

The magazine of the first law school in the Pacific Northwest | Fall 2016

# WILLAMETTE LAWYER

A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a light blue dress shirt and a colorful patterned tie, is sitting on a wooden bench outdoors. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a body of water and a white metal structure, possibly a bridge or pier.

Small-town Whirlwind  
Makes Waves on  
Washington Coast  
*Paul Stritmatter JD'69*

STAYING POWER  
*Danny Santos JD'86*

TRAINING GROUNDS  
FOR GOOD  
*WUPILP*



# WILLAMETTE LAWYER

FALL 2016



## **Small-town Whirlwind Makes Waves on Washington Coast**

The long and impactful career of Paul Stritmatter JD'69 proves you don't have to live in a large metropolis to make it big.

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## **Staying Power**

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# Dean's Message



Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from the College of Law, where we are enjoying our 133rd year of educating law students. While we are proud of our history, it is also a great time to be a student at Willamette. We have a forward-thinking, evolving curriculum that better prepares our students for practice than ever before, and recent additions to the faculty continue our great tradition of teaching excellence. In these pages you will read about some of the exciting things happening at the school and learn about recent accomplishments of fellow alumni.

Covered in this issue are the new ways that we and the profession are trying to reduce the cost of a legal education by getting elite students through the process more quickly. You will read about our expanded 3+3 Program, which allows students to complete the undergraduate and law degree in a total of six years; you will see how some students have elected to graduate early and take the February bar; and you will see a new state bar rule that allows some third-year students to take the bar in Oregon before graduating.

We also feature student success with articles on our Moot Court team's performance on the national stage; two students recognized for leadership in the community as Shepherd Scholars; and the important work experience gained by five summer fellows through the Willamette University Public Interest Law Project.

The "Faculty Focus" section of the magazine showcases select faculty in both scholarly achievement and expert commentary in the news media. We also introduce you to three new faculty members, each accomplished, rising stars with excellent teaching credentials.

Our cover story reports on the extensive and impactful career of trial attorney Paul Stritmatter JD'69, and you can read up on the professional lives of your classmates and colleagues in the newly expanded Class Action section. In this issue, we highlight alumni who serve the community as judges, policy administrators and politicians. And just for fun, check out the new "Scene of the Crime" section to see alumni and friends all across the country who attend law school receptions and special events. Our events keep alumni connected to the school and engaged in furthering our mission to provide first-rate legal education to aspiring lawyers, business creators, policymakers and community leaders.

We have had our challenges lately. Bar passage rates have declined nationally over the last three years, and right before this magazine went to press we learned that passing the bar in Oregon is now harder than ever: the passage rate for the July 2016 Oregon bar was only 58 percent. Willamette's rate was even lower, even though we are normally at or above the state average. We are still investigating causes of the lower bar passage rate, both in Oregon and at Willamette in particular, but we are already implementing changes in bar preparation that we think will have a lasting, positive impact for our students. We will have more to say about these programs in future issues of the Willamette Lawyer.

At our alumni receptions, I am often asked, "What can I do to help?" The best way to help Willamette is to welcome and mentor our students, as you always do. Share your knowledge and experience, hire them for externships and summer positions, and inspire them with your own success story. Mentor recent graduates while they study for the bar exam, and help ensure that bar preparation is a full-time enterprise for them in the months prior to the exam. You can also make a financial contribution to Willamette scholarships or the Law Annual Fund; contributions to the Law Annual Fund in particular help us support students in their bar preparation.

Thank you for all you do for our students. Your legacy lives in them. With your help, they will leave a legacy for the next generation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Bridgeman".

Curtis Bridgeman



## ABA approves early bar exam for third-years

Rather than waiting for the typical July bar exam date, Willamette Law's Andy Acosta JD'16 completed the exam in February 2016, before his graduation in May.

"I was eager to jump back into the workplace and use my newly minted legal powers for good," Acosta says, "so taking the bar in February seemed like a good option."

In 2015, the Oregon State Bar recommended an amendment to Rule for Admission (RFA) 3.05 that would permit qualifying third-year students to take the bar exam prior to graduation. The Oregon Supreme Court approved the change, effective beginning with the February 2016 exam.

The amended rule allows a student in the third year of law school to sit for the bar examination in February, prior to graduation, if the student and the law school certify that the student meets and will adhere to the requirements of the amended rule. No applicant will be recommended for admission until the degree is obtained. If an applicant does not graduate in the designated time period and does not receive an extension, the exam shall be void and the score will not be released.

The amended rule also allows a student whose graduation has been delayed to obtain certification to sit for the July bar exam and complete the



Andy Acosta JD'16 at the Marion County (Oregon) Public Defender's Office with interns and Willamette third-year law students Rachael Gilburd (left) and Bailey Moody.

degree up to 120 days after the exam.

Eight law students from Willamette took up the challenge and sat for the February bar. Acosta and five others passed the exam.

Acosta says he received a lot of help from the faculty and staff at Willamette as he prepared. Daniel Santos JD'86, associate dean for student affairs and administration, says although the school was only given a year's notice of the rule change, the faculty and staff worked to help the interested students restructure their spring 2016 semesters.

In addition to helping the students prepare for the early exam, Santos says the college created experiences such as externships and clinics to help them finish their remaining credits following the test. All eight students graduated.

Acosta accepted a job with the public defender's office in Marion County a few weeks before graduation. With the timing of the opening and his early pass of the bar exam, he says everything fell into place.

The new Oregon rule comes at a time when bar passage rates nationally have been in steady decline over the past few years. Oregon has been hit

particularly hard, with the statewide passage rate dipping to 58 percent for the July administration of the bar.

Willamette's results for early takers have been promising, with six of eight passing on the first try and a seventh student retaking and passing the exam in July.

"We are working hard to develop bar preparation programs that can be tailored to each student's needs," says College of Law Dean Curtis Bridgeman. "Taking the test early is not best for most students, but can be a great fit for the right students."



## Catalyst for change

### Veteran re-arms himself with tools to change community.

The path to law school for second-year student Andy Blevins has taken him from U.S. military service to a White House internship and, ultimately, to Willamette University College of Law. Throughout all of his pursuits, involvement in and service to the community have been his common motivating factors.

Blevins joined the U.S. Navy right out of high school, served as a cryptologic technician and received an honorable discharge at the end of his enlistment. While on active duty, he founded and worked as the regional director for the Guam and Mariana Island's chapter of OutServe-Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (OutServe-SLDN), a national organization devoted to assisting those affected by "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policies.

His wish to help the LGBTQ community comes from his own experiences serving under "don't ask, don't tell." As a gay man, Blevins felt like a second-class citizen, living two distinctly separate lives out of

fear that his true self would make him less worthy of the uniform. He found it difficult to balance his deep-rooted patriotism and his sexuality. Blevins wanted to help others who suffer the same conflicting feelings understand the two are not incompatible — a person can be both patriotic and gay.

Toward the end of his military service, Blevins applied for and was accepted into the White House Internship Program, where he worked in First Lady Michelle Obama's office, quite an extraordinary opportunity for someone without a college degree.

"I had the opportunity to speak with several incredible leaders within the Obama administration," says Blevins,

"and they all encouraged me to use my own experience as a catalyst for change."

Blevins' experiences in Washington helped him identify what was important to him and plan his next steps. He refocused his efforts and attended the University of Colorado, where he studied English and earned a postgraduate certificate in nonprofit administration.

Blevins continued to serve the LGBTQ military community during his undergraduate education. He worked in various roles with OutServe-SLDN, Military Partners and Family Coalition, American Military Partner Association and the Military Family Advisory Network.

In the fall of 2015, Blevins started working toward his JD/MBA at Willamette University. He admits that he intended to stay close to family in Colorado for law school, but after meeting the admissions staff and speaking with Dean Curtis Bridgeman, he felt like Willamette was home.

"I knew this was where I was supposed to spend the next several years learning about the law," he says.

As he also wanted to pursue an MBA, Willamette's JD/MBA program was the perfect solution. "It provides me with the tools I need to pursue my career as a lawyer," he says, "in addition to the skillsets to better support these community organizations."

When offered a position with OutServe-SLDN's legal team, Blevins jumped at the opportunity to practice his lawyering skills and strengthen his understanding of the law for the organization he knows so well. He works for a team of three lawyers that takes in 30-40 clients per month, with most cases involving military law, the Department of Veteran Affairs, or discrimination and/or harassment.

