

The magazine of the first law school in the Pacific Northwest | Fall 2021

WILLAMETTE LAWYER



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FALL 2021



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Dean

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Dean's Message

Dear alumni and friends:

My first year as dean has been one for the record books. But in the midst of a global pandemic, social unrest in support of racial justice, a divisive election, historic wildfires, an ice storm, and a record-shattering heatwave — did I miss anything? — I have been consistently impressed by our students, faculty and staff — and you, our alumni and friends.

When we needed you most, you responded by helping us close one of the largest fundraising years in Willamette's history. Our students benefited from engaging with you at orientation, learning from you in your role as attorney-mentors, and holding helpful discussions during Career Conversations. Thank you.

Over the past year, we have worked to increase our visibility throughout the legal landscape. We hosted a virtual Willamette Law Review Symposium on housing equity, bringing in over 300 national and international guests. We also celebrated the 30-year anniversary of our Attorney-Mentor Program.

We were at the forefront of licensure conversations

culminating in the Oregon Supreme Court's historic decision to grant diploma privilege to the Class of 2020. Afterward, I worked with graduates to form a Racial Justice Task Force that reviewed the role of implicit bias in criminal jury selection and drafted recommendations for reform. As I watched them assemble the report, I couldn't help but think it had a stronger correlation to the practice of law than simply studying for the bar. Collectively, their work aligns with my belief that there are valid alternatives to the bar, and I hope that our institution will continue to lead that national discussion.

Willamette Law has also been working to address access and transparency issues in law school admissions by developing direct admission programs with a number of universities. We've made great strides in strengthening our faculty through strategic advancements and hiring professors with strong backgrounds in experiential legal education. To name just two, we are proud to add Professors Susan Cook and Sarah Matsumoto to the full-time faculty. Please join me in welcoming them to Salem.

I have deeply appreciated the time many of you have taken to express support for us, interest in my vision and the direction of our school, and your insights into how we can evolve to provide a leading experiential legal education.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming reception and to your continued engagement with Willamette Law. In the interim, I'm particularly excited for you to read in this issue about the launch of our Signature Strengths Initiative, which is designed to highlight the College's unique, community-focused and student-centric approach to legal education. You'll also read stories about the resilience of our on-campus community and the amazing work of our alumni.

Until next time, I hope you and yours are staying healthy.

Warmly,



Brian Gallini
Dean & Professor of Law



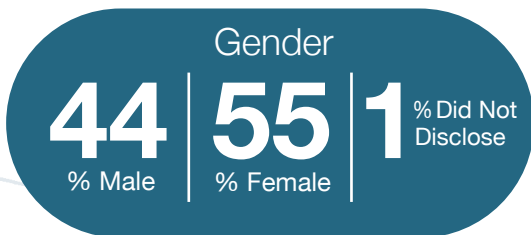
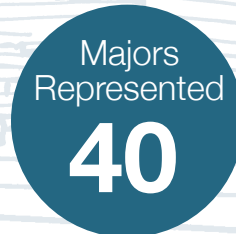
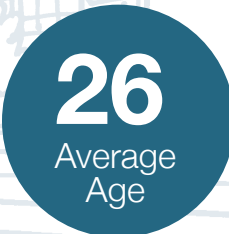
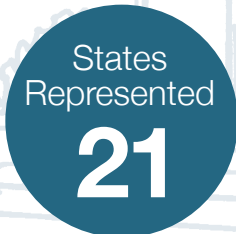
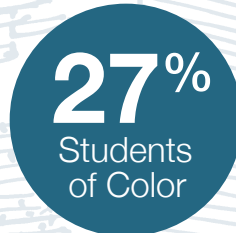
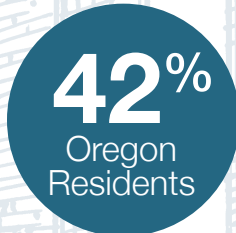
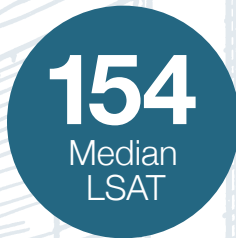
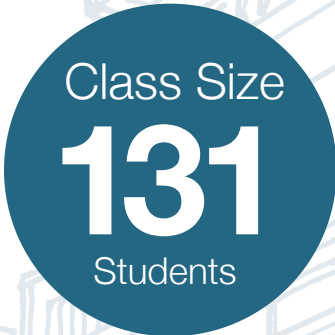
Class of 2024

We gratefully welcomed the Class of 2024 on campus full-time this fall following the many ups and downs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our incoming class members came from varied previous occupations, including a radio DJ, private investigator, artist and an Alaskan log cabin builder.

They have a wide range of hobbies and interests, and the class has two US-Canadian dual citizens, one former college mascot, two opera singers and many who know foreign languages, love hiking and the outdoors, and enjoy playing and watching sports.

The top five undergraduate schools included Portland State University, the University of Oregon, Oregon State University, Western Oregon University and Willamette University.



Willamette Law launches new direct admission programs

Willamette Law is offering new direct admission programs benefiting students from the University of Alaska Southeast, the University of Alaska Anchorage, Portland State University, Western Oregon University and Willamette University.

The programs admit undergraduates and alumni to the College of Law based on certain academic credentials.

Generally speaking, the programs include four years of undergraduate study and three at Willamette Law. Admitted students are guaranteed a \$10,000 scholarship, renewable each year they are enrolled and remain in good standing.

University of Alaska Southeast and University of Alaska Anchorage
Bruce Botelho '71, JD'76, former mayor of Juneau and

UAS community advisor, helped facilitate the formation of the UAS degree pathway.

“Willamette Law has trained generations of attorneys who have served Alaska with distinction,” Botelho says. “Cementing this long-term relationship between WUCL and Alaska through the direct admission program at UAS will ensure the continuing development of legal professionals with deep ties to our region.”

There is no law school in Alaska, so Willamette Law has long filled the gap for students there.

“Our goal is to get our students where they want to go,” says Denise Runge, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at UAA. “Now we have a really clear path that we can offer to our students.”

Many prominent Alaskan attorneys and politicians, including **U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski JD'85** and **Judge Joshua M. Kindred JD'05**, earned their law degrees from Willamette.

Portland State University

PSU previously had a 3+3 Direct Admission Program with Willamette. The new 4+3 Program takes its place and, with the guaranteed scholarship, still offers students more financial stability as they make an investment in legal education.

Western Oregon University

Western Oregon University announced the latest direct admission pathway in July 2021 with similar requirements and benefits of the other programs. More information on WOU's agreement can be found at wou.edu/transferpathways.

Willamette University

A fifth pathway, Willamette University Law School Bound, offers exclusive and enhanced pre-law advising, moving students toward a 3+3 or 4+3 direct admission program.

With the 3+3 option, students finish both their BA and JD in six years, providing them an extra year of earning power. The 4+3 option offers students a guaranteed \$25,000 scholarship, renewable each year they are

“These programs will help expand ... on our historic legacy of educating Alaskan and Oregonian attorneys.”

— Dean Brian Gallini

enrolled at Willamette Law and remain in good standing.

Law School Bound provides students enhanced transparency in the law school admissions process alongside a durable scholarship.

Moving forward

Participating students are supported in their academic journeys by Leah Straley, Willamette Law assistant dean of admissions. Dean Brian Gallini is enthusiastic about the new agreements.

“We look forward to welcoming many future law students through these unique partnerships,” he says. “These programs will help expand access to legal education while providing a transparent path to admission that builds on our historic legacy of educating Alaskan and Oregonian attorneys.”



Bruce Botelho, '71, JD'76

Developing leaders in the law

A new course, *Lawyers & Leadership*, taught by Dean Brian Gallini and Dean Emeritus Symeon Symeonides, welcomed a small group this past spring to prepare them for leadership roles.

Willamette is one of a few law schools offering such a course.

“Lawyers often take on leadership roles,” Gallini explains, “yet many of our students graduate without studying effective leadership or assessing their leadership characteristics and styles. We want to change that.”

The course was taught virtually over 13 weeks. Alumni and guests joined the students to discuss their own leadership styles relating to distinct class topics. Conversations included relationship building, diversity, equity, justice and dealing with confrontation.

Students were encouraged to come to class with curiosity and authenticity to craft their individual leadership philosophies. They finished the course with a capstone paper explaining those as informed by the class journey and supporting literature.

Several commented that the class helped them learn more about their classmates while sharing vulnerable, personal experiences. **Eric Seepe JD’21** says it should be required for all law students.

“The lectures and atmosphere of each class were invigorating and provided me an opportunity to truly know, and understand, many in my cohort who I had not studied with, let alone met in person,” Seepe says. “Listening to stories of adversity, triumph

and frustration is the meat of lawyering, but also central to leading and being a fulfilled person.”

Gallini says the class was a good reminder of the challenges leaders face every day.

“By learning from leaders who graduated from Willamette Law, students gained a greater understanding of the complex issues facing today’s managers and influencers,” Gallini says. “I am confident they are better prepared to take on leadership roles in law school and beyond.”



Justice Faith Ireland JD’69 was a guest speaker in the virtual *Lawyers & Leadership* class taught this spring.

Lawyers and Leadership Distinguished Guest Speakers

Julie Vacura JD’84, Partner, Larkins Vacura Kayser

Whitney Boise JD’85, Partner, Boise & Matthews LLP

Brian Ward JD’87, CEO, Trimont Real Estate Advisors & Trimont Global

Mark Birge JD’78, Partner Emeritus, Aldrich CPAs + Advisors LLP

Nancy Schierhorn JD’86, Executive Vice President & Chief Development Officer, Bristol Bay Native Corporation

Tamara Lawson, Dean, St. Thomas University College of Law

Jonathan Mayes JD’87, Senior Vice President of External Affairs & Chief Diversity Officer, Albertsons Companies

The Hon. **Joshua Kindred JD’05**, Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Alaska

David Drinkward JD’07, President & CEO, Hoffman Construction

Eva Kripalani JD’86, General Counsel & Co-Founder, Office of General Counsel Network

Liz Large JD’96, General Counsel & Co-Founder, Office of General Counsel Network

Ken Peterson JD’80, CEO, Columbia Ventures

Julie Wolff JD/MBA’95, Chief Legal Officer & Director, Sarcos Corp.

U.S. Sen. **Lisa Murkowski JD’85**, Senior U.S. Senator, State of Alaska

Justice **Faith Ireland JD’69**, Retired Supreme Court Justice, Washington Supreme Court



A COVID commencement



Clockwise from top: A group of excited faculty pose with a graduating student during a diploma pick-up event held in May; Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne C. Nelson was the keynote speaker for commencement; Meghan Graf JD'21, Class of 2021 president, spearheaded a mask design project for graduation.

Keynote speaker Justice Adrienne C. Nelson featured, Associate Dean Jeffrey Dobbins and Spencer Prosen JD'21 recognized

Willamette Law celebrated its 135th Commencement COVID-style on May 16, 2021, complete with a virtual ceremony and distanced, pod-based diploma pick-up.

"Today we celebrate you, and the achievements of our graduates under circumstances that I'm confident not one of you could've predicted when you joined our community three years ago," Dean Brian Gallini remarked during the ceremony. "We are extremely proud of the considerable work you did to get to this special day."

Gallini also spoke about the class' resilience, sacrifices

made, versatility to pivot and struggle with loss.

"Class of 2021, you've been well outside your comfort zone now for over a year, but it's that versatility that gives me great hope for our profession and in your ability to thrive amidst any of the challenges you may face in the future," he concluded.

Oregon Supreme Court Justice Adrienne C. Nelson gave the keynote address, and two members of the law community were honored at the ceremony: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jeffrey Dobbins, the Law Faculty Member of the Year, and graduate **Spencer Prosen JD'21**, the class valedictorian.



Keynote Speaker Justice Adrienne C. Nelson

The keynote speaker for the College of Law, Justice Adrienne C. Nelson, is the first African-American to sit on the state's highest court and on

any Oregon appellate state court. Nelson previously served as a trial judge for the Multnomah County Circuit Court in Portland. She is involved in many national, state, local and specialty bar

associations, often serving in a leadership capacity.

