of his Atlanta high school, Williams graduated summa cum laude from Duke University and attended the University of Chicago Law School

as a Mechem Scholar. He clerked for the Honorable George N. Leighton of the Northern District Court of Illinois and spent five years practicing corporate law at Sidley Austin. Then Loyola gave Williams the opportunity to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a teacher.

“My mother was a teacher. Her two sisters, my uncles, and my dear grandmother—a descendant of slaves—were all teachers,” Williams says. “And I always enjoyed sharing what I learned with other people.”

Though eager to teach, he was nervous in the months before beginning his first contracts class at Loyola. Ultimately, his students were the key to his confidence.

“I remember how kind the students were to me—encouraging me and supporting me and helping me feel comfortable at Loyola,” he says.

Williams, Nathaniel R. Jones Professor of Law, has been returning that encouragement and support to Loyola law students for 35 years. For all that time, he has also been the faculty advisor to the Black Law Students Association.

What does he hope three-plus decades of Loyola students have learned from him? “This may sound simplistic,” Williams says, “but I tell my students that they’ve been given the gift of a legal education at Loyola, in an immersive and intellectually rigorous environment steeped in social justice issues. By supporting one another [here], they cultivate the value that the best and greatest work we can do is to help other people.”

Williams also has brought attention to the School of Law regionally since 2006 as president of the Midwestern People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, one of five regional conferences where faculty of color present scholarly ideas on any legal topic.

“I wouldn’t be me without Loyola,” he says. “All of my colleagues, from the very beginning, have been so loving, nurturing, and supportive. And best of all is the opportunity to work with students and to follow their paths in practice—to see that they’re really making meaningful differences in the world.” —LM

Elizabeth Rochford (BA ’82, JD ’86)

DISTINGUISHED JURIST AWARD

The Distinguished Jurist Award recognizes a graduate for outstanding service on the bench. Many of the School of Law’s graduates have contributed to the promotion of justice in our society by serving with distinction on federal and state courts. This award is presented every two years.

TEN YEARS BEFORE she was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court, Justice Elizabeth Rochford was an associate judge of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit, serving in a new courtroom she helped to develop—one dedicated to self-represented litigants in family law.

“I thought we had thought of every imaginable thing to meet the needs of this group of people,” she recalls.

A few months in, however, Rochford felt the impact was not meeting expectations. Determined to learn more, she started going to the places she often directed litigants to go when they left her courtroom. One such place was a government office meant to assist parents with child support issues.

“I found there was no public transportation to get there,” she

remembers. “The address was nearly impossible to find. The signage was insufficient.”

When she arrived, it got worse. She waited hours to be called, only to find out clients needed documentation she was unaware of.

“I was sending people there completely unprepared,” she says. “I was overwhelmed to think of these parents, in a desperate situation to begin with, possibly with a couple kids in tow, maybe in a borrowed car, taking a day off work, probably without pay.”

That experience helped inform her judicial philosophy going forward: that good jurists need more than a sound understanding of the law; they need informed compassion—a desire to give back in ways that don’t just make the judge feel noble.



“Loyola has been such a foundational part of who I am,” says Rochford.

“Sometimes we set out to do great and generous things without understanding where the needs really are,” she says.

Striving to keep that perspective, Rochford honed it by volunteering in her community, with United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, and numerous initiatives dedicated to legal assistance and education.

Throughout, she continued learning about her community and building relationships. In 2022, those efforts helped Rochford win election to the Illinois Supreme Court from the Second Judicial District.

Looking back, she remembers Loyola School of Law as the place where that seed was planted.

“At Loyola, I quickly felt I could find a way to translate what I do reasonably well into something that contributes to my community,” she says.

“Loyola has been such a foundational part of who I am, so now to be honored with this award....” She pauses. “It just fills my heart.” —LM

“Sometimes we set out to do great and generous things without understanding where the needs really are.”