As the legal department needs to be up to date on military, federal and state laws within every state that hosts a military installation, Blevins' research skills and legal knowledge continue to grow. Comparing





notes from his first clients to his current ones shows how much his research skills and legal understanding have progressed.

"I'm arming myself with the tools necessary to bring much-needed change into my community," he says. "It feels good learning the law and being a catalyst for change."

While attending Willamette, Blevins already is making a difference in the lives of individuals who are just now waking up to their own voices. He's helping his brothers- and sisters-in-arms find their balance and their peace — and others are taking notice.

"Andy is compassionate, deeply committed and tenacious in ensuring that all who come to our organization for legal assistance get the necessary and vital help they need and fundamentally deserve," says Matt Thorn, executive director for OutServe-SLDN. "It isn't every day or in every lifetime that you find someone like Andy, who works tirelessly, endlessly to advance the interests of others and who possesses a fundamental, inherent drive to do good, to enact change."

Blevins has heard from many people who are grateful for OutServe-SLDN's help and hope to do similar work with their own organizations. "It's incredibly invigorating to have somebody seek you out for the work you do and say they want to help," he notes. "It makes everything worthwhile."

## Two Willamette law students join legacy of impact, named Shepherd Scholars

Third-year law students Jessica Cavallero and Bailey Moody each received a 2016 Bill and Ann Shepherd Legal Scholarship of \$6,500 for their commitment to improving the quality of life for minorities.

Dean Curtis Bridgeman says, "The awards recognize the hard work of Jessica and Bailey, highlighting efforts to reinvigorate the important work of Willamette's OUTLaw organization and all it has done for LGBTQ rights at the law school, including its effective advocacy and collaboration with state and national LGBTQ organizations."

Cavallero is currently the only openly LGBTQ member in the Clackamas County District Attorney's Misdemeanor Division, where she works diligently to advise colleagues serving transgender or gender-binary defendants in court on proper pronoun usage.

Moody works closely with LGBTQ refugees, undocumented immigrants and criminal defendants, whom she describes as "among the least politically powerful groups of people in the nation."



Jessica Cavallero (left) and Bailey Moody.

"These are the largest scholarships we've given out to date," says Susie Shepherd, daughter of Bill and Ann Shepherd and member of the awards committee.

According to Shepherd, Cavallero and Moody join an elite list of groundbreaking lawyers and legislators who continue to make an impact on the LGBTQ community. The first scholarship in 1995 went to a Willamette law student, Beth A. Allen JD'96. Since then, Allen has worked on LGBTQ issues over the years and is now a respected Multnomah County circuit judge.

In private practice, Allen developed one of the first firms in the nation that focused on serving the LGBTQ community in the areas of family law, estate planning and employment. She was a frequent speaker on LGBTQ matters, particularly concerning same-sex marriage, in the Northwest and nationally. Allen has also taught the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Seminar at Lewis & Clark Law School for the past eight years.



"Willamette Law's involvement in forwarding human rights over the years carries on with Moody and Cavallero," says Daniel Santos JD '86, associate dean for student affairs and administration at Willamette Law. "The issues may change over time, but the commitment to advocate for those who need legal help runs strong in our students. Our students hold the university's motto close: Non nobis solum nati sumus — Not unto ourselves alone are we born."

Judge Beth A. Allen JD'96 started Willamette's legacy of LGBTQ advocacy. Since receiving the Shepherd Scholarship in 1995, Judge Allen has developed a career supporting the LGBTQ community.

## Student completes law school early



Aaron Hisel JD'16.

Typical law students finish school in six semesters, but Aaron Hisel JD'16 managed to complete his studies in five — in addition to passing the bar exam earlier than most in his graduating class.

"I did not want to delay getting back to work," Hisel says. "I decided at that time that I would take whatever extra classes I had to in order to graduate a semester early."

He prepared for the exam by listening to BARBRI lectures during daily commutes and work hours, and met with Professor Edward Harri and several Willamette alumni during the bar process for moral support.

During law school, Hisel also clerked for the law office of Gerald Warren and Associates, a small civil defense firm in Salem. Since graduating and passing the bar, he works for them full-time.

"I'd like to believe the job would have still been there if I hadn't gotten done with school [and the] bar until the fall," Hisel says, "but getting done six months earlier sure helped to take some of the risk out of that equation."

Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Administration Daniel Santos JD'86 advises students to think carefully before taking on such a challenge, saying, "Very few students can complete a JD degree program early, let alone take the bar exam so soon after finishing their last semester of studies."

Santos notes, however, that Willamette supports all students and works with them on a case-by-case basis to achieve their academic goals.

"I would do nothing differently," says Hisel, "as I know I am right where I am supposed to be right now."

## 3+3 Program grows with student interest

Willamette Law added two new partner institutions to its 3+3 Program, which allows students to earn both an undergraduate and law degree (BA/JD) in six years rather than the traditional seven. Portland State University and University of Alaska, Anchorage join existing partners Willamette University College of Liberal Arts and Oregon State University.

The 3+3 Program is an accelerated curriculum for students who want to complete their education more quickly, reducing costs and student loan debt at a time when the cost of higher education is a matter of increasing concern.

Students participating in the program spend their first three years fulfilling their general education requirements and requirements for their chosen majors and minors at any of the four partner institutions.

Upon admission to the law school, students begin law courses in their fourth year. Credits earned in the first year of law school will apply to their bachelor's degree as elective credits. Rising juniors at any of the partner schools can take the LSAT and apply for entry to Willamette Law in fall 2017 if they meet the course requirements.

Third-year Willamette Law student and 3+3 Program enrollee Lauren Cribb graduated high school while simultaneously completing an associate's degree in 2012. Knowing that law school was her ultimate goal, she chose Willamette Law based on the 3+3 Program.

"You lose some of your undergraduate experience," she says, "but if you know it's what you want to do, it's incredible to get into law school and make those connections even sooner."

*For more information on how to enroll in the 3+3 Program, contact the Willamette Law Admissions Office at [law-admissions@willamette.edu](mailto:law-admissions@willamette.edu) or (503) 370-6282.*



## The prodigy club

This fall, Willamette welcomed its youngest matriculant ever: 19-year-old Jenavieve Johnston. Even more unusual: two 20-year-old students, Rosemary Harper and Daniel Small, joined Johnston in the incoming class. The average age of a first-year law student at Willamette is 26.

"All three students are uniquely qualified, highly motivated individuals with a desire to make a difference in the world," says J.R. Tarabocchia, director of recruitment and student activities at the law school. Tarabocchia reviews approximately 600 applications each year for the coveted 110 spots at Willamette Law.

Johnston skipped high school to attend Portland Community College. By age 17, she moved on to Portland State University for her junior year, and at age 19, she graduated from PSU with a Bachelor of Science in business management.

Harper was homeschooled through high school and completed her studies at an accelerated pace. She received her Bachelor of Arts in legal studies from Husson University in Bangor, Maine.

Also homeschooled until high school, Small graduated from George Fox University with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy.

"Each student is in a strong position to do very well in law school," says Tarabocchia. "Who knows? Perhaps these students will start a trend, and 'The Prodigy Club' will become a new student organization at Willamette Law."



Left to right: Daniel Small, Rosemary Harper and Jenavieve Johnston.



Left to right: Katherine Beck, Trevor Potter, Kevin Hupy and Kayla Warr.

## Trial team advances to finals at regional competition

Four Willamette Law students — third-year Katherine Beck, Kevin Hupy JD'16, third-year Trevor Potter and Kayla Warr JD/ MBA'16 — competed at the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Student Trial Advocacy Competition in March. In a competitive field of contenders from top law schools across the western region, Willamette's team made it to the regional finals.

Willamette's team then advanced to the semifinals, where it defeated the team from Sturm College of Law at the University of Denver, and moved on to the finals, where it placed second to one of two teams from the University of California, Berkeley.

Team coach Stephanie Palmblad JD'12, an attorney at Collier Law in Salem, says the experience of coaching this year's teams was inspiring. "These four students have been incredible to watch," she says. "They all have bright futures as advocates inside and outside of the courtroom."

According to Palmblad, many of the schools competing in the AAJ competition dedicate classroom time or structure trial practice around the AAJ regional problem. Most teams have professors who dedicate time to coaching the programs, and the students run the trial repeatedly with the two teams they take to the regional competition. These schools have a reputation for training talented courtroom advocates. In comparison, Willamette's teams in the past decade have been largely student-driven and coached by volunteers from the community.

