

The magazine of the first law school in the Pacific Northwest | Fall 2020

# WILLAMETTE LAWYER



Brian Gallini Joins  
Willamette Law  
as 22<sup>ND</sup> Dean



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## FALL 2020



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Willamette Law as  
22<sup>ND</sup> dean

New dean keeps his ear to the  
ground and focus on the students

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# Dean's Message



F. Miller Photography

Dear Willamette Community,

I am thrilled to join you as the next dean of Willamette University College of Law. As I make this transition, I do so with tremendous thanks to — and admiration for — outgoing Dean Curtis Bridgeman, who, for the past seven years, has served this community with energy and enthusiasm. I hasten to add my thanks to Norman Williams, who served as associate dean for academic affairs, also for the past seven years. Thanks to their leadership, our institution is stronger in several key areas, including curriculum, bar passage and employment.

For my part, and as I hope you will come to learn about me, I join you as a servant-leader; that is, someone who is focused on the development of a

community of leaders across all of the college's stakeholders. Whether we're talking about students, staff, faculty, alumni or university partners, my focus is the same: to help the institution become the best possible institution it can be, centered around helping people.

As I reflect on recent events, that value — service — is arguably more important now than ever. In addition to the extreme stresses of this unprecedented pandemic, our state and nation are reeling from the senseless and outrageous killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade and Rayshard Brooks — to name but a few who are the most recent victims of ingrained racism and violence toward people of color in our country. Those killings have prompted a massive ongoing effort to force a reckoning with the reality of structural racism in America. Those events highlight for us the importance of educating this next generation of problem-solving lawyers in a nimble manner, but one that is focused on both expanding and enhancing access to justice.

I am not alone in addressing the opportunities presented by this moment. I am joined in the Dean's Suite by an extraordinary team, all of whom are poised to prioritize institutional and community growth:

- Jeffrey Dobbins, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
- Laura Appleman, Associate Dean for Faculty
- Melodye Mac Alpine, Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Administration
- Phylis Myles, Assistant Dean for Placement
- Leah Straley, Assistant Dean of Recruitment
- Ashley Stovin, Executive Assistant to the Dean

Of course, a dean's team does not operate without significant support. And, indeed, the Dean's Suite is surrounded by an unusually talented and dedicated group of faculty, staff and students. I am energized by our collective strengths as a community alongside our alumni support, and I look forward to navigating both the knowns and unknowns of this new chapter together.

In thanks,

Brian Gallini  
College of Law Dean

“My focus is to help the institution become the best it can be, centered around helping people.”



## Class of 2023

After an eventful spring, we excitedly welcomed the class of 2023 to Willamette Law in the fall. Many preparations went into ensuring the health and safety of our students, faculty and staff on campus and at home. Our incoming class members came from varied occupations, including a salt water taffy maker, a vocal and musical actor from South Korea, two radio DJs, a yoga instructor and a filmmaker.

We have at least five guitar players, two piano players, two drummers, one ukelele player and one saxophone player. You may soon be hearing about a Willamette Law band!

The top undergraduate schools included the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Western Oregon University and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Class Size

**127**

Students

**152**

Median  
LSAT

Gender

**53**

% Male

**46**

% Female

**1**

% Non-Binary

**47%**

Oregon  
Residents

**33%**

Students  
of Color

States  
Represented

**23**

GPA

**3.08**

Median

**27**

Average  
Age

Majors  
Represented

**34**

Schools  
Represented

**71**

25th Percentile

**2.86**

75th Percentile

**3.30**





F. Miller Photography



Left: Nolan Hill JD'21 and Ambi Howell JD'20 worked for the Marion County District Attorney's office to gain real-world experience as law students. Right: Theresa L. "Terry" Wright JD'81.

Most weekdays, a select few Willamette Law students walk across the street to the Marion County District Attorney's office to serve as externs. They begin as second-year DUII (Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants) clerks, learning how the office works, doing legal research, writing and responding to memos, observing court and helping the deputy district attorneys.

Willamette Law has been sending students to the MCDA for as long as the two have existed together, says **Theresa L. "Terry" Wright JD'81**, Willamette Law director of externships. When they graduate with their law degree, she knows they're ready to hit the ground running.

**Ambi Howell JD'20** worked for the MCDA for about two years after her attorney mentor, **Jenny Brown JD'08**, recommended she go to an information session during her first year as a law student.

"I just loved the attorneys who were up there talking about what they did," Howell recalls. "They seemed passionate about their work and seemed like a good group of people to work with."

Despite telling her family she didn't plan to go into criminal

# JDs to DAs

## Marion County District Attorney's office provides experiential learning





law, after her time at the MCDA, Howell now knows that's the direction she's headed. Working at the DA's office made her studies more relevant, she says, and helped bring to light what she was learning in her classes and textbooks.

It forced her to learn invaluable time management and organizational skills while showing her the ins and outs of a deputy DA's job. As a 3L certified law clerk for the Child Abuse and Sex Crimes team, Howell worked nearly full time, balancing a caseload of more than 100 cases and the externship and bar prep classes at school.

"I did six jury trials and three bench trials during my time at Marion County. They have your mentor sit with you during your first trial, then you are on your own," Howell explains. "You get a lot of in-court experience, a lot of great trial experience.

It's a really great networking opportunity to make your face known and your reputation known, even amongst the judges."

Part of the reason **Nolan Hill JD'21** came to Willamette Law as a student was to eventually work for the MCDA. He knew about the office because his father clerked there, and its location across the street from the law school was ideal.

"They have a reputation for developing clerks as far as professionalism goes and providing real, practical experience, such as getting into the courtroom," he says. "I didn't learn this until I started working there, but they also appeal to me because they have specialty courts for defendants to pursue alternate routes (to jail time) and get them into different situations."

Hill worked as a DULL clerk during the 2019-20 school year, until the office had to let clerks and externs go due to the COVID-19 pandemic. After his first year there, he felt he was miles ahead in learning how to be a practical lawyer and do the job of a prosecutor.

Ultimately, Hill wants to focus on sex crimes and child abuse. When clerks and externs return to the office after the virus

crisis, he'll work on that team for the next year.

"I know I want to prosecute sex crimes and child abuse," he says. "It's heavy stuff, but I'll probably want to do it for the rest of my life."

Howell, who graduated in May, applied to work for several DA offices around Portland and Salem. Originally from a small town on the Washington coast, she wants to stay where she built a community. Marion County had no job openings in the spring, but if they had, she would have applied there, too.

It's a competitive process, but she knows she is trained well to be a deputy DA. For students looking for an understanding of litigation and the courtroom, they receive exposure that they might not while working for a private firm, she says.

"The experience that you get there is incredible," Howell says. "You're going to see real court experience, you're going to get real feedback from judges, and you're going to get to really dig your hands into litigation as the work."

Partnering with the MCDA is a win-win situation for both Willamette and the DA, Wright says. Students learn more about the field they want to go into, and the office has convenient access to a new generation of lawyers just across the street.

"The DAs' offices really can't, because of their caseload, spend a lot of time training a brand-new lawyer," Wright says. "If they can hire someone who has had the experience, the DAs are confident that they have to provide less supervision and training for them. Having the MCDA's office right there is a great opportunity and advantage for our students."

"You get a lot of in-court experience, a lot of great trial experience. It's a really great networking opportunity."

— Ambi Howell JD'20

# Innovation in business lawyering

Two years after launching, the Business Lawyering Institute (BLI) continues to introduce innovative ideas and concepts on campus at Willamette Law. Although in-person instruction was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Co-Directors and Professors Karen Sandrik and Aaron Simowitz kept busy while school was in session.

The BLI's goal is to prepare the best business lawyers of tomorrow with the recognition that the most effective business attorneys possess not only excellent legal training, but also a working knowledge of business topics that come into play in real-life situations. The BLI hosted several events during the year to pique student interest in the art of business lawyering.

In the fall, around 60 students attended "Yes, but ...," a panel about in-house counsel featuring **David Drinkward JD'07**, president and CEO of Hoffman Construction, and Professor Yvonne Tamayo, who serves as Willamette's general counsel. During a joint Negotiations and Deals class, Sandrik and Simowitz invited **Ken Peterson JD'80**, **Doug Goe JD'81** and

**Jim Hensel JD'85** to present a simulation-based workshop on their roles in the financing and launch of Columbia Pulp, North America's first tree-free, waste-free pulp mill.

"They're a really good example of how alumni give us not just their time, but their practical and inventive skill set," Sandrik explains. "Together, we drafted a



Top: Law students listen during a panel about in-house counsel.  
Right: Ken Peterson JD'80 speaks with BLI students during a simulation-based workshop.





short case study, and the students were divided into three groups with Ken, Doug and Jim each working with one. Everyone came together at the end to have a discussion. We want to do more of that in the future.”

Just before Willamette moved to remote instruction in the spring, the BLI hosted the “Teaching Better Business Lawyering” conference. Business professors and law clinicians from around the country presented their ideas on how to better teach and serve students interested in business law.

Sandrik and Simowitz say that, in addition to imparting a particular business-minded skill set to students, they want Willamette to be the leader in the community in how to teach it.

“We had a great discussion, and the plan is to continue holding this biannually,” Simowitz says. “It’s one of the only gatherings in the country where people are talking about innovating in the way we teach business lawyering. People are really excited to talk about this as teachers.”

The day after the symposium, the BLI hosted the first Transactional Moot Court competition held at Willamette in several years. Around 20 students participated, and Sandrik and Simowitz hope to triple the number in the next couple of years.

One of the BLI’s biggest casualties of the pandemic was a women’s forum event in Portland planned by Sandrik, BLI student fellow **Alex Hutchinson JD’20** and alumnae **Eva Kripalani JD’86** and **Liz Large JD’96**. They now plan to hold it when it is safe to do so.

Sandrik and Simowitz say the student fellows, including Hutchinson, **Will Kurka JD’20**, **Tamara Palmer JD’21** and **Zachary Schick JD/MBA’21**, were outstanding. In the fall, two new fellows will join Palmer and Schick, and they’ll help organize a student-led workshop series.

“This year, we really took the time and energy to sit with our fellows and learn from them.

## “Alumni give us not just their time, but their practical and inventive skill set.”

— Karen Sandrik  
Co-Director, Business Lawyering Institute

What are they interested in? How can BLI better meet their needs? In turn, we were able to better utilize them to disseminate information to other students about the role and value of the BLI,” Sandrik says. “The BLI now has a closer working relationship with the Business Law Society, Moot Court, Law Review and JD/MBA students, and more students are taking business classes and getting involved in our events.”

Simowitz says he and Sandrik want to continue building on what the BLI has done already, with more events and more experiential, simulation-based classes. But they continue to need more support, Sandrik says.

“In teaching students the value of business lawyering and giving them opportunities to work on their skill set, we are confident that Willamette students are getting a more innovative and hands-on business law education than ever before,” she says. “We’re grateful to former Dean Bridgeman for championing the BLI, and for the donors who have helped us get this far. This is our passion. We love what we are doing, and

we are convinced we should invest in this way so that we as a Willamette community can continue empowering leaders in the Pacific Northwest.”