In her address, Nelson invited the members of the class to revel in their achievements. She encouraged the graduates to continue the conversation of making the justice system live up to its values, discussing inclusion and awareness of inequalities.

"I believe that each of us, as lawyers — and I'm so glad that you are now part of 'us,' — have a central role to play in these uncertain times. Because history lives in the present," Nelson explained. "We have the ability, and I suggest, the duty, to hold power accountable to all the people and to the cause of justice."

Nelson went on to charge the class members to give themselves the space to

develop into great lawyers and leaders in challenging times.

"I'm asking you, 'Who are you going to be [as a lawyer]?' Regardless of whether you go into private practice or the corporate world, or whether you become a public defender, a prosecutor or a public interest advocate, you'll be a lawyer," Nelson said, "and that means you have not only a unique opportunity and ability that non-lawyers don't have, but also within it the ability to foster justice in the world, to reveal truth, to stand up again for the voiceless, and to hold our country to its promises of equal justice for all."



Associate Dean Jeffrey Dobbins

The graduating class recognized Associate Dean Jeffrey Dobbins with the Law Faculty Member of the Year Award. A professor at Willamette

since 2006, he teaches Civil Procedure, Federal Courts, Administrative Law and seminars on the appellate process.

Dobbins also just finished his first year as a dean, spending time learning how the program of law is implemented at Willamette, determining courses and budget, and communicating academic regulations. During the pandemic, he adjusted courses and finances to fit the unprecedented time.

"The College of Law is fortunate to have Dean Dobbins as a leader, teacher and innovator," says Dean Brian Gallini. "He is an extraordinary classroom teacher and mentor who puts his students at the center of everything he does."



Valedictorian Spencer Prosen JD'21

Spencer Prosen JD'21 was named the Class of 2021 valedictorian. Prosen was an engaged student who consistently performed well in all

classes, Dean Melody Mac Alpine says.

"As a student, Spencer not only held the top grades, but was also an exemplary member of our Willamette Law community," Mac Alpine says. "I was thrilled for him to receive the honor."

As valedictorian, Prosen was given the Aristeion Symeon Symeonides Award and a medallion to wear during commencement.

Prosen's career plans include working for Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun, P.C. in the litigation practice area, as well as doing some public defense work on the side. He plans to sit for the South Dakota bar exam as his office will be in Spearfish, South Dakota.



Willamette Law grads form Racial Justice Task Force





Members of the Racial Justice Task Force met to discuss their work in early 2021. From left to right: Kyleigh Gray JD'20, Eden Vasquez JD'20, Julie Preciado JD'20, Samantha Klausen JD'20, Michael Wallace JD'20 and Dean Brian Gallini.

After the diploma privilege ruling, members of the class of 2020 used bar study time to contribute to the profession and inform the conversation on racial justice in Oregon

By Sarah Bello

Following an Oregon Supreme Court decision to grant “diploma privilege” due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Willamette Law class of 2020 graduates could’ve chosen to take a break. Instead, they went to work.

Around 20 new attorneys formed the Racial Justice Task Force in July 2020 to study the peremptory challenge, a tool used by attorneys during jury selection to remove jurors without having to state a reason. They concluded that the challenge needs work, or it needs to go.

In Oregon’s jury selection process, there’s a connection between the nature and use of peremptory challenges and implicit bias, the task force says. With a report set to be published in a forthcoming issue of the Willamette Law Review, the group says that now is the time to make changes to ensure equity and limit bias within this facet of the criminal justice system.

The task force formed after diploma privilege was given to members of the class of 2020 who faced historic difficulties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Most graduates who accepted diploma privilege were admitted to the Oregon State Bar

without taking the bar exam. With many not beginning their careers for several months due to the traditional testing and hiring seasons, Willamette Law's graduates got busy.

Led by **Samantha Klausen JD'20** and **Eden Vasquez JD'20**, the graduates decided to use their extra time to make a difference with something that mattered both to them personally and to the legal profession. Their work supports overdue change and establishes a precedent for enriching the profession should a bar exam be permanently discontinued.

Forming the Racial Justice Task Force

2020 was a challenging year, and it was no different for law students at Willamette. Many faced COVID-19 head-on, experiencing the illness with family and friends. Others watched the civil rights protests in Portland and around the country wishing they could help, but knowing they needed to study.



“What we found is that implicit bias is pervasive, existing in the most well-intentioned people, and it's hard to recognize, even within ourselves.”

— Samantha Klausen JD'20

When other states, including Washington, began offering new graduates diploma privilege, Vasquez and Klausen took note. They wondered what they could do if Oregon approved the same measure. Three weeks before the July bar exam, it was official. Graduates who passed character and fitness requirements and wanted to practice in Oregon could forego the test.

A Washington Racial Justice Task Force made up of recent graduates was already working on change. Vasquez and Klausen saw the opportunity and began calling classmates who were interested in advocacy and racial justice issues to find who might be interested in using their newfound free time for good. With about 20 on board, Dean Brian Gallini, working cooperatively with the Committee on Bias in the Oregon Justice System, helped the group narrow a topic and advised on organization structure.

“It was exceptionally important to me to show the country what examinees could do without the need to study for the bar exam,” Gallini says. “In this particular instance, I was interested in unifying that goal with the related effort to show Willamette as a leader in the long-overdue reckoning with systemic racism.”

From August to January, the group, tasked with examining peremptory challenges, put their legal skills to work. Oregon's history was one of the most important components of the work, says Vasquez, who grew up here but didn't know the state's racist past until later in life.

“People consider Oregon one of the most progressive states, but I think it's important for everyone to recognize and acknowledge Oregon's history,” Vasquez says. “We are trying to move forward as a state, but some of the systems we have were created and established during this previous time.”

To complete the work, group members finished individual assignments and met virtually in small sections. Gallini chaired the task force, and other faculty members, including former Oregon Supreme Court Justices **Paul De Muniz JD'75** and Jack Landau, as well as Professor Caroline Davidson, mentored the team.

Resulting recommendations

The task force's final, 40+ page report explores explicit and implicit bias and how federal courts have dealt with bias. In particular, the report highlights the 1986 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Batson v. Kentucky* and critiques the Batson system. It also explores remedies adopted by other states and outlines Oregon's approach to bias in the jury selection process.

The Batson system, though it does not allow attorneys to use peremptory challenges to strike jurors due to race, deals with only explicit bias and potentially still permits implicit, or unconscious, bias in those decisions. With their research, Klausen says the task force learned implicit bias is a much bigger problem.

“What we found is that implicit bias is pervasive, existing in the most well-intentioned people, and it's hard to recognize, even within ourselves,” Klausen says. “We also found that existing mechanisms do very little, if anything, to protect against implicit bias in jury selection. In fact, the peremptory challenge, while valuable in other ways, encourages attorneys to rely on ‘gut reactions,’ and there isn't really a tool to adequately challenge if that gut reaction is rooted in implicit bias or unconscious stereotyping.”

To address the issue in Oregon, the task force concludes their report with two recommendations to reduce the role of implicit bias in jury selection and protect the reputation and function of Oregon's legal profession. They propose either abolishing peremptory challenges in criminal proceedings or implementing a new rule similar to those enacted in Washington and California to strengthen Batson challenges and expand classes of persons protected against discrimination.



“People consider Oregon one of the most progressive states, but I think it’s important for everyone to recognize and acknowledge Oregon’s history.”

— Edén Vasquez JD’20

Gallini says the peremptory challenge focus is just a narrow slice of the racial justice conversation, but its impact could be profound.

“Because the justice system is one that can strip a defendant of his or her liberty, it’s critical that we work to eliminate — or at least reduce — the role that bias plays in that process,” he says.

“That’s what the task force seeks to address, even if in an incremental manner.”

In addition to appearing in the Willamette Law Review, the report was also submitted to the Oregon Supreme Court’s Committee on Bias in the Oregon Justice System. The task force hopes it will help move the needle and create more dialogue on the questions associated with the peremptory challenge.

Further conversations

With this offering to the legal profession, a lingering and longtime question about the future of the bar exam remains. Is passing the bar a good test of law graduates’ readiness to begin their careers, or is it a barrier, like peremptory challenges?

Gallini expressed some skepticism about the bar, noting “the underlying work done by the task force to produce a report like this one requires reliance on skills that relate more to the practice of law as compared to what the bar exam seeks to test.”

For her part, Klausen says with her class ranking and personal ambition, she knew she would likely pass the bar. But that didn’t stop her from worrying about whether she memorized enough. Looking back, she wishes her time in law school focused more on learning skills that would prepare her to do what she does now as a practicing attorney, rather than recalling information and answering multiple-choice questions to prepare for the test.

“The report we produced has a much stronger correlation to the actual practice of law. The creation of the report required competency in legal research and writing, analysis, issue spotting, argument, understanding of the law, attention to detail, debate, working as a team — those are skills lawyers are expected to have,” Klausen says. “Additionally, the report gave us an immediate opportunity to contribute to the system of law and to help correct injustices — many of us went to law school to do just that.”

Vasquez agrees and says she hopes proving law graduates’ career readiness will also be discussed further, along with the work the task force accomplished.

“What I’m hoping and what I’ve been seeing,” she explains, “is that a lot of people are open to starting conversations about whether the bar exam — in its current form — is the best measure of a law graduate’s competency to practice law.”

The full Racial Justice Task Force Report can be read online on willamette.edu/go/racial-justice.

The Racial Justice Task Force

was chaired by Willamette Law Dean Brian Gallini. The vice chairs were 2020 graduates Samantha Klausen JD’20 and Edén Vasquez JD’20. Task Force members were 2020 graduates:

- Alana Axley-Irinaga JD’20
- Megan Axley-Irinaga JD’20
- Anderson Beals JD’20
- Darrin Divers JD’20
- Dillon Duxbury JD’20
- Mikayla Frei JD’20
- Kyleigh Gray JD’20
- Taylor Hurwitz JD’20
- Alexandra Hutchinson JD’20
- Laura Johnson JD’20
- Kayla Mazhary-Clark JD’20
- Caroline McCarthy JD’20
- Julie Preciado JD’20
- Kristi Skalman JD’20
- Michael Wallace JD’20
- Dale Wilhelm JD’20
- Nathaniel Woodward JD’20

FIND YOUR STRENGTH



New initiative highlights the College's unique, community-focused and student-centric approach to legal education

As the first law school in the Pacific Northwest, Willamette prides itself on producing the best problem-solvers, community leaders and change-makers in the most innovative region of the country. In keeping with its historically progressive approach to legal education, the new Signature Strengths Initiative, launched this year, showcases Willamette Law's unique, community-focused and student-centric approach to legal education.

Willamette Law has historically delivered exceptionally strong bar passage rates and employment outcomes for its graduates. Fundamental to achieving those outcomes has been the faculty and staff's one-to-one commitment to help all students succeed. Students know that, by enrolling at Willamette, they will get the support they need to pass the bar and begin practicing. The Signature Strengths Initiative ensures that Willamette students also have the curricular freedom to pursue their passions. Moreover, identifying and investing in Willamette Law's Signature Strengths holistically and inclusively highlights the faculty's teaching and scholarly expertise across five core areas: business law, public service, advocacy, international law and health law.



Business law

Willamette Law's approach to business law is unique: Students are trained to be leaders in the business world. With several avenues to learn about business law and establish connections within the Oregon legal and

business community, students can practice what they've learned before they leave school. They can choose to (1) take business classes that are particularly relevant to their unique needs, (2) specialize in business law through obtaining a Certificate in Business Law — established to ensure students gain the knowledge and skill set to be helpful to clients/colleagues on day one of their transactional or corporate practice, (3) work with real clients through the Business Law Clinic, and/or (4) opt to pursue an MBA alongside their JD through the Atkinson Graduate School of Management.

Beyond these interconnected pathways in business law, all students benefit from the Business Lawyering Institute. A recent addition to the already-strong business curriculum, the BLI brings together some of the region's leading experts in business lawyering to provide students with access to additional experiential classes, workshop opportunities and networking events.