Daniel Santos JD'86, associate dean for student affairs and administration at the College of Law, says, "While the students truly merit the recognition for their outstanding performance, we also recognize that they are helped tremendously by the coaching, guidance and support they received from Ms. Palmblad and all the coaches."



A man with a beard and mustache, wearing a dark pinstripe suit, a light blue shirt, and a colorful patterned tie, stands in the center of a large, ornate office. The office has a high ceiling with a grid of recessed lighting. The walls are covered with numerous framed certificates and awards. To the right, there is a large wooden desk with a leather chair. The overall atmosphere is professional and prestigious.

# Small-town Whirlwind Makes Waves on Washington Coast

The long and impactful career of Paul Stritmatter JD'69 proves you don't have to live in a large metropolis to make it big.

BY ANDREW FAUGHT





**H**oquiam, Washington, population 8,405, is perhaps best known for its annual Loggers Playday, at which lumberjacks from around the Northwest face off in events ranging from axe-throwing and log-chopping to speed-climbing and double-hand bucking.

Over on Eighth Street is a different kind of tough guy. Native son Paul Stritmatter JD'69 may not be spinning logs, but he's known around these parts — and beyond — for being one of the state's most successful personal injury lawyers.

In 1983, he won a \$10 million judgment, then a state record, against motorcycle manufacturer Yamaha. An unlicensed teen was rendered a quadriplegic after crashing a bike when the throttle stuck. In *Brown v. Yamaha*, Stritmatter successfully argued that, even though the victim wasn't licensed to drive the vehicle, the motorcycle should have had an emergency shutoff.

That he plies his trade from tiny Hoquiam, well, Stritmatter never considered otherwise.

"My wife and I both grew up in Hoquiam and had wonderful childhoods here," he says. "And we raised both of our children here. Being in a small town has allowed me to handle a lot of cases with a lot of great issues."

Many of his classmates, including a sizable number with lawyer relatives, derided the notion of practicing with a family member or hanging out their shingle in a former mill town. Others aspired to work in the big city. Stritmatter, like many Willamette Law alumni, has found success in a milieu of his choosing — fighting for, as his website advertises, "Real justice for real people."

It's an ethos that the law school readily promulgates.

"Willamette, being across the street from the state Capitol, has a built-in culture of service and attention to the public good," says Mike Bennett '70, Stritmatter's friend and senior director of development for principal gifts at the university. "It's in the DNA of the place. People like Paul are really important in these small towns, for their work and for just who they are."



After earning his law degree in 1969, Stritmatter returned home to practice law with his father, the late Lester Stritmatter, whom his son describes as “a small-town generalist who didn’t represent the moneyed clients or businesses. He represented the little people.” When he died in 1982, the elder Stritmatter had been practicing in Hoquiam since 1938.

In one of his first jury trials, Paul Stritmatter won a \$14,000 judgment (up from the original \$2,500 claim) for a woman who was injured after tripping and falling on a sidewalk in neighboring Aberdeen, Washington. To



“Being in a **small town** has allowed me to **HANDLE A LOT OF CASES** with a lot of **great issues.**”

prepare, he retrieved his Willamette trial class notes to help him decide how to present the case. Stritmatter didn’t know it at the time, but the case would set the course of his professional life.

“All of a sudden, I started getting phone calls from members of the local bar wanting me to try their personal injury cases,” he says. “It was puzzling to me. I was still so wet behind the ears. It took me a while to understand that most lawyers are afraid to stand up in front of a jury. I was too young and naïve to understand that.”

But his career path never was a sure thing. A self-described “rebellious youth,” Stritmatter enrolled at the University of Washington to pursue his undergraduate degree. Despite ambitions to become a doctor, Stritmatter spent more time partying than studying, and he scotched his medical aspirations.

He reapplied himself and earned a degree in economics, with plans to continue his studies in graduate school. The law never figured into his thought process. (“By golly, I wasn’t going to be a lawyer,” Stritmatter says. “I was going to do my own thing.”) But his dad’s influence was strong, and he decided to give law school a try.

Stritmatter opted for Willamette over the Gonzaga School of Law. It turned out to be a perfect fit.

“I was at Willamette for four weeks and I said to myself, ‘My goodness sakes, this is what I should have been doing all along,’” he recalls. “I just loved it from day one.”

Stritmatter thrilled to the Socratic method used by his professors, and he devoured

case histories. His grades were so good that he was invited to be on the law review. His response surprised classmates.

“I turned them down,” he says. “I don’t think they’d had anybody turn them down before. I said I would rather spend my time working in the legal aid program. In part it was because I wanted to help little people who had legal problems, and that meant getting experience in the courtroom. That was more valuable than editing somebody’s articles or writing an article myself.”

In a play on his name, classmates called him “strict mother” for his relentless study habits. Stritmatter’s academic transformation was complete: he graduated fourth in his Willamette class and went on to clerk for Washington state Supreme Court Justice Matthew Hill and then for Justice Charles Stafford. The first Willamette graduate to clerk for the Washington Supreme Court, Stritmatter created such an excellent impression that the court held a spot open for a Willamette graduate for a number of years.

On returning to Hoquiam, “one of the things I heard was, ‘You’re not going to have any interesting cases to work on,’” Stritmatter says. “I guess I worried that they might be right. But legal problems are legal problems. They come up across the board.”

It wasn’t long before his star was on the rise. Stritmatter repeatedly won million-dollar judgments, including \$6.1 million for a mother injured by a drunk driver and \$5.5 million for a client who was hurt at an unsigned railroad crossing.

Before long, he was speaking at legal seminars in Washington and throughout the West. Stritmatter ultimately served as president of the Washington State Bar Association (1994-95), the first lawyer from Grays Harbor County to hold the post. “I always thought I had an advantage coming out of Hoquiam,” he says, “because everybody’s always looking for diversity, even geographic diversity.”

He also served as president of the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association (1984-85) and as national president of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice (2002-03), a foundation that he co-founded in 1982 to encourage “creative litigation” while inspiring lawyers to serve the public interest.

In his proudest case, *Sofie v. Fibreboard*, Stritmatter in 1989 successfully challenged a new state law that limited personal injury claims to \$225,000. The state supreme court, after hearing Stritmatter’s argument, removed the cap on pain-and-suffering



damages, earning the attorney national acclaim.

"It was the most restrictive, most regressive so-called tort reform — we called it 'tort deform' — in the nation," Stritmatter says. "The decision really has made the lives of so many people a little easier by allowing them to get full justice as determined by a jury, rather than an arbitrary cap that was being set by the insurance industry."

Stritmatter is unequivocal about his motivations for practicing law. Besides helping people, he loves the competition.

"I played junior high and high school sports, and competition has always been important to me," he adds. "The second part is the challenge of cross-examination, where you poke holes and show that the position of the insurance industry-hired expert is simply wrong. I just find that extremely exciting. The outcome of a case is truly going to impact a client's entire future. They can't work and they've got big medical bills. I know and understand that, and I cherish taking the responsibility."

For Stritmatter, case preparation is paramount. In *Brown v. Yamaha*, he spent 24 hours in a bed directly next to his client at the nursing home to understand the realities facing his paralyzed client.

"He experienced the moans and groans and screams and smells of the nursing home," says partner Keith Kessler. "Paul felt that if he did that, he'd get a good sense of what the boy was going through, and that he'd be better able to present it to the jury."

Kessler was practicing law in Seattle when, in 1979, he joined Stritmatter and other members of the Washington State Bar Association on a trip to Russia to meet counterparts in Moscow.

On the return trip, the Washington delegation, grounded by flight delays, played football on the tarmac ("There wasn't a lot of policing," Kessler says). The "football" actually was a plastic bag stuffed with paper. Playing quarterback, Stritmatter threw a hard pass into headwinds and tore his rotator cuff.

"He'll never go back to Russia because he has such bad memories of it," Kessler says

with a laugh. "But it was a good time for us to talk. I got to know him better, and we discussed how the secret of winning cases is lots of preparation."

Four months later, Kessler joined Stritmatter's practice.

"I'd never even heard of Hoquiam," he says.

Stritmatter's love for his hometown runs deep. He created the region's Paint the Corridor Project, in which volunteers spiffed up a neglected three-mile thoroughfare. Besides running a busy practice and traveling, Stritmatter is at work on a memoir for his granddaughters, ages 16 and 14.

The title? "Did Strit Matter?"