The importance of adding value to traditional legal expertise became increasingly apparent following the economic downturn of 2008. As businesses took a harder look at their bottom lines and scrutinized expenses, legal costs became a target. That could easily happen again in this year’s volatile economy, Sandrik and Simowitz say. That’s why it’s even more critical that the BLI continue its mission.

“Newer generations of lawyers need to bring that additional business knowledge to companies in order to stay relevant and hold a seat at the table,” Simowitz says. “The BLI is here to help those lawyers succeed down the road.”



# On the border

## Clinic students submit report to U.N. Human Rights Council



Members of the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic team, from left: Patricia Stonerod JD'18, Hannah Rule JD'21, Kelsey Dodds JD'20, Samantha Galimba JD'20, Hannah Fulwiler JD'21 and Professor Warren Binford.

Early on October 2, 2019, Willamette Law students submitted a 6,500-word report to the U.N. Human Rights Council on alleged children's rights violations in U.S.-run immigrant facilities.

The moment was a little surreal. During the previous five weeks, four students — **Hannah Rule JD'21, Samantha Galimba JD'20, Kelsey Dodds JD'20 and Hannah Fulwiler JD'21**, along with Professor Warren Binford and clinical law fellow **Patricia Stonerod JD'18** — had combed through hundreds of reports of abuse from children who stayed in the facilities, cited the international laws violated there and, limited by word count, funneled the worst cases into the report.

Students raced to meet the submission deadline for the U.N.'s Universal Periodic Review, the only mechanism in the world that addresses human rights violations in all 193 member states. The students' work may be included in the U.N.'s final report, expected to be released in 2021.

The project was an obvious opportunity for the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic, which advances legal protections for children and provides pro bono legal representation to children and families in crisis.

Some students say the project was the most important of their law school careers, and they felt compelled to do it because of its current relevance. Rule spent



## The report at a glance

**6500**  
WORDS

**17**  
PAGES

Collected  
declarations  
from children  
separated from their  
parents or caregivers

Violations such as:  
**Family Separation**  
**Inhumane Conditions**  
**of Detention**  
**Due Process**

the summer working as a Willamette Public Interest Law Project fellow on the border of El Paso, Texas, and returned to school wanting to have clinical experience.

"You're working with real clients," she says. "You're not just doing memos on fictional people — you're actually helping people with real problems."

### Willamette community at work

The project was built on the work of Binford and other lawyers, who had collected declarations from children separated from their parents or caregivers and held in facilities nationwide from 2017 to 2019.

Guided by Binford and assisted by Stoneroad, who advised and edited their work, students split up the declarations and

grouped the violations into 15 categories, such as family separation, inhumane detention conditions and due process violations. Then, they each wrote a section of the 17-page document.

Most of their time was spent determining the U.S.'s obligations under international law and identifying evidence of legal violations in the children's sworn declarations. Their main goal was to let the children's quotes speak for themselves.

**An excerpt from the report**  
**Accommodations.** Children experience additional trauma due to the harmful conditions of detention and the degrading treatment they receive from the officials. The FSA [Flores Settlement Agreement]

requires all facilities where children are kept to provide "access to toilets and sinks, drinking water and food as appropriate, medical assistance if the minor is in need of emergency services, adequate temperature and ventilation, [and] adequate supervision...." These minimum standards are blatantly violated by the conditions repeatedly reported by the children.

Emblematic of the inhumane conditions, the children commonly refer to certain facilities as the "Ice Box" or the "Dog Pound" because of their freezing temperatures and cages:

"It was very cold. All the walls were metal, like a kennel for

animals. We were not allowed to exercise or go outside."

"We are held in a metal cage that is very crowded. It is very, very cold. We sleep on the concrete floor without a mat, only aluminum blankets."

### The final product

Students say the biggest challenge was the word limit — short, considering the hundreds of declarations they reviewed — and the tight deadline. Overall, the team logged more than 500 hours in the first few weeks of the semester.

"You want this to be the absolute best work product it can be, but you also don't want it to be denied because it's too late," says Stoneroad, a second-career graduate who chose Willamette Law because of this particular clinic.

"Students were willing to work through the night on this for several nights."

The project was an invaluable experience. Rule, who has always wanted to work in immigration law, is only more certain of her career path, while Galimba now knows she wants to lean more toward child advocacy work than being a criminal attorney.

"It really is a once-in-a-lifetime thing to do," Galimba says.



“No matter how far down in my career I go, no matter how many years pass, making sure to pay attention to the student experience is profoundly important.”

— Dean Brian Gallini



# Brian Gallini

## JOINS Willamette Law AS 22<sup>ND</sup> DEAN

### New dean keeps his ear to the ground and focus on the students

By Sarah Bello

During the week, students at the University of Arkansas School of Law constantly lined up outside then-Professor Brian Gallini's office door. Despite long days spent preparing for class, teaching, coaching Razorback hockey and answering emails — not to mention exercising and spending time with family and friends — Gallini met with every one of them.

Gallini's friend and former faculty colleague, **Dustin Buehler '00**, now deputy general counsel for Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, says Gallini is a workhorse and tireless advocate for students, "with an amazing ability to do it all."

"He's going to be an outstanding dean," Buehler says. "I remember meeting him and instantly wanting to know him more. He comes across as so sharp and smart and yet so personable, friendly and warm."

"He's somebody who's the real deal. When you meet those people, you just want to be around them."

Gallini, announced as the new dean of Willamette Law in December 2019, joined the school in Salem this summer in the midst of the coronavirus response. Ever popular throughout his tenure at the University of Arkansas, he brings knowledge, expertise and a "people-first" attitude to his first deanship. Helping people is at the center of everything he does, and he's thrilled to do just that at Willamette.

#### Learning the law

Gallini spent most of his early years on the East Coast. As an undergrad, he attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he was captain of the ski team and played

varsity hockey. He originally intended to go on to medical school, but after a formative experience with a professor in a Russian history class, he changed directions.

"She made this passing comment that I was a good writer and asked if I had thought about these other options," Gallini says. "I hadn't. She took a lot of time with me to refine my writing and my approach, and that totally shifted my perspective."

Finding that he had a love for writing, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Russian studies and a history minor. His friend's father, a law professor at Suffolk University Law School in Boston, took him to lunch one day.

That was it, he says. He told Gallini he could write a lot and help people as a lawyer. He was in.

He attended the University of Michigan Law School, where he particularly enjoyed the upper-level years. Criminal procedure really stuck with him, he says. After graduation, he went on to clerk for the Hon. Robert W. Clifford on the Maine Supreme Judicial Court — another significant life experience.

"I remember feeling a little overwhelmed in the first couple months. Justice Clifford would say, 'Write me a recommendation on how this (case) should come out,'" Gallini explains. "I felt like I wasn't qualified to do that. But it gave me just a profound sense of responsibility that we have as attorneys, and, likewise, the impact we can have."

That knowledge carried into his first full-time job in a law office in Washington, D.C., where he practiced white-collar criminal defense at Duane Morris LLP. While there, he picked up a possession of child pornography defense case — not every attorney's cup of tea.

"For as challenging as the factual material was, it was really important for me to reconcile the emotional piece with the need for everyone to have a zealous defense pursuant to the Constitution," he says.

A couple of years later, Gallini dropped everything and jumped at the opportunity to clerk for the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Northern Michigan. What he saw was a springboard to an academic career, where he knew he could make a difference.

From there, he became a teaching fellow for Temple University Beasley School of Law in Philadelphia — but first, he turned down an exorbitant offer to join a larger law firm. At the same time, he accepted a position as assistant hockey coach for the University of Pennsylvania. Neither job was lucrative financially, and a lot of people thought he was crazy. But he couldn't have been happier.

"I never looked back," Gallini says. "I don't mind saying I was petrified in both positions. But follow your passion, and the finances will take care of themselves. I've told that to hundreds of students whom I've had the privilege of mentoring over the years."

### Supporting the students

Gallini's bet on his first teaching position at Temple paid off — he met his wife there, began a years-long second career as a successful collegiate hockey coach and received a job offer at the University of Arkansas School of Law, where he climbed the academic ladder over the past decade.

For seven years, Gallini worked under Dean Stacy Leeds, serving as associate dean from 2014 to 2018. He says he was privileged to learn from her leadership style, and she, in turn, says he's also an exceptional leader.

"He is one of the hardest-working people I've ever known — whether that's as a law teacher and scholar, hockey coach and student recruiter, dad and endurance athlete," Leeds says. "Great deans are able to juggle many roles and make it appear effortless. He has been doing just that ever since I have known him."

While serving on the Arkansas hiring committee, he brought in Buehler and Jon Marshfield, now an assistant professor at Nebraska College of Law. Marshfield and Leeds say that, although Gallini held high-level positions, he was a student favorite.

"Brian remained popular with the students because he is an excellent classroom teacher, and they know he personally cares about each of their lives and careers," Leeds says. "He is able to manage many things and not lose sight of what matters the most — the students."

Upon reflecting, Gallini says there are many who have had a great impact on his life and career. He's had a student who was a rape victim, one who took his own life, and another who dealt with a murder in her family.

As a professor of criminal law, they've reminded him of just how significant the material really is.

"Those illustrative experiences have been powerful reminders for me," he explains, "that no matter how far down in my career I go, no matter how many years pass, making sure to pay attention to the student experience is profoundly important."

As dean at Willamette Law, Gallini won't be teaching as much as he has in the past. He's looking forward to teaching the first-year

Criminal Law course during the Spring 2021 semester and thinking about how he can best support students in the classroom, especially through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I want to present to students as accessible," he says. "I want them to know me personally and know me as a teacher and a scholar, as well."

### Choosing Willamette

With his move to Salem, Gallini took a step away from his hockey career. He was head coach of the Razorback hockey team from 2009 to 2018, where his teams earned five conference titles and made three appearances in the Division III National Tournament. Following the 2013-14 season, he was named the SEHC Coach of the Year. For years, people asked him when he would decide whether to pursue just one passion — hockey or law. In 2018, he finally answered, deciding he could have the most impact and help more people in law leadership.

Rather than coaching for the past two years, he served as the Razorback program director, focusing on advancement, development and external relations.

It's not lost on him that the skills used in that position prepared him well to be dean, he says.

At Willamette, he hopes to leverage the history and pre-existing strengths of the law school to continue its positive trajectory. Under former Dean Curtis Bridgeman, the school saw growth in student enrollment and alumni involvement while developing new, effective strategies to improve bar passage.

Gallini says Bridgeman's work has helped him tremendously, setting his deanship, and the school, up for success.

"I want to be as inclusive as possible and find ways to connect with all of the stakeholders in the law school and the university in a way that brings them in and helps them feel valued as part of this next chapter," he says. "I want to find where we can get the biggest 'bang for our buck' in a way that gets people excited and helps people feel heard — giving them a stake in the process — and we'll build out our agenda from there."

Marshfield says Gallini is a powerful leader who will get people fired up and inspired about what's next for Willamette Law.

"He has a genuine desire to listen to you and figure out how he can come alongside you," Marshfield says. "In some sense, I almost feel like he is made for this role as dean, because he has that leadership opportunity, but I think he's still going to have his ear on the ground."