"As a teacher, I am most excited that Willamette is looking toward the future practice of business lawyers. We are focused on developing our students' integrated legal and interdisciplinary understanding of the relationship between the law and business,



“Students can expect an ‘Only at Willamette’ education, tailored to their unique interests.” – Dean Brian Gallini

including the ability to identify and respond to contextual considerations and demands of business clients,” says Professor Karen Sandrik, co-director of the BLI.

“This is the value that Willamette lawyers bring to business clients that AI cannot replace — the ability to understand both the existing and evolving nature of business clients so we can help these clients navigate the changes and emerging opportunities they face.”

Students can also choose to be a part of the student-led Business Law Society, which brings in guest speakers and hosts events with local lawyers and business professionals.

The College's approach to business law — training lawyers to be leaders in the business world — is grounded in the commitment to practical business lawyering training and dispute resolution. The Center for Dispute Resolution on campus has long been recognized nationally as one of the finest training grounds in dispute resolution. Offering students the opportunity to practice simulated business negotiations and learn in small workshops on particular topics involving real-life, regional deals, the Center for Dispute Resolution works collaboratively with the BLI.

No matter what course students travel, Willamette Law provides the ideal setting for students who are interested in business to practice what they are learning in the classroom.



Public service

Willamette Law's location in Oregon's state capital means students can observe and participate in the many significant functions of state and county government, including the Oregon Supreme Court, the Oregon Legislature and other government offices. Many students have experienced unique public service opportunities through judicial clerkships and externships with state prosecutors and defense attorneys, the Oregon Department of Justice and other state agencies.

“At Willamette, our students are not just near the hub of government, policymaking and courts,” says Professor David Friedman. “They are immersed in it every day, and not just in the classroom.”

The faculty has tremendous expertise in the areas of criminal justice, sentencing, state and local government, public health, the Bill of Rights, state constitutional law and employment law. Willamette Law also supports two other centers — the Center for Constitutional Government and the Center for Religion, Law and Democracy — while offering students the opportunity to participate in the Law and Government Certificate program. These collective opportunities underscore Willamette's service-oriented mindset alongside its goal to produce the next generation of problem-solving lawyers.



Advocacy

Advocacy at Willamette Law involves preparing students to practice law in the real world to advance their clients' interests both in and out of court. Students can learn the legal profession's

practical skills through classes teaching how to set up a law practice, alternative dispute resolution, business negotiations, criminal law and procedure.

Many of these courses are taught by active judges and retired state supreme court justices, helping students network and learn from experts in the legal field. Students can also develop foundational skills in simulation-based courses where they can try their skills before applying them at work.

“Effective advocacy requires knowing the law and knowing how to advance your client’s interests,” says Professor Keith Cunningham-Parmeter. “At Willamette, we help law students build these skills through coursework, skills development and applied learning.”

Other opportunities to make connections and get real-world experience include participating in externships in a variety of settings, both domestically and abroad. In the past five years alone, the College has fostered a remarkable 126% increase in student externship opportunities.



International law

Willamette Law boasts a long and strong tradition of preparing students for the global practice of law. The rich international law curriculum spans courses in both public and private international law, as well

as comparative (foreign) law. The combined experience of Willamette’s internationally recognized faculty remarkably encompasses nearly 200 years. Among the available courses are international law and dispute resolution, international business transactions, foreign relations law, international arbitration and litigation, immigration and refugee law, global sustainability, maritime law and comparative law.

“Willamette’s comprehensive and nationally recognized program of international law provides a springboard for professional success,” says Professor Jim Nafziger, director of International Law Programs.

The JD, LL.M. in Transnational Law and MLS programs offer additional opportunities for students, including the student-edited Willamette Journal of International Law and Dispute Resolution, the International and Comparative Law Certificate program, and the international law Moot Court competition.



Health law

Health law is a part of nearly every aspect of a person’s life, and at Willamette, students interested in pursuing health law have the unique opportunity to learn from the best.

The health law faculty is composed of

experts with decades of experience who actively contribute to scholarship and work in the rapidly evolving field. Courses teach both public and private aspects of health law. Faculty are currently helping develop the University’s Public Health Ethics Advocacy and Leadership undergraduate major, as well as a new Health Law Certificate program. In fall 2020, a new course was taught on the legal implications of COVID-19.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated just how essential an understanding of public health law is to our most pressing societal problems,” says Professor Paul Diller. “Combined with WUCL’s strong curriculum in state constitutional, local government and administrative law, students at Willamette have the opportunity to study public health law with an understanding that states, cities and counties are usually the first movers in public health regulation.”

Willamette Law welcomes undergraduate students who take law classes as part of their studies. This integrated approach to curricula across schools is part of a strategy to increase access and cooperation among programs. The College provides opportunities for students to build their foundational knowledge in regulatory law, administrative law, medical malpractice and constitutional law, legal areas that have a significant impact on health law.

Creating a dynamic force at Willamette Law

“At Willamette Law, students can expect an ‘Only at Willamette’ education, tailored to their unique interests,” notes Dean Brian Gallini. “Our personalized environment, combined with our Signature Strengths, helps orient incoming students, while providing them an opportunity to explore programs leading to academic achievement and a rewarding career.”

The Signature Strengths include focus areas and opportunities for applied learning with simulated courses, externships, certificate programs, law clinics and academic centers on campus. They are complemented by top-notch faculty, which includes seasoned practitioners and scholars.

When combined with the school’s high bar passage and consistent graduate employment rates, the Signature Strengths Initiative collectively makes the College of Law a dynamic force with one of the most forward-thinking, creative programs in the country. Alumni are the best testament to what is unique about a Willamette Law education, providing leadership, solving problems and having a positive impact on their communities.

“Justice, fairness and equality are at the heart of everything we do,” Gallini says. “We want our students to make a difference in society, and with new emphasis on our Signature Strengths, we invite students to join us in that mission here at Willamette Law.”

\$2M gift to expand Willamette Law's experiential learning

Marty Wolf's latest gift emphasizes hands-on experience and practice at Willamette Law

By Sarah Bello

In 1959, **Marty Wolf '57, LLB'60** helped catapult Willamette Law into the national spotlight when he and his team won the National Moot Court Competition. Following his most recent \$2 million estate gift, making him the law school's largest individual donor, he hopes to support students with the resources needed to expand experiential learning in the Pacific Northwest, again increasing Willamette's presence on a national scale.

Winning the moot court competition opened doors for Wolf following his law school graduation. He clerked for a California Supreme Court justice, then joined a law firm in Portland. Eventually, he discovered a love for business, and in 1970, took over the family enterprise.

His legal education complemented what he learned in the business world. With his now-\$5 million pledge to Willamette Law, he wants to help students recognize the potential and benefit in graduating law school with knowledge and experience in transactional lawyering, business acumen, leadership and transferable skills.

Being a lawyer doesn't necessarily mean a person has to work at a law firm, he explains. He knows firsthand how a legal degree can allow someone entry into other fields — and help them be successful.

"When students start law school, they may be thinking about private practice, environmental law, social justice law," Wolf says. "They don't necessarily think as much about business applications. But, in my career, I used my law degree so much. I want to see Willamette Law's experiential learning expand and legal education become broader-based, so it's not just about the practice of law."

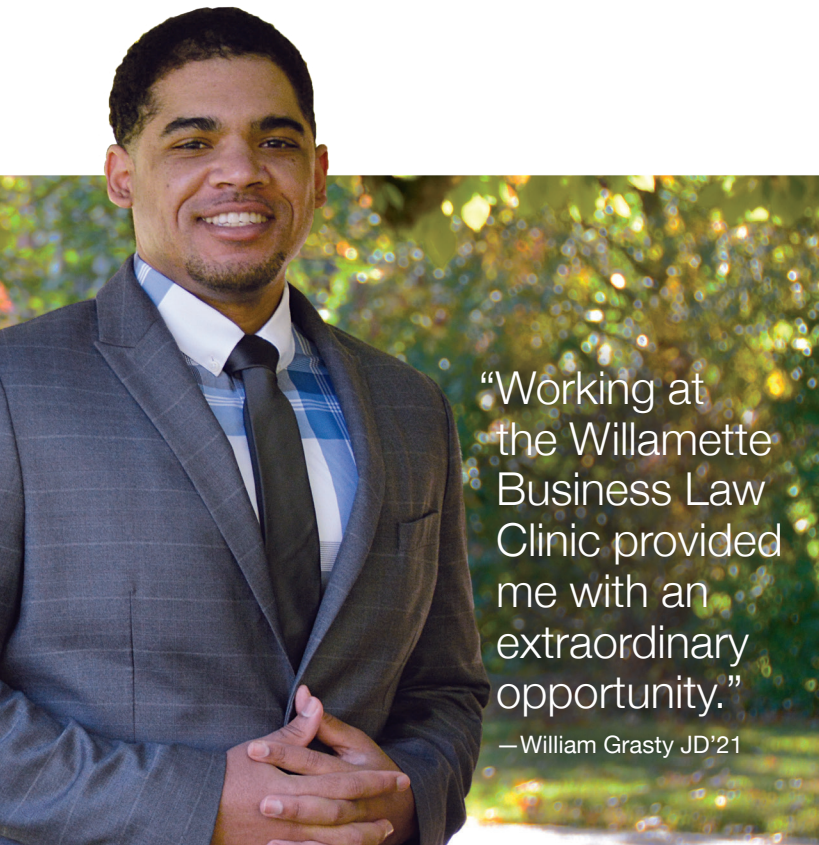
Experiential learning at Willamette

Prior to 2010, U.S. law schools did not mandate experiential learning and instead focused their education on casework. The American Bar Association began requiring that each student earn at least one credit in experiential learning in 2010, growing the requirement to at least six credit hours in 2015. Simulation courses, law clinics or field placements, such as externships, satisfy the rule.

At Willamette Law in Salem, with the Signature Strengths Initiative and heavy emphasis on the Business Lawyering Institute, centers of excellence and certificate programs, students have encountered growing opportunities for experiential learning over the past several years.

Courses with hands-on work in clinics, business lawyering simulations, and practice for trials and arbitration are offered each semester. More experience can be gained while earning certificates, participating in competitions and working part-time in externships.





“Working at the Willamette Business Law Clinic provided me with an extraordinary opportunity.”

—William Grasty JD’21

The practical education opportunities, rather than those including only papers and exams, have developed a common theme: high student demand.

Interest in the Clinical Law Program, which in recent years has comprised of four clinics in business law, trusts and estates, child and family advocacy, and immigration, increased exponentially since former Professor Warren Binford began overseeing it in 2005. Students like **William Grasty JD’21** enjoy being able to meet with clients and do real legal work before graduation. Grasty’s work through the Business Law Clinic helped a local winemaker trademark his logo.

“Working at the Willamette Business Law Clinic provided me with an extraordinary opportunity to build conceptual and organizational skills, work with start-ups at a very early stage of their existence, and shape my future by carrying these tangible, invaluable skills into my planned area of practice,” Grasty says.

Although the excitement about the program has continued to grow, the clinics are resource-intensive. Even with clinic enrollment exceeding capacity for 13 of the past 15 years, only about 13% of the total student body can experience the Clinical Law Program in its current state.

Students have also become more enthusiastic about externships, where they can develop their skills in a part-time field placement. Professor **Theresa Wright JD’81** became the director of externships in August 2015, then working part-time. In January 2020, she transitioned to a full-time role to keep up with the program’s popularity.

“The program grew so much that I needed the additional time,” she says.

During the 2015-16 academic year, 38 students participated in externships. In 2019-20, 86 students took part, representing a 126% increase in just five years.

Outside of classes and externships, students can choose to join any of nearly 30 student organizations representing a broad scope of interests and perspectives. While some focus more on peer support, such as Parents Attending Law School, others, such as Moot Court Board, the Willamette University Public Interest Law Project (WUPIPL) and the Business Law Society, focus their efforts more on giving students real-world experience in particular areas of the law.