"I want them to have an understanding of what I've done," he says. "Maybe I can convince one or both of them to become lawyers."

"I wanted to **help** little people who had  
**LEGAL PROBLEMS** and that  
meant **getting experience** in the courtroom."

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

1989

.....  
successfully challenged a new  
state law that limited personal  
injury claims to

**\$225,000**

**\$5.5 million**

.....  
for a client hurt at an unsigned  
railroad crossing

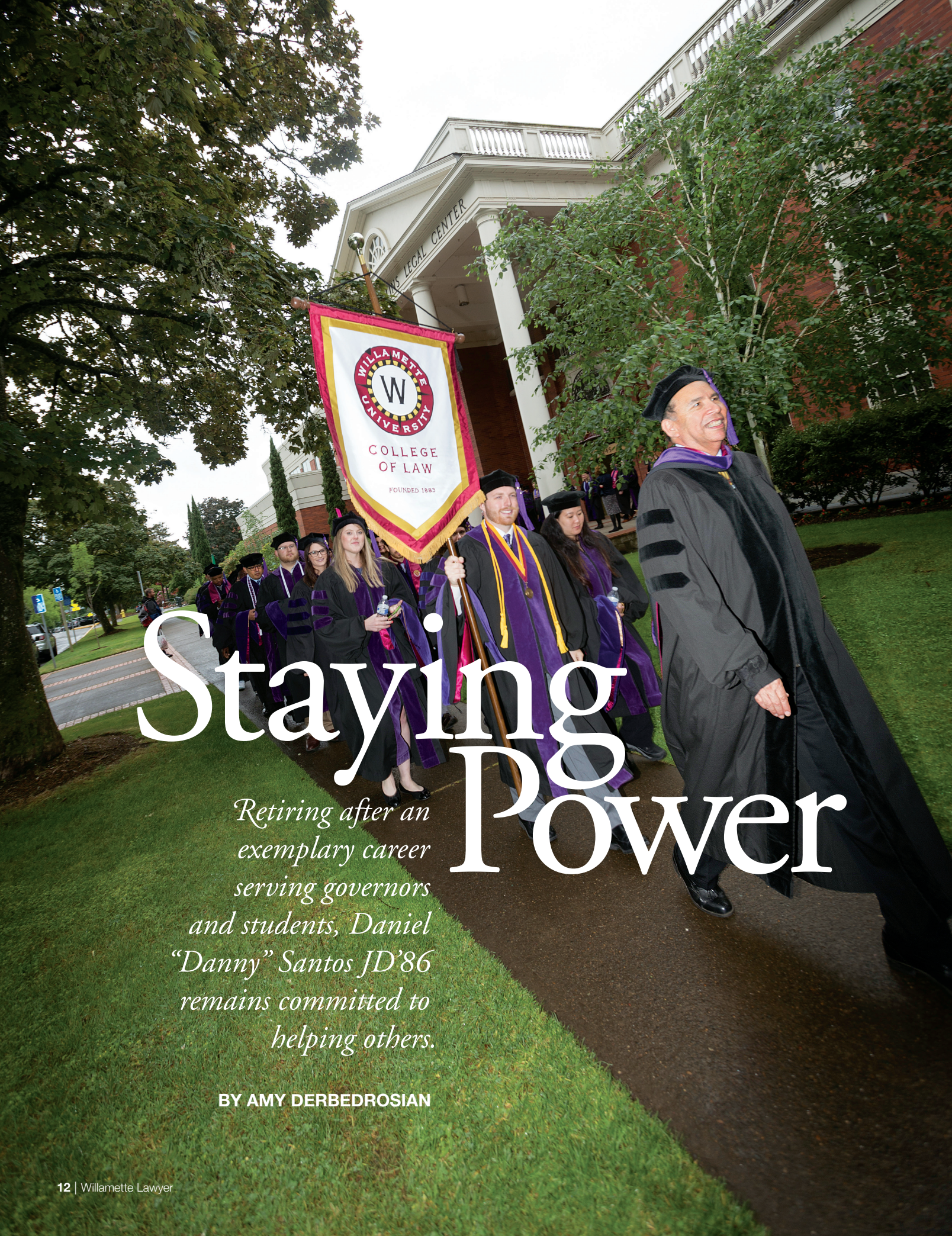
1983

.....  
\$10 million judgment against  
motorcycle manufacturer Yamaha

**\$6.1 million**

.....  
for a mother injured by a drunk driver





# Staying Power

*Retiring after an exemplary career serving governors and students, Daniel “Danny” Santos JD’86 remains committed to helping others.*

**BY AMY DERBEDROSIAN**



No matter where he goes, Willamette University College of Law Dean Curtis Bridgeman hears time and again that Daniel “Danny” Santos JD’86 should have run for elective office. Working closely with Santos for the past four years proved the accolades true, says Bridgeman, adding, “Danny would have made an excellent diplomat.”

In a way, that’s exactly what Santos became, without leaving Salem. He successfully served in the administrations of four Oregon governors with very different personalities and expectations. His more recent role as the law school’s associate dean for student affairs and administration has required Santos to exhibit similar interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

“Danny calls no attention to himself but accomplishes amazing things,” says Michael Bennett ’70, the law school’s director of development for many years and currently Willamette University’s senior director of development for principal gifts. “Part of his gift is that he’s the everyman.”

Santos started life in California’s Imperial Valley agricultural region, where his parents encouraged their sons to become the first in the family to attend college. That goal took Santos first to Imperial Valley College, then to Southern Oregon University for a degree in criminology. Poor eyesight quashed thoughts of joining the FBI after graduation but led Santos instead to a position directing Jackson County Migrant Education in Medford, Oregon. By 1979, he was working at the state level, as supervisor of the Oregon Migrant Education Service Center.

“That got me to Salem and engaged more and more with Latino issues and educational issues for young people,” Santos recalls. “I became involved with people engaged in the legislative process, and several were lawyers. I saw lawyers not just in the courtroom, but also in legislative advocacy and education.”



Danny Santos counseling a student at the College of Law.

One of them — Rocky Barilla, the first Latino to be elected to the Oregon House of Representatives — encouraged Santos to consider becoming a lawyer. Soon afterward, Santos was a Willamette Law student, the elected president of the student body and a member of the American Bar Association Law Student Division Board of Governors.

“Danny was always out front in class,” says James Nafziger, former professor to and now colleague of Santos. “He was a real contributor and served as a leader of the group. People just liked him.”

After earning his JD, Santos spent a year as a placement coordinator for the law school.

*I hope at the end of the day I can say I helped move the needle forward in terms of diversity, equity and education, and that I contributed to the social conscience about these issues we face.*

—Danny Santos



Roberts was the first of the governors to retain him. That Santos would continue in a new administration was far from assured, even unexpected, yet he did so three more times. Santos explains, "The rule is you come and go with the governor, and we have that understanding when we work there."

But Roberts, who previously served as Oregon's secretary of state and leader of its House of Representatives, knew Santos. She says, "He was not just a paper resume to me, although his resume was strong. He was very much in evidence in the Capitol, and I'd had an opportunity to see him in his role. I knew he was articulate, smart, hard-working and a good guy."

When John Kitzhaber became governor in 1995, Santos was the only policy advisor invited to stay. Subsequently named the governor's legal counsel, he says, "It was a wonderful opportunity to stay engaged for eight years with the administration. I got to experience more and more policy areas and was able to advance the governor's interests and, I hope, those of Oregonians."

With a fourth governor, Ted Kulongoski, came the request for Santos to continue as deputy legal counsel on an interim basis. That tenure turned into another eight years of government service, this time as a senior policy advisor. Yet rather than a particular policy area or legal issue, Santos considers coordinating Kulongoski's presence at the military funerals of Oregonians — and attending them himself — to be among the most significant of his roles in those years.

"It was a tragic setting, yet I remain humbled to have taken part," Santos says. "There were too many funerals, but it was always a great honor and privilege to be there."

Then, after the 2010 election of Kitzhaber to a third term, the norm for others became a reality for Santos as well: He was not offered a position in a new administration. Santos says, "It was a nice run, and we remain friends. This time, I thought: 'Now what?' Then I got a call from Willamette Law, asking



Then, Barilla proposed another idea to Santos: He should look into joining the staff of the newly elected governor, Neil Goldschmidt.

Starting as an ombudsperson, Santos began what would become 24 years of service in the Oregon governor's office. During that time, he dealt with a variety of policy and legal issues, including education, agricultural labor, tribal relations, criminal justice, military services and judicial appointments.