Gallini is joined in Salem by his wife, Beth, and their two sons, Braxton and Caden.





“I want students to know me personally and know me as a teacher and a scholar, as well.”

— Dean Brian Gallini

Left: Dean Brian Gallini served as head coach of the Arkansas Razorback hockey team from 2009-18. Photo credit: Edward Matthews Photography. Below: Dean Brian Gallini and his wife, Beth, and two sons, Braxton and Caden.



## It's Willamette, dammit!

The new dean of Willamette Law has a sneaky sense of humor, says **Dustin Buehler '00**, who worked with him on the faculty at the University of Arkansas from 2010 to 2015.

As the token faculty member from Oregon, Buehler recalls a faculty meeting where Gallini was announcing upcoming

events. One included a professor visiting from Willamette.

“He said, ‘This law professor is from Will-um-ette,’ and I just immediately jumped out of my skin and said, ‘It’s Will-am-ette dammit,’ on cue, because that’s what we say, we’re conditioned, and Brian looked straight at me and he said, ‘I know. I just wanted to see your reaction.’”

Everyone laughed, and Buehler says Gallini’s wit, while dry, is delightful. He

may expect a lot from students and colleagues, but he does so with good humor and investments in the people around him.

“I think that is a big part of why he is adored by those he has worked with and the students he has taught,” Buehler says. “I think that breeds a lot of loyalty on the part of everyone who’s around him.”

# A champion for students

## Remembering Professor Ed Harri JD'73

By Sarah Bello

Every semester, bleary-eyed first-year law students search the law library shelves long into the evening. Around nine or 10 o'clock — almost magically, and “with a cloud of smoke,”

**Josh Savey JD'14** recalls — Professor Ed Harri could be counted on to step out of the faculty elevator and begin his rounds.

Floor by floor, he'd walk through the carrels and stacks searching for any students, even those who weren't in his classes, who might need help. But he was never one to just give students the answers, **Yufeng Luo JD'18** says.

“He wanted your questions, but he wanted you to think through things yourself first,” she explains. “In this field, you learn by doing, and Harri wanted to show us that we could, in fact, do it. That is the Harri Method.”

When they attended Willamette Law, Luo and Savey joined a long line of Harri's many student assistants. Harri, a beloved Legal Research and Writing professor, died suddenly March 1 of a probable heart attack. He taught at Willamette for 34 years, spending more than two decades as assistant dean of student affairs.

### Harri the professor

After graduating from Willamette Law in 1973, Harri clerked for the Oregon Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals. He served as a deputy district attorney in Linn County and, in 1980, established a private practice. Six years later, he returned to Willamette Law as a professor, mainly teaching Legal Research and Writing, Advanced Legal Research and Professional Responsibility. Here and there, he

taught other classes. He'd teach anything he was asked to, says Kathy Graham, former associate dean for academic affairs.

He had the students' best interests at heart and was willing to work hard and put in the time to help them be successful, she explains.

“Legal Research and Writing is not an easy class to teach. I think you have more student-to-faculty contact in LRW than any other class in the law school,” Graham says. “He was just a wonderful teacher, devoted to the students. I think he took teaching as a calling. It wasn't to earn money or gain a reputation — he was genuinely committed to what he was doing.”

Ask any student, from any year — Harri's standards were high, and he expected the same of his classes. **Janna Giesbrecht-McKee JD'14** still remembers Harri's talk from her first day of orientation several years ago.

“One of the first things he said was, ‘Your reputation as a lawyer is the biggest thing that matters. You start developing your reputation day one in law school,’” she says. “I really took that to heart. That was something that really guided me working with classmates and in my legal practice, that I had to have the highest ethical standards and have a reputation for honesty in all my decisions.”

Graham says many people would have a hard time living up to Harri's principles. He had an easygoing, charming demeanor, but his expectations were always there, Luo says. He pored over students' drafts, going page by page, noticing the little things. “Cite it, or it's fiction,” he would say.



“Professor Harri was a lifelong learner who understood that the highest form of learning lies in teaching others.”

— Yufeng Luo JD'18



“He was just a wonderful teacher, devoted to the students. I think he took teaching as a calling.”

— Kathy Graham, Former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs







F. Miller Photography

Clockwise from below: professor Ed Harri JD'73 was an aficionado of Cadillac cars; a poster memorializing Harri; Yufeng Luo JD'18 and Harri at her commencement; a student wearing a T-shirt that was made years ago to commemorate having a class with Harri.



"Who else but Harri would circle the most glaringly incorrect, blatantly mistaken statement of law in your legal memo, and just write 'Oops?'" Luo says.

As a teaching assistant, she felt privileged — but also that the standards were even higher.

"Professor Harri was a lifelong learner who understood that the highest form of learning lies in teaching others," she explains.

Despite his high standards and expectations, Harri remained approachable and friendly, a favorite of many. His teaching was deeply appreciated, earning him the Teacher of the Year Award, chosen by students, in 1998 and 2014.

In 2007, he received the Jerry E. Hudson Award for Excellence in Teaching from the university. And two years ago, the Edward J. Harri Award for Outstanding Dedication to Moot Court was created to honor his work as faculty advisor.

Giesbrecht-McKee says being Harri's teaching assistant was a highlight during her legal studies.

"I felt like I won the lottery in terms of having him be my professor," Giesbrecht-McKee says. "LRW and clinic are the two classes from law school that I use on a regular basis in my legal practice. Having him teach me how to be a good legal writer was incredibly valuable."

## Harri the mentor

Quiet, thoughtful and down-to-earth, Harri didn't always have a lot to say. But he would listen, speaking when needed.

"I think he felt very much like he was there as a resource for students," Savey says. "He was that professor you could always go to and say what you wanted, which I always appreciated. There was no judgment."

When he did have something to say, it was often after careful consideration, Savey remembers. As a faculty member, Graham says Harri was an open door who was always available to talk about student or classroom issues. You couldn't ruffle his feathers.

"Ed was the type who listened and made good comments, but he didn't really show his emotion or get mad or upset about things," Graham says. "He managed to have that reasonable sort of stance about things at all times. He was a true lawyer."

Graham felt Harri was loyal and someone she could confide in. Long after they graduated, Harri's students, who sensed the same, returned to him for help and advice.

When they were in town, they knew they could send him an email or stop by the law school, and he'd be happy to see them. He was seemingly always at Willamette, his students and colleagues remember, and they often wondered how he had time to see his family, too.





"One of the first things he said was, 'Your reputation as a lawyer is the biggest thing that matters. You start developing your reputation day one in law school.'"

– Janna Giesbrecht-McKee JD'14



"I think he felt very much like he was there as a resource for students. He was that professor you could always go to and say what you wanted, which I always appreciated."

– Josh Savey JD'14

He kept up with many alumni through bar announcements, emails and mailing typed-up letters, sending congratulatory notes after they passed the bar and when they switched positions. He owned an art gallery, and when several students received their degrees, he offered to frame them as gifts, Savey says.

"He was just an unusual man in terms of how caring and conscientious he was toward the students," Graham says.

Luo, who graduated in 2018 and had a difficult first year of practice, received emailed encouragement from Harri frequently. When she heard of his passing, she went back to look at her inbox and realized he sent her something at least once a month for the past two years, just to ask how she was doing or simply catch up. He knew she was struggling as a new lawyer.

"When we last caught up, he cheerfully told me about how he'd helped a friend save some money on a used Cadillac. Then he got really serious and said he was worried about me, because I'd made a joke about committing malpractice," Luo says. "Professor Harri asked me, 'Why are you resigning yourself to the worst possible outcome? Doing that is just cheating yourself.' I will remember that always."

"Professor Harri gave of himself generously to all of his students — his knowledge, his wisdom, and above all, his enduring kindness."

### Harri remembered

Harri was a loving husband to Pat, father to Ed (III), Elizabeth and Erin, and grandfather to five granddaughters. His family was one of his greatest passions.

Many things about Harri were different. The pauses in conversation. His love of space, flying, Cadillac cars and fine art. He had a funny sense of humor and liked to crack jokes about his native Minnesota, where he had a family property with no electricity or running water, accessible only by boat.

More noteworthy than his quirks was his dedication to his profession and his students.

"He was kind of like the 'man next door' who's always there, who's a comfort and a friend who cares about you. He wasn't necessarily a flashy person, but a really solid, intelligent person you could count on," Graham says. "He's just a great symbol of our law school. He was a Willamette Law grad, and he was exactly what we want in our grads — just exactly who you'd want to go to for a lawyer."



## Professor Ed Harri Memorial Scholarship

Shortly after his passing, Willamette Law decided to honor and remember Ed Harri with a scholarship created in his honor to be awarded to a law student in the 2020-21 academic year.

"As I am sure you will agree, we decided that the best way to honor Ed and his incredible dedication to the College of Law is through a scholarship to support our students," former Dean Curtis Bridgeman says. "Ed made such a profound impact on his students and would do anything to help them. Awarding a scholarship in his memory is just one way that we hope we can honor Ed together."

If you feel inspired to support this scholarship in memory of Harri, you can do so by making a gift to the Law Annual Fund at [willamette.edu/go/harri-scholarship](https://willamette.edu/go/harri-scholarship) and including "Professor Ed Harri Memorial Scholarship" in the comment box.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Allison Weston, director of development for the College of Law, at [aweston@willamette.edu](mailto:aweston@willamette.edu).



Clockwise from top: Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Administration Melodye Mac Alpine participates in a Zoom call with other Law administrators. Photo credit: Chip Mac Alpine. Former Dean Curtis Bridgeman, Professor Amy Meyers and Dean Brian Gallini.



# Staying connected

By Sarah Bello

## Law school emphasizes nimble stability and shared ownership during the pandemic

Early in the year, when Willamette University administration realized the global COVID-19 pandemic was on its way to Oregon, representatives from each school began meeting frequently. As the designated law school attendee, Melodye Mac Alpine, associate dean for student affairs and administration, took on a challenging role.

"Melodye was a hero for this. She was just outstanding," says former Dean Curtis Bridgeman. "She quickly became our go-to person, working with everybody at the university. They had a team meeting at least once a day, one group twice a day. She was the main conduit for getting information back to us about the university-coordinated response."

Willamette Law prides itself on providing students with an individualized law school experience. When the university realized it might have to switch to remote learning midway through the spring semester, Mac Alpine knew it would be difficult.

The beginning of March had already been tough and emotional with the sudden loss of **Professor Ed Harri JD'73**. As the pandemic began spreading throughout the United States, Mac Alpine and other administrators began hearing from students. Some worried about catching the virus and about the unknowns, while others no longer felt comfortable coming to class.

Those on the university task force discussed question after question. What about final exams? What would students do if they didn't own computers or have access to Wi-Fi? Were faculty prepared to teach online, and what platform would be best? How could students study with children and spouses at home and alternative study areas closed?

When a decision was made to go fully remote, it was quick, Mac Alpine says. On March 16, all Willamette courses went online. With just over a month left in their final semester, graduating 3Ls said their goodbyes to the Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center. Eventually,

their commencement ceremony was called off and postponed, and their Oregon bar exam was reorganized, then mainly canceled in late June to give graduates "diploma privilege" to practice law without taking the test.