Speakers are invited, networking events are planned, and panel discussions are held to increase students’ knowledge and connections. Some of the cocurricular activities include student competitions testing important skills in trial advocacy, negotiation and moot court.

“Despite full class loads, and oftentimes families at home, engaged students tend to be a part of multiple organizations,” says Maegan Dunlap, student services manager in the Office of Student Affairs.

Even with the myriad opportunities for experiential learning, where Willamette Law could grow the most and reach all students is within its simulation courses, which give students a chance to practice the material they’re learning in real time. Developed as part of the vision for Dean Emeritus Curtis Bridgeman’s Business Lawyering Institute, workshop classes like Deals with Professor Karen Sandrik and Negotiations with Professor Aaron Simowitz have waitlists several students long most semesters.

Students are looking for classes that offer more than multiple choice exams and briefs, Simowitz explains. It’s an enthusiasm that can’t truly be fulfilled without more resources like additional faculty and staff.

“Students, employers and the ABA are all asking for the same thing — more experiential education. It’s not just a way to teach essential lawyering skills; it’s the best way to learn the law,” Simowitz says. “We’ve seen that demand for experiential education is far greater than what we’re able to supply right now. Students want more experiential education in the first year, in upper-division classes, and in clinics and externships.

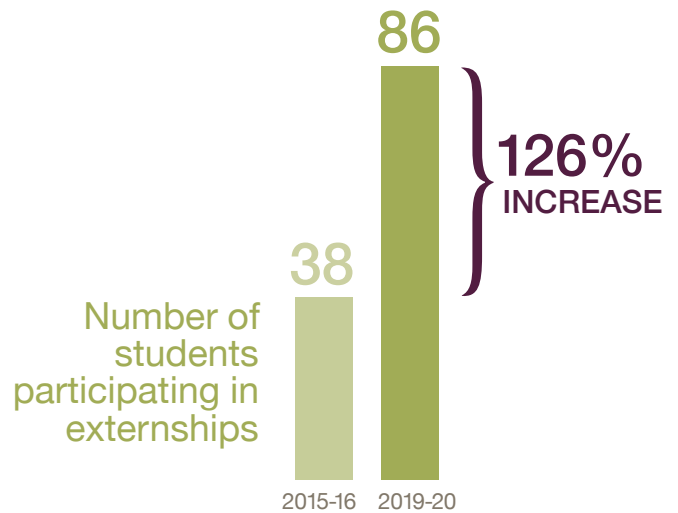
“But designing an experiential course, running a clinic, supervising externships — all of those take time and resources. It is well worth the investment.”

Increasing opportunities

With \$2 million now earmarked for the Martin R. Wolf Curricular Innovation Fund, Wolf’s donation will help provide the support needed to grow experiential learning opportunities at Willamette Law. Ultimately, Wolf wants Willamette to be recognized as the leading experiential law school in the West.

Though it’s an estate gift and won’t be realized immediately, Dean Brian Gallini says it will help the school continue on the positive trajectory initiated by Bridgeman’s leadership and a forward-thinking faculty.

“In the past few years, Willamette Law has transformed its legal curriculum. We’re already doing a lot of great work, and this gift will help ensure that in the future, we can continue that work,” Gallini says. “We’ll have the resources in perpetuity to keep innovating in experiential learning and ensure a legacy in Salem.”



At 86, Wolf is a tireless advocate for the school and its mission. He hopes his donations will inspire others to give, as well, to help shape it into a leader in legal education.

With the expansion of hands-on, experiential learning and curricular modernization at Willamette Law, he is confident that more students will join the school across from the Oregon State Capitol.

“Anything I can do to help that happen, I’m happy to participate in,” he says.

Expanding law clinics with new faculty

With growing interest in experiential learning, Willamette Law announced a significant investment into the Clinical Law Program, adding Professor Sarah Matsumoto, from Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver, and appointing Distinguished Professor from Practice, Professor Susan Cook, to the full-time faculty. Both began working this summer to direct Willamette’s legal clinics.



Matsumoto



Cook

“Students not only want to learn how to think like a lawyer, but also practice how to be one,” Dean Brian Gallini says. “Bringing in Professors Matsumoto and Cook is another critical step toward becoming the premier law school for experiential learning in the Pacific Northwest.”



Attorney- Mentor Program turns



Willamette Law celebrates
three decades of making
connections in the legal
community

By Sarah Bello



Every September, Phylis Myles spends about three weeks mulling over piles of paperwork. As the assistant dean for career planning and development, she analyzes hobbies, legal areas of interest, sports affinities and other background information — all to match Willamette Law first-year students with the attorney mentor who fits them best.

After weeks of intense work, she's usually paired more than 100 students with attorneys from the Salem and Portland areas. At the end of the month, she and the Career Planning and Development Office team see it all come together. Bright-eyed students dressed in crisp, new suits gather at tables in Cat Cavern, excitedly chatting with, for some, the first lawyers and judges they've ever encountered.

"Phylis feels like she knows these people after seeing the forms," says Bev Ecklund, career planning and development and externship program coordinator. "Looking around the room to see these people who haven't ever met, having conversations — it's great to see."

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 kickoff was different — held virtually via Zoom and experiencing the technical difficulties most everyone is now familiar with. But that didn't change the reasons to celebrate — another new school year, new connections and the program's 30th year of mentorship.

Program beginnings

After a group of female students began being mentored in 1989, the formal Willamette Law Attorney-Mentor Program launched in 1990. Myles helped start a similar program at Lewis & Clark Law School

in the early 1990s and has been leading Willamette's since 2004.

For students, it initially offered a preview of what it was like to practice law.

"Over the years, the program has really grown," Myles says. "The focus is helping students transition from being a student to being a professional. We encourage the mentors to think of teaching moments to help students learn professionalism: how to address emails, how to respond to clients, and trying out arguments."

Willamette's is the most robust and the oldest practitioner-student program in Oregon, Myles says, with a prescribed curriculum of conversation topics, events and other information.

In a normal year, mentors check in with their students via text messages or calls, meet with them for lunch, invite them to professional events or to shadow them at their practice, and practice interviewing. They get to know the students on a professional level, but with the one-on-one matching process, many connect on a deeper level and stay in touch for years, Myles says.

It's the individualized attention to detail that makes the program so meaningful, says

Nani Apo JD'13.

Left: Phylis Myles, assistant dean for career planning and development, speaks with a student about their application for the Attorney-Mentor Program.



Clockwise from top left: **Nani Apo JD'13** receives her Mentor of the Year Award from Dean Emeritus Curtis Bridgeman in 2018.

Longtime Willamette Law mentor **Liani Reeves '98 JD'01** (middle) stands with two of her mentees, **Samrach Sar JD'16** (left) and **Mae Lee Browning JD'14** (right).

Megan Hinzdel JD'18 laughs while attending a student event.

Thirty-year mentor **Roger Evans JD'80** (middle) sits with two of his Willamette Law student mentees, **Jennifer Rogers JD'23** and **Nathaniel Woodward JD'20**.

Willamette's is the most robust and the first practitioner-student program in Oregon.

Personal connections

Just before she started her first year of law school, Apo met Myles at a retreat for incoming law students from diverse backgrounds. When she began her studies at Willamette and hadn't yet signed up for the mentoring program, Myles noticed. She encouraged Apo to participate.

"I think she had in mind who she wanted to pair me with," Apo recalls.

As someone who didn't know any attorneys or know much about the practice of law, being paired with her mentor, **Liani Reeves '98, JD'01**, was invaluable, she says. Reeves helped her with networking, navigating law school and becoming familiar and comfortable in the legal environment.

As Reeves' mentee, Apo joined a new community.

"Every time we would be at an event, Liani had this tradition where she would gather all her mentees for a group photo," Apo says. "At times, there would be a ton of people. I felt that I was a part of something bigger, this supportive network of people all connected through the mentor program."

After her graduation, Apo joined the program as a mentor as soon as she could. In 2018, she won the Hon. Edward J. Howell Mentor of the Year Award for Excellence in Mentoring, following in the footsteps of her mentor, who also won the award in 2004.

"Watching her win and learning from her what makes a good mentor, then coming full circle and winning myself was especially rewarding," Apo says.

Like Apo, when she graduated and passed the bar, **Megan Hinzdel JD'18** immediately signed on to be a mentor. Law school is difficult, and it's a specific experience that people only understand if they've been through it, she says. She considers it a privilege to share her knowledge and help other law students.

While at Willamette Law, Hinzdel served as president of OUTlaw, the LGBTQ

student organization. As Myles pairs students and attorneys, Hinzdel is often assigned those who request an LGBTQ mentor.

"I think we're able to connect on a different level," Hinzdel says. "We have some shared experiences. Historically, LGBTQ people have been discriminated against using laws, so being able to help those students go through law school and learn how to change the law in their favor is important to me."

When students see other people like themselves in the legal community, they also feel more comfortable, she says. Through mentoring, she enjoys being there for students like herself as they finish out law school and pursue legal change.

Celebrating 30 years

Each year for the past 30, Salem attorney **Roger Evans JD'80** has been one of the first to sign up as a mentor in the program, Myles says. He usually has one to three mentees at once, with one from each class, but in 2020, he had four.

With two first-year students interested in rock climbing, Myles put in a special request. An outdoors enthusiast and faithful mentor, Evans, of course, agreed to take both.

Evans is one of the program's only 30-year mentors, so in fall 2020, he was honored with the Special Award for Continued Support of the Mentoring Program. He takes great enjoyment in mentoring and likes showing students what it's like to be a lawyer, as well as how to balance life outside the practice.

When he was in law school, there was nothing like the mentor program, and

"it's those practical aspects of law school that students really need," he says.

When Myles first started her work with the program, only around half of the 1L class members participated. In more recent years, anywhere from 85-98% of the 1Ls signed up. In 2020-21, despite the challenges of COVID, all but six first-year students asked for mentors.

"It's strictly voluntary, so that's even more impressive with being remote, that the students still recognized the value of mentoring," Ecklund, the placement coordinator, says. "Admissions really talks about the program a lot. Students contact us before enrolling to talk about it."

Although some students and mentors did not meet in person much due to the pandemic, they found other ways to connect through Zoom, calls or texting. The Career Planning and Development team checked in with mentors and their students more frequently to ensure everyone's needs and expectations were met.

Despite difficulties like COVID, with 30 years under its belt and strong support from the legal community, Myles is sure the Attorney-Mentor Program will continue developing new lawyers who will advocate for justice for years to come.

"At Willamette, it's kind of a culture-thing," Hinzdel explains. "Everyone's going to have a mentor, and you're all making connections. Law school, in general, is about those connections."

Symeonides completes a 30-year project and seven books in seven years

For the past 30 years, Willamette Law Dean Emeritus and Professor Symeon Symeonides spent Thanksgiving weekend collecting up to 6,000 American conflicts of laws cases to write an annual survey. In every year except two, he completed it by his self-imposed deadline of New Year's Eve, spending 15-17 hours working each day to finish.

When Symeonides wrote his first survey at the request of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS), there were fewer than 1,000 cases per year, and his work was meant to be a brief service benefiting other law professors. But the case numbers grew, and so did the survey, in length and global readership.

Published in a premier law journal, his now-30 surveys define conflicts law, and his colleagues revere him as the subject matter guru.

The task was certainly laborious. "Sometimes one case that would take you an hour to read and think about might translate into a sentence or footnote in the 90-page survey," he says.

But the work has been valuable. "I developed decisional patterns and extracted from them certain rules, which I used in drafting a codification for Louisiana," Symeonides says. "When I came to Oregon in 1999, we drafted a similar statute that tells courts what to do in these cases. More importantly, there is now a similar project on the national scale — the Third Conflicts Restatement — and it is gratifying to see that it relies heavily on the Oregon and Louisiana rules."

Because of this, Symeonides says his years of work have paid off. His surveys aren't just a description of what courts did — they are the source of rules to guide the future.