"To me, he represents the best in public service. It was never about ego, it was about, 'What do you need and how can I get it done?'," says former governor Barbara Roberts, who named Santos as chair of the Oregon Board of Parole and later as her legal counsel. "He rose to the occasion, whatever was expected of him. He was there and ready, whether for a legal matter or anything else."

Top: Former Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts with Danny Santos, who served in her administration as chair of the Oregon Board of Parole and later as the governor's legal counsel.

Above: Even in grade school, Santos had the air of peacemaker, deal broker and progress seeker.



whether I would consider coming back.”

Over the years, Santos had been a mentor to Willamette Law students, inviting them to meetings at the Capitol to learn about policy issues and become better-informed citizens. Always interested in education and helping students, he had hired both law clerks and undergraduate interns to work in the governor’s office.

“I had maintained a close relationship with the school,” Santos says, “which was greatly facilitated by its being across the street.”

Santos returned to Willamette Law, where he has been responsible for overseeing the admission, student services and career and professional development offices. In the role of associate dean for student affairs and administration, he has celebrated with students as they won awards and graduated with law degrees. He has also faced the more difficult task of working with students facing academic and conduct issues.

“Certainly, I enjoy the positive aspects,” he says. “But the real test is when you take on a challenge and figure out how to make things work for students.”

Bennett describes Santos as somewhat of a “miracle man,” explaining, “Intuitively, he seems to recognize the strengths and weaknesses in students and helps them before they’re in crisis. Danny is the best person we could have for students dealing with stress or financial burdens — he doesn’t overreact. He helps students who are struggling in law school keep their vision of becoming a member of the legal community. He’s invested in their finding a successful law school experience.”

Santos has demonstrated an equal commitment to ensuring those outside the law school can maximize their educational opportunities. He is a founding member of Scholarships for Oregon Latinos, the Leadership Council for Oregon Mentors, and Willamette Academy, a program helping students from groups underrepresented in higher education overcome barriers to

## New scholarship fund honors Santos’ contributions to Willamette

**The Daniel P. Santos Law Scholarship** was established this year to honor Danny Santos’ many contributions and his commitment to Willamette University College of Law. A role model, respected campus leader and trusted advisor to countless students, faculty and administrators at Willamette, Santos brought his formidable intellect, deep compassion, balanced perspective and keen sense of humor to his work. He is revered as both a cherished friend and the standard-bearer of Willamette University’s motto, “Non nobis solum nati sumus” — “Not unto ourselves alone are we born.”

The Santos Law Scholarship will be awarded to students who demonstrate the potential to improve the lives of others both while in law school and as practitioners in their chosen careers, and to students with demonstrated financial need from historically underrepresented groups, with strong preference given to those with Latino/a and/or Native American heritage.

Chosen students will be idealistic, demonstrated leaders in athletics, student government or other related student and/or community activities, and will have an understanding of their potential to make the world a better place by using their legal education in their careers. Preference will be given to those who express interest in community organizing, legal aid, government or other kinds of closely related work that benefits the greater good.

To honor Santos through a contribution to the Daniel P. Santos Law Scholarship, please contact Rebecca Lerbach, director of development, at [rlerbach@willamette.edu](mailto:rlerbach@willamette.edu), or give online at [willamette.edu/go/give-to-law](http://willamette.edu/go/give-to-law).

pursuing a four-year degree. Santos also serves on the education committee of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Board and was recognized with the Oregon Trailblazer Award by the Mid-Valley Literacy Center, a nonprofit organization supporting adult literacy.

“He has always been a leader in education in Oregon,” Nafziger says. “I don’t know anyone who has contributed more in education at all levels, from migrant education to diversity in higher education.”

Now that he has retired from his full-time position at Willamette Law, Santos intends to remain an advocate for education and is particularly concerned about access to

higher education for students of all backgrounds. He also plans to devote more time to other social issues that are important to him, including access to justice.

He says, “I hope at the end of the day I can say I helped move the needle forward in terms of diversity, equity and education, and that I contributed to the social conscience about these issues we face.”

# Training Grounds for Good

The public interest law project serves dual purpose: train tomorrow's lawyers, serve the community.

By Raymond Penney

"It's becoming more and more essential to have practical experience before entering the marketplace after graduation," says Curtis Bridgeman, dean of Willamette University College of Law.

Albert Menashe JD'76, shareholder at Gevurtz Menashe in Portland, Oregon, who has hired more than his fair share of lawyers over the years, agrees: "Any kind of practical legal experience a new lawyer (candidate) can find is always good and something we continue to look for."

Clinic, fellowship, externship and clerkship positions provide important training grounds for budding lawyers. Willamette Law helps students seize these opportunities throughout their law school tenure. One such opportunity is the Willamette University Public Interest Law Project (WUPILP) Fellowship Program, where students learn valuable lawyering skills through engaging in public interest law at the ground level.

Each summer, fellows go out into the legal community and work: writing, researching and advocating, while also networking, learning and laying the groundwork for future opportunities.

This past spring, WUPILP offered a record five Willamette Law students fellowships, thanks to the generosity of donor Maribeth Collins H'93 (see related story on page 31). The fellows entered the legal community this summer armed with motivation and academic know-how. In the fall, they returned to college with experience and a better understanding of how to apply the law they learn at Willamette.

## Lawyering skills: The experiential way

Third-year law student Melissa Vollono used the fellowship to work in Portland with the Northwest Workers' Justice Project (NWJP), which provides legal advice and education to Oregon's low-wage workers. NWJP also helps law students and recent law graduates increase their legal expertise and general awareness of issues plaguing many low-wage workers.

Vollono worked on a variety of issues related to advocacy of low-wage workers' rights — a relatively new area of law with much of the defining case law yet to be written. She researched and drafted model employment legislation, focusing on ways in which the state can help combat the problem of wage theft in Oregon. She also helped staff attorneys prepare for hearings, mediations and arbitrations, as well as assisting in the drafting of litigation documents.

"This fellowship allowed me to gain valuable experience in employment law," she says. "It also sharpened my academic focus and helped me become a more effective legal writer and researcher. The experience of researching and writing about modern advances in contract law will help me apply

real-world scenarios to the subjects I'm studying."

## Speaking lawyer to non-lawyers

The WUPILP fellowship gave second-year law student Erin Roycroft the opportunity to spend the summer working with the Metropolitan Public Defender Service (MPD) in Portland — and fulfill her goal of advocating for the most vulnerable members of society.

MPD represents clients in more than 15,000 court-appointed cases per year. Aside from drafting motions and conducting legal research, Roycroft conducted intake interviews and client follow-ups for MPD's expungement clinic.

Working with a supervising attorney, she checked records to assess whether clients were eligible to have their criminal record expunged. She also followed up with clients personally. "Even if I had to tell a client they weren't eligible for an expungement, I tried to help them come up with a plan for how to get there," she says. "I realized that the analytical skills taught in a law school classroom don't always translate to the messy practice of law, but they can be used to make a real impact on a person's life."

**"The projects I worked on made me more aware of how creative you can be in applying logic from pieces of cases to seemingly very different facts. It will be incredibly useful for any future public interest work that I do."**

—Paloma Dale





Left to right: Paloma Dale, Erin Roycroft, Melissa Vollono, Olivia Godt and Jessica Ismond.

"My experience at MPD stoked my fire for learning as much as I can in the coming years," Roycroft continues, "so that I can be of service once I become a practicing attorney."

### Legal education meets society

Thanks to the WUPILP fellowship, Olivia Godt spent the summer in Vancouver, Washington, working for the Northwest Justice Project (NJP), which provides legal advocacy that promotes the long-term well-being of low-income individuals, families and communities.

Godt was excited to do the kind of "meaningful work" she's passionate about. In collaboration with staff and supervising attorneys, she wrote persuasive briefs, worked on driver re-licensing cases, and sat in on meetings about implementing statewide programs.

The experience better prepared Godt for her second year at Willamette University College of Law.

"The fellowship reminded me about the larger, positive impact that lawyers can have on society, especially in representing low-income or otherwise marginalized clients,"

she says. "My coursework has a renewed, deeper meaning, which I am confident will positively affect my academic success."

### Hands-on with the day-to-day everything

The WUPILP fellowship granted Paloma Dale the resources to work a clerkship with Legal Aid Services of Oregon (LASO) in the Farmworkers Program. LASO provides representation on civil cases to low-income clients throughout Oregon.