Professor Amy Meyers, director of bar preparation, says students faced multiple emotional and financial challenges due to the virus and civil rights protests happening over the summer.

"Our graduates are resilient, but this has been emotionally taxing on them," Meyers says. "Students were conflicted about wanting to study, wanting to protest or advocate, wanting to protect their health and all kinds of distractions that should not be underestimated."

She says they're competent and well-prepared to practice law and pass the exam, but she knows they were facing more noise than usual in their personal lives, making it difficult to focus on bar studies. Bridgeman says the faculty worked hard to continue connecting with students in each class, mastering Zoom and other technology quickly. As dean, he read student evaluations every semester and was especially interested to hear how faculty were rated in the spring.

He was pleasantly surprised to hear how little online learning was mentioned, except when professors were praised for innovative classroom strategies.

"The professors were outstanding, and the staff was really great in making a smooth transition," Bridgeman says. "If you had told me a few months ago that we were going to have to transition in a week's time to completely remote teaching, I would not have been optimistic."

In the midst of the tumultuous spring, he was also busy winding down his time in administration and anticipating a return to the faculty. Incoming Dean Brian Gallini made his way to Salem early when his own school went fully remote.

Although not officially on staff, he began working early to learn and help prepare for the prospect of a disruptive 2020-21 academic year. He conducted a series of listening forums with faculty and staff, trying to understand concerns and determine how to shape plans for the upcoming year. He and the deans worked to survey the entire student body regarding their comfort level in returning to in-person learning.

“The professors  
were outstanding,  
and the staff was really  
great in making a  
smooth transition.”

— Former Dean Curtis Bridgeman

## The approach to the 2020-21 academic year

### LANE 1

Online,  
in-person or  
hybrid class  
options

Social  
distancing and  
masking  
required

### LANE 2

All classes  
online

Building open  
for study and  
resources

Social  
distancing  
and masking  
required

### LANE 3

All classes  
online

Building  
closed,  
minimal staff

Social  
distancing  
and masking  
required

Impressed with the flexibility of all groups, Gallini says he's focusing on “nimble stability” and creating a culture of “shared ownership” for the 2020-21 academic year.

“The idea is to provide enough stability so our community has confidence in our direction,” he says, “but ‘nimble’ because we don't have control of what's on the horizon.”

He and Mac Alpine say there will be a “three-lane approach” to the school year. In the first lane, the law school will be open and social distancing and masking will be required. Students will have the option to take their classes online, in-person or in a hybrid combination of both.

The second lane contemplates the high likelihood that the school will need to go fully remote at some point, for some period of time, during the fall semester. In the second lane, all classes will be taught remotely, but the building will remain open as a quiet study space.

The third lane involves going fully remote, with minimal staff in the building and no access to students.

“Given the work our faculty have put in this summer to improve the remote teaching experience for our students, we are confident that we're ready to support our students in the fully remote space,” Gallini says.

With health guidelines changing constantly, the College of Law deans turned over every stone and asked every question they could think of.

Because no one had experienced a pandemic before, Gallini says they embraced the lack of precedent and developed a positive momentum. As the fall approached, the deans' focus was clear.

“We recognize that a lot of the strength of the university is our ability to connect with students and create that individualized experience,” Mac Alpine says. “As we think about the fall, we are trying to prioritize that as much as possible, balancing health, safety and state guidelines. Our university personnel are working extremely closely to make sure we are aware of guidelines and planning accordingly.”





### Symeonides drafts international model law

Symeon Symeonides and Christophe Bernasconi, secretary general of the Hague Conference, after signing the Convention.

Professor and Dean Emeritus Symeon C. Symeonides has added one more success to his record of law reform, which includes drafting legislation for three states and the European Union and participating in the drafting of two international conventions.

This time, he drafted an international model law on conflicts of laws resulting from the cross-border use of the internet, such as when material posted on the internet in one country causes injury in another. The model law identifies the country whose courts will have jurisdiction to adjudicate the dispute and the country whose law will govern the merits.

Symeonides drafted this law at the request of the Institut de Droit International (IDI), the world's oldest and most prestigious international law organization. Founded in 1873 with the mission of promoting the development of international law, the IDI is based in Geneva, and its membership comprises the world's leading international law scholars. At its biennial meeting, held in August 2019 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, the IDI discussed Symeonides' project and approved it by 75 votes in favor, zero against and five abstentions.

In July 2019, Symeonides participated in an international diplomatic conference at

the Peace Palace under the auspices of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Founded in 1893, the Conference is a permanent inter-governmental organization that comprises more than 80 countries and provides a forum for drafting and negotiating private international law treaties. The 2019 conference adopted a Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Judgments. Symeonides was a member of an international group of experts that drafted the initial text of the convention in 2013. He participated in all the subsequent negotiations.

## Welcoming new additions

### A newcomer to legal academia



Professor Rohan Grey takes education seriously. Grey spent most of the past 15 years earning six different degrees and teaching daycare, K-12 and university students. This fall, he began his next

chapter as a full-time assistant professor at Willamette Law.

Grey grew up and went to college in Australia. He enrolled in dual undergraduate programs in international studies and music, and in 2009, moved to the U.S. to finish studying at the University of Pennsylvania and Manhattan School of Music. The move was meant to be temporary, but it quickly became permanent.

Grey's father was a barrister, and his mother came from a family of music educators. He always felt torn between the two worlds. Knowing he wanted to ultimately go to law school, he decided to first complete a master's in music education at Columbia Teachers College.

"While I was doing that, I had an opportunity to teach at an elementary school where I had been volunteering," Grey says. "So I deferred attending Columbia Law School and worked for a year as an elementary social studies and music teacher."

Around the same period, Grey developed an interest in monetary and macroeconomic issues.

"I 'came of age' during the global financial crisis of 2007-08," Grey explains. "So when I moved to the U.S., I was already starting to ask questions about what money was and

how the financial system worked. A lot of my friends from UPenn were in the (Wharton) business school, so after we graduated, they started working on Wall Street, while I was teaching in a public school in Harlem. It was a pretty stark contrast."

Grey entered law school intending to pursue education law and policy. He quickly found child advocacy more rewarding and switched his focus to direct client services. During his final year, he enrolled in a joint degree program with the London School of Economics, where he earned an LLM focusing on the monetary and macroeconomic dimension of copyright law and its relationship to federal arts policy.

Following graduation, he became a practicing children's attorney in New York. The fascination with money and finance remained, so Grey used his free time to research academic issues related to the legal design of money and finance, helping expand what he calls a recent 'renaissance'

in that area of legal scholarship. He also collaborated with economists and social scientists who go under the school of thought called Modern Monetary Theory.

When it became clear he couldn't maintain commitments to child advocacy and monetary research, he decided to enter legal academia. He enrolled in a JSD (legal doctorate) program at Cornell Law School, focusing on the law of money in the internet age. He joined Willamette in the fall to teach Business Organizations, Securities Regulation and first-year Contracts.

Although Grey previously taught students of all ages, including law students, this will be his first time doing so as a law school faculty member.

"I'm looking forward to learning how to best provide what my students need and prepare them to be lawyers in this changing legal world," Grey says. "I want to help them make a difference that's socially valuable."

### From high school English to Legal Research and Writing



As a visiting professor of Legal Research and Writing at Willamette Law, Professor Kelly Gamble introduced students to the skills needed to become successful attorneys. The position was initially temporary, but she decided to stay.

"I love it here," she says. "It's a great community of people who are kind to each other and really supportive of students. It's been a great place to work."

After teaching high school English for seven years, Gamble needed a change. She wanted a new challenge and applied for law school at the University of Texas at Austin. As an older



student, she had a classmate she taught in high school, a “horrifying” experience, she laughingly describes.

She became a labor and employment lawyer, working for big and small firms, but she missed the classroom. With her interest in writing, she wanted to help students become lawyers who communicate effectively.

She and her husband were ready to move from the oppressive Texas heat to a milder climate. She says the position at Willamette “just worked out.”

“I walk from my car to the office every day, and campus is beautiful, and the weather is beautiful,” she says. “I think I really lucked out that this is what I get to do every day. I really like being part of a place that is committed to producing ethical, capable lawyers who can make a difference for people.”

Gamble’s primary challenge is getting students excited about her Legal Research and Writing class. She has to get them on board and help them understand that it’ll be better than they expect and highly relevant in their work.

“LRW is the required first-year class that nobody looks forward to, but I hope they like it in the end,” she says. “I love being in the classroom, talking with students and helping them. I like having the conversations with them that they use to decide what kinds of lawyers they’re going to be.”

Since she’s continuing her work at Willamette, Gamble’s husband, who had stayed in Texas, has moved to Oregon and couldn’t be happier about it, she says.

“We like just being able to be outside so much of the year. There are so many great opportunities to do things,” she says. “We like the small-city feel of Salem and have decided we’re no longer big-city folks. We love the community.”



## Meyers and Friedman honored

Willamette University honored Professors Amy Meyers and David Friedman, College of Law faculty members, with institutional awards in Fall 2019.

Meyers received the Jerry E. Hudson Award for Excellence in Teaching, given annually to one professor from each college at Willamette who demonstrates excellence in teaching and distinguished leadership.

Meyers has been on the faculty of Willamette Law since 2016 and received a promotion to professor of Legal Writing and Bar Preparation last year. In her time at the law school, she has overhauled the Legal Analysis for the Bar course and developed BEAST, the Bar Examination Accountability and Support Team, to help students prepare for the bar exam.

Her efforts, along with those of others, have resulted in the highest average MBE score of Willamette Law graduates in the past few years, as well as high bar pass rates.

“Not only is she extremely talented, she puts her heart and soul into each student,” former Dean

Curtis Bridgeman says. “Her heroic efforts are making a wonderfully positive impact on our students’ success.”

Friedman received the Robert L. Misner Award for Faculty Scholarship. The Misner Award is given to a Willamette Law professor whose scholarship has contributed significantly to the national or international legal canon.

Friedman has produced top-quality scholarship for years in the areas of behavioral economics, contract theory, advertising law and public health. Willamette Law students have selected him as Outstanding Professor of the Year several times, and he received the Hudson Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2012.

“David has carved out a space for himself as a leading scholar on issues surrounding consumer rights,” Bridgeman says. “He is writing creatively on timely and important topics and is a model of consistency in his productivity.”

From top: Professor Amy Meyers, Professor David Friedman.

## Two noted faculty members retire

Longtime Willamette Law Professors David Clark and Vincent Chiappetta retired in May 2020



**Professor David Clark**

Clark joined the faculty in January 2002 as the first incumbent of the Maynard and Bertha Wilson Professorship. A graduate of Stanford Law School, Clark previously taught at the universities of Colorado, Houston and Tulsa, as well as Louisiana State University. He was a lecturer and visiting professor at several distinguished universities in the U.S. and around the world, teaching in Europe, Latin America and East Asia.