The last 20 of the 30 surveys are now published in a three-volume book subtitled "A Twenty-Year Report from the Trenches." In his preface, Harvard Law Professor Joseph W. Singer wrote: "It is impossible to overstate the value and significance of Symeonides' Surveys. They have not only educated law professors and lawyers about changing dynamics in the field, but they have been instrumental in refining the modern method of analyzing and resolving conflicts of laws and have formed the basis for the emerging Third Restatement of Conflict of Laws. In all the ways that count, Symeonides is the father of choice of law in the 21st century."

After 30 years, Symeonides has delivered the baton to the next generation. The AALS Conflict of Laws section, after recognizing him for his work, assigned the task to Professors Aaron Simowitz of Willamette Law, John Coyle of UNC Law, and William Dodge of UC Davis Law.

"[This suggests] it takes three of our most eminent scholars to replace Symeonides," says Professor Ralf Michaels, director of the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law.

With a freed-up December, Symeonides has no plans to sit still. In the past seven years alone, he has published seven books, and he is now writing another.

"All these years, I have been learning, and I feel a certain urgency to say what I have learned," he explains. "That is our mission and privilege as academics. We are to contribute to the academic discourse, and we do that by putting down our thoughts so that others can critique or build on them. That's how knowledge is advanced. In the end, what remains is what we put down on paper."



Dean Emeritus Symeon Symeonides stands in his office with many of the books he has authored over the past few decades, including his latest, a three-volume book holding the last 20 of 30 surveys of conflicts of law subtitled "A Twenty-Year Report from the Trenches."

Professor Warren Binford accepts endowed chair at University of Colorado

Former Willamette Law Professor Warren Binford accepted a new position this summer. She is now a professor at the University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine and CU Law School.

“Teaching at Willamette has been one of the highlights of my life,” Binford says. “I will always consider Willamette my first academic home.”

Binford joined Willamette in 2005 as an assistant professor and director of the Clinical Law Program. She expanded experiential law programs and taught in other Willamette schools, in addition to making admirable scholarly contributions.

Dean Emeritus Symeon Symeonides still remembers the impression Binford made

when he first interviewed her.

“Since then, she more than exceeded my expectations,” Symeonides explains. “Besides doing such an outstanding job reorganizing and reenergizing the [Clinical Law] Program, she was a respected community leader, a thoughtful university citizen and a trustworthy colleague.”

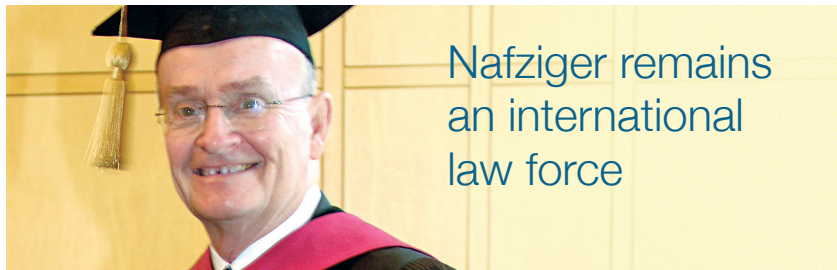
Binford taught business law, business organizations, the Child and Family Advocacy Clinic and other courses. She has authored nearly 60 academic pieces, essays and book chapters and shared her expertise via op-eds and media interviews.

“Professor Binford made numerous contributions to our community, and



we are so proud of all of her many accomplishments,” says Dean Brian Gallini. “We congratulate her and wish her well in this next chapter of her career.”

Faculty scholarship



Nafziger remains an international law force

Willamette’s long tradition of excellence in international and comparative law is in good hands as part of the Signature Strengths Initiative. As Professor Jim Nafziger, who has directed the international and comparative law program for many years, points out: “Resolving so many critical issues these days requires a blend of domestic and international law — for example, the pandemic, ransomware attacks, international trade, climate change and immigration. More and more, international

law impacts legal practices of every size, location and specialty.”

Nafziger is a globally recognized expert. He was recently reelected to office in two premier organizations: as secretary of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and as vice chair of the International Law Association (ILA), of whose American Branch he is a former president. Founded in 1873 and headquartered in London, the ILA is the world’s leading non-governmental organization dedicated to developing and

advancing international law. Nafziger was also an invited participant last spring in NATO’s first-ever conference and related workshop on human security.

Nafziger wrote two chapters in “The 2003 UNESCO Intangible Heritage Convention: A Commentary,” published by Oxford University Press, a book that won the ASIL’s 2021 Certificate of Merit for high technical craftsmanship and utility to lawyers and scholars. His current research ranges in subject matter from conflict of laws to export controls and from border walls to military occupation issues. Two of his books will be published within the next year.

“In encouraging our students to study international and comparative law, we are trying to anticipate the needs of the legal profession as both it and the law school continue to evolve,” Nafziger explains.

Late Professor Gwynne Skinner's book published

Clockwise from right: late Professor Gwynne Skinner, co-authors Sarah McGrath and Rachel Chambers.

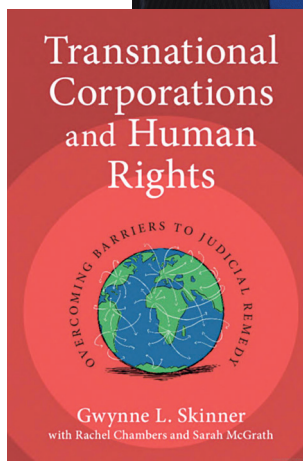
A yearslong labor of love came to fruition in September 2020 with the publishing of late Willamette Law Professor Gwynne Skinner's final academic contribution, a book, "Transnational Corporations and Human Rights: Overcoming Barriers to Judicial Remedy." Skinner, an immigration, refugee and human rights law professor, died in December 2017 after a lengthy and courageous battle with cancer.

When she passed away, her book was not quite finished. Co-authors Rachel Chambers, assistant professor of business law at the University of Connecticut and co-director of the Teaching Business and Human Rights Forum, and Sarah

McGrath, director of international engagement for business and human rights at the Australian Human Rights Commission, spent the past two years helping complete it, along with many others who assisted with editing, sharing knowledge and expertise.

McGrath, who had worked with Skinner at the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR), says when Skinner was close to passing, she and the ICAR executive director at the time, Amol Mehra, immediately went to visit her.

"Gwynne talked about the importance of her work with ICAR and how much the business and human rights community meant to her," McGrath explains. "It was during this visit that Gwynne gave us the honor of seeing her book through to publication."



Not long after, they reached out to Chambers, who agreed to work with them on the project. McGrath says without her help, they would not have been able to see the book through. They feel that taking on the project was a small thing they could do to contribute to Skinner's legacy.

"This book is fundamentally about justice, about what is right and fair," Chambers says. "It's about ensuring that when multinational corporations cause human rights harms, those corporations are held to account and the victims have access to justice. The book is a culmination and celebration of Gwynne's life and work, bringing together years of thinking, research and writing."

Because the field is moving quickly, with many developments since Skinner's passing, new items and updates are included in the work, though they continue to reflect Skinner's

voice and recommendations for a path forward, McGrath says.

"Gwynne had a vision for a better world, one where victims have justice and where corporate actors can no longer act with impunity," she continues. "Rachel and I hope it provides a useful tool for ongoing and future advocacy, research and litigation — so that we can create a world where the book becomes obsolete, which Gwynne notes in the book is her ultimate wish."

A passionate advocate, Skinner was a gracious, enthusiastic and accomplished professor, who was both a scholar and a friend. Before joining the faculty at Willamette Law in 2008, she was a civil rights and international human rights attorney in Seattle, earning accolades such as the Seattle Human Rights Advocate of the Year Award in 2008 and being named one of the city's top civil rights lawyers by Seattle Magazine in 2005.

Learn more about the book at willamette.edu/go/skinner.



Reflecting on the legacy of Justice Hans Linde

Justice Hans Linde, longtime instructor at Willamette Law, left an indelible imprint on the legal community in the state of Oregon. Linde passed away in August 2020. He was 96 years old.

“Oregon lost a giant of the law,” says Professor Norman Williams.

Linde and his family left Nazi Germany in 1933, ultimately settling in Oregon. He attended Lincoln High School and Reed College before graduating law school from U.C. Berkeley. Linde clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and worked for U.S. Senator Richard Neuberger before joining the University of Oregon School of Law, where he taught for nearly 20 years.

In 1977, Linde was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court, where he served until 1990. Linde then joined Willamette Law, first as a visiting professor, then as a distinguished scholar-in-residence.

Linde’s intellectual vigor was felt at every scale, from the beginning to the end of his career. At Willamette, Linde taught an extremely popular state constitutional law seminar, attended by students and numerous junior scholars at the school.

“For those of us who joined the faculty in the 2000s,” says Professor Paul Diller, “Hans left an indelible imprint on our scholarly work, reading drafts of law review articles and offering extraordinarily helpful feedback.”

Diller remembers Linde’s insatiable appetite for intellectual engagement.

“If your office door was open and Hans was walking down the hall, he was likely to engage you for the next hour on a legal issue.”

Jeffrey Dobbins, associate dean for academic affairs, adds, “Those conversations were remarkable, as Hans usually left you with a completely new perspective on a legal topic that you thought you had already considered from all sides.”

Linde is celebrated as one of the most influential state court judges in the country, with numerous law reviews highlighting his path-breaking work on state constitutional interpretation. A 2007 symposium on the occasion of his retirement from teaching was published in Volume 43 of the Willamette Law Review.

Linde was dedicated to improving the law and did so not only through his academic writing, but also in practical ways. He served on the Oregon State Constitutional Revision Commission in the 1960s and helped create the state’s official law reform body, the Oregon Law Commission, which he served on for many years. Even after he retired from teaching, he remained a constant presence in the work of his colleagues at Willamette and throughout the legal community.

Linde and his wife, Helen, were married for more than 75 years, and had two

children. Willamette Law celebrates the innumerable intellectual offspring that Linde left behind, in the form of statutes, constitutional provisions, law review articles, books, opinions, legal tests and the many former students, clerks and colleagues who benefited immeasurably from his knowledge, curiosity and skill.

“Hans was a mentor to everyone,” says Professor Laura Appleman, university research integrity officer.

Linde’s positive impact on the Willamette Law community will last for generations.



“Hans was a mentor to everyone.”

– Professor Laura Appleman



“Hans left an indelible imprint on our scholarly work.”

– Professor Paul Diller



“Hans usually left you with a completely new perspective on a legal topic.”

– Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jeffrey Dobbins



“Oregon lost a giant of the law.”

– Professor Norman Williams

New faces in the Dean's Suite



Members of the Dean's Suite, from left: Deans Brian Gallini, Karen Sandrik, David Friedman, Melodye Mac Alpine and Jeffrey Dobbins.

After an eventful year, including the arrival of a new dean, Willamette Law welcomed new members to the Dean's Suite, while others returned to the faculty.

Dean Karen Sandrik now serves as associate dean for faculty, and Dean David Friedman is associate dean for strategic initiatives, while Professor Laura Appleman returned to the full-time faculty as Van Winkle Melton Professor of Law and university research integrity officer.

Professors Curtis Bridgeman, now the Roderick and Carol Wendt Chair in Business Law and dean emeritus, and Norman Williams, Ken and Claudia Peterson Professor of Law and director of the Center for Constitutional Government, also returned to the faculty.

Dean Karen Sandrik

Sandrik joined the faculty in 2012. Her research focuses on the intersection of commercial law and intellectual property law. She teaches contracts, secured transactions, sales, deals and other courses. She is also co-director of the Willamette Business Lawyering Institute and director of the Certificate Program in Law and Business.

In her new role, she works to further develop the College of Law's already robust scholarly culture alongside growing its intellectual life. She does so, in part, by supporting faculty across a broad range of initiatives, including promoting the law school's faculty through national organizations, creative media and social media opportunities.

"Willamette Law has an outstanding, scholarly faculty that cares deeply about our students. My new role as associate

dean for faculty is simple: support the faculty," Sandrik says. "One exciting part of this new role is helping ensure our community knows what individual faculty members are researching and writing about. From the role of the jury in society to the role of coinage in the U.S. national debt crisis — and everything in between — our faculty has a lot of important (and fun) research and ideas to share."