Dale found the work "inspiring and rewarding." She did research; drafted client letters, complaints, and part of an appellate brief; conducted outreach efforts in local farm labor camps; sat in on local radio interviews; and represented a client through an entire unemployment appeals process. Dale said the fellowship experience helped her become more creative and diligent in her research.

"The projects I worked on made me more aware of how creative you can be in applying logic from pieces of cases to seemingly very different facts," she says. "It will be incredibly useful for any future public interest work that I do."

### Real-world training, real-world cases

Jessica Ismond worked with the Hamilton County (Ohio) Public Defender's Office in the juvenile division over the summer.

After obtaining her legal intern certificate from the Ohio Supreme Court, which allowed her to appear and practice alongside a supervising attorney in any court of record in Ohio, Ismond gained valuable first-hand experience when she sat first chair during a criminal trial. Contributing during multiple stages of the legal process, she researched case law for competency hearings, wrote motions to compel, dismiss, or seal/expunge, and completed appellate briefs.

Heading into her third year at Willamette Law, she says, "These practical experiences will help me further contextualize my academic work."

**To contribute to WUPILP, contact Director of Development Rebecca Lerback at (503) 370-6837 or [rclerback@willamette.edu](mailto:rclerback@willamette.edu).**

## Gilden, Simowitz and Meyers join Willamette law faculty



Clockwise from top: Professors Andrew Gilden; Aaron Simowitz; and Amy Meyers

**W**illamette University College of Law welcomed Andrew Gilden, Aaron Simowitz and Amy Meyers to its esteemed faculty in 2016. The three new faculty members join some of the most respected legal scholars in the country, nationally recognized for their research, publications and contributions to the law, particularly in the areas of constitutional law, commercial and business law, international and comparative law, environmental law, and dispute resolution.

### Gilden and Simowitz

The College of Law's efforts to augment its business law faculty brings two new tenure-track positions. Professor Andrew Gilden strengthens the school's offerings in intellectual property and Professor Aaron Simowitz its offerings in international commercial law, two areas of particular relevance for lawyers in the Pacific Northwest.

Gilden teaches property, internet and copyright law, as well as trusts and estates. His research focuses on intellectual property and internet law, and legal issues concerning free speech, civil rights, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Before joining Willamette, Gilden was the Thomas C. Grey Fellow and Lecturer of Law at Stanford University, where he taught social media law, intellectual property counseling, federal litigation and legal research and writing. He worked as an associate in the New York office of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP; his practice focused primarily on intellectual property and media litigation. He clerked for Judge Cynthia Holcomb Hall of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Judge Marilyn Hall Patel of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Simowitz teaches international business transactions, debtor and creditor law, negotiation, and a seminar on resolving business disputes. His research focuses on cross-border business transactions, litigation and arbitration.

Before joining Willamette, Simowitz was a research fellow at New York University's (NYU) Center for Transnational Litigation, Arbitration, and Commercial Law and a fellow at the Classical Liberal Institute at NYU. He taught international litigation and arbitration with Professor Linda Silberman, and before that was an acting assistant professor in the Lawyering Program at NYU. He also taught international business transactions at Columbia Law School.

### Meyers

Building upon Willamette Law's legal research and writing and bar preparation programs, professor Amy Meyers teaches legal research and writing and legal analysis for the bar.

Meyers comes to Willamette from Charlotte School of Law, where she taught legal writing as well as courses in medical malpractice, negotiations, and advanced writing. Previously, Meyers taught legal research and writing and client counseling at Saint Louis University School of Law.

Prior to academia, Meyers was a trial attorney for the Missouri State Public Defender System in the City of St. Louis office and special appointed counsel for several appeals. She also practiced law for two well-known civil litigation firms in St. Louis, specializing in the defense of medical malpractice claims and litigation against doctors, nurses, hospitals, and medical schools.

The College of Law faculty has been chosen for its ability to excite, instruct and inspire. In addition to impeccable credentials and years of law practice, the Willamette faculty has a deep commitment to teaching. Gilden, Simowitz and Meyers continue this tradition with outstanding track records as classroom instructors.



## In the News



### Dobbins on ACA's 'risk corridors' program

Civil procedure expert and Associate Professor of Law Jeffrey Dobbins commented in a Portland Business Journal (PBJ) article that covered a lawsuit filed by Health Republic Insurance Co., which sued for \$20 million owed to the company under the Affordable Care Act. The Lake Oswego-based carrier is seeking class-action status and \$5 billion for all U.S. insurers owed money under the "risk corridors" program.

The three-year program was designed to reduce the financial risks for insurers selling policies on the new state insurance exchanges. Since no one was sure how to set premiums, the program was intended to discourage insurers from charging exorbitant rates. Plans with lower costs would pay into the program, which would cover losses for the less-profitable insurers.

PBJ reports that a 2014 congressional spending bill made the program budget-neutral, and funding for the risk corridors program came up short. Although insurers with low cost insurance plans paid \$326 million into the program, that amount was not enough to cover the \$2.9 billion owed to insurers with high cost plans. Health Republic is arguing that the Department of Health and Human Services is legally responsible for the risk corridors payments.

"It could be that the government will say, 'You're right, we owe money and we have to pay it,'" said Dobbins. "Is it a fight about whether we win on legal issues or a fight about where the money might come from?"

In a June 24 response, the Department of Justice requested a judge dismiss the case, arguing that the payments are not due until sometime in 2017 and contending that the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services possess the discretion to impose a "three-year payment framework" for the temporary program absent a specified statutory deadline.



### Diller comments on SCOTUS corruption ruling



Paul A. Diller

enough to try former Virginia Gov. Robert F. McDonnell, thus nullifying the prior guilty verdict and a two-year prison sentence.

*McDonnell v. United States* asks whether, for the purpose of federal bribery statutes, an "official action" is limited to the exercise or threatened exercise of actual governmental power, and if the term is not limited in this manner, whether the statutes are unconstitutional. Writing the court's opinion, Chief Justice John Roberts set a straightforward definition of the term.

"In sum, an 'official act' is a decision or action on a 'question, matter, cause, suit, proceeding or controversy,'" Roberts wrote. "Setting up a meeting, talking to another official, or organizing an event (or agreeing to do so) — without more — does not fit that definition of an official act."

Diller said it appears that the Supreme Court was concerned about criminalizing routine interactions between elected officials and their constituents.

"Attending events, taking meetings, making phone calls, this is activity the Supreme Court didn't think Congress intended to make illegal," said Diller.

The Statesman Journal reports that it is unknown whether the high court's opinion will have any bearing on an investigation by Oregon's U.S. Attorney into alleged acts by former Gov. John Kitzhaber and his fiancée, Sylvia Hayes.



### Friedman helps media check pulse of Cover Oregon

Oregon's \$6 billion dispute with Oracle over who is to blame for the Cover Oregon website debacle has filled the state's media throughout 2016. Professor David A. Friedman helped the Oregonian, Portland Business Journal (PBJ), Portland Tribune, and the Associated Press make sense of the developing lawsuit.

In March, Friedman framed the potential case for the Portland Tribune, stating, "It's going to be 'Oracle, what did you promise, and what did you deliver?'"

A month later, PBJ reported that Oracle asked a judge to hold the state of Oregon in contempt and to fine the state \$100,000 for allegedly leaking documents to a news reporter.

"It will not have an impact on the overall disposition of this case," Friedman said. Helping PBJ make sense of what appeared to be a bold move, Friedman assured readers that in the end, the action didn't matter: "It's not the missing piece that's going to resolve it."