Clark is a noted scholar and published 15 books and more than 50 articles on comparative law, procedure, courts, and law and society, which track his teaching areas. He served in many leadership roles with the American Society of Comparative Law and the American Council of Learned Societies. He is also a titular member of the International Academy of Comparative Law.

In retirement, Clark plans to continue researching and publishing in comparative law and legal history, as well as playing competitive tennis in Oregon and regionally with the USTA.



**Professor Vincent Chiappetta**

Professor Vincent Chiappetta came to Willamette in 1997 after an eventful 20 years of law practice, including serving as in-house counsel at Apple, Levi Strauss and Tektronix. As a professor, he taught Business, Intellectual Property, Property and science/technology courses for more than 23 years, winning several teaching awards along the way. He was the founding director of the Business Law Certificate Program and the founding co-director of the Business Lawyering Institute.

Chiappetta developed a passion for teaching after reflecting on his own experience in law school and realizing that, although it taught him a lot about the law, it didn't teach him how to be a lawyer.

"People are coming to you for substantive legal knowledge," Chiappetta explains, "but providing useful advice requires being able to talk to clients about what they are doing and what they need."

Through his work, Chiappetta adapted and created new courses to offer more practical knowledge to his students, including partnering with Professor Debra Ringold at the Atkinson Graduate School of Management to help those studying business and law to collaborate more.

He says working with students has been the highlight of his career.

"We have fabulous alumni, and our students are very gracious. I enjoy them, and what an honor and a privilege it has been to be able to talk to them about what they want to do," Chiappetta says. "It's one of the very special things about the Willamette environment."

One of his favorite memories of teaching was from his first class. A colleague advised him to call on students during the first day of class, and the first student he called on turned out to be the class clown. The students reacted with laughter knowing what was about to happen, and Chiappetta realized he was on the outside of an inside joke.

"These students all knew each other in a very meaningful way," he recalls. "I've never forgotten that day and how much it speaks to our wonderful sense of community."

To Chiappetta, leaving Willamette is like having a delicious dessert and deciding to leave a third of it behind — it was wonderful, but it's time to move on. In retirement, he says he plans to "find out who Vince 8.0 is," travel with his wife and spend more time with his grandchildren.



## Faculty scholarship



Since her 2017 Chilean sabbatical, Professor Caroline Davidson has written several articles focusing on atrocity prosecutions and human rights in the Chilean context. Her research explores tensions between international criminal law and human rights, suggesting ways to reconcile the competing interests.

**“Nunca Mas Meets #NiUnaMenos — The Prosecution of Pinochet-Era Sexual Violence in Chile”** *Published in Columbia Human Rights Law Review in 2019*

Davidson explores litigation in Chile related to dictatorship-era sexual violence. She discusses why it has taken so long to reach these crimes

and examines what brought them to the forefront.

**“ICL By Analogy — The Use of International Criminal Law in**

**the Chilean Human Rights Prosecutions”** *Forthcoming in U.C. Davis Journal of International Law & Policy in 2020*

This piece relates to the use of international criminal law arguments in Chilean human rights prosecutions, assessing the ways Chilean courts have received, incorporated and transformed international criminal law from The Hague.

**“Aging Out: International Criminal Justice and the Passage of Time”** *Forthcoming in Virginia Journal of International Law in 2020*

“Aging Out” focuses on elderly defendants charged with atrocity crimes. Delay is “some-what inherent in international criminal justice,” Davidson says. “We have to think through the human rights implications of having elderly defendants in those trials.”

Davidson says one of the most interesting and challenging aspects of international criminal law is the tension between promoting human rights in trials and conducting them in a way that also protects them.

“I’m making arguments rooted in what is and what should be,” Davidson explains. “How could we be doing better? We have to stay engaged with conversations out there.”

Next, Davidson plans to research femicidio, or femicide — the killing of women or girls — which she says is a term commonly used in Latin America but not the U.S. or international criminal law.



Professor Aaron Simowitz usually writes about cross-border business transactions, but he says the private law of terror is where a lot of transactional law is being generated now.

Simowitz’s article, “The Private Law of Terror,” is one of the first to consider the effect of terror regulation on private law. Most of the time, people talk about terrorism relating to public law, such as immigration.

“But terrorism has also had a really big impact on civil procedure, tort law, banking law and investment law,” he explains. “What happens in this area is that for terrorism, some innovation or change is presented as

exceptional. But then it becomes normalized and spreads.”

When that occurs, changes among cross-border

transactions come directly out of terrorism, generating law. In private and commercial law, Simowitz sees it again and again.

For example, the way that people bank, borrow and lend money has been changed by Know Your Customer laws. Simowitz says initial concern had to do with funneling money to terrorists.

“The way that we use and get our money is really affected by laws developed for something different,” he says. “I want to understand, ‘Is that good or bad?’ ‘Are we comfortable with the fact that laws affecting everyday conduct are being created in this

very particular way for this very particular context?”

Simowitz says the pattern seen on the public law side tends to run out of control. There is a weakening of protections in criminal law, loosened for terrorism, and that spreads to other areas. He says this is troubling, and in private law, the same thing is occurring.

“There’s reason to think that the trajectory of these terrorism innovations might be really different in private law,” Simowitz says, “but I think it’s probably too early to tell in a lot of areas how it’s going to turn out.”

Simowitz submitted his paper to journals this spring. He’s already working on his next article, tentatively titled “The Irrepressible Myth of Arbitral Confidentiality,” exploring why arbitration is thought of as confidential — when it really isn’t.

## State bar honors Phylis Myles



Phylis Myles, left, assistant dean for Placement, receives the OSB Award of Merit from Past-President **Chris Costantino JD'01**. Photo credit: Jonathan House/Oregon State Bar Bulletin.

Assistant Dean for Law Placement Phylis Myles' name is now among those of three governors and two Oregon Supreme Court justices. Myles received the Oregon State Bar's Award of Merit last November, just the eighth female recipient in 68 years.

"When I look at the list of past awardees, it's imposter syndrome — they must have made a mistake," she says. "I look at the list, and to have my name among those people is very powerful."

The award has very much been earned by Myles, says OSB Past-President **Chris Costantino JD'01**.

"When I saw she was nominated, I thought, 'Of course,'" Costantino says. "It's her depth and length of service in all different facets. She is integral to everything wherever she is."

Myles has a genuine approach, helping the legal community in any way she can. Her consistency in service throughout her career illustrates exactly what the award stands for, Costantino explains.

Myles says her mission has been influenced by family members from marginalized populations and the discrimination she endured in the corporate world.

"My mother was very serious about reaching out to people who are not part of the predominant culture," Myles says. "It was important for me to carry that on."

A second-career lawyer, Myles wanted to help people. After earning her JD, she began working for the first all-women law firm in Oregon. Later, she opened her own firm with her husband, focusing on employment law discrimination.

When she won her first case, her client was overwhelmed.

"He said, 'Nobody's ever stood up for me before,'" she recalls.

Myles is now 15 years into a third career, helping law students find their own career paths through Willamette Law Placement. Myles enjoys making connections for them, using her communications and legal experience to help strategize.

Myles stays busy outside of work, serving on boards for legal and community organizations. Costantino says Myles' work in diversity, equity and inclusion is especially notable.

"She is someone we should all try to emulate," Costantino says. "Who better could I pick for this award than her?"

Myles continues to work to support students, women and diverse attorneys.

"People will tell you I work behind the scenes," Myles says. "To be recognized and to realize that people know what I'm doing is a great honor."

## Even more standouts

### Marti McCausland



Marti McCausland, associate director for Placement, was named president of the Oregon Legal Recruiters Association. McCausland is an active member of the Oregon State Bar and the Law Repayment Program Committee.

### Theresa Wright



**Theresa L. "Terry" Wright JD'81**, director of externships and adjunct professor, was appointed to the Multnomah Bar Association Board of Directors and began her three-year term this year. The MBA provides a forum for legal professionals to promote the advancement of the law.



## A Q&A with Jeffrey Dobbins, new associate dean for academic affairs



### Q What are you responsible for in your new position?

The associate dean for academic affairs is the point person for implementing the program of legal education at Willamette Law. I help determine who will be offering which courses and when they will be offered. I also keep an eye on the budget and work to make sure our academic regulations are clear and consistent with our practices.

### Q Will former Dean Williams be helping you settle in?

Absolutely. He developed a truly amazing expertise on all matters related to the law school, and I have really appreciated his ongoing willingness to share his knowledge and ideas.

### Q What are you most excited about in your new position?

Spreadsheets! I really enjoy them. (I'm only partly kidding.) Really, what I like most is the ability to work with Dean Gallini and others to bring our vision for the law school to life. I enjoy working through problems and seeking out solutions.

### Q What do you anticipate being the biggest challenge?

Balancing the need for communication and considering everyone's views against the need to make decisions. I'm learning more every day about what kinds of things to watch for in making complicated decisions with many invested stakeholders.

### Q What are your goals in this position?

The baseline is maintaining the fantastic stability that the past administration achieved in both financial and enrollment sectors. I have a desire to develop and implement a more robust advisor system, and I'd like to think through our course offerings to clarify and emphasize our areas of strength while bulking up anything that could benefit from a more well-rounded program.

### Q As this has been an unusual year, what advice do you have for the incoming class?

Be open to change and excited about the journey. All of us are experiencing disruptions, and we will be experimenting all year with how to teach and learn in the most effective ways possible.

### Q If money wasn't an object, what is the next big project you'd like to see Willamette Law take on?

The most important resource at Willamette Law is its excellent staff and faculty, which we build upon to educate our students, lift the role of the school in our local community, and enhance its reputation nationwide. It would be fantastic to be able to strengthen our current community and attract as many diverse, smart, committed faculty as possible to join us in building our future.

### Q Is there anything else that you want to add?

I was born and raised in Oregon, and I am very proud to be a part of this institution that has and will continue to play such an important role in developing this state's local, regional and national leaders in the law. It's always been a joy to teach, but I'm also very appreciative of this opportunity to contribute in a new way to Willamette Law.

F. Miller Photography



## Deans return to the faculty

A new era began this summer at Willamette Law as Dean Curtis Bridgeman and Associate Dean Norman Williams returned to the faculty after seven years in administration

### Dean Curtis Bridgeman

As dean of the College of Law, Bridgeman's decision to return to the faculty was not made lightly.

"I felt like I needed to decide how I wanted to spend the rest of my career," Bridgeman says. "At my heart, I am a teacher first and foremost, and it seemed like the time to return to that role."

Bridgeman oversaw the college during a period of historically declining enrollment at law schools across the country. Despite the challenges, Willamette Law experienced growth in enrollment, student body diversity and alumni giving.

Bridgeman's other significant accomplishments include establishing the Business Lawyering Institute and coordinating the response from faculty to the bar passage issues of 2016, when more than half the students in the country failed the exam. Willamette graduates' passage rate has vastly improved, and in recent years, their job placement rates have also been higher than most Northwest schools.

As dean, Bridgeman counts among his biggest influences Steve Thorsett, Willamette University president; Professor Debra Ringold, former dean of the Atkinson Graduate School of Management; and Monica Rimai, former senior vice president for finance and administration.