Take her to the river

Katelyn Scott (JD '19) makes a splash as Spokane's first water protector

BY MEGAN KIRBY

Katelyn Scott (JD '19) has always been drawn to the water. She took her first canoe ride at a year old. She began white water rafting at age 14. The summer before entering Loyola University Chicago School of Law, she worked as a raft guide on Montana's Clark Fork River. When she started her classes, she found some similarities between rafting and practicing law.

"There's an element of calculated risk with both," Scott says. "There are different levels of risks you can take with different types of cases, or different types of boats. How big of a splash do you want to make?"

Today, Scott is the water protector at Spokane Riverkeeper, an organization tasked with protecting and advocating for the Spokane River, which winds more than 110 miles through northern Idaho and eastern Washington. With her legal background, Scott oversees law and policy matters at the nonprofit, from enforcing the Clean Water Act to representing the river at local ecology meetings. As the first person in this new role, Scott makes sure the health and safety of the Spokane River is always part of the conversation.

"I feel like the Lorax, but for the river instead of the trees," she says.

Scott grew up on the Spokane Indian Reservation, where her mom taught public school. Although Scott is not a tribal member, she says she grew up influenced by tribal culture. She was also shaped by her proximity to the Spokane River itself, where she learned to swim, boat, and even conduct high school science experiments on its banks.

In law school, Scott split her time between working at a law firm and leading kayak tours on the Chicago River. During her second year, she secured an externship at the Environmental Protection Agency's Chicago office. There, she worked on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, researched underwater oil pipelines, and began considering a law career outside of the courtroom.

"That externship is what solidified my desire to work in environmental law," she says. "That was really my first look at an alternative career other than practicing litigation."

In her role as water protector, Scott performs a wide variety of duties. She joins meetings with

"I feel like the Lorax, but for the river instead of the trees."

local ecology committees, writes letters to local businesses to enforce the Clean Water Act, and works alongside the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene tribes on efforts to reintroduce native fish to the river. One afternoon, when thousands of fish mysteriously died in a local lake, Scott rushed to the shore with a fishing net to collect potential evidence. (A dead fish is still in her freezer.) She hopes all these efforts will continue to strengthen environmental policies.

"My intention is to get to a point where we can push ecology to reach a higher level, and be a leader across the country with what we can do with our water," she says.

Although Scott appreciates the more peaceful stretches of the Spokane River, her favorite place is Riverfront Park, a lively spot where people gather at the Spokane Falls. There, with water flowing over the falls, the river is undeniably the center of attention. Scott even keeps a painting of the park at her desk—a reminder that the river flows through all the work she does.

"It's important that we give the river the respect it deserves," she says. "I wish everyone could know to love it like me." ■



Scott oversees law and policy matters at the nonprofit Spokane Riverkeeper, from enforcing the Clean Water Act to representing the river at local ecology meetings.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Friendly competitors

The School of Law supports Strathmore University students competing at the Vis Moot

Every year, the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna

brings together law students from around the globe to hone their arbitration skills. But for most of the Vis Moot's 31 years, zero teams from Sub-Saharan Africa participated in the competition. A partnership between Loyola University Chicago School of Law and Strathmore Law School in Nairobi, Kenya, is changing that.

Since 2020, the School of Law has provided funding for the Strathmore moot team to attend the competition. Margaret Moses, Mary Ann G. McMorro Professor of Law and director of the Vis Moot program, fosters the Loyola-Strathmore connection by raising funds and sending Loyola students to Kenya to help run team workshops and pre-moots; Stephen Fleischer (JD '18) coaches the Strathmore team. During the months-long competition preparation, the Strathmore and Loyola teams review each other's briefs and participate in virtual scrimmages. When they reach Vienna,

the teams gather for a pizza party to finally connect in person.

In March, 373 teams from across the world attended the Vis Moot, and only 64 teams advanced to the first elimination round—including Loyola and Strathmore. "It's hard to advance, and you don't count on it," says



Stephen Fleischer (JD '18) coaches the Strathmore team.

Moses. "We were thrilled."

Irene Muhoro, who was a student on the 2020 and 2021 Strathmore moot teams, attended the Vienna competition this year as a Strathmore coach. "The Vis Moot isn't just about doing good research—it's about weaponizing the research, folding it neatly into

an argument, and then defending that argument in the face of a hundred different perspectives," she says. "It forces you to stop thinking like a student and start thinking like a lawyer."