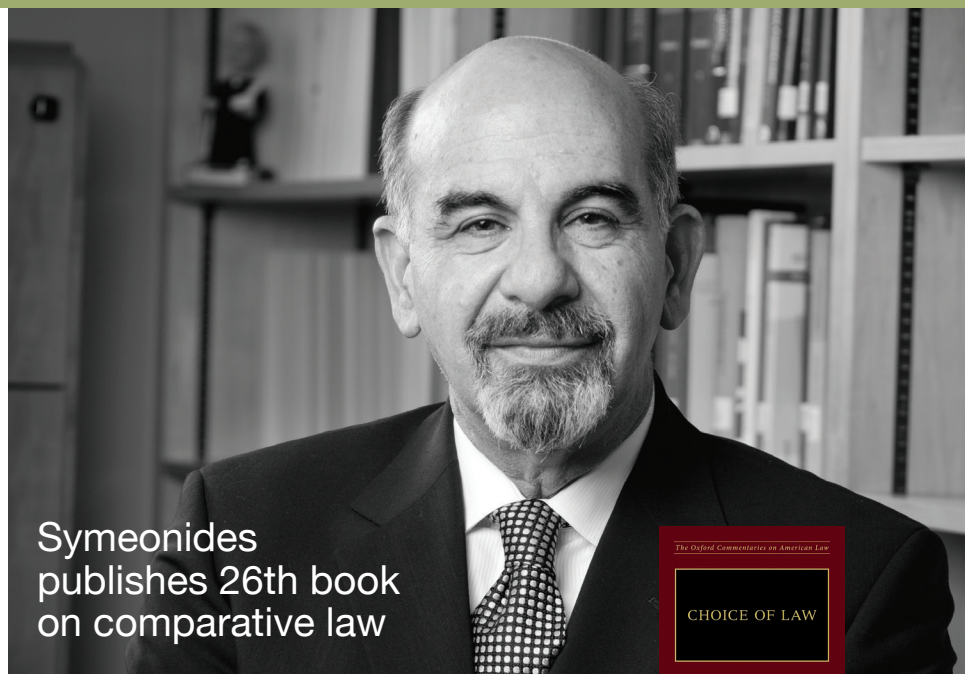
Bold motions continued in June. The Oregonian reported that Markowitz Herbold, representing Oregon, accused Oracle of botching the multimillion dollar Cover Oregon website job, while also accusing the company of fraud, false claims, and racketeering violations.

"Markowitz got really aggressive with its initial complaint," said Friedman. "In layering on fraud and racketeering, they made this harder to resolve."

In September, Gov. Kate Brown announced a settlement to the lawsuit in which the state accepted a package worth \$100 million, with \$25 million as cash to reimburse the state's legal fees and the rest as mainly technology and software support. Friedman told the Associated Press the settlement likely involved mostly non-cash value because the federal government would have wanted its money, given to states to help them comply with the Affordable Care Act, back.

"Oracle has probably convinced them that this is their best shot at collecting the best value," he said.

## Spotlight



Oxford University Press published *Oxford Commentaries on American Law: Choice of Law* (2016), the 26th book from Willamette Law Professor Symeon Symeonides.

Symeonides' new book, his third published in the last three years, covers the choice-of-law part of conflicts law (or private international law); specifically, the process of choosing the governing law for disputes that implicate the laws of more than one state or country. The central focus of the book is on American law, but its peripheral vision is comparative.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I discusses the federal framework and the impact of the Constitution on choice-of-law. Part II discusses the structure and operation of choice-of-law rules and the historical evolution of choice-of-law doctrine and methodology from the 19th century to the present, through the "revolution" of the 1960s. Part III, the heart of the book, consists of nine chapters devoted to choice of law in practice. The book examines what courts say, but especially what they do. It identifies the emerging decisional patterns and extracts from tentative predictions about likely

outcomes. Part IV reflects on the next step in the evolution of American conflicts law and offers proposals on the content and orientation of the new Conflicts Restatement, the drafting of which began as this book was completed.

Symeonides is the Alex L. Parks Distinguished Professor of Law and dean emeritus at Willamette University College of Law, where he teaches conflict of laws and international litigation and arbitration. His publications have been translated into six foreign languages and cited by the supreme courts of the United States, the United Kingdom and Israel. Symeonides has drafted legislation for three states and the European Union, and provided legislative advice to four foreign governments. He is president of the International Association of Legal Science and former president of the American Society of Comparative Law.



## Professor Green files SCOTUS amicus brief for Trinity Lutheran v. Pauley

Scholars of legal and religious history, including Willamette Law Professor Steven K. Green, filed an *amicus* brief for *Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia, Inc. v. Pauley*, being heard by the United States Supreme Court in the October 2016 term.

Filed in support of the respondent, the brief addresses Trinity Lutheran's challenge to the legitimacy of Article I, Section 7 of the Missouri Constitution in which the church alleges that the article arose from pervasive anti-Catholic animus and discusses the lack of connection between the Blaine Amendment and the article. Trinity Lutheran asserts that if the rationale behind the article were illegitimate or corrupted by a bigoted history, then Trinity Lutheran's free exercise and equal protection claim should prevail.

The brief explains that the no-funding principle, which limits public school funds to common schools, was established in many locales before the earliest controversies surrounding Catholic school funding were established.



The scholars contend the Blaine Amendment's creation came from a variety of motivations, of which anti-Catholicism was only one. The amendment attempted to achieve two things: to apply the First Amendment directly to state actions and to prohibit the allocations of

public school funds or other public resources to religious institutions. The scholars explain that the debate surrounding the Blaine Amendment was "a combination of at least three distinct issues, whether public schooling should be secular or religious, whether the national government should mandate schooling at the state or local levels, and how best to defuse religious strife."

*Amici* urge the court to affirm the decision of the lower court, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled against Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia. Other brief authors are Ronald B. Flowers, John F. Weatherly, Sarah Barringer Gordon, Arlin M. Adams, Fred H. Paulus, Mark D. McGarvie, Frank S. Ravitch, David Sehat, Laura S. Underkuffler, J. Forest White and Laurence H. Winer.

## De Muniz JD'75 honored with Literacy Trailblazer Award



The Mid-Valley Literacy Center honored former Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice and Willamette University College of Law Distinguished Jurist-in-Residence Paul De Muniz JD'75 with the Literacy Trailblazer Award in April.

"The Literacy Trailblazer Award is presented to someone who has demonstrated commitment and support to different levels of literacy in our community," said Vivian Ang, executive director of Mid-Valley Literacy Center. "We want to honor people who have dedicated their lives to educational support."

De Muniz was the first Hispanic American elected to statewide office in Oregon. In 2010, Hispanic Business Magazine named him among the 100 most influential Hispanics in America. He formerly served on the Board of Trustees for both Willamette University and the World Affairs Council of Oregon.

De Muniz received the National Judicial College's Distinguished Service Award, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers' Judicial Recognition Award, the Oregon Classroom Project's Legal Citizen of the Year Award, the Oregon Area Jewish Committee's Judge Learned Hand Lifetime Achievement Award, the Edwin J. Peterson Racial Reconciliation Award, and the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers' Association Kenneth Morrow Lifetime Achievement Award.

# Calendar of Events

## 2016

Oct. 6 | 5 p.m.  
JD/MBA Alumni Reception

Arlington Club  
Portland, Oregon

Oct. 15 | 5:30 p.m.  
Class of 1986 Reunion

Lucky Labrador Brewing Company  
Portland, Oregon

Nov. 19 | 8 a.m.  
Practice LSAT Exam

Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center  
Willamette University College of Law  
Salem, Oregon

## 2017

Jan. 21 | 8 a.m.  
Practice LSAT Exam

Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center  
Willamette University College of Law  
Salem, Oregon

Jan. 27 | 1 p.m.  
Law School Open House

Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center  
Willamette University College of Law  
Salem, Oregon

Jan. 28 | 9 a.m.  
Law School Open House

Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center  
Willamette University College of Law  
Salem, Oregon

Feb. 3 | 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
Willamette Law Review  
Symposium

Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center  
Willamette University College of Law  
Salem, Oregon

March 17 | 6 p.m.  
25th Annual Bid  
for Justice Auction

Salem Convention Center  
Salem, Oregon

Mid-March  
Attorney Mentor of the  
Year Reception

Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center  
Willamette University College of Law  
Salem, Oregon

Early April  
Pro Bono Honors Luncheon

Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center  
Willamette University College of Law  
Salem, Oregon

May 18 | 1:30 p.m.  
Bar Swearing-In Ceremony

Smith Auditorium  
Willamette University  
Salem, Oregon

Oct. 5 | 1:30 p.m.  
Bar Swearing-In Ceremony

Smith Auditorium  
Willamette University  
Salem, Oregon

**Dates and times are subject to change.** Please refer to our online event listings for the most up-to-date information.

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

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

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

## Help increase Willamette's academic reputation

**Brand Champion:** Word-of-mouth is still the most effective form of marketing Willamette, especially good words from successful alumni.

**Social Media:** Update your LinkedIn page to reflect Willamette Law. Follow Willamette Law on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. LIKE and SHARE our updates.