"All three of them showed me the kindness of having difficult conversations with me when someone needed to," Bridgeman says. He also praised the work of Willamette Law Associate Deans Melodye Mac Alpine and Norman Williams, along with other colleagues.

"I don't think they get anywhere near the credit they deserve," he says. "Ashley Stovin in the Dean's Suite has been one of the most amazing colleagues I've had in any job. Our staff, in general, is just terrific."

There have also been difficult times during his time as dean, including the loss of two faculty: Professor Gwynne Skinner, who passed away in 2017, and **Professor Ed Harri JD'73**, who died earlier this year.



## 2013-20

### Curtis Bridgeman

One of the longest-serving law deans in the country



### Norman Williams

Grew an accomplished and diverse faculty including Oregon Supreme Court and Appellate justices

F. Miller Photography

The school faced unanticipated trials during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bridgeman says he's learned that, in tough times, it's "not just about having good policies and strategies, but also having good buy-in from the various stakeholders," and letting them know they are involved.

Bridgeman says Willamette is a special place with faculty and staff who really care about students. After a yearlong sabbatical to get caught up on research, he looks forward to returning to teaching. He is thankful for the support he has received from alumni and people in the law school, the university, the bar community and Salem.

"The support that I have received and the way that my wife and I were welcomed into this community was amazing," he says. "Finally, I am grateful to my wife, Beth, for being so supportive in undertaking this great adventure and also in my decision to return to teaching. She has quietly done so much more for Willamette than most people know."

#### Associate Dean Norman Williams

As associate dean for academic affairs, Norman Williams enjoyed meeting alumni and attorneys from the West Coast, often discussing how Willamette could better prepare future graduates for the ever-evolving practice of law. He also got to know other associate deans across the country, whom he credits as his strongest influences while in administration.

"We are a small, tight bunch of individuals all trying to make our respective law schools a better place," he says. "Especially in my early years as associate dean, I learned a lot from my more experienced colleagues at other law schools."

Williams spent more time as associate dean than he'd initially planned. His decision to return to the faculty has long been in the works, he says.

"It's time for me to return to the role that induced me to leave the practice of law and become a law professor long ago: spending time with students and working on my research," Williams says.

During his time in the Dean's Suite, Williams says he is most proud of putting Willamette Law on a sound financial footing, building and launching the health care law program, and growing the most diverse and accomplished faculty in the history of the law school, which now includes two current Oregon Supreme Court justices, two retired justices and one Oregon Court of Appeals judge.

In the middle of the decade, the downturn in law school enrollment was difficult for the administration.

"It was a real challenge for all of us in legal education nationwide," Williams recalls, "and it really forced me to take a hard look both at our curriculum and our administration strategy."

From what he calls the "60,000-foot-view" of the Dean's Suite, Williams saw all the departments and operations keeping the school running, gaining a unique appreciation for its complexity.

After a sabbatical, he plans to rejoin the faculty he fostered through his deanship.

"I developed and taught our Election Law class for many years prior to becoming associate dean, but I didn't have the time to teach that course while I was in administration," Williams says. "I'm looking forward to being able to teach it again, especially in these interesting political times."

In addition, Williams will teach in his area of expertise, Constitutional Law. With the freed-up space on his calendar, he plans to continue work on a book about the Presidential nomination process. He also wants to spend more time with his family and shave a few strokes off his golf handicap.

"Like any administrator, I will not miss the tedious or frustrating parts of life in administration, but I will very much miss the people in the Dean's Suite and fellow administrators across campus," Williams says. "They are a talented and devoted group of individuals, and I will miss working with them."

# 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](http://willamette.edu/law/alumni-update) or email [law-alumni@willamette.edu](mailto:law-alumni@willamette.edu).

'67

**Bob Maloney** was appointed National Chair of Membership for the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in December 2019. NCSC consists of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in each state, general counsel from leading companies throughout the U.S., and prominent lawyers from major plaintiff and defense law firms throughout the country. Maloney is a shareholder at Lane Powell in Portland with more than 40 years of trial experience.

'79

**Neal Lemery** published his fourth book in January 2020 called "Building Community: Rural Voices for Hope and Change: An Oregon Perspective." The book focuses on how rural American communities are working to build a better world and stronger rural America. Lemery is a retired lawyer and judge.

'81

**Mark Comstock** received the 2019 De Muniz Award from the Marion County Bar Association. He is an attorney representing parties in business, civil and commercial litigation at Garrett Hemann Robertson PC in Salem, Oregon.

**Max Rae** received the 2019 Pro Bono Award for Lawyer of the Year from the Marion County Bar Association.

'82

**Kathleen Evans** received the 2019 De Muniz Award from the Marion County Bar Association. She is an estate planning and probate attorney for Evans Batlan Getchell LLC in Salem, Oregon.

**Lynette Hotchkiss** joined McGlinchey Stafford's Consumer Financial Services Compliance team in Nashville as of counsel in March 2020. She has two decades of experience as in-house counsel for a variety of banks and financial institutions, as well as experience working for the Federal Trade Commission.

'83

**Joel Pearsall** extended his contract as president of Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho, for four more years beginning in March 2020. Pearsall has been president since 2016. During his tenure, the university has adopted a new master plan for the development of the campus, constructed a new student center and approved plans to expand the College of Nursing.

'84

**Stephen Forbes** was presented with the 2019 Educator's Award from the American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries in October 2019. Forbes is an ERISA attorney and educator in Denver with more than three decades of experience in the retirement plan area.

**Paul Frasier** ran for what he says is his last term as Coos County District Attorney in 2020. Frasier has been DA since 2008 and is the longest-serving DA in the county's history. Throughout his career, he has prosecuted thousands of cases and participated in nearly 100 homicide investigations.

'86

**Susan Alterman** was awarded the President's Membership Service Award from the Oregon State Bar in November 2019. The award honors attorneys for contributions made to the profession. Alterman is an attorney for Kell, Alterman & Runstein LLP in Portland, working on commercial finance, real estate and creditors' rights matters.

**P. Gregory Frey** recently stepped down as president of the Saint Louis Alumni Association in Honolulu after 10 years, although he continues as a director on the board, an elected position he has held since 2002. He also bid "aloha" to his time spent as trustee at the school after 12 years. In 2018, he was inducted to the Gallery of Distinguished Achievers, the highest honor conferred upon alumni of Saint Louis School.

**Oregon state Rep. Kim Wallan '83** (R-Medford) was selected as a new whip joining caucus leadership for Oregon House Republicans in early 2020. She was first elected to the House in 2018, where she serves on the House Committees on Economic Development, Education, and Veterans and Emergency Preparedness.

'87

**Chris Laia** was named general counsel for Bestow at the end of 2019. Bestow is a digital life insurance company using artificial intelligence and its platform to instantly underwrite. Prior to Bestow, Laia worked as deputy general counsel and chief ethics and compliance officer for USAA.

'89

**Lori Colbert** is representing former Alaska governor and U.S. vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in her divorce proceedings.

**David B. Connelly** was recently engaged as an expert witness on behalf of Apple Inc. in a copyright infringement action, and on behalf of Walt Disney Pictures in a significant participation litigation matter concerning the Home Improvement television program. He is an attorney, CPA and vice president with Freeman & Mills, a Los Angeles financial litigation consulting firm, and specializes in complex forensic accounting investigations, damages analysis and expert testimony.

'92

**Brian Smith JD/MBA'92** was named chief ethics and compliance officer for UC San Francisco in October 2019. Smith has served in that role in an interim capacity since November 2017. He is also the senior associate vice chancellor of research.

'93

**Matthew Clucas** received the Hon. Robert J. Bryan American Inn of Court Civility Award in February 2020. The award is presented annually to a local lawyer or judicial officer who the Inn believes embodies civility, ethics and professionalism in the legal profession. Clucas is the Kitsap County (Washington) Superior Court commissioner.

'95

**Lori A. Oliver JD/MBA'95** joined Polsinelli PC in Seattle as a shareholder in April 2020. Her practice focuses on a wide array of health care regulatory, transactional and operational matters. She previously was the vice president of medical affairs and the strategic clinical business officer for UW Medicine.

**Coyreen Weidner** joined Moore, Corbett, Heffernan, Moeller & Meis LLP in Sioux City, Iowa, as an associate attorney in April 2020. She is a general practice attorney with a focus on appellate cases, business transactions, estate planning and property tax valuation appeals.



'99

**Michelle Teed** was hired as city attorney for The Dalles, Oregon, in late 2019. She previously served as deputy director of the elections division for Oregon's Secretary of State.

'00

**Travis Prestwich** was awarded the 2019 Carson Award for Service to the Bar by the Marion County Bar Association. He is a personal injury attorney with Swanson, Lathen, Prestwich PC in Salem, Oregon.

'02

**Steve Kirkelie** was appointed city manager of Puyallup, Washington, by the city council in February 2020. Kirkelie has held several positions for the city since 2007, including assistant city manager. He has served as interim city manager since July 2019.

'03

**Richard Blackwell** was hired as the Oregon director of government relations for PacificSource Health Plans in February 2020. In that role, he directs PacificSource's public policy, government affairs and advocacy activities throughout the state.

**Katie Gallagher** was elected a shareholder of Lane Powell in Portland in January 2020. She counsels clients on a wide range of business matters, including corporate governance and restructuring, mergers and acquisitions, commercial contracts and corporate financings.

**Katie Gettman JD/MBA'03** joined the Minneapolis, Minnesota, office of Cozen O'Connor as a member in May 2020. She provides both legal and business guidance to corporations, executives and private business owners, primarily by acting as their outside general counsel. She advises on mergers and acquisitions, stock sales and asset acquisitions, private placement offerings and subscription agreements.

**Danica Hibpshman** joined Tonkon Torp in Portland in April 2020 as of counsel for its Business Department and Cannabis industry group. She previously worked for the Oregon

## Setting an example



**Liani Reeves '98, JD'01** saw becoming president of the Oregon State Bar in 2020 as an opportunity to lead an organization with the critical mission of protecting the public. A lot of people see the bar as an organization that exists to serve lawyers, but it's not, she explains.

"Its mission is to protect the public," she says. "We regulate the legal profession to ensure competency and integrity of lawyers and to serve justice and the public interest."

For her, leading the bar is important service to be a part of, especially as a lawyer. In January when her term began, she couldn't have predicted how the COVID-19 pandemic would affect her tenure as president. The bar, courts, lawyers and public had to quickly adjust.

Following her classmate **Chris Costantino JD'01**, the immediate past-president, Reeves' focus going into her year as president was on mentoring the next generation of lawyers and capturing the knowledge of a large generation of attorneys who are about to retire.

Reeves' other goals consist of exploring creative ways to bridge the access to justice gap, including the bar's approval of a licensed paraprofessional program to address specific needs in family law and landlord/tenant law and a "Writing for the Bar" program that provides a

pathway to sit for the bar exam after rigorous training requirements.

With the pandemic, she pivoted her focus to ensure continuity of bar operations in the new reality and help the profession prepare to meet the legal needs facing the public as a result of COVID-19. Her initial goals remain, and she continues to work on them despite the additional challenges.