After coaching the Strathmore team for four years, Fleischer has seen his students grow in confidence and skill—which serves them well for postgrad life. "You really watch these students develop over this eight-month period, and that is the reason I do it every year," he says. "I'm watching just about every alum get top jobs at the big law firms in Kenya."

—Megan Kirby

"We are really doing our best to make sure there are opportunities for students to participate in the development of our global justice system."

—Professor Margaret Moses

FACULTY EXCELLENCE

Research and scholarship

Loyola's law faculty publishes a wide variety of research and scholarship. Here's a sampling of recent work.



ADAM CREPELLE

Assistant Professor

It Shouldn't Be This Hard: The Law and Economics of Business in Indian Country, 2023 Utah Law Review 1117 (2023)

Indian reservation economies have been in shambles for generations. Although some tribes operate successful gaming enterprises, no tribe has a vibrant private sector economy. Law and economics help explain why. Economics is the study of choices, and Indian country's complex legal rules deter businesses from investing on tribal land. After all, no business wants to spend a year waiting for the federal government to approve a land lease on reservation when land is easily accessible off reservation. Likewise, jurisdictional rules are clear off reservation, but within Indian country, simply determining whether to file a breach of contract suit in tribal, state, or federal court can take years. Complications like this cause private investors to avoid Indian country.

This article uses an economic lens to explain how the rules governing Indian country trap tribes in poverty. It explains that the inefficiencies created by federal Indian law are a consequence of the federal government undermining tribal sovereignty. Accordingly, this article suggests tribes revitalize their legal institutions to improve their business climates.



CHARLOTTE TSCHIDER

Associate Professor

Humans Outside the Loop, 26 Yale Journal of Law and Technology 324 (2023)

Artificial intelligence is not all artificial. After all, despite the need for high-powered machines that can create complex algorithms and routinely improve them, humans are instrumental in every step used to create AI. Through data selection, decisional design, training, testing, tuning, and managing the development of AI as it is used in the human world, humans exert agency and control over these choices and practices. AI is now ubiquitous: it is part of every sector and, for most people, part of their everyday lives. When AI development companies create unsafe products, however, we might be surprised to discover that very few legal options exist to actually remedy any wrongs. This article introduces the myriad of choices humans make to create safe and effective AI products, and it proposes a modified product liability model and regulatory approach to establish a "floor" of expected AI behavior.



SHELDON BERNARD LYKE

Associate Professor

Defense Against the Dark Arts: The Diversity Rationale and the Failed Affirmative Defense of Affirmative Action, 80 Washington and Lee Law Review 1873 (2024)

This article argues that the Supreme Court's dismantling of affirmative action in *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard* was not solely the work of conservatives. Advocates of affirmative action implemented a weak affirmative defense strategy spanning 40 years that centered on diversity and treated race-conscious remedies as a form of preferential treatment. This article discusses how portions of the *SFFA* decision that are critical of the diversity rationale align with principles of racial equality. Additionally, this article discusses equality, critiques the diversity rationale, and calls for advocates of affirmative action to abandon the diversity rationale in the wake of *SFFA*.

Faculty and staff appointments

Zacharias Braetyllo is law assistant technology specialist.

Samuel D. Brunson is associate dean for academic affairs.

Mary Daniels is assistant director, Weekend JD Program.

Teresa F. Frisbie (JD '86), director, Dispute Resolution and Advocacy, has been re-elected vice president, USA, of the InterNational Academy of Dispute Resolution.

Kenyatta Tatum Futterman is director of operations, Civitas ChildLaw Center.

Eileen Geary (AB '83, JD '86) is clinical assistant professor of law.

Emilia Infante is assistant director, JD admission and scholarships.

Lisa Jacobs, associate director of the Legislation and Policy Clinic, was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve as a member of the Illinois Judicial Conference.

Bennett Kushnick is associate director, development.

Jennifer Lazarus is director of career services.