Dean David Friedman

Friedman, who joined Willamette Law in 2008, teaches commercial law, business law, torts and consumer trade practices law. He publishes research on behavioral economics, contract theory, advertising law and public health.

He received the university's Robert L. Misner Award for Law Faculty Scholarship in 2019 and the Jerry E. Hudson Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2012. As associate dean for strategic initiatives, Friedman works to help the law school's culture drive toward proactive and forward-thinking data-driven initiatives, while helping leverage strategic partnerships across the Willamette campus, the region and the nation.

"From the outset, Dean Gallini has set a high bar for us as faculty to think about how Willamette can challenge conventional thinking and serve as a beacon of new thinking in legal education," Friedman says. "It's exciting to have a leadership role in that effort."

Professor

Laura Appleman

Appleman served as associate dean for faculty research for the past five years. In 2020, she was appointed associate dean for faculty, as well as university research integrity officer.

Following a sabbatical, she continues in her positions as Van Winkle Melton Professor of Law and university research integrity officer.

Appleman teaches and writes in the areas of criminal law, criminal procedure, family law and sentencing law and policy. She joined the Willamette Law faculty in 2006.

"It was a great honor to be the inaugural associate dean for faculty," Appleman says. "Helping guide the law school through not only a decanal transition but also the myriad challenges of pandemic learning was a difficult but deeply rewarding job. I look forward to continuing as part of the faculty and focusing on my scholarship."



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 or email law-alumni@willamette.edu.

'76

Washington Governor Jay Inslee was elected for his third term as governor in November 2020. He was sworn in January 13, 2021, during a ceremony at the Washington capitol in Olympia.

'80

Sandra Gangle published her memoir, "Madam Arbitrator" in 2020. She retired in 2017 after a 37-year career in private practice in Salem and as the first woman labor arbitrator from Oregon to practice full-time throughout the Pacific Northwest.

'82

Lynette Hotchkiss was appointed to the Governing Committee of the Conference on Consumer Finance Law in November 2020. Hotchkiss is of counsel in McGlinchey Stafford's Nashville office. She has worked in consumer finance law for more than 35 years.

'83

Mark Torok was named the new chief operating officer of Hartman, sponsor of Texas-centric commercial real estate investment programs in Houston, in July 2020. Torok retains his duties as general counsel and corporate secretary. In November 2020, Allen Hartman, CEO of Hartman, announced that Torok will succeed him as CEO when he steps down. No timetable was

established, but they expect a long transition period.

'86

Jesse Barton wrote an article titled "Ending 'The New Jim Crow' in Oregon" that was published in early 2021 by the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. The article explains that Oregon's multi-billion-dollar mass-incarceration policies are at best marginally correlated to crime rate reductions and have crushed a vast amount of human potential.

'87

Todd Melnick represented a client on a death penalty case that was made into a Netflix documentary called "Long Shot." The documentary was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Documentary Short and can be watched at <https://youtu.be/PDxISyYRc4>.

'88

Clyde "Ed" Sniffen was named permanent attorney general for Alaska's governor, Mike Dunleavy, in January 2021. He had been acting attorney general since August 2020. He previously practiced law in Anchorage, focusing on natural resources, environmental, labor and employment, maritime and utility law. He has worked with the Alaska Department of Law since 2000.

'89

Renée Rothauge joined Perkins Coie as a partner in the firm's commercial litigation practice in its Portland office. Rothauge has three decades of courtroom trial experience and has represented clients in licensing and shareholder disputes, business torts, breach of contract and intellectual property matters.

Tom Knothe was named the senior vice president for academic affairs and dean of Carroll College in Helena, Montana, effective July 1, 2021. Knothe previously was an associate professor of business and served 12 years as dean of the College of Business, Performing Arts and Leadership at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

'90

Robert Brouillard became the president of Shoreline Rotary in Washington for 2020-21. From 1990 to 2012, Brouillard was an attorney in Washington, D.C., for the U.S. Department of Justice. He became a member of Shoreline Rotary in 2013.

'92

Seth Fleetwood became mayor of Bellingham, Washington, in January 2020. Fleetwood had previously been in private practice and served on both the Whatcom County Council and Bellingham City Council.

'96

Gregory Zerzan '93 joined Jordan Ramis PC as a shareholder and member of its banking and finance, governmental relations, and environmental and natural resources teams in April 2021. He will lead the expansion of Jordan Ramis' services advising national and global clients in their interactions with Congress and federal agencies. He maintains the firm's presence in Washington, D.C., while also working out of offices in Lake Oswego and Bend, Oregon.

'00

Bradley Dixon joined the Board of Directors for Bam Bam Resources Corp. in Vancouver, British Columbia, in October 2020.

He also joined the Board of Directors for Adomani, Inc., in April 2021. Adomani is a provider of zero-emission electric vehicles. Dixon is an attorney based in Boise, Idaho, and a partner with Givens Pursley LLP, focusing his practice on a variety of complex commercial litigation matters.

'01

Ryan Hammond was appointed as regional office managing shareholder (OMS) of Littler's Pacific Northwest offices in April 2021. Hammond leads the Anchorage, Alaska, and Portland offices, in addition to his current OMS role in Seattle. He represents management in proceedings and unfair labor practices before the National Labor Relations Board and in employment discrimination and wage and hour litigation.

Liani Reeves '98 was named a Portland Business Journal 2021 Woman of Influence. Reeves served as president of the Oregon Bar Association in 2020, the first Asian American and woman of color to hold that position. In March 2020, she was also named president of Bullard Law in Portland.

'02

Joanna Lyons-Antley joined Clatsop County, Oregon, as its first in-house counsel in April 2020. Previously, she served as Klamath Falls city attorney and chief financial officer for Klamath Community College.

Kristin Flickinger was named the executive director of the Pacific Pride Foundation of Santa Barbara County in July 2020. She has more than 20 years of experience working with the LGBTQ+ movement, including seven years working at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. The PPF is the largest LGBTQ+ center between LA and San Francisco.

Nicole Lomas Hancock was appointed to the Executive Committee of Stael Rives LLP as of January 2021. As a member of the seven-member committee, she provides strategic leadership and direction for the firm. She previously served as the Boise Office Managing Partner for Stael Rives from 2015 to 2020. She has been with the firm since 2003 and

Wolff puts JD/MBA to use at Sarcos Robotics

Iron Man's signature look could soon become more of a reality in industrial work environments and the defense sector. Sarcos Robotics products, including the Guardian® XO® powered exoskeleton, could have come straight from the Marvel Universe.

Sarcos makes robotic systems to enable the workforce with solutions enhancing productivity, reducing injuries and equalizing employment opportunities for jobs that can't be automated.

Julie Wolff JD/MBA'95 has been chief legal officer for Sarcos since 2015.

"Giving back, saving lives, supporting the military and preventing injuries of workers, in addition to the business opportunity of bringing products to market," Wolff explains, "made working with Sarcos appealing."

The company's products have won awards and the attention of government entities and manufacturers. The Guardian® XO®, expected to launch commercially in late 2022, was named one of Time Magazine's "Top 100 Inventions of 2020."

After spending the majority of her law career in mergers and acquisitions, Wolff welcomed the development that came with the switch from practicing at a firm to being a corporate general counsel. It's exciting to be more hands-on, working on the business and legal sides, she says.

As a teen, she knew she wanted to be a lawyer. She attended Willamette specifically for its JD/MBA program and says it prepared her well for the transactionally focused job.

"Willamette really focuses on being a holistic thinker, thinking through all issues. That was key at the start of practicing law," she explains. "Going forward, the combination of the JD/MBA allowed me to do due diligence in a meaningful way to get a broader view of a company rather than looking at contracts. It gave me a wide lens instead of a narrowly focused lens."

"My JD/MBA has helped me consider all relevant issues and make sure my t's are crossed and i's are dotted."



Guardian® XO® exoskeleton, photo courtesy of Sarcos Robotics.

is a partner in its Litigation practice group.

Teresa Miller was named the new president and CEO of the Kansas Health Foundation, based in Wichita, Kansas, in March 2021. Her appointment was effective this summer. She previously led the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, the largest state agency, as secretary.

'04

Theron Morrison was one of only five attorneys in Utah selected to appear in the upcoming issue of The Top 100 Attorneys of 2020. Morrison is the founding attorney for Morrison Law Group, the largest bankruptcy and consumer protection law firm in Utah.

'06

Alycia Bleeker JD/MBA'06 was promoted to second vice president of Employee Benefits Services for The Standard. Bleeker has worked for The Standard for 10 years, starting as an attorney and eventually becoming a senior director in the Insurance Services legal group. In her new role, she is a strategist, consultant and implementer, ensuring streamlined activity within her department.

'07

Chris Carling was named partner at Kerley Schaffer LLP, in Oakland, California, in December 2020. Chris represents homeowners and small business owners in insurance-related disputes and bad faith litigation.

Annie Robertson was named chief legal officer and director of public affairs for Oksenholt Capital in February 2021. Robertson helms the internal legal and public affairs efforts, as well as business transactional efforts. She most recently served as a partner at the Wenatchee, Washington, law firm of Jeffers, Danielson, Sonn & Aylward.

Ashley Wilcox authored the book, "The Women's Lectionary: Preaching the Women of the Bible Throughout the Year," a handbook for feminist preachers, published by Westminster John Knox Press at the end of August 2021. Wilcox attributes much of her success to her work with the late **Professor Ed Harri JD'73**. Wilcox worked as Harri's teaching assistant, and they collaborated on writing a

textbook, which he used in his classes for more than a decade.

'09

Alana Cox was appointed administrator for the Building Codes Division in the Department of Consumer and Business Services in Oregon in March 2021. She joined the division in 2016 and had served as interim administrator since September 2020.

'13

Ashley Rosenbaum-DePalo was named a shareholder at Rosenbaum Law Group in Portland in September 2020. She specializes in personal injury and wrongful death cases, in addition to working in general litigation.

'14

Rory Cosgrove and his wife welcomed the birth of their first child, Maximus Drew Cosgrove, in late March 2020. Despite being born during a pandemic, Maximus is thriving and growing every day!

Robin Hansen JD/MBA'14 was elected to the Washington Apple Education Foundation Board of Directors. Hansen is the fourth generation of her family to grow, pack and ship apples and cherries. She joined her family's business, Columbia Fruit Packers, about four years ago.

Aaron Reichenberger was named a shareholder at Rosenbaum Law Group in Portland in September 2020. He

specializes in personal injury and wrongful death cases, in addition to working in general litigation.

'16

Tom Lee returned to his hometown of Longview, Washington, to open up his own practice in Spring 2020. He is a notable authority in Washington landlord-tenant law, as well as one of the youngest municipal attorneys in the state. His practice focuses on real property, land use, business law and estate planning.

'17

Jackie Jones was appointed by Montana state auditor Troy Downing in December 2020 as his government affairs director. As an attorney, Jones worked on

numerous health care compliance issues.

'18

Erin Roycroft joined Tonkon Torp in October 2020 as an associate in its labor and employment practice group. She previously spent two years as a judicial clerk for Judge Scott Shorr at the Oregon Court of Appeals, where she worked on criminal, civil and administrative appeals involving issues such as contracts, insurance and property disputes.

'19

Mick Harris was appointed to the Willamette University Alumni Board in September 2020. The board works to foster alumni relations by organizing

volunteerism, events, networking and sharing of career resources. Harris is an associate for Tonkon Torp's Business Department, where he works with the cannabis industry, real estate and land use, and entrepreneurial services practice groups. In April 2021, Harris was appointed to the Oregon Consular Corps as an associate member. Members are individuals from Oregon who are interested in international business, trade, education and culture.

'20

Eden Vasquez joined Miller Nash Graham & Dunn in Portland in early 2021, where she is an associate attorney practicing on the firm's education team,

2020 State bar presidents



Reeves



Frey

Two alumni share their experience from a year unlike any other

Liani Reeves '98, JD'01, Oregon State Bar President 2020

"I could have never imagined what my year was to become. The challenges seemed endless and unprecedented.

"Professionally, I faced challenges running a firm, making decisions to protect employees and navigate the economic impacts of the pandemic. Personally, the pandemic prevented me from being able to see my mom as she lost her battle with cancer. The murder of George Floyd tested my trust in the rule of law, and I struggled with how to engage lawyers in the overdue conversation about racial justice.

"As I navigated the year, I shared openly my challenges, successes and failures. In return, I heard from so many who shared their own stories. It became an effective way to build community from my home.

"My term was unlike that of any before me, but I wouldn't have had it any other way. I am incredibly honored to have had the opportunity to serve."

P. Gregory Frey JD'86, Hawaii State Bar President 2020

"The honored position of bar president isn't easy, but certainly anyone who held the job in 2020 had it much harder as we found our way forward.

"My experience showed me that our bar board works best together in the boardroom. How could I uplift my officers' and members' spirits, while at the same time keep them motivated? Beyond the uncertainty and financial impacts of the virus, it was a daunting task and responsibility as everything was held remotely.

"I was determined to keep the legal community inspired and positive-minded through virtual 'town hall chats' and monthly newsletters. Beyond the issues discussed, a big part of every meeting was devoted to our membership's welfare and safety.

"Being effective isn't easy when you are the size of a thumbnail photo. Yet, I never stopped pushing a message of hope, often saying 'Together and virtually, we can do this effectively.'"

assisting education institutions throughout the Pacific Northwest. Vasquez began at Miller Nash Graham & Dunn as a summer associate in 2019 where she gained experience in general litigation, education, employment and business.

Nathaniel Woodward joined Smith Freed Eberhard in Portland in March 2021 as an associate attorney in civil litigation, with a practice focused on defending claims for businesses and personal lines. Since September 2020, Woodward has been an adjunct faculty member for the University of Western States, teaching ethics and jurisprudence to ninth-quarter Doctor of Chiropractic students nearing graduation.

Samantha Klausen began working as an associate attorney with Dunn Carney in Portland in October 2020. She previously was a summer associate with Dunn Carney in 2019. Her practice focuses on general business law, litigation and transactional work.

Julie Preciado joined Barran Liebman LLP in Portland in September 2020, focusing her practice on employment, labor relations and benefits.

In Memoriam

'52

Carlotta Sorensen, died in 2020. She was the only woman graduate of her Willamette Law class. Finding it difficult to be hired as a lawyer, she taught elementary school in Los Angeles, then returned to Salem upon her marriage to a former classmate, **Glen Sorensen, '50 LLB'50**. She received a second degree in education and later clerked for the Oregon Supreme Court and the legislature, before being hired as an assistant attorney general for the state attorney general's office. She spent 14 years working for the state and later worked in private practice. She and Glen raised two adopted sons prior to his passing in 1992. A 2002 Oregon State Bar article about Sorensen can be read at willamette.edu/go/carlotta-sorensen.

'55

Nicholas "Nick" Zafiratos '54, died April 18, 2021, in Riverview, Florida. He grew up in the Portland area. At 18, he joined the U.S. Army and fought in World War II as a tank commander, receiving several awards. After his honorable discharge, Zafiratos attended the U of O, OSU and Willamette Law, where he graduated at the top of his class. In 1956, he met his future wife, Ginny, in Pendleton, and in 1960, they moved to Astoria, where he opened a law firm. He was also appointed deputy district attorney and municipal judge. Zafiratos was well respected in the legal community and passionate about his clients and profession. He was active in his community and church and loved to travel, golf and fly his Cessna. He is survived by three daughters, four grandchildren, and other dear friends and family.

'59

Emil Gene Stunz '57, was born and raised in Idaho, graduating high school valedictorian. He enlisted in the Navy and attended the University of Washington. Shortly after graduating from the NROTC program, he married Helen Sallee. Until 1955, he was a partner with his parents in Stunz Lumber, though he served in the Korean War during that time. Stunz was active in the Naval Reserve until 1973, attaining the rank of captain. His service was one of his proudest achievements. In 1956, Stunz enrolled at Willamette Law. After graduating, he returned to Idaho, where he became a partner with Harold Henigson. He retired in 1995. Stunz was very active in the community and schools and was involved with several companies. He and Helen were founding members of the Nyssa Couples Bridge Club, which met from 1948 until 2018, and enjoyed traveling to visit family. He is survived by his wife of 74 years, four children, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

'60

Col. Gary E. Lockwood '57, passed away July 29, 2021, from complications from Parkinson's disease. Born in Medford, Oregon,

Prosecuting homicide trials during the pandemic



As a deputy county attorney for the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, **Lou Giaquinto JD** was working on a murder trial with another prosecutor when the world paused. Because a jury had already been chosen and knew the case facts, the court and parties pushed ahead. This was the first of two homicide trials Giaquinto conducted during the pandemic.

The changes made for everyone's safety were endless. Capacity within the courtroom was limited to 32 people (usually it holds about 100). All parties were distanced, with some jurors seated in the jury box and others behind the prosecutor's table.

"It was difficult to communicate in front of the jurors," Giaquinto says. "You had to be careful about writing stuff down or whispering to your co-counsel."

Plexiglass surrounded the judge, witnesses and court staff. Disposable gloves were used to touch evidence. Trials were only held in the largest courtrooms, and peremptory challenges were limited to two per party.

Masks were universal, pulled down only when a witness needed to identify the defendant. It was challenging to speak clearly and project while wearing one. Masking also made it harder to read non-verbal cues and emotions, Giaquinto says.

"Not being able to see the jurors' faces, especially during the openings and closings, was extremely difficult," he explains. "Attorneys watch the jurors closely to see how they're reacting to what's happening in the courtroom."

Giaquinto adapted to the modifications, listening for audible sighs from jurors and watching to see if they'd make eye contact or look away.

In both the trials he was part of, his team won convictions on all counts. While nearly all homicide trials are appealed, what remains to be seen is whether the courtroom changes could be grounds for a retrial.

"As ministers of justice, the pandemic threw us a lot of trial curve balls," Giaquinto says, "but we were thrilled to obtain guilty verdicts and bring some level of closure to the victims' families."

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.



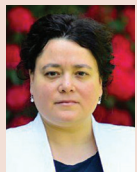
Hill



Bureta



Kritzer



Lemarr



Meyer



Holma

Oregon

Brigadier General and **Judge Daniel Hill JD'86** retired from his position in the military in June 2021 after earning several awards and serving for 33 years, mainly with the Oregon National Guard. Judge Hill has also been a circuit court judge for Umatilla and Morrow Counties, which he plans to continue doing.

Gov. Kate Brown appointed **Jodie Bureta JD'03** to the Marion County Circuit Court effective March 11, 2021. She previously served as a full-time hearings referee in Marion County. She has more than 17 years of experience spanning both criminal and civil law.

Kelly Kritzer JD'03 was appointed by Gov. Kate Brown to the Klamath County Circuit Court effective July 2021. Kritzer was the probate commissioner and law clerk for the Klamath and Lake County Circuit Courts.

In November 2020, **Kelly Lemarr JD'03** won position five on the Washington County Circuit Court, where she had been a pro tem judge since 2018. For 12 years prior to being elected, she was a family attorney for Hillsboro's St. Andrew Legal Clinic.

Judge **Jessica Meyer JD'05** continues to serve as District 4A justice of the peace in Linn County, where she works as a judge in the Justice Court several days a month. She is a partner in the law firm Morley, Thomas & McHill in Lebanon.

Hawaii

Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark E. Recktenwald appointed **Judge Karin L. Holma JD'89** to the District Court in September 2020. Holma had been a partner at Bays Lung Rose & Holma, where she practiced civil litigation.

on October 1, 1935, he was raised in Washington and attended Willamette University for undergraduate and law school. He met and married Gayle Rogers while a law student. After graduation, he served in the Army for several years before transitioning into the Oregon Army Guard and private legal practice in Hood River. Lockwood later served the National Guard as their state judge advocate and provided many hours of pro bono work on behalf of his fellow veterans. Lockwood stayed connected to the College of Law throughout his life, serving as an active and ardent member of the Heritage Society. Lockwood and Gayle loved traveling and joined Dean Emeritus Symeon Symeonides on a cruise with fellow alumni to Italy, Greece and Turkey in 2007. Lockwood is survived by his wife, Gayle, daughters Linda and Lorna, and many grandchildren.

'62

Judge Bob Krug passed away at age 92 on November 11, 2020. Krug graduated from Walla Walla College and received his law degree from Willamette. He served as a hospital corpsman first class in the US Navy during the Korean Conflict. Krug was appointed a California Superior Court Judge and took his oath of office in December 1978. He handled criminal and civil matters in the San Bernardino historic courthouse until his retirement in 1998, continuing to serve as a temporary assigned judge through 2007. Krug is survived by his family, Anita Krug, Kerry Schmidt, Kenneth Schmidt, Kristin Krug-Schmidt, and Dr. Nancy Modglin.

Richard Renn died at age 86 on August 5, 2020. Renn graduated from West Albany High School and joined the Coast Guard,

where he served aboard the USCG Ice Breaker Eastwind in the Arctic. After his return, he worked his way through Willamette University, earning his law degree in 1962. He practiced law in Montana for a few years, then opened a law practice in Lebanon, where he was mayor for a year. He purchased and renamed the Golf Club of Oregon and moved his law practice to Albany, where he remained for 27 years. The last three-plus decades of his life were spent perfecting his skill as a nature photographer. Forever an Optimist and lifetime Elks, Eagles and American Legion member, he was committed to the good work. Renn is survived by a sister, three daughters and four grandchildren.

'64

John "Jack" Jacobson died peacefully at his home on June 20, 2021, at age 81. He attended

Oregon State University, receiving a degree in political science. He married the love of his life, Marsha, then attended Willamette Law, the first in his family to receive a formal education post-high school. After getting his law degree, he and his family returned to Baker City, where he practiced for 39 years out of an office in the Antlers Hotel. He and Marsha lived a full and active life, adventuring with friends, family and the grandkids. He will be remembered for his witty sense of humor, joke and storytelling, and love for life and good people. Jacobson is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, five grandchildren and a nephew.

Roger Ling passed peacefully on November 8, 2020, at age 87. Ling grew up on the West Coast and began a career as a farmer in Rupert, Idaho, before being drafted into the U.S. Army for the Korean War. Afterward, he met

the love of his life, Judy Jones, while in school at Idaho State. He and Judy moved to Salem, where he finished law school at Willamette in just two years, graduating at the top of his class. After returning to Rupert, Ling dedicated the next 60 years of his life to practicing law. He developed an expertise in environmental litigation issues, while also providing legal services to his local community. Ling cherished time with family and loved the outdoors. He had a fierce belief to “always do your best” and taught his family the same. He is survived by four children, two sisters, and many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

'65

Anthony “Tony” De Giulio passed away August 24, 2020, in Idaho, at age 80. De Giulio attended Idaho State, where he joined ROTC. Afterward, he earned his law degree from Willamette. De Giulio served in the Army during the Vietnam War and received many medals and awards. He also put together and monitored the first U.S. Army trial defense service. De Giulio married Barbara Whiting, and they had four children. They later divorced, and in 1983, he married Nadine Semler in Colorado. He received an honorable discharge from the Army in September 1993 and eventually returned to Idaho, opening the De Giulio Law Office in 1996 and retiring in 2005. De Giulio was a member of the Roman Catholic Church and loved to read, fix things and build anything. He is survived by his wife, children, a sister, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Don Schussler '62, age 80, died peacefully at his home in Washington on December 16, 2020, following a courageous battle with prostate cancer. Schussler grew up in Yakima. He earned a bachelor's degree and JD from Willamette, marrying his high school sweetheart, **Judy Elliott '62**, in 1962. After law school, he clerked at the Oregon Supreme Court and then became an assistant to Sen. Wayne Morse in Washington, D.C. He returned to Yakima in 1969, where he entered private practice until 2006.