As the first Asian American and the first woman of color to serve as president, she felt leading the bar was an obligation, not just an opportunity.

"In a profession that has historically put up barriers for women and people of color, I was in the right place and had the right opportunity to do it," she says, "and I feel like it's my obligation, as a woman of color, to step up, make room and set an example for other people to follow."

She's excited about the members of the current OSB Board of Governors, who reflect a lot of perspectives, as well as the changing demographics of the bar. Change is happening, but it will take time, she says.

"All institutions have institutional bias and issues they need to overcome," she says. "You need people in those leadership positions to recognize that and want to change that."

# SECURE Act may change charitable giving



By **Jeff Thede JD'79** and **Justine Thede Occhipinti JD'13**

The recent "Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act" (SECURE Act) might change your charitable giving.

The good news: There is no age restriction for traditional IRA contributions, allowing them indefinitely. The SECURE Act also increases the age when individuals must take required minimum distributions (RMDs) to 72, allowing accumulation of assets tax-free for more time. This similarly applies to other qualified retirement plans.

The bad news is most IRA beneficiaries (besides spouses) must withdraw the balance within 10 years after the IRA owner's death (with no other RMDs). There are a couple of exceptions, and beneficiaries of IRAs inherited before 2020 are not subject to this.

Since 2006, IRA owners over 70½ could make charitable contributions up to \$100,000 per year from an IRA to a qualified public charity. These qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) aren't tax-deductible, but they also aren't taxable owner income, benefiting an owner who doesn't itemize deductions. Because the QCDs aren't included in income, they don't result in increased Social Security taxation or higher Medicare premiums. With the SECURE Act, QCDs may still be made at age 70½.

Without "stretching" distributions over a lifetime, there may be less motivation for an owner to designate younger beneficiaries. Owners could consider making lifetime QCDs and also designating charities to receive the IRA. Because charities are tax-exempt, this strategy avoids income tax on the proceeds. The owner could then give other, non-taxable assets to beneficiaries. Donors with large IRAs could designate as beneficiary a "charitable remainder trust" (also income tax-exempt), providing potential tax-deferred lifetime income to family members and a large charitable gift.

Liquor Control Commission, including spending the past five years developing and implementing the state's initial cannabis regulations and overseeing OLCC alcohol and cannabis licensing.

'07

**Maria Schmidtkofer** was named shareholder at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt PC in Portland. She practices in the areas of estate planning and administration and is part of the firm's Natural Resources and Health Care and Life Sciences industry groups.

'08

**Meghan Bishop** recently graduated from George Washington University's Graduate School of Political Management with an MPS in political management. She plans to continue her research and advocacy in juvenile justice reform. She has worked as senior associate program manager for Publicis Sapient in Washington, D.C., since May 2018.

'09

**Kyra Rohner** is serving on the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors for Region 1 through 2020. She is a general practice attorney in Baker City, Oregon.

'10

**James R. Huddleston** joined Evashevski Elliott PC in Corvallis, Oregon, as an associate in October 2019. He focuses on family law, personal injury and civil litigation.

**Rebecca Van Loon** joined Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP in San Diego as a partner in March 2020. Her practice focuses on the areas of estate planning, trust and probate administration and taxation law.

'11

**Joseph Lunskey** joined Witherspoon Brajcich McPhee PLLC in September 2019 Spokane, Washington. Lunskey is a part of the business and corporate law, taxation and real estate practice areas.

'12

**Katherine Denning** is serving on the Oregon State Bar Board of Governors for Region 6 through 2022. She is an associate attorney

at Landerholm Law LLC in Salem, where she works on streamlined adoption, custody and divorce cases.

'13

**Jamee Asher** became general counsel for the Downtown Development Group in Portland in March 2020. DDG and its affiliates have an ownership interest in more than 1.5 million square feet of residential, industrial, retail and office space within the Central Business District.

**Lucy Jensen JD/MBA'13** joined Pluralsight, an information technology company in Silicon Slopes, Utah, as associate general counsel in December 2019.

**Kimberley Mansfield** was awarded the 2019 Carson Award for Service to the Community by the Marion County Bar Association. She is an attorney practicing family law and landlord/tenant law for Royer & Associates in Salem.

'14

**Mae Lee Browning** is serving as the 2020 Chair for the Oregon State Bar Young Lawyers Division. She has been the legislative director for the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association since October 2019.

**Rory D. Cosgrove** was recognized by the Washington Defense Trial Lawyers as the 2019 Outstanding Litigation Associate of the Year. He is an appellate attorney at Carney Badley Spellman PS in Seattle.

'15

**Evan Champa** joined Holland & Hart in Reno, Nevada, in November 2019. His practice focuses on real estate transactions and related litigation.

**Jayme Mori** joined Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt PC in Seattle as an associate in January 2020. She works in the Manufacturing Distribution and Retail Industry group. She came to Schwabe from a regional firm in Seattle and has a deep understanding of the businesses that shape the Pacific Northwest economy.

'17

**Dan Olsen** began working as a deputy district attorney for Marion County in November 2019.



**Trevor Potter** and his wife, Rose, welcomed daughter Phoebe Neskowin Potter to their family June 19, 2019. She was 7 pounds, 3 ounces and 18¾ inches long. He has been the assistant prosecuting attorney in Lafayette County, Missouri, since March 2019.

'18

**Brooke Olsen** joined Heltzel Williams PC in 2019 in Salem, Oregon, practicing business and employment law.

**Megan Oshiro** joined the Portland, Oregon, law firm Farleigh Wada Witt as an associate in September 2019. Her practice emphasizes financial services, business, real estate and estate and succession planning. Prior to joining the firm, she was a judicial clerk for the Hon. Stephen K. Bushong of the Multnomah County Circuit Court.

'19

**Mick Harris** joined Tonkon Torp LLP in Portland as an associate in September 2019. He assists clients with business formation, contract drafting and complex transactions.

## In Memoriam

'56

**James "Jim" R. Ellis '53** died January 4, 2020. He joined the Oregon National Guard when he was 17 years old. In 1953, he graduated from Willamette University, earning his law degree there three years later. He married his wife, Pat, in 1954. During his life, he served in the Oregon National Guard and the Army Reserve. Ellis was a judge in Multnomah County with the District and Circuit Courts, working as presiding judge from 1998 to 2002. In 1987, he remarried Elyse Clawson. He is survived by his wife, three children and five grandchildren.

'70

**Robert "Bob" L. Abel** passed away from natural causes March 26, 2020, in Port Townsend, Washington, at the home of his daughter. Abel practiced many different types of law in Salem, Medford and Grants Pass, Oregon,

## An advocate for the voiceless



When she was growing up in Reno, Nevada, **Cierra Brown JD'15** told her parents she was going to be a lawyer. Her father didn't like that idea, but she was stubborn. After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in criminal justice, she was working the graveyard shift in juvenile corrections, and she was ready to try something new.

Deciding there was no better time to go to law school and move to Oregon, she applied to Willamette Law. As a law student, she enjoyed Professors Steven Green, Robin Morris Collin and Caroline Davidson, and she found criminal law was the direction her law career was headed. After being "thrown into" the OGALLA (the LGBT Bar Association of Oregon) student representative position as a 1L, she took advantage of the opportunities to advance her career.

"It forced me to meet people and network in a way that I don't think I would've done as a law

student going to events," she says. "I genuinely think that the friends and people I'm closest to are people that I met because of my involvement with affinity groups."

Five years out of law school, Brown couldn't have predicted where she would be now. She partnered with another Willamette Law grad, **Amanda Dalton JD'13**, to start Metro Law Group, a criminal defense firm in Oregon City, in 2016. Dalton left to pursue a lobbying career two years later, so Brown kept the practice and has been learning the ropes as a business owner.

She enjoys the flexibility of her position but says it still comes with challenges.

"I don't have a boss," she explains. "I can't just run down the hall and ask for advice. You don't really have that mentor system when you hang your own shingle."

Thankfully, she says, her involvement with affinity groups and other attorneys in the community has been helpful when she has questions. She is taking a break from the OGALLA board for the first time since joining as a law student, but she's still on the Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship Committee and the board of the Oregon Defense Consortium Association. She has also served as an attorney mentor at Willamette Law and the emcee of the WUPILP Bid for Justice Auction.

Every summer and throughout the school year, she brings in law students to give them experience with criminal defense and court-appointed work, which makes up a large majority of her practice. It feels good to help, and she wants to continue to grow and get better for her clients every day.

"I really like the opportunity to stand up and advocate for people who have no way of doing it themselves — just giving them a chance to be heard for sometimes the first time ever," she says. "I want to be the voice for people who can't do it themselves."

## 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.

### 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 2019. 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.

In October 2019, President Donald Trump nominated **Joshua M. Kindred JD'05** to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Alaska. Previously, he was the regional solicitor for the Alaska Region of the Department of the Interior in Anchorage. Kindred was confirmed by the full Senate in February 2020.

### Idaho

Seventh District Court Magistrate **Judge Mark Rammell JD'86** retired after 27 years on the bench but continues to serve as a magistrate part time by working as an Idaho senior judge. As a senior judge, he fills in when there is a conflict of interest between permanent magistrates, defendants and lawyers, or when a judge has a personal emergency or takes a vacation.

Cassia County prosecutor **Douglas Abenroth JD'05** became the newest magistrate judge for Minidoka County in June 2020 following the retirement of Rick Bollar in May. He was appointed as Cassia County prosecutor in 2014.

### Oregon

Former Oregon Supreme Court **Justice Paul J. De Muniz JD'75** was honored with the annual First Citizen Award at the March 2020 First Citizen Banquet in Salem. De Muniz received the honor after decades of service to the community. Much of his work following his time on the supreme court has focused on helping former inmates reintegrate into their communities after being incarcerated.

**Forrest Reid JD'85** joined Albany's Municipal Court in January 2020 following the retirement of Judge Robert Scott. He will continue serving as the city attorney for Millersburg.



Gov. Kate Brown appointed **David M. Vandenberg JD'89** to the Lake County Circuit Court in September 2019 to fill a vacancy left by retiring Judge Robert F. Nichols Jr. The appointment was effective immediately. Vandenberg was previously an attorney in private practice in Lakeview.

Gov. Kate Brown appointed **Alycia Kersey JD'10** to the Klamath County Circuit Court in August 2020 to a vacancy left by retiring Judge Roxanne Osborne. The appointment was effective immediately. Kersey was previously a criminal defense attorney in Klamath Falls.

**Brandon S. Thueson JD'10** was appointed to the Josephine County Circuit Court by Gov. Kate Brown in September 2019. His appointment was effective immediately. He previously was a child advocacy lawyer at the Oregon Department of Justice.

### Washington

Washington **Gov. Jay Inslee JD'76** appointed **David Freeman JD'05** to the Whatcom County Superior Court in January 2020. Freeman replaced Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis, who was recently appointed to the Washington State Supreme Court. For nine years prior to his appointment, Freeman worked as a review judge in the Commissioner's Review Office.



with great professionalism and care for his clients. His family was always proud of his many accomplishments and appreciative of his support and advice throughout their lives. He spent his retirement years boating and bicycling while traveling the Pacific Northwest with his loved ones. He will be missed by his family members and dear friends.

**Jeanyse Snow**, an Astoria, Oregon, attorney known for her brilliant mind, died April 6, 2020, after a brief illness. She had practiced law in the coastal town for 45 years with her husband, Hal, who passed away four years ago. Snow was born and raised in Astoria. At Willamette Law, she served as the editor-in-chief of the Law Review and was one of only two women to graduate in her class. In 1970, she joined Hal at Macdonald, Dean & McCallister in Astoria, which was eventually renamed Snow & Snow. She specialized in land use law and handled all of the firm's appellate cases. Devoted to her husband, Snow was a community contributor renowned for her legal and writing abilities. She will be missed by her two sons, their families and other family members.

'76

**Anthony Edward Riva Otis** died from dementia July 13, 2020, in Montpelier, Vermont. He grew up there, graduating from the University of Vermont. In 1976, he graduated from Willamette Law, returning to Montpelier as a clerk and administrator of the state supreme court. Otis practiced until 2016. He loved music, dancing, nature photography and doing artwork. He is survived by his wife, children and two grandchildren, as well as other family.

'81

**Richard "Dick" William Shaffer** '77 died January 17, 2020. Dick grew up in Wyoming and lived in Kansas for a few years while he attended Manhattan Christian College and drove a feed truck. He later worked as a policeman in Laramie, Wyoming, and Sitka, Alaska. After being shot in the line of duty in 1974, he gave up his career as a police officer and went to law school at Willamette Law. He returned to Alaska following his graduation and

practiced until he retired in 2006. He and his wife, Margee, moved to Oregon in 2008 to be near good hospitals. Shaffer liked to sum up his career as the three C's: Cowboy, Cop and Counselor. He is survived by his wife, Margee, seven children, 17 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

'83

**Martha Pagel**, 65, passed away July 19, 2019, after a battle with cancer. Pagel earned her bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and then went on to Willamette Law. After graduating with her JD, she worked in environmental law, serving as senior policy advisor for natural resources for former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts and director of the Oregon Water Resources Department. Since 2000, she was a shareholder at Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt in Portland, leading its Environmental group and serving as a mentor for many attorneys through the years. She loved to dance, especially with her husband, Vic, and her passion for family, golf and serving the natural resources industry will be remembered fondly.

'93

**David O'Brien** passed away April 21, 2020, from brain cancer. He attended UC Santa Barbara before earning his law degree at Willamette Law. At UCSB, he fell in love with Julie Bachman. He adored their children, Dylan and Emma Claire, supporting them in all their endeavors. O'Brien worked at Hart Wagner in Portland as director of operations and spiritual leader of the firm. Known for his kind demeanor, easygoing nature and sense of humor, O'Brien's encouragement and advice led to many lasting friendships. He is survived by his wife, Julie, his two children, three siblings and mother.

'04

**Dennis Koho**, 67, passed away June 10, 2019, from complications of congestive heart failure. Koho was a lifelong Oregonian, having grown up in Bend. He was an Eagle Scout and remained active in Scouting throughout his life. Koho had a passion for service and giving back and was a sponsor to many in AA or struggling with addiction. He

also was a mentor to many. He had a love for baseball and was instrumental in bringing the Keizer Volcanoes team to town in 1996. Fulfilling a lifelong dream, at the age of 49, Koho entered Willamette Law as a 1L student. After graduating, he

opened his own practice and served on the city council in Keizer. An eternal optimist, he had a big heart. He is survived by his wife, Lori, brother, Scott, sister, Karyl, two children, Dara and Dax, and five grandchildren.

## Supporting the future of Willamette Law



**Ron Pinckney '71, JD'74** remembers his time at Willamette Law fondly. The people and the challenge of law school made his experience memorable, he says.

He also especially valued Willamette's supportive approach and the way it prepared him to succeed. For 25 years, Pinckney owned a general practice in Bremerton, Washington, but he decided to switch careers.

"A client called and asked if I might be interested in buying her business," he says. "That was the proverbial 'opportunity knocking,' and I noticed and took the chance and bought it — an H&R Block franchise that was entirely different from law."

Pinckney ran the business, managed people and planned well, he explains.

"It worked out," he says. "One of the reasons I like to donate to the law school is it gave me the tools to try something new and trust myself to do it. Law school set me up to go 180 degrees from what I'd been doing."

When he retired in 2016, he owned 10 franchises. As a retiree, he and his wife, Barbara, enjoy traveling. He made a bequest to the Willamette Law endowment last October to help it succeed in the future.

"When I went to law school, I thought of it only as an opportunity to practice law. In reality, it puts you in a position to do a lot of things," he says. "I hope other people have the opportunity to have success in their life because of the law school."

# Scene of the Crime

## Business Lawyering Institute Fall Events October 15 and November 13, 2019



[1] As part of the Business Lawyering Institute, **David Drinkward JD'07**, along with Professor Yvonne Tamayo, spoke on a panel about in-house counsel to Professors Karen Sandrik and Aaron Simowitz's classes. Photo credit: Kendrick Arakaki.



[2] **Ken Peterson JD'80**, [3] **Doug Goe JD'81** and [4] **Jim Hensel JD'85** talked to BLI students about Peterson's company, Columbia Pulp.



### Alaskan Students Dinner

October 24, 2019

**Mary Hughes JD'74** hosted Alaskan students and alumni for dinner in the fall. (Clockwise from left: **Nate Solorio JD'20**, **Ayla O'Scannell JD'20**, **Brooke Olsen JD'18**, **Dan Olsen JD'17**, **Tina Isbell JD'21**, former Dean Curtis Bridgeman, **Katie Pace JD'22**, Hughes, **Mark Hansen JD'21**, **Patsy Shaha JD'21** and **Casey Gilmore JD'20**.)





### Honoring First Citizen of Salem March 7, 2020

Since 1975, three Willamette Law Class of 1975 grads have been honored as First Citizen of Salem: **George Jennings JD'75** (left), **Jim Griggs '71 JD'75** (right) and the **Hon. Paul De Muniz JD'75** (center). De Muniz received the award this year, while Jennings and Griggs were honored in 2017 and 2006, respectively.

### Tee Time in Palm Springs February 12, 2020

Former Dean Curtis Bridgeman and alumni got together for lunch and golf in Palm Springs, California. (From left to right: **John Deits JD'74**,

**George Jennings JD'75**, **Bob Jackson JD'83**, **Ron Pinckney '71, JD'74** and Bridgeman.)



### Leadership Cabinet Meets with Students

November 15, 2019

[1] **Nancy Schierhorn JD'86** and **Cecilia Lee JD'86** chat with **Tamara Palmer JD'21**.

[2] **Marie Colmey JD'89** talks with current students **Zach Gustin JD'22** and **Kyle Sessions JD'22**.

[3] **Bob Saalfeld JD'74** and **Elise McClure JD'84** participate in a group activity with former Dean Curtis Bridgeman's Contracts class.

[4] **Mark Hoyt JD'92** and **David Drinkward JD'07** speak with a student.



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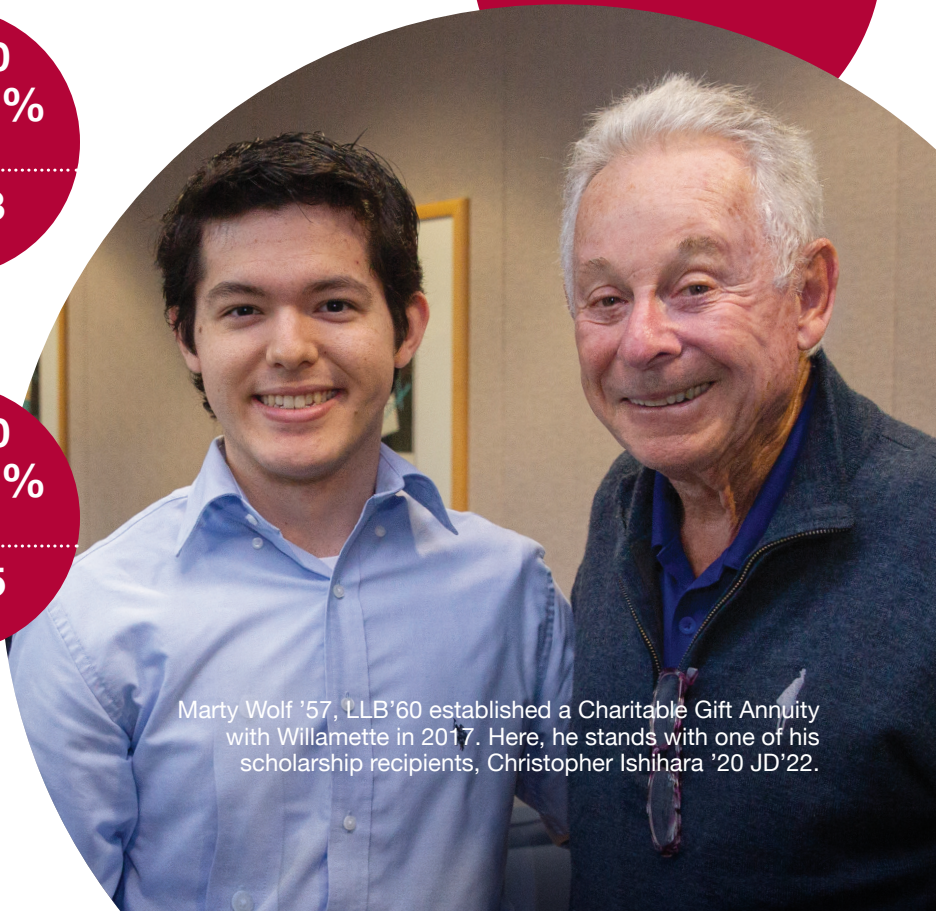
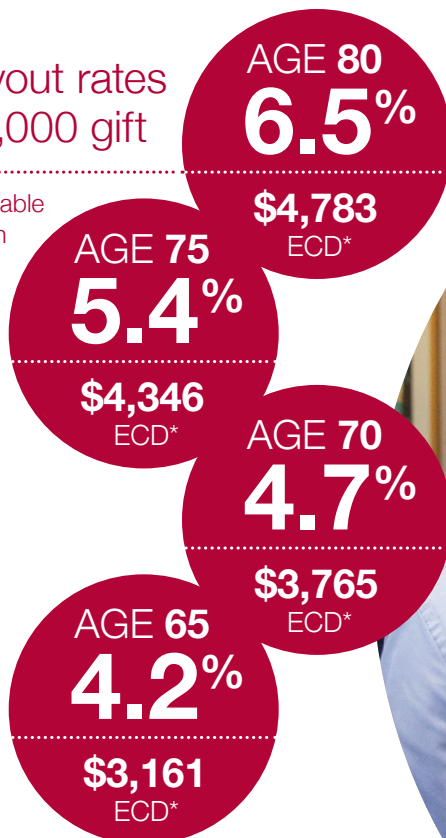
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Marty Wolf '57, LLB'60 established a Charitable Gift Annuity with Willamette in 2017. Here, he stands with one of his scholarship recipients, Christopher Ishihara '20 JD'22.