Patricia H. Lee, Randy L. and Melvin R. Berlin Clinical Professor of Law and executive director of the Center for Business Law, was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Society of American Law Teachers.

Adrienne Mebane is clinical professor of law and director of the Dan K. Webb Center for Advocacy.

Santel Melton is senior law information technology specialist.

Jordan Paradise is Beazley Co-Chair in Health Law.

Meghan Roessler is director of graduate and online corporate partnerships.

Stephen Rushin is associate dean of faculty research and development.

Nadia Sawicki is Beazley Co-Chair in Health Law.

Alice Setrini is clinical teaching fellow in the Health Justice Project.

Jonathan Sheffield (JD '15) is clinical assistant professor of law.

Wynne Strugatch is assistant director, online programs.

Barry Sullivan is Raymond and Mary Simon Chair in Constitutional Law.

James Thomas is assistant dean of career services.

Tyler Valeska is assistant professor of law.

Rick Weinmeyer is assistant professor of law.

Rachael Wilson is clinical assistant professor of law.

Dawn Young is clinical assistant professor of law.

In the news

School of Law faculty members have been featured prominently in the news this year. Here's a sampling.

Jeannine Bell, Curt and Linda Rodin Professor of Law and Social Justice, authored "Hate Crimes Are on the Rise—but the Narrow Legal Definition Makes It Hard to Charge and Convict" in *The Conversation*.

Sara Block (JD '07), academic director for the online Master of Jurisprudence in Children's Law and Policy program, is quoted in an *ABA Journal* article about the movement to repeal a Clinton-era law regarding foster care and adoption.

Samuel D. Brunson, Georgia Reithal Professor of Law, shares insight in the *Chicago Sun-Times* on tax breaks that seniors and retirees might be missing.

Adam Crepelle, assistant professor, coauthored an op-ed in *The Hill* that sheds light on the true history behind Martin Scorsese's film *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

Charles W. Murdock (JD '63), professor, penned a *New York Times* opinion letter in February 2024 sharing his perspective on looming litigation regarding Donald Trump's eligibility to run for president.

Follow the School of Law on social media:

-  @LUCLawAlumni
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GIFTS

GENEROSITY

Mitchell (JD '65) and Fran Wiet endow Wiet Life Science Law Scholars Workshop



MITCHELL WIET (JD '65) and his wife, Fran, have agreed to endow the Wiet Life Science Law Scholars Workshop within the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy at the School of Law. This gift will help continue efforts to showcase rising scholars and foster national and international academic collaboration.

Mitch served as the general counsel of Northwestern Memorial Hospital (NMH) and its corporate system beginning in 1982 and served in that role until his retirement in 1999. He was instrumental in maximizing through litigation the statutory protections surrounding the confidentiality of peer review information as well as clarifying the limited scope of

judicial review of medical staff credentialing decisions adverse to medical staff applicants and incumbents at private hospitals. Mitch is also the author of the original draft of the Illinois Health Care Surrogate Act, enabling private, end-of-life decision making in defined circumstances and in the absence of a living will or durable power of attorney. During his tenure as general counsel, Mitch helped guide then-NMH into the now internationally known Northwestern Medicine.

Mitch was a founding member of the Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy, taught in the program, and has served as a trusted advisor for the institute. ■

Jinhee Wilde Endowed Scholarship to support students pursuing immigration law



JINHEE WILDE (JD '85), a founder and former CEO of WA Law Group, LLC, has established the Jinhee Wilde Endowed Scholarship for students who want to pursue a career in immigration law. The scholarship will be awarded to one student over the course of their three-year program, starting in July 2025. Students must demonstrate an interest in immigration law and have financial need.

Wilde says that scholarships are the keys that unlock doors to a realm of opportunities previously deemed inaccessible for many due to financial

constraints. They are the great equalizers in a field that thrives on diversity of thought and background, fostering a justice system that is truly representative of the society it serves.

"This scholarship will help invest in the next generation of diverse legal advocates who may not otherwise have the opportunity to pursue this highly specialized, dynamic, and rewarding area of legal practice," says Katherine Kaufka Walts, director of the School of Law's Center for the Human Rights of Children. ■

"Scholarships are the keys that unlock doors to a realm of opportunities."

Your support matters

To donate to the School of Law, visit [LUC.edu/law/GiveBack](https://luc.edu/law/GiveBack).

ALUMNI UPDATE

2023 reunion and awards dinner

More than 150 alumni and friends gathered to celebrate Reunion Weekend, October 26–28, 2023, at Corboy Law Center. Event highlights included the launch of the Black Law Alumni Network, an Evening with Law Legends, a Judges Reception, and the cornerstone event, the annual Alumni Awards celebration recognizing awardees for outstanding dedication to the law school and legal community.

1-4. School of Law Awards honored, clockwise from top left, Aileen Flanagan (BS '85, JD '89), Public Service Merit Award; Matthew T. Glavin (JD '09), St. Robert Bellarmine Award; Terry Moritz (BS '66, JD '70), Medal of Excellence; and Sonia Antolec (JD '07), Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award.

5. The honorable alumni judges at the Judges Reception included, from left to right, Sonia Antolec (JD '07), Brian McKillip (JD '72), Lisette Shirdan-Harris (JD '90), Thomas Cushing (JD '88), Margaret M. Ogarek (BA '95, JD '98), Maureen O. Hannon (JD '91), Illinois Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth Rochford (BA '82, JD '86), Jeremy Daniel (JD '07), Jeanne Wrenn (BA '93, JD '01), Kathleen Burke (LLM '00), Patricia Fix (JD '91), Bernadette Barrett (JD '91), and Michael Barrett (JD '91).

6. At the Evening with Law Legends, Dean Michèle Alexandre, left, joined Diane C. Geraghty, retired professor of law, founder of the Civitas ChildLaw Center, and co-founder of the Center for Criminal Justice Research; Jim Faught (JD '76), retired associate dean for administration; and Jamie Carey, retired professor of law and former director of the Dan K. Webb Center for Advocacy.

7. During the 2023 Reunion Weekend, the Black law alumni community came together to formally launch the Black Law Alumni Network. The evening of dialogue and connection featured a conversation on the role of Black and minority lawyers in the new era of civil rights, led by Associate Professor Sheldon Lyke; Candace Moore (BA/BS '09, JD '13), chief equity officer for the city of Chicago; and Nathaniel R. Jones Professor of Law Neil Williams.



CLASS NOTES

Share your news by contacting Alumni Relations at LawAlumni@LUC.edu. Be sure to include your full name, class year, contact information, and headshot. We look forward to hearing from you!

1970s

David Baker (JD '79) published two books: *Death Is No Excuse: Planning for Death, Disability, Divorce and Other Disasters* and *Patriot Acts*.

Dan Boho (JD '77) was awarded the 2023 Chicago Bar Association's Justice John Paul Stevens Award.

Steven M. Levin (JD '76) was named to Crain's 2023 Notable Litigators & Trial Attorneys list.

1980s

Pamela Lynn Colon (JD '83) was appointed chair of the United States Virgin Islands Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights.

Rob Schnitz (JD '88) joined Kabat, Chapman & Ozmer LLP as partner leading the firm's hospitality law practice and its expansion into the Chicago market.

1990s

Matt D. Basil (JD '97) was named to Crain's 2023 Notable Litigators & Trial Attorneys list.

Tim Brinkley (JD '96) rejoined the Chicago office of Quarles & Brady LLP as partner in the franchise and business law practice groups.

Julie Dahms (JD '99) was named to the Betty Brinn Children's Museum Board of Directors in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

John G. Horn (JD '98) was elected vice president of the Minority Bar Foundation. He serves as partner at Harter Secrest & Emery LLP.

Daniel Kotin (JD '91) was awarded the 2023 Chicago Bar Association's Justice John Paul Stevens Award.

Michael T. Neidigh (JD '98) was promoted to partner at Mayer Brown LLP.

Brian Speers (JD '93) was named to the 2023 Barron's Top 1,200 Financial Advisors list.



Lauren Cherry (JD '10) was selected as a Class of 2023–2024 White House Fellow and placed at the Central Intelligence Agency.



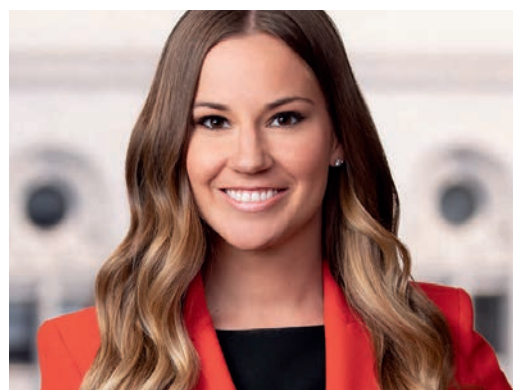
Brenda Friedman (JD '11) was promoted to partner at Kogut & Wilson.



Daniel T. Corbett (JD '13) has been elevated to principal at Jackson Lewis P.C.



Conrad C. Nowak (JD '02) joined Corboy & Demetrio as an associate.



Britney Pennycook (JD '18) was named to Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch for 2024, Illinois Rising Stars by Super Lawyers, and the 2023 Lawdragon 500 X–The Next Generation.



Zephrairie N. Buetow (JD/MA '11) is assistant secretary for legislative affairs in the Department of Homeland Security.

2000s

Carla Gazes (JD '01) was named deputy general counsel for health sciences and chief counsel to the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Dawn D. Gile (JD '06) was elected to the Maryland Senate in 2022 and was selected to serve on the Senate Finance Committee in 2023.

Christie Hicks (JD '09) joined Earthjustice as managing attorney of the Clean Energy Program.

Alissa Jubelirer (JD '00) joined the cannabis practice at Benesch.

Jennifer C. Karrson (JD '06) was named general counsel of PivotGen, a developer of wind and solar energy projects across the United States.

Eric Kelly (JD '05) joined Repario Data as general counsel.

Michelle Kohut (BS '96, JD '02) was named to the Forbes Advisor best workers' compensation attorneys in Chicago 2024 list.

Chip Leen (JD '09) was appointed as the executive vice president, industrials, and general counsel at Numat Technologies, Inc.

Charlotte Main (JD '00) was elected to the Littler 2024 Board of Directors.

Philip R. Marchion (JD '04) joined the Miami office of Littler as shareholder.

Valerie Sarigumba (JD '04) joined the executive team at Bonduelle Fresh Americas as general counsel.

Carina M.C. Segalini (JD '05) was the 2023 recipient of the Justice Thomas L. Kilbride Public Service Award from the Chicago Bar Foundation.

Matt Silverman (JD '07) published *The Champions Network: A Blueprint to Expand Your Influence and Spread Big Ideas in Any Organization* with Ignite Press.

Sarah Toney (JD '03) was elected as the Illinois State Bar Association's third vice president and will be president for 2027–2028.

David S. Wolpa (JD '08) joined Troutman Pepper as partner.

2010s

Andrew Bassett (JD '10) was promoted to vice president, professional scouting, at the Chicago Cubs.

Helena O. Berezowskyj (JD '14) is an attorney at the Chicago office of Davis Wright Tremaine.

Melissa Borrelli (LLM '12) joined Epstein Becker Green as an advisor.

Amber Carpenter (JD '19) was named to Modern Counsel's 2024 list of 35 under 35.

Colleen Clarkson (LLM '19) joined Honigman LLP as partner in the firm's insurance practice group.

Kathryn L. Conway (JD '11) was named to the 2023 Lawdragon 500 X–The Next Generation.

Michael D. Ditore (JD '13) was named to the 2024 edition of The Best Lawyers in America, the 2024 Illinois Rising Stars, and the 2023 Lawdragon 500 X–The Next Generation.

Gregory M. Emry (JD '18) joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as associate.

Colin Goodman (JD '15) was elected to the partnership at Spencer Fane in the firm's health care practice in Houston.

Michael Grieco (JD '17) was awarded the F. Scott Baldwin Award at the 2023 American Association for Justice annual convention in Philadelphia.

Charles R. ("Chuck") Haskins (JD '16) was named partner at Clifford Law Offices in Chicago.

Sarah Kelleher (JD '15) was promoted to partner at Fish & Richardson.

Dominic C. Loverde (JD '16) was named to the 2023 Lawdragon 500 X–The Next Generation.

CONNECTIONS

2023 law school summer gathering

More than 60 alumni gathered at the Loyola University Chicago alumni-owned Theater on the Lake for an unforgettable evening of reconnection and laughter, despite severe weather! Attendees heard from Romeo Quinto (JD '00) and Dean Michèle Alexandre on the importance of networking and learned about the launch of LoyolaLinked to connect School of Law students and alumni for mentorship (see inside back cover).



1. Law alumni reconnect at the summer gathering. 2. Alumni Board of Governors members Kevin C. Lichtenberg (JD '10, MA '11), Michael A. Harring (JD '75), and Megan Donohue (JD '12). 3. Following the all-clear after severe weather, the skies brightened and School of Law alumni ended the evening on the Theater on the Lake's patio.

COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations, class of 2024

On Saturday, May 11, the School of Law celebrated its 2024 graduates during the commencement ceremony in Gentile Arena. The keynote speaker was Lauren Cherry (JD '10), a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, a White House Fellow, and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center.



Kara C. Michels (JD '17) was promoted to partner in the intellectual property practice group at Neal Gerber and Eisenberg.

James Power (JD '16) was named to the 2023 Lawdragon 500 X-The Next Generation.

Christina Sanfelippo (JD '15), an associate in Cozen O'Connor's bankruptcy, insolvency, and restructuring practice, is chair of the board of directors for the Chicago Network of the International Women's Insolvency & Restructuring Confederation.

Emily Selig (JD '19) is an associate in the Miami office of Littler Mendelson and was selected as a 2024 fellow for the Leadership Academy, a program dedicated to advancing women in the legal profession.

Brian Stone (JD '12) was promoted to partner at Taft.

James Theo (JD '15) was promoted to partner at Dinsmore.

Jonathan Thomas (JD '11) was named to the 2023 Lawdragon 500 X-The Next Generation.

Andrew ("Drew") Whiting (JD '11) was named CEO of Erie Downtown Development Corporation.

Tanya Woods (JD '13) was appointed to the Chicago Board of Education by Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson.

2020s

Bob Bullington (JD '22) joined Faegre Drinker in investment management as part of the 2023 associate class.

Grace Burner (JD '21) joined Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP as an associate.

Nicholas I. Flowers (JD '23) joined Meyer and Flowers as an associate attorney.

Andy Froelich (JD '21) was awarded the 2023 Kimball R. Anderson and Karen Gatsis Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship by the Chicago Bar Foundation.

Andre Hunter Jr. (JD '20) received the Rising Star Award for Leaders with Exceptional Promise at the 2023 annual meeting of the Chicago Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section and served as a director for the Young Lawyers Section in 2022-2024.

Camila Kaplunov (JD '22) joined Levin Ginsburg as an associate attorney.

Jacqueline McDonnell (JD '21) joined Faegre Drinker in product liability and mass torts as part of the 2023 associate class.

Grace O'Connor (MBA '22, JD '23) was the 2024 Chicago St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen.

Marshall T. Snow (JD '20) joined the Chicago office of Raines Feldman Littrell LLP as an associate.

In memoriam

William J. Allen III (JD '02)

Shelli L. Anderson (BS '94, JD '97)

Ronald W. Bailey (MJ '01)

James B. Baron (JD '74)

Charles V. Bender (MJ '12)

Ira J. Bornstein (JD '78)

Bruce M. Breitman (JD '71)

Richard J. Brennan (BA '58, JD '62)

Michael J. Calhoun (JD '00)

James V. Callahan (JD '59)

Robin B. Clawson (JD '85)

David J. Creagan, Jr. (JD '53)

The Honorable Dennis A. Dernbach (BS '64, JD '74)

John F. Donahue (BS '67, JD '71)

Daniel G. Donovan (JD '80)

Sherry R. Jacobs (JD '70)

William J. Kollins (BS '65, JD '68)

Martin J. McNally (JD '74)

Michael H. Postilion (JD '58)

William J. Quinlan, Jr. (BA '72, JD '75)

Brian J. Redding (JD '70)

Theodore N. Schnell, Jr. (JD '55)

William C. Sippel (BA '72, JD '76)

The Honorable Richard M. Stock (JD '77)

James E. Walsh (JD '75)

Linda Kreer Witt (JD '75)

Francis D. Wolfe, Jr. (JD '98)

CAMPUS



Loyola's campus master plan aims to address the evolving needs of students and faculty.

University advances campus plan for a thriving future

Loyola's campus master planning process was initiated in spring 2023 to enhance student experience, academic excellence, and community engagement. Partnering with RDG Planning and Design, the University conducted extensive data analysis and stakeholder

engagement, including town hall meetings and consultations with the City of Chicago, Rogers Park, and Edgewater communities. The plan aims to address the evolving needs of students and faculty by proposing new teaching and residential spaces, enhanced lab facilities, and improved student support services. ■

MISSION



Photo: Vatican Media

Loyola leaders meet with Pope Francis

On May 20, 2024, President Mark C. Reed and senior University leaders had a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. There, Pope Francis emphasized the importance of creativity, service, and the holistic formation of individuals. The visit was part of a weeklong pilgrimage to significant Ignatian sites, reinforcing the University's mission to develop leaders who are grounded in Jesuit principles. The delegation also visited the John Felice Rome Center and met with Father Arturo Sosa, S.J., superior general of the Society of Jesus. ■

LEADERSHIP

Douglas W. Woods named provost and chief academic officer

Loyola announced the appointment of Douglas W. Woods, PhD, as provost and chief academic officer, effective July 8, 2024. Dr. Woods, who brings a wealth of experience from his previous roles at Marquette University, Texas A&M University, and the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, will also serve as a professor at Loyola. Dr. Woods's leadership at Marquette saw significant increases in graduate enrollment and diversity. With a strong commitment to academic excellence, he is set to lead Loyola's academic programs to new heights. ■



Connect with your community

LoyolaLinked: School of Law is designed to connect our esteemed alumni, faculty, and students, fostering a supportive network that promotes professional growth and development. By joining this online platform, you'll have the chance to make a meaningful impact on our students' careers and contribute to their success in the legal field.

Why sign up for LoyolaLinked: School of Law?

- **Mentorship Opportunities:** Play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our students by offering valuable insights, career advice, and mentorship.
- **Professional Networking:** Connect with fellow alumni and colleagues, expanding your own professional network and fostering a sense of community within the School of Law.
- **Flexible Engagement:** Participate at a level that suits your schedule, whether it's through one-on-one mentorship or occasional career advice sessions.

To join LoyolaLinked: School of Law, scan the QR code or go to loyolalinked.LUC.edu to create your free profile. The process is straightforward, and once completed, you'll be able to start connecting with students and other alumni.



For more information or assistance with the sign-up process, contact adeleonrodriguez@LUC.edu.



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2024

**REUNION
WEEKEND**

AND

**ALUMNI
AWARDS
DINNER**

SEPTEMBER 12-14

We look forward to celebrating milestone class reunions for classes ending in 4 and 9, and encourage all alumni to attend a weekend of programming and events at the Philip H. Corboy Law Center.



**WE ALSO WILL TOAST OUR 2024
ALUMNI AWARDS RECIPIENTS:**

Medal of Excellence:

Neil Williams (Nathaniel R. Jones Professor of Law)

Francis J. Rooney/St. Thomas More Award:

David Baker (JD '79)

St. Robert Bellarmine Award:

Tanya D. Woods (JD '13)

Distinguished Jurist Award:

Illinois Supreme Court Justice
Elizabeth Rochford (BA '82, JD '86)

Learn more about programming and register at

[LUC.edu/law/reunion](https://luc.edu/law/reunion).