[facebook.com/willulaw/](https://facebook.com/willulaw/)  
[linkedin.com/edu/school?id=19217](https://linkedin.com/edu/school?id=19217)  
[twitter.com/WillametteLaw](https://twitter.com/WillametteLaw)

**Volunteer:** Volunteer to be an alumni ambassador. Contact Alayna Herr JD'12, director of alumni engagement, at (503) 370-6992 or [aherr@willamette.edu](mailto:aherr@willamette.edu).

**Give:** Donate to the Law Annual Fund at [willamette.edu/law/give](http://willamette.edu/law/give).



# Class Action

## Share your success

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

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

**Sharing Your News** We want to know about your professional successes. Submit an update about your career to [willamette.edu/law/alumni-update](mailto:willamette.edu/law/alumni-update) or contact Alayna Herr, director of alumni engagement, at (503) 370-6992 or [aherr@willamette.edu](mailto:aherr@willamette.edu).

**Class Action Degree Key** **JD** Juris Doctor. **L** Non-degreed. **LLB** Bachelor of Law (equivalent of JD). **LLM** Master of Law. **MM** Master of Management, Master of Administration. **MBA** Master of Business Administration. **H** Honorary degree. **C** Certificate in Dispute Resolution, International and Comparative Law, Law and Government, Law and Business, or Sustainability Law. **BA** Bachelor of Arts. **BS** Bachelor of Science.

'67

**Robert E. Maloney Jr.** appointed to board of trustees for the Oregon Zoo Foundation.

'68

**Daniel H. Skerritt '65, JD'68** named Portland's 2015 Lawyer of the Year in Bet-the-Company Litigation by Best Lawyers in America.

'72

**William A. Barton** received the 2015 Award of Merit from the Oregon State Bar.

'75

**William J. Howe III** awarded the Meyer Elkin Essay Award by the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts and the Family Court Review.

**Justice Paul J. De Muniz** received the Trailblazer Award from the Mid-Valley Literacy Center in Salem, Oregon.

'76

**Albert A. Menashe** named to the Children's Cancer Association board of directors in Portland, Oregon, and published "The Work Continues" in Oregon State Bar Bulletin (April 2015).

'77

**Rodney K. Norton** named Portland's 2016 Lawyer of the Year for legal malpractice by Best Lawyers in America.

'78

**Judge James L. Rhoades** opened James Rhoades Mediation in Salem, Oregon.

'79

**Judge Neal C. Lemery** published *Mentoring Boys to Men: Climbing Their Own Mountains* (CreateSpace, 2015).

'80

**Mark W. Cordes** promoted to dean of Northern Illinois University College of Law.

**Judge Theodore E. Sims '77, JD'80** appointed judge in the Washington County (Oregon) Circuit Court.

**Judge Virginia L. Linder** received 2016 Paul J. De Muniz Award for Professionalism from the Marion County (Oregon) Bar Association.

'81

**Justice Susan M. Leeson '68, JD'81** received the 2015 Carson Award for service to the community from the Marion County (Oregon) Bar Association.

**Theresa L. Wright** received the 2016 Pro Bono Award of Merit from the Multnomah County (Oregon) Bar Association.

'82

**Kurt H. Olson** elected president of the Estate Planning Council of Seattle.

**Judge James W. Lawler** will run unopposed for re-election to the Lewis County (Washington) Superior Court.

**David W. Turner** received the Hon. Edward H. Howell Mentor of the Year award from Willamette University College of Law.

'83

**Raymond S. Baum** joined the National Association of Broadcasters as vice president of government relations.

**Martha O. Pagel** received the Oregon State Bar Environmental and Natural Resources Award.

'84

**Larry J. Brant** received the 2015 Award of Merit from the Oregon State Bar Taxation Section.

**Marsha Murray-Lusby** ranked in the 2016 Chambers High Net Worth Guide.

'85

**Rudolph "Rick" Carnaroli** inducted into Pacific University's Athletic Hall of Fame.

**U.S. Sen. Lisa A. Murkowski** (R-Alaska) received the Champion of Public Broadcasting Award from America's Public Television Stations in Arlington, Virginia.

**Tim J. O'Connell JD/MBA'85** received a Heavy Lifter Award from the Association of Washington Business.

**Jaime Sanders** joined Christ Episcopal Church as a priest in St. Helens, Oregon.

'86

**Col. Daniel J. Hill** appointed state judge advocate for the Oregon National Guard.

**Cecilia Lee** joined Davis Graham & Stubbs LLP as of counsel in its Reno, Nevada, office.

**Tim L. McMahan** elected chairman of the board at Lifeworks NM in Portland, Oregon.

'87

**Donald L. Krahmer Jr. '81, JD/MBA'87** received the Living and Giving award by the Junior Research Diabetes Foundation in Portland, Oregon.

'88

**Peter C. Sheridan** named to the Irish Legal 100 list by Irish Voice.

'89

**Judge Lindsay Partridge '86, JD'89** received the 2016 Carson Award for service to the community from the Marion County (Oregon) Bar Association.

'90

**John H. Glover** selected as a Bush Foundation Fellow for 2015.

**Michael D. Levelle** elected president of the Oregon State Bar board of governors, beginning his term in 2017.

**Michael B. Love** founded Michael Love Law Firm, PLLC in Spokane, Washington.

**Renee Rothauge** named to the 2016 Top 25 Women Oregon Super Lawyers list.

'91

**Nena L. Cook** named partner with Ater Wynne in Portland, Oregon.

'92

**Jan Bennetts** appointed as prosecuting attorney in Ada County (Idaho).



## Levelle set to take Oregon State Bar's reins



As president-elect of the Oregon State Bar (OSB), **Michael D. Levelle JD'90** is spending 2016 preparing to take the lead of Oregon's largest legal organization. His term as Board of Governors president begins in 2017.

"I am honored to be elected and look forward to the opportunity to serve our legal and public communities," said Levelle in a press release.

As president-elect, Levelle performs the duties of the president in his absence, sets the meeting schedule for the upcoming year and carries out his duties as a board member.

Levelle began his tenure on the board in 2015, representing his colleagues in district five (Multnomah County). Members of the board ensure that the OSB promotes respect for the rule of law, improves the quality of legal services, and increases access to justice.

For the past 15 years, Levelle has been special counsel at Sussman Shank LLP in Portland. Practicing law in Oregon for more than 25 years, he has worked in areas including complex estate planning, estate and trust administration, guardianship and conservatorships, and dispute resolution. Levelle is a certified mediator focusing on resolving contested matters in his areas of practice, as well as a frequent author and presenter.

As the first African-American OSB president, Levelle carries on a legacy of firsts from Willamette Law. OSB's first ethnically diverse president was Willamette Law alumnus and Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge **Angel Lopez JD'78**.

**Steve S. Ford's** law firm Stolowitz Ford Cowgler LLP merged with Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt; Ford is now a shareholder located in Schwabe's Portland, Oregon, office.

**Timothy G. Sekerak '87, JD'92** elected chief clerk for the Oregon House of Representatives.

'93

**Matthew L. Clucas** received the 2015 Professionalism Award from the Washington State Bar Association.

**Ragna L. Teneyck** joined Kell, Alterman & Runstein in Portland, Oregon, as associate attorney.

'94

**Judge Melissa A. Hemstreet '94, JD'97** appointed to the superior court in Kitsap County (Washington).

**Stella Edens Pederson** hired as trust advisor with Baker Boyer Bank in Kennewick, Washington.

**Shouka D. Rezvani** became a member of the Leadership Council of Oregon Community Foundation.

**Edward J. Wurtz** named tribal attorney and director of the Legal Department for the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians in Arlington, Washington.

'95

**Mark G. Henness** selected as member of Nation's Top One Percent by the National Association of Distinguished Counsel.

**Tara Schleicher JD/MBA'95** named to the 2016 Top 25 Women Oregon Super Lawyers list.

**Brinton M. Scott** named managing partner at Winston & Strawn's Shanghai office.

'96

**Kelly A. Cole** named senior vice president with CTIA-The Wireless Association in Washington, D.C.

**Frederick H. Lundblade** founded Rick Lundblade Law in Medford, Oregon.

'97

**Kurt Peterson** joined Foster Pepper PLLC in Seattle.

**Mary E. Watson** joined Capital City Development Corporation in Boise, Idaho, as contracts manager.

**Jason E. Whitehead** wrote *Judging Judges: Values and the Rule of Law* (Baylor University Press, 2014).

**Brad Young** joined Japan Display Inc. in Tokyo as general counsel, global business alliance.

'98

**Arthur K. Saito** promoted to shareholder at Stahancyk, