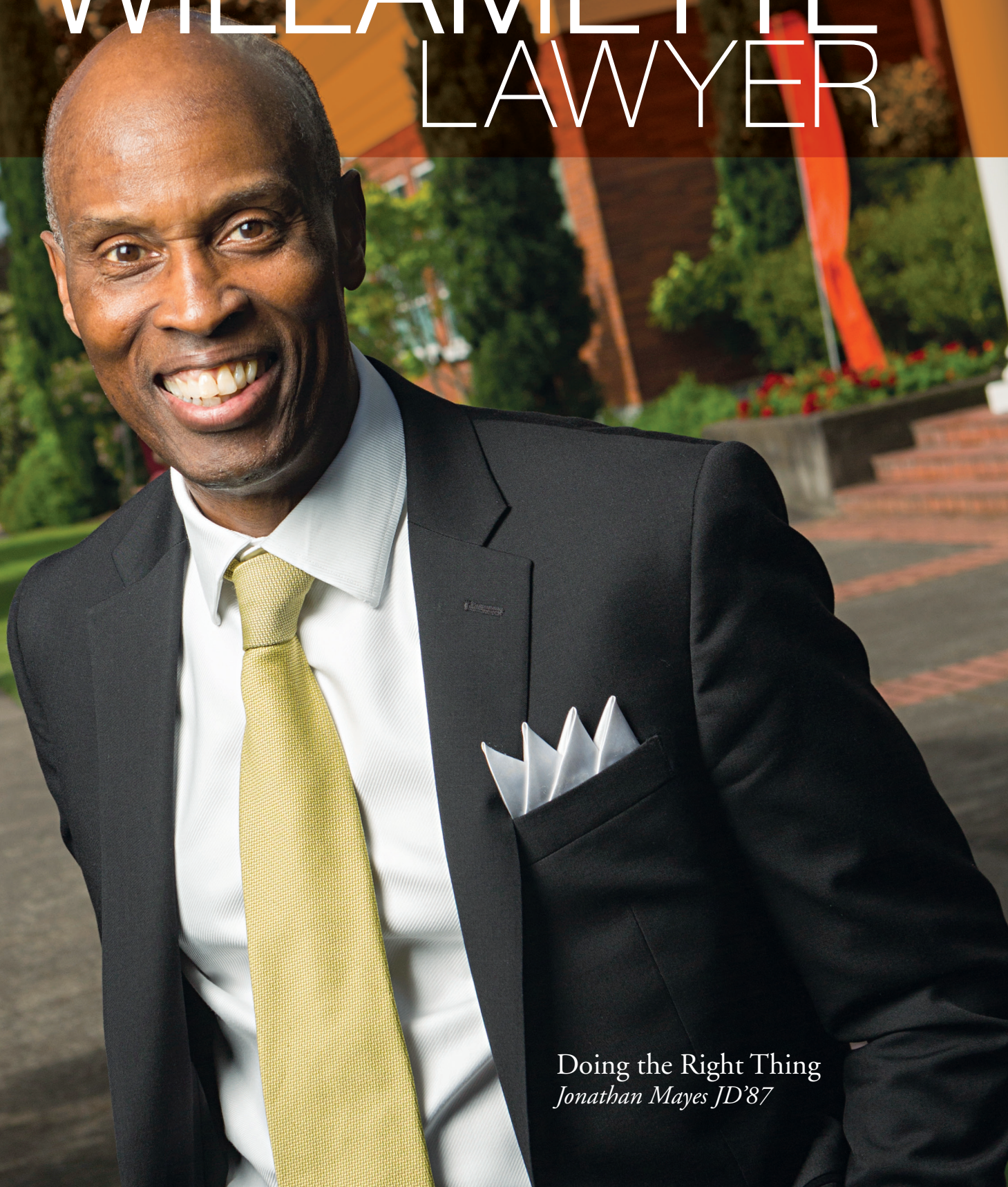


The magazine of the first law school in the Pacific Northwest | Fall 2019

# WILLAMETTE LAWYER



Doing the Right Thing  
*Jonathan Mayes JD'87*



# WILLAMETTE LAWYER

## FALL 2019

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# Dean's Message

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Willamette! I hope this message finds each of you doing well and enjoying a wonderful 2019. Once again, we have welcomed a new class of aspiring attorneys. We enjoyed strong enrollment for the fall, with the largest and highest-credentialed class we have had in years.

Our recent graduates have had good news, too. For the sixth out of the last seven years, we had the best employment numbers of any of the Oregon law schools for full-time, long-term, JD-required and JD-preferred jobs. Our bar numbers were strong, continuing a trend in recent years of being consistently at or above the state average, far outperforming what our LSAT numbers would predict.



I am excited about this issue of *The Lawyer*. As you may know, Willamette alumni are now at the center of national politics on both sides of the aisle, with the most notable examples being Jay Inslee JD'76, the governor of Washington and a Democratic presidential candidate, and Lisa Murkowski JD'85, a Republican from Alaska and an important swing vote in the Senate. We feature them here, as well as noted alumnus Jonathan Mayes JD'87, a senior executive for Albertsons Companies, which owns Safeway. We also highlight two alumni from private practice, Eva Kripalani JD'86 and Liz Large JD'96, who have developed a unique model for their firm, meeting specialized needs for corporate clients.

Of course, we also include some updates from campus, including the latest on our innovative Business Lawyering Institute, now beginning its third year. You will read about other alumni who are thriving and hopefully catch up on old friends in the Class Notes (please keep sending us news about you and your classmates!). Naturally, we catch you up on a few faculty members, too.

Finally, as you may have heard, this will be a year of transition for me and for Willamette. This will be my seventh and final year as dean. It has been a tremendous adventure for me, and I am so grateful to the entire Willamette community for the support you have given me and our students. I am extremely proud of what our faculty and staff have accomplished over the last several years. Now, though, it is time for me to get back to what originally drew me to academia: full-time teaching and research.

As you're reading this, the search for a new dean is in full swing, and I have no doubt we will attract many excellent candidates. I know you will show the new dean the same wonderful support you have always shown me. Thank you for all you do for our students, including your generosity with both your time and your treasure!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Bridgeman', written in a cursive style.

Curtis Bridgeman  
College of Law Dean and Roderick & Carol Wendt  
Chair in Business Law



## A conversation with Senator Murkowski

Willamette Law's Federalist Society and Women's Law Caucus co-hosted "A Conversation with Sen. Lisa Murkowski"—a reception and Q&A event with Sen. **Lisa Murkowski JD'85**—on November 2, 2018.

Close to 200 students, faculty and staff attended the event, held in Paulus Lecture Hall at the College of Law. Jeffrey Dobbins, associate professor of law, moderated the discussion and Q&A session.

Prior to the event, students submitted questions for the Q&A portion of the evening. Murkowski answered a handful of questions that touched on various topics, including a senator's role in advice and consent of a Supreme Court nomination, how she speaks to

her Republican colleagues regarding climate change, and why it is so important—and often challenging—for women to be involved in public office.

Murkowski concluded the discussion with a final message to Willamette's students: "Believe in yourself and what this education has given you."

After the discussion and questions, Sen. Murkowski shared dinner and conversation with current law students from her home state of Alaska. **Emily Lohman JD'19** externed with the senator in Washington, D.C., last spring and attended the dinner, as well.

"Sen. Murkowski stayed fairly late into the night sitting and talking with students. She asked questions and listened to us talk about our lives, our



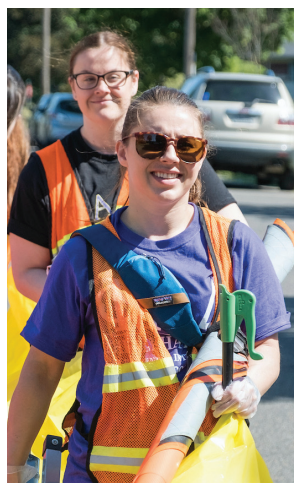
Murkowski, left, greets students at the event.

interests and the challenges we were facing," Lohman explains. "One student asked her for advice about how to be a good leader, and she gave us the direction she follows herself, which is to go your own way, forge your own path and never allow comparison to others stop

you from doing the right thing."

As someone who sees herself potentially running for office one day, Lohman says it was refreshing to see Murkowski's genuine enthusiasm and interest in what the students had to say.

## Phi Alpha Delta increases service, membership



Members of Phi Alpha Delta cleaned their adopted street in Salem in May.

Phi Alpha Delta (P.A.D.) Lusk Chapter Justice **Caroline McCarthy JD'20** first became involved with the organization as an undergraduate student. It was her membership that encouraged her to attend law school, she says.

According to its motto, P.A.D. is dedicated to "service to the student, the school, the profession, and the community." At Willamette Law, McCarthy found the chapter to be close to inactivity and made it her goal to make sure it wouldn't fail.

During her 1L year, just four new members joined. As justice, she attended the P.A.D. Biennial Convention in August 2018. She learned all she could about the organization, how to be a successful leader and how to recruit. She applied her new knowledge when she returned.

"I'm proud to say that we currently have 30 members," she says.

The 2018-19 school year was exhausting, and a lot of McCarthy's time and energy went into turning the chapter around. But the year was also rewarding.

The group adopted a street to clean and collected items every month for various organizations. Their "Stockings for Soldiers" drive was an especially exciting success, with 21 full stockings sent to deployed soldiers.

McCarthy hopes to see the Lusk Chapter at Willamette continue to grow and make a positive impact.

"The more members we have, the more we can serve," she says.



## Class of 2022

We welcomed the class of 2022 to Willamette Law in August. Our incoming class members came from varied occupations, such as a professor of international relations, social media marketer, high school English teacher, director of music and construction supervisor.

The top undergraduate schools included Portland State University (11), the University of Oregon (10), Willamette University (8), Western Oregon University (5), Washington State University (4) and Northern Arizona University (4).

One MLS student joins the students pursuing their JDs. The median LSAT score for incoming law students went up from 152 to 153 this year, a welcome increase.

CLASS SIZE **129** STUDENTS

## GENDER BALANCE

**50%**

FEMALE

**49%**

MALE

**1%**

DID NOT  
INDICATE

**27**  
AVERAGE AGE

**34**  
MAJORS  
REPRESENTED

**45%**  
OREGON  
RESIDENTS

**20%**  
STUDENTS OF COLOR

**153**  
MEDIAN LSAT

**3.12** MEDIAN GPA

25TH PERCENTILE GPA: 2.74  
75TH PERCENTILE GPA: 3.51

**74**  
SCHOOLS  
REPRESENTED

**21**  
STATES  
REPRESENTED



## Willamette Law number one in Oregon for graduate employment

Willamette Law graduates are well prepared and ready to practice law upon passing the bar, says Phylis Myles, assistant dean of the Placement Office. The school once again posted the top employment numbers in the state of Oregon for the class of 2018. Since 2012, the school has been number one in Oregon six out of seven years.

Over 80% of 2018 Willamette Law graduates were employed in what the law school calls “gold standard” positions by March 2019. “Gold standard” refers to jobs that are full-time, long-term and bar passage required or JD-advantage.

“These are the kind of jobs students come to law school to get, and it is how we measure our success,” says Dean Curtis Bridgeman.

The Placement Office connects with law students as 1Ls, with a mandatory meeting during their first year.

“They are required to fill out an Individual Development Plan that includes a self-assessment, as well as information on current legal skills and interests,” Myles says. “Once we have identified their interests, we provide contact names for informational interviews to learn more about a particular area of law.”

The Placement Office continues educating and preparing students for careers throughout their time at law school. First-year students can sign up for the Attorney Mentor Program, where they are matched with an attorney to learn about legal careers.

Students also attend a Career Boot Camp to work on career development skills. Mock interviews, job blasts, visiting employers and resume review events are available to help students develop professionally prior to graduation.

**Kevin Gleim JD’18** benefited from the personalized approach in the Placement Office. He says he considered multiple opportunities for post-graduate employment and discussed the options, along with his goals, with Placement counselors.



“That valuable insight led me to a wonderful position as an associate attorney at Garrett Hermann Robertson P.C. in Salem,” he says. “I am surrounded by great colleagues and doing work that I enjoy.”

The Placement Office does all it can to check in with students after they leave Willamette, even texting them if that’s what works best.

“We meet with them for coffee to talk about search strategies if they are in Salem or Portland,” Myles says. “We continue to work with all alumni even after they have been practicing for several years.”

**82%**

Passage rate for first-time bar exam takers from Willamette Law

**72%**

State-wide passage rate for first-time takers

**February bar takers from Willamette pass with high rates**



## Business Lawyering Institute continues to move in positive direction

Willamette Law founded the Business Lawyering Institute (BLI) in 2017 to train future lawyers in business lawyering. The BLI's co-directors are excited about what it has accomplished so far.

Professors Karen Sandrik and Aaron Simowitz lead the BLI. Simowitz joined Sandrik earlier this year to take the place of Professor Vince Chiappetta, who is retiring this fall. His background is in negotiation and international business transactions.

Over the past year, Willamette Law continued expanding BLI teaching protocols. The faculty has been open to adapting to the pedagogy, and students have been enjoying it.

Sandrik's Secured Transactions and Deals courses continue to be strong examples of BLI teaching principles in action. Last year, she taught without a textbook and instead invited guest speakers to lead discussions. Simowitz's Negotiation course and adjunct

Professor David Stork's In-house Counsel course offer other unique opportunities for hands-on learning.

With the focus on business principles and cross-collaboration with the Atkinson Graduate School of Management, the number of students pursuing a Certificate in Law and Business grew from five in 2016 to 14 in 2019. Membership in the Business Law Society more than tripled, increasing from 20 in 2017-18 to 65 in 2018-19.

Two new BLI student fellows, **Tamara Palmer JD'21** and **Zachary Schick JD/MBA'21**, joined **Will Kurka JD'20** and **Alexandra Hutchinson JD'20**, in their second year of the fellowship, this fall.

Last year, the fellows worked to build community by serving students, the profession and the university. They organized and hosted events that reflected areas of legal interest. They also did research to understand how the BLI can better serve the



BLI co-directors Aaron Simowitz, left, and Karen Sandrik.

profession. In addition, they helped build the BLI's brand recognition and attract new applicants for the fellowship.

**Lindsey Adegbite JD'19**, a fellow in 2017-18, says being a part of the BLI allowed her to learn practical lawyering skills, find her ideal job, and encourage other students in business law.

"The absolute highlight of my experience was the relationship that led to my current job,"

Adegbite says. "I am grateful for the privilege of working at Sherman Sherman Johnnie & Hoyt, LLP, where I'm doing exactly what I intended to do with my legal education."

This year, Sandrik and Simowitz say they are looking to create a concrete proposal of BLI teaching best practices that can be implemented across curricula. The three guiding principles will remain their measures of success.

### BLI Guiding Principles

- > **Good lawyers** are good problem solvers and value-added partners with their clients. They are not just experts in the law.
- > **Good lawyers** understand the broad context, business or otherwise, in which legal issues arise.
- > **Good lawyers** recognize that ethics and professionalism, including a commitment to diversity, are central to the profession.

## Federalist Society named runner-up for Most Improved Chapter

The Willamette Law chapter of the Federalist Society enjoyed an active year in 2018-19. Chapter vice president **Joey Pickels JD'19** says the group hosted nine speakers, triple the presentations it held during his 1L and 2L years — combined.

Membership also rose, from 12 students in August 2018 to 41 in April 2019. Those big numbers contributed to the chapter being named runner-up for Most Improved Chapter at the National Student Symposium held in Phoenix in March. Pickels and **Nick Rhoten JD'20**, the incoming president, became more involved on the national level and attended the symposium.

Pickels says being involved on the national level has resulted in more well-known speakers interested in visiting Willamette Law. The most popular event the group hosted (along with Women's Law Caucus) during the year was "A Conversation with Sen. Lisa Murkowski."

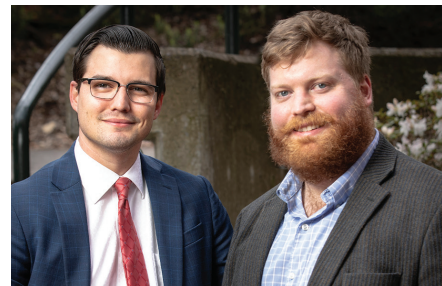
**Murkowski JD'85** drew close to 200 people for her talk. That was big, Pickels says, in more reasons than one.

"Though the Federalist Society is one of the largest legal organizations in the country, a conservative legal organization is not the most popular organization in law schools nationwide, specifically in this part

of the country," Pickels explains. "But we actively seek out and bring in speakers on a myriad of issues and let people decide for themselves. That makes us better lawyers and helps foster the collegiality of the law school."

Other well-liked speakers included Richard Epstein, who Pickels describes as "the godfather" of the Federalist Society nationally, and Justice Andrew Gould of the Arizona Supreme Court. As Rhoten prepares to take the reins this fall, he hopes to continue facilitating a cordial environment that allows for debate and critical thinking.

"Being a part of ideological diversity and having the opportunity to engage in discussions amongst those whom I might disagree with is something that I value," Rhoten says. "To that end, our chapter will seek out speakers that will come to campus to challenge ideas and conventional wisdom."



Joey Pickels JD'19, 2018-19 Federalist Society vice president (left), stands with Nick Rhoten JD'20, the incoming chapter president.

## American Constitution Society presents progressive case for students

The American Constitution Society selected two board members from the Willamette ACS chapter as Next Generation Leaders during the 2018-19 school year. As Next Generation Leaders,

chapter president **Mick Harris JD'19** and secretary **Bridget Lawson JD'20** are expected to stay involved with ACS as attorneys and support efforts to implement progressive policies and legal systems.

"Being chosen is a huge honor," Harris explains. "It means that the ACS has recognized the successes our chapter has experienced over the last three years."

Lawson says they are excited to represent ACS nationally. Being a Next Generation Leader means they'll connect with like-minded lawyers and law students to help create a future they'll be proud of, she says.

As a recent graduate, Harris plans to participate in the Oregon Lawyers Chapter of ACS, as well as provide support as a

mentor to the Willamette chapter. For him, it's important to have an active ACS chapter at the school, especially as its counterpart, the Federalist Society, continues to expand its presence in the legal process.

"We are living in a contentious time," he says, "and it is necessary to have an organization to espouse progressive values and uphold a just and equitable interpretation of the Constitution."

Harris says in recent years, the group brought thought-provoking events and speakers to campus, including last year's discussion on the nature of hate speech protections under the Constitution. Lawson hopes to continue that while she serves as the chapter president beginning this fall.





## Legendary Oregon attorney, Willamette alumnus dies

Bruce Williams '40, JD'48 was an enormous influence to generations of Oregon lawyers

**Bruce Williams '40, JD'48**, legendary lawyer, World War II fighter pilot and Willamette undergraduate and law school alumnus passed away on Dec. 17, 2018, at the age of 99. Williams was described as a real-life Atticus Finch, “mesmerizing” in the courtroom, and one of the most ethical and fair attorneys in the region.

Williams earned a bachelor's degree at Willamette in 1940, then enlisted in the Navy, where he served as a flying ace during World War II. His heroism earned him the Navy Cross and four Distinguished Flying Crosses.



After the war, Williams returned to Willamette, earning his law degree in 1948. He had a long career in the law, including running a thriving firm with classmate and eventual Ninth Circuit Judge, **Otto Skopil Jr. '41, LLB'46**.

“Mr. Williams was beloved in the local bar and was an enormous influence to generations of Oregon lawyers,” says Curtis Bridgeman, Dean and Roderick and Carol Wendt Chair in Business Law. “He was a legend in his own time and

remains an inspiration for future generations of law students.”

Williams was profiled in the Willamette Lawyer magazine in fall 2014, with a shorter feature written in spring 2005.

Above right: Bruce Williams showed a model of the plane he flew during World War II in 2014. Above left: The Navy Cross. Below: U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (standing, left) presented Bruce Williams (seated) with the Congressional Gold Medal in a July 2014 ceremony at the Oregon WWII Memorial. Seated next to Williams is his wife, Carol.



## Willamette Law remembers Norma J. Paulus LLB'62, H'99

One of Willamette College of Law's most prominent graduates, a legend in Oregon politics and a Willamette life trustee, **Norma J. Paulus LLB'62, H'99**, passed away February 28, 2019, at age 85.

Dean Curtis Bridgeman remarked that Oregon and Willamette would miss her dearly.

"Norma was what we aspire for all of our students to be: an amazing lawyer and a crucially important leader for the region," Bridgeman says. "She was a trailblazer for women in government in Oregon who made a lasting impact with her personality and professionalism, as much as her on-paper accomplishments."

Paulus' legacy will not be soon forgotten. In 1976, as the first woman to be elected Oregon secretary of state, she was the first woman elected to any statewide office. Decades earlier, in 1956, she made waves when she was admitted to Willamette Law — despite not having a college degree.

Paulus was working as a legal secretary at the Oregon Supreme Court when two of the justices suggested she go to law school. Though she hadn't attended undergraduate school, one of the justices wrote to the dean and recommended she be accepted. She was. Thrilled, she began taking classes during her breaks.

Paulus later said the most exciting night of her life was when her husband, Bill, took her out to dinner and told her he'd borrowed enough money for her to quit her job and go to law school full-time.

She graduated in 1962 and began a career in Oregon politics. In 1971, she was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives, serving until she was elected secretary of state. In those positions, Paulus fought hard for

women's rights, government transparency and the environment. Among other accomplishments, she played a part in efforts to keep Cape Kiwanda free of a nuclear power plant and in legislation to keep off-road vehicles off Oregon beaches.

In 1986, Paulus ran on the Republican ticket for governor, but lost to Democrat Neil Goldschmidt. From 1987-89, she served on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, further

championing environmental issues. In 1990, she became the Oregon superintendent of education. At the time, she told the *New York Times* that no matter what job she held, education was always her top priority. She spent nine years working on education reform before serving as director of the Oregon Historical Society from 2000-03.

In 2011, Paulus endowed the Norma J. Paulus Professorship at Willamette Law.

"If the law school hadn't taken a chance on me, where would I be?" she wondered at the time. "You can't imagine the impact that law degree had. It was the stamp of credibility."

Paulus looked forward to writing her autobiography but was unable to complete it because of dementia. In 2017, the anecdotal history "The Only Woman in the Room: The Norma Paulus Story" was published by the Oregon State University Press, authored by Paulus, along with Gail E. Wells and Pat McCord Amacher. Paulus was also the feature of a short profile in the Willamette Lawyer magazine in fall 2011.

Paulus was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, in 1999. She is survived by her two children, Liz and Fritz.



Top: Norma Paulus was honored as a History Maker in 2012 by the Oregon Historical Society. (Photo credit: Claude Werner Laviano. © Oregon Historical Society.) Bottom: Secretary of State Paulus smiles with the Oregon Pioneer atop the State Capitol.







# Governors visit and share

Law students bring  
Oregon governors to  
share experiences  
for Women's History  
Month in diversity  
speaker series

"I wanted to be a voice for the voiceless," Oregon Gov. Kate Brown told a crowd gathered in Willamette's Cat Cavern in March 2019 after being asked about her political background. She encouraged others to find what makes them tick.

"I got into this work because of my commitment and passion for justice and equality," Brown said. "It's not always the focus of what I do every day, but it gets me up in the morning. You have to follow your heart, but you also have to make a living."

In a conversation that was both frank and funny, Oregon's only women governors — Brown and former Gov. Barbara Roberts — shared the successes and struggles they've had breaking political barriers for an event called the Daniel P. Santos Diversity Speakers Series. Moderated by Norma J. Paulus Professor of Law Robin Morris Collin, the event included remarks from President Steve Thorsett and the Latinx Law Student Association (LLSA), which sponsored it.

Latinx President **Natasha Torres JD/ MBA'20** said the association made history, both for its first time hosting the governors and a record attendance of Latinx students at Willamette Law. This year, 29 students were enrolled, the highest number the college has seen in five years, she said.



Governors Kate Brown (front center left) and Barbara Roberts (front center right) pose with Danny Santos JD'86 (rear center) and members of the Latinx Law Student Association.





Gov. Kate Brown and former Gov. Barbara Roberts spoke at Willamette for the Dean Santos Diversity Speaker Series, a March event organized by the Latinx Law Student Association.

The speaker series, named after **Santos JD'86**, aims to provide a space for dialogue between students from diverse or marginalized communities. LLSA members asked the governors to speak in honor of Women's History Month.

### History of breaking barriers

Despite their divergent backgrounds — Roberts is an Oregon native who successfully advocated for her disabled son while divorced and financially strapped; Brown is a Minnesota-raised attorney who was appointed to public office after graduating from law school — the two share much in common.

Both served in the House of Representatives, as secretary of state and as governor. Both are advocates for human and civil rights and the environment. They also know a little bit about being first — in 1990, Roberts became the first woman governor in the state, and in 1981, the first woman elected house majority leader. In 2004, Brown became the first woman to serve as Oregon's senate majority leader and, in 2015, the first openly bisexual governor in the nation's history.

As governor, Brown's judicial appointments have created the first woman-majority

Oregon Supreme Court, Oregon's first African-American woman justice and first woman chief justice.

"Women have played an outsized role throughout history," Roberts said, not only as pioneers, but also "community-builders" who founded the first farms, schools, churches and orphanages. Women are making history and taking leadership every day, she said, "and nowhere is that more apparent than in the political arena."

"It does make a difference who's at the table," Roberts said.

### Challenges, inclusion and the future

Double standards and adversity followed both women during their time in office.

Years ago, Roberts said, women were considered knowledgeable about mental health and education, but not economic development and the forest industry. Under media scrutiny today, Brown said, "women in political office need to be likeable and competent, while men clearly don't need to be either."

Asked what diversity, equity and inclusion means to them, Brown said she used to see diversity as "frosting on the cake." But once

she became secretary of state in 2008, she realized it had to be an essential part of the political and everyday conversation, "the recipe" for the cake.

Quoting Roberts, Brown said, "If you're not at the leadership table, you're on the menu."

Willamette University has a long history of graduating women leaders. Alumnae include Oregon Supreme Court justices **Virginia Linder JD'80** and **Sue Leeson '68, JD'81**, as well as Sen. **Lisa Murkowski JD'85** and **Norma Paulus LLB'62, H'99**, who passed away in February.

In a speech opening the event, President Steve Thorsett said the university is proud to support those "who have done what others thought they could not or should not do and whose success paved the path for generations of women to achieve more.

"To all the women who broke barriers and glass ceilings and who pushed through layers of resistance and discrimination — thank you," he said. "May we continue to add many more lines in the unending story of women's progress and achievement."



# DOING THE RIGHT THING

Championing diversity and inclusion is more than a matter of ethics. As Jonathan Mayes JD'87 knows, it's also good business.

By Tina Owen

One Sunday afternoon in 1986, second-year Willamette College of Law student **Jonathan Mayes JD'87** stood on the porch of a home in Oakland, California. Mayes had secured a clerkship with Donahue, Gallagher, Woods & Wood in the San Francisco Bay area, and he'd arranged with the owner of this house to rent a room for the summer.

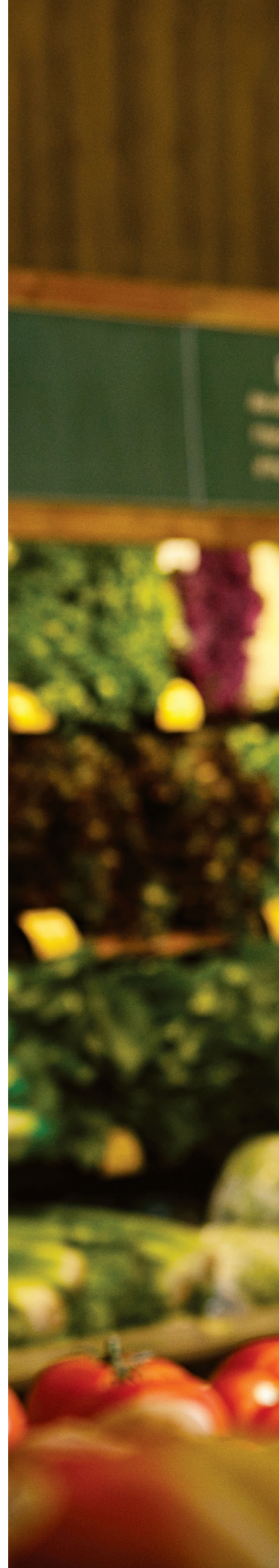
He'd had several positive telephone conversations with the owner, and when they last spoke, she said, "Jonathan, you sound like a really nice young man, and I'm looking forward to you staying with me this summer."

But when she opened her front door, the woman took one look at Mayes and said, "You can't stay here. You should have told me you're black. My neighbors will think you're a burglar."

Mayes pointed out that he'd be wearing a suit and tie and carrying a briefcase every day. He offered to introduce himself to her neighbors to explain his presence. But the woman insisted he leave.

"That's what bias feels like," Mayes says. "It drives my work, because I don't want other people to feel like I did."

As chief diversity officer at Albertsons Companies — one of America's largest grocery and pharmacy chains, operating nearly 2,300 stores, under 22 different banners, in 34 states and Washington, D.C. — Mayes now strives to ensure that all employees and job applicants get a fair chance to demonstrate their abilities and potential.









“Diversity is being invited to the dance; inclusion is when you can ask the D.J. to play your favorite song and then you dance.”

— Jonathan Mayes JD’87

Since 2017, when Albertsons Cos. added the position of chief diversity officer to his role as senior vice president of government relations, sustainability and philanthropy, Mayes has spearheaded the development and rollout of a company-wide training program that defines and explains the importance of diversity and inclusion.

“It’s a tangible step toward showing Albertsons Cos.’ commitment,” he explains. “We want employees to understand that our company’s goal is to make every day a better day for everyone we encounter, such as customers, fellow employees and vendors. Plus, we want them to know that we all should actively support this effort toward improving diversity and inclusion.”

So far, over 250,000 of Albertsons Cos.’ 270,000 employees across the country have taken online, interactive training modules or in-person sessions tailored to their work, whether as supervisors and managers or in retail, warehouses, manufacturing facilities, and corporate and divisional offices. Employees take regular refresher courses, while new hires complete the training as part of their onboarding program.

They explore topics such as unconscious bias and ways to minimize its impact, as well as how diversity and inclusion can help Albertsons meet its goal of becoming the country’s best supermarket chain.

In addition to being what Mayes describes as “the right thing to do,” a commitment to such values makes good business sense. A 2018 report by McKinsey ([willamette.edu/go/mckinsey](http://willamette.edu/go/mckinsey)) concluded that companies embracing diversity and inclusion typically outperform those that do not. Research by Harvard Business Review, Forbes and Barton Consulting Group confirmed those findings.

A robust diversity and inclusion program can help a company better attract and retain top talent, while also encouraging employee creativity, innovation and engagement. The broad spectrum of diverse employees’ experiences and perspectives can also help a company more effectively market to women, people with physical challenges, members of the LGBTQ community and people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

“Communities are becoming more diverse, and we need a workforce that reflects

them,” Mayes says. “We need to know our customers so we can provide products they want.”

Critics dismiss diversity and inclusion as political correctness or bundle them with other anti-discrimination and equal employment opportunity laws. While those laws offer protections to certain populations on grounds such as age, gender, veteran status or religious beliefs, Mayes points out that diversity and inclusion are “proactive actions that benefit both the employee and the employer.”

Resistance to diversity and inclusion can also arise because the terms seem amorphous and difficult to connect to real life. To help provide clarity, Mayes — an accomplished professional musician — employs musical metaphors.

In terms of diversity, he says, “Think about an orchestra with only violinists. That only begins to scratch an orchestra’s potential. Bring in other musicians and instruments, and they’re able to play beautiful music together that wouldn’t have otherwise been possible.”

To illustrate the difference between diversity and inclusion, Mayes explains that “diversity is being invited to the dance; inclusion is when you can ask the D.J. to play your favorite song and then you dance.”

Progressing the culture of a large, successful business like Albertsons Cos. is a formidable task. **Paul Rowan JD’84**, retired executive



## Giving back

As speaker at the Willamette University College of Law commencement in May, Jonathan Mayes offered members of the Class of 2019 words of advice, encouragement and support. He also gave them a surprise.

He told them to reach under their seats, where they found an envelope containing a \$1 bill, a gift from Mayes and his wife, Varetta. “But you can’t keep it. You have to give it away,” he said. “It’s a symbol of what I want you to do in your career and life: give back, not only money but also your time and talent.”

Watch the commencement video: [willamette.edu/go/mayes](http://willamette.edu/go/mayes)

vice president and general counsel at Albertsons Cos., says that if anyone can do it, Mayes can.

Rowan crossed paths with Mayes in 2015, when Albertsons Cos. acquired Safeway, where Mayes was senior vice president of public affairs, government relations, sustainability and philanthropy. The two worked together on the acquisition, including integration planning and other corporate initiatives. They also bonded as fellow Willamette Law alumni.

“Jonathan has a calm demeanor, even amidst chaos. He excels at bringing groups together, harmonizing seemingly conflicting agendas and getting results for the common good,” Rowan says. “He has the rare ability to work with people regardless of where they might fall on the personality spectrum.”

Others have praised Mayes’ abilities and positive qualities. He’s garnered a number of awards from legal organizations for his exemplary service to the profession. In addition, Willamette University presented him with its Martin Luther King Jr. Service Award, while the Bay Area Minority Bar Coalition honored him for his commitment to diversity and inclusion.

For Mayes, his work in diversity reflects the reason he became a lawyer. Growing up in Santa Barbara, he and his six brothers worked in a mission that his parents founded. He saw people who were disadvantaged because they were poor, addicted to drugs or alcohol, or members of a minority group.

“That experience made me decide to use the law to help people,” Mayes says. “Through my excellent education at Willamette and a supportive network of friends and mentors, I’ve been fortunate to achieve leadership positions in my career. Now, I can use my resources to serve people.”



Mayes ran in the Oakland Marathon in March 2019, finishing third in his age group. He also enjoys playing music with his band.

## Music and marathon man

Despite his hectic career, service on various boards and speaking engagements at universities and other organizations across the country, Jonathan Mayes is an accomplished musician and athlete.

Music director at Bay Farm Community Church in Alameda, California, for more than 25 years, Mayes plays piano, guitar, bass and violin and is a vocalist. He is also an accomplished athlete who has

participated in Ironman triathlons, ultramarathons and over 70 marathons across the world.

Mayes says his daily workouts and music practice or performances help him at work. “If you can be self-disciplined in one area, it translates automatically to other parts of your life,” he says. “It’s all about setting goals, staying committed and using your very best efforts to accomplish them.”





Eva Kripalani JD'86 (left) and Liz Large JD'96 (right) started their own boutique law firm catering to companies with needs for in-house counsel.

# Eva & Liz:

## Legal powerhouses find their niche in the Pacific Northwest

Eva Kripalani JD'86 and Liz Large JD'96 learn the path to success lies in relationships rather than being “the quintessential lawyer.”

By Sarah Bello

In the early 1980s, **Eva Kripalani JD'86** made her way through law school at Willamette Law. It was a time she thoroughly enjoyed, much more so than her undergraduate studies. She participated in Law Review, graduating near the top of her class in 1986.

Ten years later, Kripalani's “shadow,” **Liz Large JD'96**, followed in her steps through Willamette Law and Law Review, although the two didn't meet for many more years. Large graduated in 1996.

Following law school (but again, at different times), both women went on to work as judicial clerks and for the firm Stoel Rives in Portland. In a stroke of luck, Kripalani, then general counsel, hired Large to work with her as part of the legal team at Knowledge Learning Corporation, also known as KinderCare Learning Centers, in 2005.

“It was one of my lottery wins in life, not just professionally, but in all ways, to become

connected with Eva Kripalani,” Large says.

The women worked together for a couple of years before Kripalani left to pursue other opportunities, including running her own firm for a time. Large continued working for KinderCare, including several years as general counsel, until 2016.

### Doing business together

In late 2017, the two hit the ground running with a new business venture, something not uncommon in the business hub of the Pacific Northwest. But their business isn't one of the many tech or web-based start-ups in the area, although it could help them with their legal needs.

Their business, the Office of General Counsel Network, is a non-traditional law firm focused on providing organizations with a legal business partner in the form of an experienced in-house counsel. Large, Kripalani and their team offer help with complex business transactions, litigation



management, compliance matters and other significant events that can impact a company's strategy and success. Essentially, companies that may not have a need for a full-time general counsel or are having trouble finding one can "rent" one, for a time.

Neither Kripalani nor Large considered working in-house after graduating from law school, but the two took to it after working in firms. The first general counsel role for both came at KinderCare, which Large describes as another life "lottery win."

"I felt like I was a kid in a candy store," Large says. "You get to make strategic decisions and translate them across the organization, but you don't have to prepare the 'grindy' stuff that's a part of it."

Kripalani echoes her thoughts.

"I tried it on a lark, and I ended up really loving the in-house role," she says. "You gain exposure to all kinds of legal and business issues that you would be unlikely to encounter in the more specialized world of law firm practice. It sometimes feels like you're in a mile wide and an inch deep, but I found that to be more interesting than law firm practice."

Large and Kripalani kept in close touch over the years following Kripalani's departure from KinderCare and knew they wanted to work together. They were at a place in their careers where they could choose what they wanted to do, Large says. Laughingly, they both describe how they considered importing purses from Vietnam, but decided to stick with the law, instead.

"We ultimately came back to what's really close to our hearts and core competencies, which is how to help clients achieve their business objectives by applying the skills learned through their in-house roles," Large says. "Eva had done this for several years on a solo basis, so in effect, we are scaling what she did."

Kripalani says that unlike the prevalence of CFOs for hire, there wasn't really a clear precedent for bringing in an interim lawyer, with in-house experience, to fill temporary gaps in in-house legal departments. Nevertheless, while working on her own, she repeatedly saw a need for this service. She and Large have learned that they aren't the first to start a business with this focus, but it's still considered somewhat innovative, she says, at least in the Pacific Northwest.

"The skill set involved in being a general counsel is really specific," Kripalani explains. "We find that in-house legal departments really benefit from lawyers who have that experience, which helps you understand how to partner more effectively. Working in-house causes you to approach issues with a different lens than that of a law firm lawyer."

### Continuing on and looking to the future

After being in business for a little over a year, Large, Kripalani and their team have worked on diverse engagements for several organizations. Large currently serves in a very public role as the interim general counsel for Portland Public Schools, having been in that position since the very start of the business.

Kripalani and one of the firm's network attorneys jointly serve as interim in-house counsel for a high-tech manufacturing company based in the Pacific Northwest. When that company engaged in a search for a general counsel and couldn't fill the position, they asked the Office of General Counsel Network to fill in.

"The relationships you build are far more important to your success than being the quintessential lawyer. My relationship with Liz is a perfect example of that."

— Eva Kripalani

"It was one of my lottery wins in life, not just professionally, but in all ways, to become connected with Eva."

— Liz Large



Large (left) and Kripalani at a March 2018 Business Lawyering Institute roundtable event at the College of Law.



Other companies Kripalani and Large work with may not be big enough to hire a full-time legal team or simply have short-term, overflow needs. But, Kripalani says, they've had good luck with their clients wanting to keep them. If there's one thing they're especially proud of, Large says, it's the relationships they've built with clients.

"That's the hallmark of a good general counsel or in-house lawyer — understanding who your client is, what their culture is, what their strategic objectives are and how you help them get there," she says. "One thing we do well is helping them get there."

The business has grown faster than what the two expected, and they hope to continue growing in Oregon and beyond. Kripalani cautions that they are not focused on growth just for the sake of growing; they want to remain confident in the quality of the work they're doing and have fun in the process.

### **Staying connected to where it all began**

When they aren't helping companies with their legal needs, Kripalani and Large serve as trustees for Willamette University. While both women attended only law school at Willamette, they've been impressed by students at all of its schools.

"We care deeply about the institution and the education and experience it offers," Large says. "To have a place in Oregon that provides that special opportunity is something we want to help thrive in whatever way we can."

Kripalani says they are privileged to serve in their trustee roles and to be able to offer advice at the law school, too. Both women helped with the implementation of the Business Lawyering Institute (BLI) at Willamette Law in early 2018.

The BLI's goal is to prepare the best business lawyers of the future with excellent legal training, as well as business knowledge. Kripalani and Large know the value in that.

"Dean Bridgeman has challenged faculty to think about the really key attributes of legal education," Large says. "What do our graduates need when they leave Willamette, to be really successful for their clients and to enjoy the profession they've worked so hard to get to enter? Eva and I are both huge advocates for the BLI and the type of thinking that went into its creation."

Large and Kripalani enjoy being able to help younger lawyers and law students. Their business has been successful, in part because of the educational foundation they received years ago at Willamette Law, Large says, and in part because of her "lottery win" in life — meeting Kripalani.

"Find an Eva Kripalani in your life. Find work you really care about and people you enjoy doing it with," Large advises. "Lawyers spend a lot of their time solving hard problems. That's rewarding and challenging, so you want to do it in an environment where you truly care about the work, surrounded by people you care about."

Kripalani agrees and notes that she thinks she's the one who won the lottery when she met Large.

"I hate it when she says everything so well, and I'm left with nothing to add," she laughs. "Over the years, I've realized the relationships you build are far more important to your success than being the quintessential lawyer. My relationship with Liz is a perfect example of that."

Essentially, companies that may not have a need for a full-time general counsel or are having trouble finding one can "rent" one, for a time.



# ***Red and Blue:***

*Two Willamette Law alumni  
in national politics*

By Sarah Bello







*Lisa Murkowski JD'85  
and Jay Inslee JD'76  
make waves in their  
respective parties  
as they navigate the  
national political scene.*

In the 1990s, Willamette University made history with four alumni working for Congress. Decades later, two Willamette Law graduates find themselves in the national spotlight, as well — **Lisa Murkowski JD'85**, the outspoken Republican U.S. Senator from Alaska, and **Jay Inslee JD'76**, Washington governor who was a Democratic hopeful for the presidency in 2020, dropping out of the race in late August 2019.

Their rise in politics is part of the university's tradition, says **Kerry Tymchuk '81, JD'84**, executive director of the Oregon Historical Society.

"It ties into the motto of Willamette, *Non Nobis Solum Nati Sumus*, not unto ourselves alone are we born, and the commitment to serve the public for the greater good," Tymchuk says. "Having the university directly across the street from the state capitol encourages a powerful connection between the law school and public service."

**U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski JD'85**

Sen. Lisa Murkowski took that connection to heart. Born and raised in Alaska, she grew up watching her father, Frank Murkowski, participate in politics. He was a successful banker before a 22-year run in the U.S. Senate. When he became governor of Alaska in 2002, he resigned his seat and appointed his daughter, a member of the Alaska House of Representatives, to finish his term.

Many of his political opponents called it nepotism, but it was legal, and his daughter vowed to show that she was trustworthy.

"I have never once asked Alaskans to like how I got this job," she said at the time. "I asked them to judge me by how well I did the job."



When the term expired two years later, she kept her seat by winning the 2004 election.

#### Early life

Murkowski's early life prepared her well for politics. When her father first ran (unsuccessfully) for the U.S. House of Representatives, then 13-year-old Murkowski spent time sealing envelopes for the campaign. With that, she was hooked on politics.

In 1980, Murkowski graduated from Georgetown University in Washington D.C. She returned to Alaska to work on the staff of a legislator but was dismayed to find that lawmakers had little focus on the constitutionality of the laws they passed.

Two years later, she entered Willamette Law to better understand how laws were made. She credits her legal education for "really helping her learn how to think."

"I think it was about that time that I thought, 'I could do this, I could be one of those legislators.'" Murkowski says. "'But if I'm going to be one of those legislators, I want to be one of those that is informed, that does know whether or not something is constitutional before we're advancing it.'"

After her graduation in 1985, she went into law practice. She spent time clerking and working as a magistrate before being elected to the Alaska House for three terms. There, she gained the bipartisan reputation that carried into her role in the U.S. Senate.

#### National politics

Just as her Senate run began with controversy, the 2010 election was no different. When Murkowski lost the Republican primary, she ran as a write-in candidate and won, the first senator to be elected in that way since 1954.

Murkowski's time in Congress has shown her to be a fierce advocate for her state.

"Anything bad for Alaska is a deal-breaker for me," she wrote to *High Country News* in 2015.

**Emily Lohman JD'19**, who externed with Murkowski in spring 2018, says the senator is a real person who tries to do the right thing.

"She loves Alaska more than anything," Lohman says. "I'm always encouraged when I see her genuine enthusiasm to spend time with regular folks, because that's how she sees herself, as one of us. It's refreshing."

Murkowski focuses on education, energy, Indian rights, health care and other Alaskan issues. She crosses party lines frequently and isn't hesitant to be an independent voice.

"I come from a pretty independent state," she told *PBS NewsHour* in March. "Alaskans are pretty opinionated, and we're not afraid to share our opinions."

Murkowski and Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) are often some of the only senators willing to cross party lines. They've opposed President Trump's stances on the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and the declaration of a national emergency to fund a border wall with Mexico. Murkowski was the only Republican opposing the Supreme Court nomination of Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

In representing her diverse Alaskan constituency, the senator concedes it's a challenging job.

"I try to do what I believe is best, and to have that backbone to stand up to whomever or whatever," she told *PBS*.

By the same token, she explains she's not opposed to "the good old-fashioned legislative term of compromise with other votes."

#### Washington Gov. Jay Inslee JD'76

Similar to Sen. Murkowski, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has focused his career on public service from the average American's perspective.

He practiced law in Washington state before becoming involved in politics as a member of the Washington House of Representatives in 1989.

In March 2019, he announced his presidential campaign for the Democratic nomination, a culmination of years spent in state and national politics. His platform centered on climate change, a controversial issue from both sides of the aisle. In a crowded field of Democratic hopefuls, his experience with it, at the least, set him apart.

"I have been an underdog when I started this and still will be for a period of time," Inslee told the *Seattle Times* in May. However, he says he

was "impressed that more people are paying attention" to his focus on climate change.

#### Early life and involvement in national politics

At an early age, Inslee's parents took his family to Mt. Rainier to clean trails, spurring his interest in the environment. Inslee worked his way through college at the University of Washington in Seattle while living in his parents' basement.

He graduated from UW in 1973 with a degree in economics. He went on to study at Willamette Law, earning his JD in 1976.

Inslee moved back to Washington after law school, practicing for a firm and working as a city prosecutor. He and his wife, Trudi, helped push for a new city high school in 1985, and that involvement sparked an interest in politics and public service.

“  
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Not long after, Inslee ran for the Washington House of Representatives, serving there until his election to the U.S. House in 1992.

His first stint in Congress was short-lived, and he again returned home to practice law. He unsuccessfully ran for governor in 1996, and instead became the leader of the regional office of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Two years later, Inslee ran again for the U.S. House and won. He spent 13 years in Washington, D.C., serving on the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, advocating climate change and pushing efforts to combat global warming.

In 2005, he wrote an op-ed to introduce the New Apollo Energy Act, which aimed to offer \$50 billion in federal loan guarantees for clean-energy projects.

"There is a sad irony in the fact that humans are now relying on energy from fossilized dinosaurs and vegetation, which died most likely as a result of climate change, to such a great extent that we are altering the nature of our own atmosphere," he wrote. "But we can change our path through optimism and ingenuity — our country has a history of taking on tough challenges and triumphing."

Although that legislation failed, Inslee continued his fight against climate change. He resigned in 2012 when he announced his second campaign to become governor of Washington. He was elected and has served in that position since January 2013.

#### From state politics to the national stage, again

With wins and losses on climate change, Inslee faced an upward battle at home and in his presidential bid. Although largely unknown nationally, he gained some attention in 2017 when he sued the Trump administration in *Washington v. Trump*, challenging President Trump's so called "Muslim Ban."

In May, he celebrated a win in Washington with the passing of legislation aimed at making the state's utilities, buildings and appliances green. In the same month, he announced his U.S. climate plan based on the work he's done at home.

By 2030, he wants U.S. utilities to stop using coal and all new cars and trucks to use only battery power or renewable fuel. He also outlines spending \$3 trillion during that time to create green jobs.

As the only candidate running on a climate-focused platform, Inslee passionately promoted his cause. He ended his campaign on August 21, choosing to focus on being elected for a third term as governor.

"It's become clear that I'm not going to be carrying the ball. I'm not going to be president, so I'm withdrawing tonight from the race," he announced on *The Rachel Maddow Show*. "I've been fighting climate change for 25 years, and I've never been so confident of the ability of America now to reach critical mass to move the ball."



Murkowski and her son, **Nic Martell JD/MBA'19**, at his Willamette Law commencement ceremony earlier this year.



Inslee greets supporters while on the campaign trail in Las Vegas in early 2019.



## New faces alumni should know

Several new faces have joined the College of Law over the past year. Tiffany Newton, director of graduate alumni engagement, and Allison Weston, the director of development for Willamette Law, are two new employees who work directly with alumni. Get to know them a little better.



Tiffany Newton (left) and Allison Weston (right) take a break on the Willamette University campus.

### **Tiffany Newton, Director of Graduate Alumni Engagement**

Tiffany Newton joined Willamette after spending most of her adult life in California. Most recently, she worked for the University of Maryland in Baltimore.

"I was wooed by WU," Newton says. "I fell in love with the motto and focus at Willamette Law. I was inspired by the vision for engaging alumni, the accomplishments of the law school under Dean Curtis Bridgeman's leadership and the compelling vision for the future. There are incredible opportunities."

As the director of graduate alumni engagement, Newton works with alumni from both Willamette Law and Willamette MBA. Her personal and professional experience at other graduate schools helps her bridge the gap between the university and its alumni. She works to foster alumni communities, make connections between current students and alumni, and support university initiatives and priorities.

Newton came to Willamette in October 2018 and says it has been a wonderful (almost) first year. As the first person in her family to go to college, she says it's a job she gets excited about every day.

"It is such a life-changing opportunity to go to college," she says. "Every day, to work with alumni and have them engage with their alma mater and expand the offerings of their school, is just amazing. I'm excited to meet more of our alumni and to partner together in launching the next generation of Bearcats who will lead lives of contribution and meaning."

Get in touch with Newton by emailing her at [trnewton@willamette.edu](mailto:trnewton@willamette.edu).

### **Allison Weston, Director of Development, College of Law**

Allison Weston joined Willamette Law in March 2019 as the director of development. She hit the ground running, meeting the Law Leadership Cabinet on her first day and embarking on a trip with Dean Bridgeman to visit alumni within her first three weeks on the job.

Like Newton, Weston was also born and raised in California. Her previous position involved working in development for the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis. She and her fiancé wanted to move to Oregon because they knew the Willamette Valley would be a good place for both of their careers.

"Willamette was high on my list," she says. "I was so impressed by the sense of community at Willamette Law, and I am honored to be a part of that community now."

Weston enjoys meeting people and looks forward to getting to know Willamette Law alumni. Although she has a lot of people to meet, she is ready for the challenge and the opportunity to grow in her new position.

"The alumni I've met so far have all done amazing and different things with their careers," she explains, "so it's really inspiring to see and hear from these folks and learn how they've been successful because of Willamette. I'm excited to meet other alumni and get to know them more."

Connect with Allison by emailing her at [aweston@willamette.edu](mailto:aweston@willamette.edu).

## Retiring Professor Mike Wise wins WUPLP Raising the Bar Award



In February, student organization WUPLP (Willamette University Public Interest Law Project) held its annual Bid for Justice Auction. The auction raises money to fund student fellowships at public interest organizations and serves as the platform for the group to give out its Raising the Bar Award.

This year's award was given to Professor Mike Wise, who retired this spring. WUPLP 2018-19

president **Mick Harris JD'19** says the award recipients are those who have demonstrated a passionate dedication to public service in their legal careers.

"Professor Wise was chosen because of his unwavering commitment to public service, both as an attorney and professor, and his longtime support of WUPLP's efforts to provide student fellowships," Harris explains.

Wise became involved in public interest law while attending Stanford Law School. He externed with the Center for Law and Social Policy in Washington, D.C., leading to his first job with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Harris says a proud moment for Wise was helping to defeat President Richard Nixon's proposed anti-school desegregation legislation.

Wise spent time working for other public interest organizations, and as a professor at Willamette Law for nearly 40 years, supported WUPLP since its founding, frequently serving as an informal advisor. He says he was honored by the award and felt hesitation to leave "such a great job as teaching at Willamette."

"I have appreciated the atmosphere of cooperation at Willamette that contrasts favorably with the excessive competitiveness of some law schools," he says. "Getting to know so many students over the years has been lots of fun. I particularly will miss convincing at least a few of them that Civil Procedure is exciting and fun."

As a retiree, Wise looks forward to visiting more with family. He plans to pursue his interests in archaeology and natural history by volunteering for overseas projects and will continue his work with Northwest Human Services, Inc., and other nonprofits in Salem.

"I hope that I can continue to teach occasionally if the school needs someone to fill in," he says.

## Professor Amy Meyers promoted

In February, Willamette Law Professor Amy Meyers received a promotion to Professor of Legal Writing and Bar Preparation. Her promotion was approved by Willamette University President Steve Thorsett and the Board of Trustees.

Meyers has been on the faculty of Willamette Law since 2016. In her first year, she overhauled the Legal Analysis for the Bar course with support from Willamette Law administration. She also created BEAST, or Bar Examination Accountability and Support Team, to help students study for the bar and supplement a commercial bar prep program. In addition, she developed the academic support programming for first- and second-year students.

Within one year of her efforts, the average MBE score of Willamette Law graduates rose

to the highest it had been in four years. Other results have also been positive, with high bar pass rates for the past two years.

Meyers says she was honored to receive the promotion.

"I'm very humbled that my colleagues recognized the value of the work I do to try to help our students develop into better lawyers and that the deans of the law school, President Thorsett, and the Board of Trustees would accept the faculty's recommendation to promote me to be a full Professor of Legal Writing," Meyers says. "I hope to continue to contribute to the law school community for many years to come."

Meyers graduated from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law, where she was a Scholar in Law, was awarded the Order of the

Barristers and graduated in the top third of her class. Prior to entering academia, Meyers served as a trial attorney for the Missouri Public Defender System in the City of St. Louis Office, as well as special appointed counsel for several appeals. She previously taught at Saint Louis University School of Law and Charlotte School of Law.







## Willamette Law adjunct professor appointed to Oregon Supreme Court

**Justice Chris Garrett JD'06**, the newest member of the Oregon Supreme Court, says he was still catching his breath a few weeks into the job. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced his appointment to the state's highest court December 24, 2018, and the Willamette Law adjunct professor and former Oregon Court of Appeals jurist began his new job January 1, 2019.

Admittedly, he says, it isn't all that different from his work on the Court of Appeals. His first day included a short swearing-in ceremony, and then he went back to his office and began reading and writing — business as usual for a judge.

"The day-to-day work has a lot of parallels," Garrett says. "But, it is a different court, with different people and colleagues to get to know."

Garrett replaced retiring Justice Rives Kistler. In a press release about the appointment, Gov. Brown praised Garrett for being "talented, thoughtful and even-keeled," and bringing a "brilliant mind and collegial style" to the court.

In addition to his work at the Supreme Court, Garrett will continue to teach at Willamette Law, where Dean Curtis Bridgeman says he has been a wonderful contributor as both a mentor and teacher.

"His Legislation and Regulation course is one of the more popular upper-level courses," Bridgeman says. "The students praise his teaching both in class and outside of class, and he is known for his caring and approachable manner."

A lifelong Oregonian, Garrett earned his undergraduate degree in political science from Reed College in 1996. He attended the University of Chicago Law School, graduating in 2000. Before his appointment to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 2013, Garrett practiced civil litigation privately with Portland firm Perkins Cole and served as a state representative for Lake Oswego and Southwest Portland.

While on the Appeals Court, Garrett wrote the decision in *Klein v. Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries*, which upheld a \$135,000 fine given to Aaron and Melissa Klein, bakery owners who declined to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. Garrett says those watching the case have yet to see whether it will have a further impact if the U.S. Supreme Court takes it on.

Although he's now had a part in influential cases, while a young man, Garrett says it never really crossed his mind that he could one day sit on the state's Supreme Court.

"As a law student, the idea of being a judge is so remote and not something I gave thought to," he says. "I knew I was interested in government and public service, but I had no expectation that I would run for office or be a judge. I just hoped I would pursue a fulfilling career, with no expectation of where that would lead."

With his new position, Garrett didn't come into the job with any specific goals. Rather, he hopes to learn and listen to his colleagues.

"Over time, I hope to make the best contribution I can make to the development of law and administration of justice in the state."

## Willamette Law enjoys historic moment as four current and former members of the Oregon Supreme Court teach on faculty

In addition to Justice Chris Garrett, a current member of the Oregon Supreme Court, Willamette Law has three other former members of the court teaching on its faculty. This is historic, says Dean Curtis Bridgeman, and creates a wonderful learning opportunity for law students.

### Hon. Paul J. De Muniz JD'75



Justice De Muniz was elected to the Oregon Supreme Court in 2000 and served as the court's chief justice and administrative head of the Oregon Judicial Department from January 2006 to May 2012. He teaches Oregon Criminal Procedure and Practice, as well as Judicial Opinion Writing.

### Hon. Jack L. Landau



Justice Landau joined the Oregon Supreme Court in January 2011, retiring in December 2017. Since 1993, he has been an adjunct professor at Willamette Law, where he teaches Legislation and Statutory Interpretation.

### Hon. Thomas Balmer



Justice Thomas Balmer joined the Oregon Supreme Court in 2001 and is its longest serving judge. He served as chief justice from May 2012 to June 2018

and will continue as an associate justice at least until his term is up in 2021. He began teaching Antitrust Law at Willamette for the first time this fall.

## Gilden dives into “Copyright’s Market Gibberish”



Professor Andrew Gilden’s latest scholarship, “Copyright’s Market Gibberish” will appear this fall in *The Washington Law Review*. The piece focuses on what he dubs “market gibberish” — where courts focusing on copyright law use economic rhetoric to protect non-economic interests, muddying the playing field for copyright cases.

For example, Gilden says there have been many cases of celebrities who want to

suppress intimate videos from being leaked online and use copyright law to defend themselves. Some courts say that because the celebrity has no desire to sell the video, distribution online won’t affect their financial interests, therefore the case is dismissed. Other courts say the celebrity might not currently have plans to sell the video, but could change their

mind. Because there is a demand for the video, the court allows the copyright case to move forward.

Gilden spent a little less than a year researching cases and writing the article. His interest in the subject piqued when he wrote an article last year for the *Harvard Journal of Law & Technology*, “Sex, Death, and Intellectual Property,” and noticed that IP law is increasingly being used to protect non-economic interests.

“My goal was to show that it’s important to not always take judicial opinions at face value and look at what’s motivating a lawsuit,” he says. “Judges and lawyers have a wide range of rhetoric that they can use to make a particular type of claim completely different.”

Gilden enjoys researching in the copyright space, using IP law to accomplish social goals that aren’t traditionally associated with IP. He says it’s important for law professors to engage in scholarship to fuel their own passions and get their students excited about the law.

His next article focuses on a comparison between IP and estate planning laws, looking at how different areas of law place post-mortem decision-making authority in separate entities. He teaches Copyright, Trusts and Estates, Property, and Internet and Social Media Law at Willamette.

## Appleman’s latest scholarship focuses on eugenics and mass incarceration

In December 2018, *Duke Law Journal* published Associate Dean of Faculty Research and Van Winkle Melton Professor of Law Laura Appleman’s latest scholarship, “Deviancy, Dependency, and Disability: The Forgotten History of Eugenics and Mass Incarceration.”

Appleman previously focused her research on the Sixth Amendment jury right and the continuing role of the community in criminal process. With this and other recent work, she explores various aspects of mass incarceration, criminal justice debt and structural inequality in the criminal justice system.

“My long-term focus on mass incarceration and conditions of confinement led me to explore how we have incarcerated a variety of citizens deemed ‘undesirable’ by society, especially those with mental and physical disabilities,” she explains.

Appleman took about a year to write this article, with a goal of illustrating how the U.S. historically and currently imprisons individuals with disabilities, “shaping our approach to people who we have viewed as unproductive,” she says.

Only with an exploration of this narrative will policymakers be able to understand, diagnose and solve the crisis of mass incarceration, she says in her abstract.



Appleman’s next piece, “The Captive Lab Rat: Human Medical Experimentation in the Carceral State,” addresses human medical experimentation on the poor and disenfranchised. It will be published in *Boston College Law Review* in winter 2019-20. She is also working on another article focusing on criminal justice debt resulting from alternative corrections.

“It is crucial for law professors to research and write in their areas of scholarship to deepen their understanding of their subjects, contribute to the furtherance of legal knowledge and hopefully help fix inequity in the legal system,” she says.





## Bridgeman named to Wendt Chair in Business Law, will step down as dean in 2020

Curtis Bridgeman, dean of Willamette University College of Law, was appointed to the Roderick and Carol Wendt Chair in Business Law in October 2018.

"In addition to being a talented leader, Curtis is an internationally-recognized scholar in the field of contracts and commercial law," Willamette University President Steve Thorsett says. "This appointment is an acknowledgement of his achievements as a scholar and professor and supports the continued success of the college's Business Lawyering Institute."

In the spring of 2019, Bridgeman announced he would be stepping down as dean after the 2019-2020 academic year to return to the faculty. A search for a new dean began this summer.

Prior to joining Willamette in July 2013, Bridgeman was the James and Margaret Elizabeth Hennessey Corry Professor of Law and associate dean for academic affairs at Florida State University School of Law. He has been an invited speaker at law schools around the world, has addressed the annual meeting of the American Bar Association's business law section, and served on the executive committee of the American Association of Law Schools' contracts section.

"It is a great honor to be named to the Wendt Chair," Bridgeman says. "Rod and Carol have been fantastic supporters of education at Willamette and have had a tremendous impact on our graduates over the years. Moreover, as an alumnus, Rod has been the kind of leader in the Northwest that we hope to help all of our graduates become."



Rod Wendt JD'80

The Roderick and Carol Wendt Chair in Business Law was established in 2003 with a \$2.5 million gift from **Rod Wendt JD'80** and his wife, Carol. Rod served as chief executive officer and president of JELD-WEN, Inc. from 1992 to 2011 and has been an officer of various JELD-WEN affiliates and subsidiaries, including Eagle Crest G.P. Inc., Running Y Resort, Inc., Windmill Inns of America, West One Automotive Group, Frank Paxton Company and Brooks Resources Corporation. He has been a Willamette University trustee since 2002.

The previous and only other holder of the chair was Peter Letsou, former professor of law and dean of the College of Law.

## Share your success

**Editorial Goal** The ultimate goal of our websites, e-newsletters and magazine is to share both general and specific information that supports and exemplifies the quality of legal education received at Willamette University College of Law.

**More to the Story** Editors of various college website news feeds and e-newsletters publish information at their discretion depending upon subject matter, space available and editorial goals for the given period of publication. There is no regular editorial schedule or calendar. The types of stories featured in publications may change from year to year based upon a balance of available information, trends or specific marketing/promotional goals of the law school and the university.

**Sharing Your News** We want to know about your professional successes. Submit an update about your career to [willamette.edu/law/alumni-update](mailto:willamette.edu/law/alumni-update) or email [law-alumni@willamette.edu](mailto:law-alumni@willamette.edu).

'68

**Dan Skerritt** published an article, "Why not Trials Instead of Depositions?," in the Winter 2019 ABA Litigation Journal. He is a partner at Tonkon Torp in Portland.

'69

**Edward Sullivan** co-authored, along with Willamette Law Professor Paul Diller, a housing article, "The Challenge of Housing Affordability in Oregon," which was published in 2018 in the *Journal of Affordable Housing and Community Development Law*. In 2018, he also received the Award of Merit from the Oregon State Bar Section on Real Estate and Land Use for lifetime contributions to the section.

'72

**William A. Barton** made the *Top 10: 2019 Oregon Super Lawyers* list in July 2019. He is a personal injury attorney for Barton Trial Attorneys, PC in Newport.

'76

**Washington Governor Jay Inslee** announced his bid as a Democratic candidate for President of the United States in March 2019, making combating climate change the focus of his campaign.

'78

**Vickie K. Norris** was appointed to Everett Community College's (Everett, Washington) Board of Trustees in June 2018.

'81

**T. Randall "Randy" Grove** estate planning and probate attorney at Landerholm, P.S. in Vancouver, was named to the *2018 Washington State Super Lawyers* list as one of the state's top attorneys.

'81

**Lindsey H. Hughes** was named to the *Top 25: 2019 Women Oregon Super Lawyers* list. She is an appellate attorney for Keating Jones Hughes, PC in Portland.

**Rich Vial** a former state representative, was appointed deputy secretary of state by Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno in April 2019.

'84

**Kerry Tymchuk** executive director of the Oregon Historical Society, helped open the new 7,000-square-foot "Experience Oregon" exhibit at OHS in Portland on Oregon's 160th birthday in February 2019. He was also named the 2018 Statesman of the Year by Oregon Business & Industry in July 2018.

## Costantino focuses on diversity, collaboration as 2019 bar president



While she was studying law, **Chris Costantino JD'01** couldn't have predicted where her life would be now. The 2019 president of the Oregon State Bar says she had no plans to become a family law attorney, run for a seat on the OSB Board of Governors or become OSB president, yet she has done all of that.

Costantino is a partner at the law firm of Samuels Yoelin Kantor, LLP in Portland. After graduating from Willamette Law in 2001, she planned to work in real estate and business litigation. A mentor encouraged her to try family law, and after working her first case, she never looked back. Family is important, and she enjoys being an advocate for those who need help, she says.

As a member of the OSB Board of Governors, she was chosen as this year's bar president in late 2018. Her focus is on pushing the OSB to be a leader in diversity, equity and inclusion, in addition to supporting and improving the bar's relationships with affinity and specialty bars.

Costantino has been involved with the OSB Family Law section, the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Law Association and Oregon Women Lawyers, in addition to affiliations with other professional groups. In her current role, she wants to bridge the gaps with local and affinity bars and build collaboration.

"As president, you have one year to devote your time to this important role, and it is flying by," she says. "I wish I had more time to do more."

Costantino has enjoyed meeting the many people who work to improve the practice of law and access to justice. It's also been exciting for her to meet many law students and learn about their goals and dreams.

Although she couldn't have predicted where she would be at this time in her life, she says it's inspiring to see the promise in young future lawyers. She encourages new lawyers to try to recognize opportunities, because they appear when least expected.

"The practice of law is incredibly rewarding, but it is also a lot of really hard work," she says. "Find that thing that energizes you, and make that part of your world, because you need both: balance and that thing that brings you joy."



**Julie R. Vacura** was named to the *Top 25: 2019 Women Oregon Super Lawyers* list. She is a business litigation attorney in Portland with Larkins Vacura Kayser LLP.

'85

**Kevin Clarkson** was appointed Alaska's attorney general in December 2018.

'86

**Jesse Barton** recently completed the sixth edition of the comprehensive practitioner's manual, "Felony Sentencing in Oregon: Guidelines, Statutes, Cases" — a publication of the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association.

**Daniel "Danny" Santos** received the Distinguished Alumni Citation from the Willamette University Alumni Association Board of Directors at Alumni Weekend 2018.

'88

**Jeffrey Rodefer** joined Holland & Hart in April 2018 in the firm's Environmental, Energy, and Natural Resources practice group in Nevada.

'90

**Hawaii State Rep. John Mizuno** was selected to participate on a subcommittee of The Council of State Governments' national Healthy States Task Force in May 2019. He will serve on the Capacity, Preparedness and Resiliency, or CPR, Subcommittee, examining case studies and reviewing recent state responses to health crises, including ways to prevent and/or reduce the impact of health crises through preventive care.

**Renée E. Rothauge** was named to the *Top 25: 2019 Women Oregon Super Lawyers* list. She is an intellectual property litigation attorney for Markowitz Herbold PC in Portland.

'91

**Todd Plimpton** was named the CEO of Eastern Plumas Health Care in Portola, California, in December 2018.

'94

**John Coletti** made the *Top 10: 2019 Oregon Super Lawyers* list. He is a personal injury attorney in Portland for Paulson Coletti Trial Attorneys PC.

**Scott Miller** was named executive director for the North Dakota Public Employees Retirement System (NDPERS) in May 2018.

'95

**Tara Schleicher** joined the firm Garvey Schubert Barer in Portland in January 2019. Schleicher is a part of GSB's Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights and Litigation Practice Groups, where she focuses on assisting clients in bankruptcy proceedings, commercial insolvencies and business disputes.

**Elizabeth Sloan** was promoted to assistant vice president of Special Markets Operations for The Standard. In this role, Sloan oversees administration of reinsured group insurance business serving more than 10,000 employer clients. She is also responsible for operational compliance and is the company's paid family and medical leave business product sponsor.

'96

**Dina E. Alexander** was named to the *Top 25: 2019 Women Oregon Super Lawyers* list. She is a real estate attorney with Radler White Parks & Alexander LLP in Portland.

**Michael Swanson** was named the new Klamath Falls city attorney in September 2018. Swanson spent 20 years as a deputy district attorney for the Klamath County District Attorney's Office before being named to his new position.

'97

**Robert Koury** joined Miller Nash Graham & Dunn in January 2019. His practice focuses on real estate, including acquisition, permitting, construction, leasing, financing, refinancing and the restructuring of loans. He has more than 20 years of experience with real estate and construction law, as well as experience with contract transactions and banking and finance work.

'98

**Judge Élan Consuella Lambert** had an article, "In Lieu of Fines" published in the *Official Journal for the California Judges Association* (CJA). Lambert is a Judge Pro Tem in San Francisco Juvenile Traffic Court who gives out "homework assignments" rather than fines to juvenile offenders.

**Karl Weiss** was named managing principal for 2019 by Seattle law firm Lasher Holzapfel Sperry & Ebberson PLLC. Weiss has received *Washington Super Lawyer/Rising Star* peer recognition for business/corporate law for the period 2008-2018.

'99

**Paige Clarkson** was appointed by Governor Kate Brown to be the new Marion County district attorney effective October 2018. Clarkson started working with the Marion County District Attorney's Office as a law clerk in 1997. She is the second female Marion County district attorney; Hattie Bratzel was the first in 1956.

**Bryan Pocock** was named chief operating officer of Buy Box Experts, an Amazon marketing agency and seller consultant, in June 2019. He will augment Buy Box's Amazon marketing services in the areas of operations management, accounting, finance, strategic business development, corporate governance and more.

'00

**Bradley J. Dixon** joined the board of directors at Liht Cannabis Corp. (formerly known as Marapharm) in Canada in July 2018. Dixon is an attorney based in Boise, Idaho, and a partner with Givens Pursley LLP.

**Pat Egan** was named the CEO of See's Candies in November 2018 after working at a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. utility, NV Energy. He is only the third CEO since Berkshire acquired See's more than 40 years ago.

**Gregory R. Fox**, chair of Lane Powell's Creditors' Rights and Bankruptcy Team, was elected into the American Law Institute (ALI), considered one of the nation's preeminent legal organizations. ALI's elected membership of lawyers, judges and law professors bring their diverse experience to the organization's work of clarifying the law through restatements, analysis and formulation of legal principles.

'01

**Crystal Miller-O'Brien** was appointed by the California

Legislature to the new Work Conduct Unit as one of five independent attorneys who serve on its advisory panel of employment law experts. The appointment was made in January 2019.

**Ryan Hammond** was appointed office managing shareholder of the Seattle office of Littler, the world's largest employment and labor law practice representing management, in May 2019.

**Sung Yang** started a new position as associate general counsel and vice president, commercial and risk management, at Zume Inc. in April 2019.

'03

**Kristin Bremer Moore** joined the Board of Directors of Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest, a nonprofit that encourages girls to take risks and master physical, intellectual and emotional challenges. Bremer Moore joined in May 2018.

'04

**Michael Halliday** joined the Phoenix and Mesa offices of Morris Hall, PLLC in Arizona in July 2018. Halliday works in estate planning.

**Alex Sutton** started Four Point Legal with three other Portland attorneys in January 2019. He focuses his practice on family law.

'06

**Nick Kampars** became the president of the Multnomah Bar Association in January 2019. He is a partner at Davis Wright Tremaine specializing in trial work in product liability, trade secrets misappropriation, breach of contract and fiduciary duties, as well as employment law. Over the years, he has developed a specialty in representing food companies in outbreak and contamination cases around the country.

**Noelle Kompkoff** became a part of the legal team at Calista Corp in Anchorage, Alaska, in August 2018. She joined as associate counsel with more than 10 years of experience in Alaska Native law and corporate law.

**Rachel Rogers** was sworn into the Evergreen School Board of Directors in Vancouver, Washington, in March 2019. The appointment of Rogers as a board member goes through the

remainder of 2019. The position will be up for election for a four-year term in November.

'07

**Darin Dooley** was elected chair of the Oregon State Bar Elder Law section executive committee for 2019. He also founded a solo practice, Dooley Law LLC, in March 2019, focusing on elder law and estate planning law.

**Naomi Haslitt** was named to the 2019 *Oregon Super Lawyers Rising Stars* list. She is a partner at Miller Nash Graham & Dunn in Portland on the firm's education and employment law and labor relations practice teams.

'08

**Paige De Muniz** started Four Point Legal with three other Portland attorneys in January 2019. She focuses on family law.

**Sarah Hunt** was named CEO of the Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy, a post-partisan, public policy research organization building sustainable politics through inclusive governance, in June 2018. She previously was director of the Center for Innovation and Technology at the American Legislative Exchange Council.

**Shannon Snow** was named a shareholder of the law firm of Saucy & Saucy in Salem, Oregon, in July 2019. With that, the name of the firm changed to Saucy & Snow, Attorneys at Law. The other members of the firm are **Paul Saucy '75, JD'79** and **Lauren Saucy JD'03**.

'10

**Ashley Hartmeier-Prigg** was elected in May 2019 to represent residents of Beaverton and unincorporated Washington County as a director for Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. When not advocating for THPRD, she works as a business operations manager for Nike.

**Katelyn Skinner** was elected by the Board of Directors of Buckley Law P.C. in Lake Oswego, Oregon, as a new shareholder, effective January 2019. Skinner works in complex family law matters, including divorce, custody disputes, modification issues, international disputes, and restraining and protective orders.

## Law graduate founds sports technology company



Willamette Law graduate **AJ Alley JD'13**'s days begin early, like those of many lawyers. But he isn't an attorney.