Schussler was an avid tennis and golf player and taught school law at two universities. He also loved to read and enjoyed school so much that after retirement, he earned a master's degree in English. He served for several years as a volunteer mediator for the Dispute Resolution Centers of Yakima, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties. Schussler is survived by his wife of 58 years, two children, three grandchildren and a sister.

'66

Melvin “Dean” Buffington passed away at age 80 in Boise. Buffington attended the College of Idaho. Afterward, he went to Willamette Law, graduating in 1966. He was drafted into the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and served until 1972, one of his proudest accomplishments. In 1967, Buffington began working for the First Security Bank of Idaho, where he worked for 31 years. He retired in 1998, and later that year, found a second career with the registered investment advisory firm Buffington Mohr McNeal. While working at the bank, Buffington met Judy Irving, the love of his life, with whom he was married for 53 years and had two daughters. He loved helping others and was so proud of his daughters and grandchildren. He carried his values with him every day and was a person of strong faith and character. He is survived by his wife and daughters, as well as other family.

'69

Sigurd “Sig” Borgersen passed away January 20, 2021, at age 78. He was born and raised in Seattle and attended the University of Washington, where he met Jody, his wife of 53 years. Borgersen earned his law degree at Willamette and returned to Seattle to practice. He was a partner at Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt. Borgersen and his wife raised their two daughters in Kirkland and enjoyed cruising the waters surrounding Seattle in the summer and skiing in Idaho in the winter. As a retiree, he and Jody moved to Ketchum, Idaho, where he skied every day possible. Borgersen is survived by Jody, his daughters and their families, and a sister and brother.

'70

Tom Greif passed away peacefully in his sleep November 15, 2020, at age 76. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and moved to Salem in 1948. He played baseball at the University of Oregon and graduated with a business degree in 1966. Greif went on to obtain his law degree from Willamette and had a successful legal practice in Portland for many years. He was an avid fisherman and spent his life fishing for salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest. He also enjoyed volunteering at the Whiskey Creek Fish Hatchery in Tillamook and the Union Gospel Mission in Portland. Greif is survived by his wife, daughters, first wife, sister and grandchildren.

'73

Professor Ed Harri, one of Willamette Law's most beloved professors, died suddenly March 1, 2020, of a heart attack. After earning his law degree, Harri clerked for the Oregon Supreme Court and Court of Appeals. He established a private practice in 1980, returning to Willamette Law in 1986 as a professor, teaching legal writing and research. His teaching was deeply appreciated, earning him the Teacher of the Year Award (chosen by students) in 1998 and 2014, and the Jerry E. Hudson Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University in 2007. Harri's commitments to his students and colleagues were lived out in his service as associate dean and assistant dean in student affairs. A tribute to Harri can be read in the 2020 edition of *The Lawyer* magazine at: willamette.edu/go/ed-harri. Harri is survived by his wife, Pat, and three children.

'74

Walter B. Hogan died peacefully on April 17, 2021, at the age of 72. Hogan was born and raised in Myrtle Point, Oregon. He attended the U of O, where he met the love of his life, Carolyn Ackerman. They married in 1971 before moving to Salem so he could study at Willamette Law. After graduating, he worked for the District Court in Portland before returning to Coos County to practice law. He also worked in

Hawaii and Michigan, eventually returning home to Myrtle Point. Hogan was very active in the local Rotary and was also a member of the Elks Lodge, Eagles, Myrtle Lodge and Hillah Temple. He is survived by his wife, four children and their spouses, eight grandchildren, a brother and other family. A nice profile article about Hogan was featured by the Oregon State Bar in 2008 and can be read at willamette.edu/go/walter-hogan.

'78

Justice Shirley Abrahamson died December 19, 2020, at 87, from pancreatic cancer. A New York City native, she attended Indiana University Law School. She and her husband, Seymour, moved to Wisconsin in 1961. After spending 40+ years on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Abrahamson was the longest-serving supreme court justice in state history and its first woman justice. She was a nationally recognized scholar and was considered for the U.S. Supreme Court by President Bill Clinton. She was not a Willamette Law alumna, but she was presented with an honorary law degree at the 1978 commencement ceremony, where she was a speaker. Abrahamson will be remembered for her work ethic and dedication to public service and justice.

'80

Jeffery Herman passed away April 3, 2021, at the age of 66. Herman was born in Salem and attended the University of Oregon and Willamette Law. He practiced in Eugene and Santa Barbara, California. In 2000, he left the legal field and found his calling working with seniors when he purchased Vandenberg Senior Residence in Santa Maria, California. Herman had a passion for his grandchildren, travel, photography, golf, geology and the outdoors. He was an intelligent man with a curious nature and could often be found with a book in his hand, but he was happiest when surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Lori, four children and two grandchildren.

'96

Scott Nemeth died August 16, 2020, from a sudden heart attack. He attended Willamette Law after working as a marine biologist on the Oregon Coast and graduating from Ball State University in his home state of Indiana. He and his wife, **Lauren**, met during their first year at Willamette and married the week after graduation. They settled in the Seattle area and raised their children, Nicholas and Annabel. At the time of his

passing, Scott worked as an attorney for global health organization PATH and was a volunteer for his community emergency preparedness team. Scott's devotion to his family, friends and colleagues, willingness to lend a hand, and passion for sharing his numerous hobbies and interests, especially fishing on the Rogue River and from his boat in the Puget Sound, will leave a lasting legacy for all who knew him.

'10

Marshall Ivey passed away July 26, 2021, at the age of 43. He was a graduate of Washington State University, Pullman, and Willamette Law. While in law school, he clerked for O'Neill & Evans in Salem and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Portland. He worked as a legal analyst at Thomas Reuters, and at the time of his death, he was employed at MODA Health in Legal Regulatory Affairs. Ivey loved playing pickup

basketball games with friends and enjoyed being a referee for youth teams. He liked sports, hiking, reading and attending Pearl Jam concerts. He was a humble man who was sentimental, traditional, trustworthy, a listener and caring. Ivey will be missed by his parents, sister, friends and other family members.

Remembering Susan Hammer JD'76



Life trustee, trailblazing lawyer and dedicated community leader **Susan Hammer JD'76** left a legacy of innovation and service when she passed away August 26, 2020, in Portland.

Hammer was a Willamette trustee from 1999 to 2012. She was a devoted supporter of the university, and particularly the College of Law, where she worked in many capacities to further and support it. An expert mediator, she is greatly missed by the Willamette community.

"Susan was an exemplary role model for our students and faculty," Dean Emeritus Symeon Symeonides says. "She was truly brilliant, dynamic, full of creative ideas and a pioneer in her field. Our school has lost a generous benefactor and cheerful friend and supporter who made us proud throughout her outstanding career."

After graduating, Hammer served as the law clerk for Justice James Dolliver on the Washington Supreme Court. She began practicing commercial litigation and employment law at Stoel Rives in 1978. During her 20 years there, she was the seventh woman to become a partner and one of the first at any major Portland law firm.

Hammer's dedication and commitment naturally led her to leadership roles. As the first

female president of the Multnomah Bar Association, she created the Committee on the Status of Women to respond to the needs of women attorneys, including issues of parental leave and gender discrimination.

Hammer was also deeply devoted to community service and did extensive pro bono work. In 1998, she founded Dispute Resolution Services, focusing on dispute resolution design and mediator selection. Over two decades, she mediated thousands of cases and served as a senior fellow at the Willamette University Center for Dispute Resolution.

"Susan was a warm, gracious, exceedingly intelligent and sophisticated woman, and perhaps the finest representative of the mediation community in the Pacific Northwest," Professor Susan Smith says.

While displaying leadership in her field, Hammer was a leader in her community, spending time on various boards and receiving many honors for her accomplishments.

"Susan Hammer was the best of what Willamette University is all about — she was intelligent, committed to her community and hardworking," says **Lynne Saxton '76**, chair of the Willamette University Board of Trustees. "Susan's grace and willingness to consider all sides of an issue were treasured by those of us who had the privilege to work with her. She was, and will continue to be, an inspiration to us every day."

"Our school has lost a generous benefactor and cheerful friend and supporter."

— Symeon Symeonides, Dean Emeritus

New chair takes the reins of the Leadership Cabinet

The likelihood that Willamette Law Dean Brian Gallini and **Nancy Schierhorn JD'86** will get into a conversation about hockey during the bi-annual Leadership Cabinet meeting is high. Who else in Salem likes hockey as much as they do?



Schierhorn

The two are both hockey nuts, Schierhorn laughs. Along with his propensity for the sport, what Schierhorn likes about Gallini, who just finished his first year at Willamette, is his ability to get things done.

As the new chair of the Leadership Cabinet, she sees his ideas as enhancing those of Dean Emeritus Curtis Bridgeman, who transformed the school's original Board of Visitors into the more involved alumni group that exists today.

"Brian is such a hard worker. Both he and Curtis have done a great job, but it's kind of fun to see new thoughts and ideas and how Brian acts on them," Schierhorn says. "He has great vision and the ability to execute. To support him in that is exciting."

Schierhorn took the reins of the Leadership Cabinet this spring from previous chair **Mark Hoyt JD'92**. She

says Hoyt helped put the group on a successful trajectory to actively support the dean and school in an effort to maximize the Willamette experience for all of its stakeholders.

The members of the Leadership Cabinet assist the dean as a sounding board who can see the bigger picture at the College of Law. They offer advice on the future direction of the law school, but they also move it forward by participating in activities that enhance day-to-day operations, like serving as guest speakers in the classroom and on alumni panels, connecting with students personally, attending events and fundraising.

As a business executive for Alaska-based Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Schierhorn is an alumni contact for Alaskan students and provides knowledge for Willamette Law initiatives, such as the Business Lawyering Institute, and a voice to share the school's successes and needs. Other members of the group come from a variety of legal and business backgrounds, offering a wide range of talented advisors and collaborators.

Being part of the group is one way Schierhorn stays up-to-date about the school and how she can help it advance.

"I love Willamette and always have," she explains. "My husband and I met there, and we both attribute our success to what we got out of our education there, among other things. When I was asked to join the Leadership Cabinet, I was more than happy to step in and make sure other folks had the same experience I had."

Hoyt was a part of the Board of Visitors, a group common to law schools, for about the last 20 years, although it was around even before then for Willamette Law deans to get advice and consult with. Throughout his tenure, deans used the board differently, and some, not much at all. When Bridgeman became dean in 2013, he reorganized the board into the Leadership Cabinet, with Hoyt as chair.

"My husband and I met there, and we both attribute our success to what we got out of our education there, among other things."

— Nancy Schierhorn JD'86
Chair of the Leadership Cabinet

"He had the vision of converting the Board of Visitors into a group of committed alumni who wouldn't really advise the dean, but would assist him in doing what it took to reshape the law school," Hoyt recalls. "We became active supporters out in the community, pushing for higher visibility, a higher profile and greater respect for the law school."

Like Schierhorn, Hoyt viewed the opportunity to be involved as a way to give back to the institution that helped shape his career in business law and commercial litigation. Hoyt has also mentored students and taught as an adjunct professor, but his time on the Leadership Cabinet and Board of Visitors helped advance the school uniquely, and he's proud of the work they accomplished while he was chair.

He is excited to see what Schierhorn will do as she leads the group, saying that he firmly believes she'll make him look bad (in a good way).

"Curtis was a brilliant leader for the law school and did fantastic things to position it very well," he says. "Brian is the right man to take over that helm and lead Willamette through an unprecedented period of change in higher education. He and Nancy will be a formidable team. She is a great attorney and a wonderful person, and she's going to be fantastic."



Hoyt



A win-win way to support the College of Law

The Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) is back for IRA holders 72 and older in 2021. You can support the College of Law with a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA that will qualify as part or all of your annual RMD and is excludable from your gross income.

- An easy and convenient way to make a gift from one of your major assets
- An ideal way to give for those who take the standard deduction on their tax returns
- Start supporting Willamette with gifts from your IRA at age 70.5 and reap the tax benefits

Contact us for details at 866-204-8102 or giftplanning@willamette.edu.

Above: Marie Colmey JD'89 and a student laugh during a visit to the law school by Leadership Cabinet members.