Alley's interests in sports and technology have led to a career and his own business focused on an innovative solution for triathletes – a well-made, yet inexpensive, bicycle for beginners. He first became interested in triathlons while studying for the bar exam after law school. Training for the competitions allowed him to “blow off steam,” he says.

But when he first began looking into the races, he encountered an overwhelming obstacle, especially as a new graduate from law school. The average price for a beginner triathlete's bike was around \$2,200-\$2,500. He thought that was too expensive, and he also thought they didn't need to cost that much. With online and direct-to-consumer sales becoming more and more common, he knew he could bring the cost down by using those sales methods and by building a different bike.

Alley called bike shops and reached out to manufacturers. He even visited Taiwan, where most of the world's bicycles are made, coming up with the design for his original carbon fiber Speed Phreak bicycle and founding his business, A-Squared Bikes, not long after, in 2017.

Alley's new bicycle starts at \$1,899. A-Squared offers a program allowing customers to purchase a bike, use and pay for it over 18 months, then trade it in for a brand-new bike with a new 18-month contract. Customers can also choose to continue paying off the original, keeping it after 24 months.

The business and the bike took off. *Triathlete Magazine*, with a readership of more than 80,000 people, has featured the Speed Phreak more than once, naming it the Entry Level Buyer's Guide Bike of the Year in 2019. *LAVA Magazine*, a periodical for those interested in Ironman and other extreme triathlon competitions, also wrote about the bike.

Alley says A-Squared is still a young company, but he'd like to continue to build on its successes.

“It's not as much selling more bikes as it is enabling more triathletes,” he says. “I didn't get into this to sell bikes or make money. I want to grow the sport and get more people into it, enjoying something that gives me so much stress relief.”

In addition to his work with A-Squared, Alley also runs the administrative side of velofix, a mobile bike repair business. When customers' bikes need service, velofix sends a van out to them, completing the repairs in much less time than bringing the bike to a shop. Alley focuses on the company's three Oregon territories and says he's lucky to work for two businesses whose focus aligns so well with his hobby.

As for his law degree, Alley says he still applies his legal training to his work, despite not working as an attorney.

“Law school teaches you a way to think critically. You approach problems very differently,” he says. “The lessons I learned in the classroom, through Moot Court and interacting with really high caliber individuals, have shaped my outlook and work ethic within the company.”



'11

**Kara Cogswell** joined Sather, Byerly & Holloway, LLP in Portland as an associate in April 2018. She represents self-insured and state fund employers in Washington workers' compensation cases. She previously worked for the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries as an administrative prosecutor.

**Scott Pugrud** was appointed director of the Governor's Office of Species and Conservation in Idaho in January 2019. Pugrud had served as deputy administrator and legal counselor for the Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources.

'12

**Jennilyn Aston** was elected a partner of Karnopp Petersen LLP in Bend, Oregon, in February 2019. Aston joined the firm in 2015 and serves as chair of the Business Department.

**Stephanie Palmblad '09** became a partner at Collier Law in Salem, Oregon, in January 2018. She focuses on estate planning, guardianship and conservatorship proceedings, and probate and trust settlement.

'13

**James Kunimura** was elected to the Board of Directors of the nonprofit Ku'ikahi Mediation Center in Hilo, Hawaii, in August 2018.

**Zachary Stern** was named a partner of the firm Ferder Casebeer French & Thompson LLP in Salem, Oregon. He continues to represent individuals in state and federal prosecutions, on appeal and in related administrative hearings.

'14

**Emily Crocker and Hank Stebbins** were married on June 29, 2019, in Bend, Oregon. The couple met as students at Willamette Law. Crocker practices at the Gatti Law Firm, and Stebbins practices at Garrett Hemann Robertson, both in Salem, Oregon.

**Erin Pascual** joined Heltzel Williams PC in February 2018 as a new associate. She focuses on will and trust drafting, probate, trust administration and charitable planning.

**Joshua Savey** joined the Washington, DC office of the multinational law firm, Shearman & Sterling LLP, as an associate in its tax group.

'15

**Arash Afshar** joined Buckley Law P.C. in Lake Oswego, Oregon, as an associate with the Business Law group in April 2019. He focuses his practice on helping individuals and closely-held companies achieve their goals and protect their business interests.

**Natalya Belonozhko** joined Horenstein Law Group PLLC in Vancouver, Washington, in January 2019. Belonozhko is especially interested in working with emerging and women-owned businesses.

**Marcus Gipson** joined the Madras, Oregon, law practice of Glenn, Reeder and Gassner in January 2019. He specializes in personal injury, criminal and family law.

**Jonathan Grindell** joined Veterans for Guardianship and Probate Reform S.P.C. and Marathon Public Justice S.P.C. as general counsel.

'16

**Nina Nolen** received the New Practitioner Advocacy Award from the Oregon State Bar Juvenile Law Section in January 2019. This award recognizes outstanding and enthusiastic juvenile law practitioners in their first five years of practice.

**Shangar Meman** joined Pickett Dummigan McCall LLP in Portland in April 2019.

'17

**Eric Robertson** joined Miller Nash Graham & Dunn as a benefits attorney in April 2019. He focuses his practice on assisting both public and private employers in navigating plan administration issues related to qualified plans, multiemployer plans, and health and welfare plans.

**Hannah Warner** joined Saalfeld Griggs PC in Salem, Oregon, in March 2019. She focuses her practice on real estate and land use.

**Sydney Wells** passed the Nevada bar exam in May 2019. She recently started a new position as a deputy district attorney for the Criminal Division in Carson City.

## Willamette Law names 2019 Mentor of the Year

When **Jason LeBlanc JD'19** chose to pursue law school, the decision was a big one — he was the first in his family to do so, moving far from home in Colorado.

But after he was paired with mentor **Rebecca Kueny JD'13**, he

was "amazed by her unconditional support of students and future lawyers," he says in his Mentor of the Year nomination letter. Law school can be a harsh environment sometimes, he says, but Kueny encouraged him to keep going.



"Whether it was answering my late-night phone calls or helping me in my summer work, Rebecca acted above and beyond the call of duty," he explains.

At a reception April 4, Willamette Law named Kueny Mentor of the Year. The award is named after late Oregon Supreme Court Justice Edward H. Howell, who became active in the college's student mentoring program after he retired.

Willamette Law also honored two other mentors with the Hon. Mary Mertens James Award — Salem attorney and last year's Mentor of the Year **Nani Apo JD'13** and **Allison Boomer JD'09**, a magistrate judge for the Oregon Tax Court. The award is given only to five-time nominees for Mentor of the Year.

Kueny, who specializes in elder law at her own law firm in Salem, says the recognition is meaningful because she doesn't always know how she affects people. But she remembers every person who changed her career trajectory.

"I know the person who rooted for me when I was taking the LSAT to get into law school, and I know the many people who gave me guidance about what classes to take and what to do with my summers," she says. "There's no way I would be here without those people, and I am glad that I was there for the people I've mentored. My biggest hope is that everyone else in law school does the same for their community."

LeBlanc says he feels incredibly fortunate to have been one of Kueny's mentees.

"Recommending (her) for Mentor of the Year is but only a start in thanking her for her time and support," he says. "I hope to honor Rebecca in striving to become a strong mentor myself someday."

## Willamette Law alumni honored with OSB awards



The Oregon State Bar (OSB) recognized three Willamette Law alumni at its annual awards luncheon on November 7, 2018. The bar honored judges and lawyers for their contributions to their communities and the legal profession.

**Judge Beth A. Allen JD'96** received the President's Membership Service Award, which honors attorneys for contributions made to the profession. Allen has served

on the bench of Multnomah County Circuit Court since February 2013 and sits on the Family Law Bench. She is a past board member of numerous organizations, such as Oregon Women Lawyers, the National LGBT Bar and the Oregon LGBT Bar. She is currently on the Diversity Executive Committee of the Oregon State Bar.

**Ryan W. Collier JD'97** and **Stephanie M. Palmblad '09, JD'12**



were awarded the President's Special Award of Appreciation. This award is presented to people who have made recent outstanding contributions to the bar, the bench and/or the community.

Collier is an estate planning and probate attorney in Salem, Oregon. He is also an avid volunteer and supporter of the Salem community and serves as the board chair

for the Salem Foundation, a charitable foundation that makes grants to area nonprofits.

Palmblad practices estate planning and probate law in Salem and became a partner at Collier Law in January 2018. She volunteers with Family Building Blocks, an organization that partners with families who are facing multiple stressors while raising young children in Marion and Polk Counties.

## Online Calendar

**Stay up-to-date** on all of the latest Willamette Law happenings from receptions to reunions to symposiums and more. Find our online event calendar at

[willamette.edu/law/events](http://willamette.edu/law/events)

**Regional alumni events** are regularly held in cities such as Salem, Portland, Bend, Seattle, Olympia, Tacoma, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Reno, Honolulu and Anchorage. Visit the online alumni calendar for details at

[willamette.edu/law/alumni/events](http://willamette.edu/law/alumni/events)

'18

**Alexander Bluestone** joined Parsons Farnell & Grein as a new associate in November 2018. His practice focuses on policyholder insurance recovery.

**Grant Elder** joined Foster Denman as an associate in January 2019. His focus is general civil litigation, real estate transactions and land use planning.

**Nathaniel Levy** joined Miller Nash Graham & Dunn LLP's real estate and land use team in Portland as an associate in October 2018.

**Sarah Holmes** joined the litigation group at Saalfeld Griggs as an associate in November 2018.

**Jackie Sandmeyer** founded TIX Education Specialists in Portland to offer schools guidance and training on not only what is compliant with Title IX, but what is known to be best practice and trauma-informed.

'19

**Andy Blevins JD/MBA** was appointed the executive director of OutServe-SLDN effective December 2018. Blevins started with the organization as a founding chapter leader in OutServe and client of SLDN. In May 2019, OutServe-SLDN announced it was merging with the American Military Partner Association to become the Modern Military Association of America. Blevins was named executive director of the newly formed organization, which is dedicated to education, advocacy and support for LGBTQ service members, military spouses, veterans, family members and allies.

## In Memoriam

'58

**George Lowell Wagner '51, JD'58**, 89, passed away June 15, 2018, after a prolonged illness. He earned his BA and JD from Willamette University and Willamette Law. During his career, he was a partner at Lane, Powell, Spears, Lubersky, as well as a trial lawyer with Koener Young. One of his most well-known cases dealt with the Oregon Bottle Bill. Wagner enjoyed playing the piano until the end of his life. He also loved traveling, summer camping trips with family and

staying at the beach. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Pat, as well as four sons, one daughter, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

'76

**Mark Scott Deming JD'76** passed away January 25, 2019, in Mesa, Arizona. Deming served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Following his honorable discharge in 1967, he remained in the Naval Air Reserves until February 1974. In that time, he graduated from the University of Washington in 1972, followed by graduation from Willamette Law in 1976. During his legal career, he served as a Pierce County (Washington) District Court judge and practiced law for 39 years. He offered legal service to those in need for little-to-no cost. He enjoyed riding motorcycles, sailing his boat and his canine companions. He lived life to the fullest and made friends everywhere he went. He will be missed.

**Kelly Juliann Barrios JD'86**

passed away March 31, 2019, after experiencing serious health issues. With a father in the Air Force, Barrios was a native Oregonian who moved around the U.S. and abroad several times. When her father retired, her family made their home once again in Oregon, settling in Albany. Barrios attended Linn-Benton Community College and the University of Oregon before graduating with her JD from Willamette Law in 1986. She was a people person who loved family, reading, researching, cooking and helping others help themselves. Her loving smile, mixed with mischievousness, met no stranger and was always there to lend a helping hand. Though she suffered as an adult with serious medical problems, she always seemed to recover and come back fighting. She taught evening law classes at Linn-Benton Community College and Oregon State University for many years, also spending many in banking. She is survived by her parents, three siblings and 12 nieces and nephews.

'87

**Rod Douglas Peters '83, JD'87** passed away April 28, 2019, in Yakima, Washington. He was 58 years old. Rod was born in Seattle and graduated from Willamette University and Willamette Law.



## Order in the Court

This section includes some Willamette Law graduates recently appointed to, elected to or retired from judicial positions, although it is not a comprehensive list. Many Willamette Law alumni serve or have served in judicial positions across the country.



Connell



Murphy



Ludington



Kittson-MaQatish



Meyer



Guptill



Stephens



Flannery



Shimozone



Rothrock



Cruser

### Oregon

**Judge David Connell JD'74** retired after a 44-year career in the law, the last 14 as a judge of the Benton County Circuit Court in Oregon.

Linn County Circuit Court **Judge Daniel Murphy JD'80** retired in January 2019 after nearly 24 years on the bench.

**Monte Ludington JD'04** was appointed judge of the Municipal Court in Pendleton, Oregon, in April 2019. He deals with cases such as ordinance and traffic violations and some misdemeanors. He also works as an attorney with O'Hanlon Law Office.

**Rachel Kittson-MaQatish JD'05** was sworn into the Linn County Circuit Court as judge in January 2019. Kittson-MaQatish rose above four other contenders for the position, ultimately defeating Teri Plagmann, an Albany attorney, in November.

Governor Kate Brown appointed **Jessica K. Meyer JD'05** to the Linn County Justice Court in December 2018. Meyer previously was an attorney in private practice and appeared regularly in state and municipal courts. She also served as a judge pro tempore on both the Linn County Justice Court and the Albany Municipal Court.

Governor Kate Brown appointed **Rebecca Guptill JD'05** to the Washington County Circuit Court in February 2019. Her appointment was effective immediately. She filled a vacancy created by Judge Kirsten E. Thompson's retirement.

### Alaska

**Superior Court Judge Trevor N. Stephens '81 JD'85** received another one-year term as presiding judge of the First Judicial District of Alaska in December 2018. He was first appointed to the position in 2000. Presiding judge appointments are for a one-year term, with incumbents eligible for reappointment. They are appointed by the chief justice of the Alaska Supreme Court.

### Massachusetts

In fall 2018, the Governor's Council of Massachusetts unanimously approved the nomination of **Francis "Frank" Flannery JD'94** to serve on the Massachusetts Superior Court.

### Hawaii

**Kenneth J. Shimozone JD'94** was appointed to the District Family Court of the First Circuit in Honolulu in June 2018.

### Washington

**Averil Budge Rothrock JD'94** was appointed to the King County Superior Court by **Washington Governor Jay Inslee JD'76**. She assumed her duties as superior court judge in October 2018. She spent the previous 25 years working in a complex civil litigation practice at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Seattle.

**Judge Anne Cruser JD'97** joined the Washington State Court of Appeals in March 2019 after serving just 18 months as a Cowlitz County Superior Court judge. She was appointed by **Washington Governor Jay Inslee JD'76**.

While in law school, he met his wife, whom he was married to for nine years. He practiced law in Oregon and was an avid volunteer and advocate for parks. He loved family trips and adventures, traveling to numerous states and national parks. He also enjoyed sports and discussing any game, especially baseball. He had an incredible gift for remembering people, events, facts and music. He is survived by his family who loved him deeply, including his parents, three siblings, several nieces and a nephew, and other extended family members.

'92

**Matthew Cole Daily JD'92**, 51, passed away September 6, 2018. He studied political science and history at Western Oregon State College. After graduating, he commissioned as a second lieutenant and served in the Army Reserve until honorably discharged in 1993. He graduated in the top five of his class at Willamette Law, where he was the editor of the Willamette Law Review. For more than 20 years, he practiced civil law. He cared deeply about helping people who were suffering. He will be remembered as someone who genuinely loved people from all walks of life. Daily is survived by his wife, Kimberly, two sons, one daughter, his parents and sister.

'04

**Dennis Koho JD'04**, 67, died June 10, 2019, at his home from complications of congestive heart failure. Koho was a former mayor and city councilmember of Keizer who played a big role in bringing professional baseball back to Salem-Keizer. He served on many boards of directors and was involved with the Boy Scouts for many years. His lifelong dream was to become an attorney, which he did in 2004. During his first year of law school, he turned 50. After graduating, he mentored many future attorneys and generously provided pro bono services. Koho will be remembered for his dedication to public service and passion for baseball. He is survived by his wife, Lori, brother, Scott, sister, Karyl, two children, Dara and Dax, and five grandchildren.

## From students to engaged alumni



Fellow students in their class at Willamette Law used to affectionately refer to them as “Blucy.” Alumni **Ben JD’12** and **Lucy Jensen JD/MBA’13** credit their education at Willamette as the driving factor behind their career success so soon after graduating from law school.

The couple, who met and began dating during their 1L year, focused on mak-

ing school their full-time job while they studied. Just a few years later, they live and work in the Salt Lake City area in careers that were their inspiration.

As a student, Ben’s goal was to work in water law. He now works in the Utah Attorney General’s Office as an assistant attorney general in the Natural Resources section.

“I really enjoy it,” he says. “I have unique experience. I used to work for my client agency, and that was my reason for going to law school.

Now I’m the lawyer for the agency I used to work for. Colleagues say I understand things from both sides.”

Lucy is legal counsel at Adobe, specializing in corporate governance and securities. She likes how the job is rule-driven and interesting, with a high-level perspective on strategies. When she isn’t working, she volunteers as a member of the Willamette Law Leadership Cabinet and was recently made a trustee of the university. She and Ben say it’s important to give back to the school that enabled them to get, and now keep, their jobs.

“We both feel that we were so fortunate to be welcomed to Willamette and to receive scholarships that allowed us to pursue our ambitions,” Lucy explains. “The least we can do is pay it forward and help the institution attract and retain the right students for the school who will succeed there.”

The Jensens give back in other ways, as well, attending prospective student dinners in the Salt Lake City area and talking with them about the opportunities available with a legal education. Lucy says she found her current position at Adobe through a Willamette alumnus with whom the school connected her following graduation.

“That was profoundly impactful on me,” she says, “and a good reminder of the strength of the alumni network. We have lots to be grateful for.”

## Over a decade of support for Alaskan law students

In 2008, **Mary K. Hughes JD’74** and her spouse, Andrew Eker, established the Alaska Law Scholars Fund with an initial gift of \$100,000. Since then, more than a dozen law students from Alaska have benefited with scholarships from the fund.

**Mark Hansen JD’21** received the scholarship last year as a 1L. Although he had his choice in bigger schools, he chose to attend Willamette Law because of the emphasis on real-world experience and small class sizes. With the scholarship, he feels more financially stable and excited to start his 2L year.

“Law school is a huge financial investment, and being picked for an award — and one just for Alaskan students, at that — buttresses that investment and makes me feel more secure in my decision,” Hansen says. “It was a long road to law school from Alaska, and knowing that I was selected for an

award makes the trip, the first year of law school and all the work I put into it worth it.”

Hughes followed in her father’s footsteps when she chose to become a lawyer and is passionate about making a difference for Alaskans like Hansen. She and Eker chose to make the Alaska Law Scholars Fund a priority, because “there is no better investment than education,” she says.

Giving to Alaskan students at Willamette Law was “meant to be,” she says. Devoted to her beloved homeland, she explains there are family-like connections among all who reside in the unique state.

“We all have this basic, elementary understanding of why you are an Alaskan,” she says. “Everyone intrinsically believes in the concept of extending yourself to and for each other.”

Hughes says all of the scholarship recipients have been outstanding and, of course, worthwhile investments. Her own education at Willamette Law was excellent, she remembers. She and Eker are pleased to help Alaskan students with the scholarship, in addition to being accessible to them in other ways.

Every fall, Hughes hosts a dinner in Salem for Alaskan students. Additionally, she reaches out, in coordination with Willamette Law Admissions, to each Alaskan student admitted and makes herself available to assist them during the admission process, law school and job search.

“Everybody struggles in his or her own way, and the legal profession provides a life’s pathway to assist others,” Hughes says. “Each recipient appreciates the effort.”





# Scene of the Crime



## Willamette Law Class of 1969 Reunion

June 2019



Willamette Law alumni enjoyed their Law Class of 1969's 50th reunion at Alumni Reunion Weekend in June 2019.



[1] Dale Hermann '65, JD'69, Henry Hewitt JD'69 and Larry Derr JD'69 talked at the Law Class of 1969's 50th Reunion reception at Alumni Reunion Weekend in June 2019.

[2] In June 2019, Dean Curtis Bridgeman and Henry Hewitt JD'69 caught up at the Law Class of 1969's 50th Reunion reception.

[3] The Class of 1969 had a great time chatting about their Willamette Law experience and learning what the school is up to now.







### Oregon Food Bank

March 2019

[1] Dean Curtis Bridgeman and Jim Averill '70, JD'73 participated in the PLAN Global Day of Service event at the Oregon Food Bank.

[2] Several Willamette Law alumni and staff members participated in the PLAN Global Day of Service event at the Oregon Food Bank in March 2019. Pictured are Doug Goe JD '81, Allison Weston, director of development, Scott Rennie JD'14, Dean Curtis Bridgeman and Bradley Thayer JD'15.



► Dean Curtis Bridgeman and Marty Wolf '57, LLB'60 pose at the FORE Willamette golf tournament held at Illahe Hills Country Club in Salem on June 10, 2019.



▲ Dean Curtis Bridgeman visited alumni in Yakima, Washington, in early June 2019. From left to right: Bryan Evenson JD'74, Ralph Thompson JD'74, Jim Berg JD'77, Dan Fessler JD'75 and Ken Marble JD'74.

### Willamette Law Spring Open House

April 13, 2019

[1] The Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center was decked out in Willamette cardinal and gold for the Spring Open House.

[2] Mark Hoyt JD'92, the chair of the Law Leadership Cabinet, taught two breakout sessions on business law during the Spring Open House.





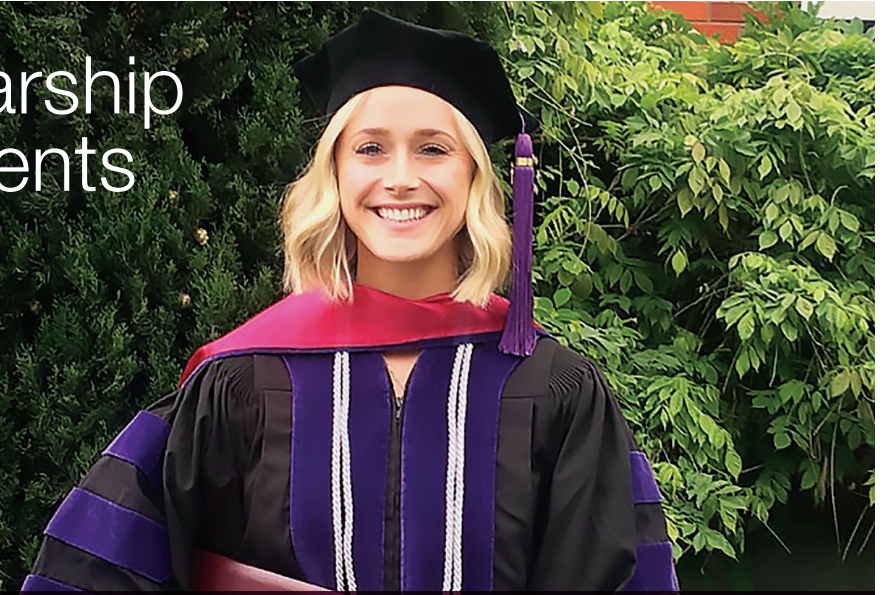


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# Wolf's scholarship pushes students toward their dreams



Nearly 60 years after graduating, **Marty Wolf '57, LLB'60** still feels a connection to his alma mater. That's why in 2017, he made a \$3 million estate gift to Willamette Law to support students.

Although he worked outside the field of law, he credits much of his business success to his legal background, and he wanted to give back.

"The education and discipline it gave me during those three years were two major factors in becoming somewhat successful in other endeavors," Wolf says. "I do not wish to let a lack of funds stand in the way of a deserving student, and so if I can help to bridge that 'lack of funds' gap, it is my pleasure to do so."

**Victoria Gray '14, JD'19** was the first recipient of the Martin R. Wolf

Scholarship. She graduated in May 2019 with a job lined up at Garrett Hemann Robertson for the fall.

"Marty Wolf's scholarship provided me with the financial peace of mind that I needed to truly focus on my studies," Gray says. "Because of Marty's ongoing involvement and presence at Willamette, I felt uniquely supported in my law school endeavors."

Wolf especially enjoyed meeting Gray during the past year.

"Our meeting reassured me that she was deserving of the scholarship," Wolf says. "She is a delightful person!"

Wolf also supports Willamette as a member of the Law Leadership Cabinet and volunteer on the R.A. Booth Committee. Already a member of the R.A. Booth Society, the university's legacy giving society, he is the perfect representative to help spread the word about including Willamette in estate plans.

"I hope that my gift giving (as well as that of many others) encourages alumni to put Willamette Law in their giving plans," Wolf says. "The reputation today of Willamette Law is also their reputation — all of us who can should be proud to support an institution who has given us so much."

For more information about leaving a gift to the College of Law through your will or trust, contact Cathy McCann Gaskin JD'02 in the Office of Gift Planning at 503-370-6492 or [cmccann@willamette.edu](mailto:cmccann@willamette.edu).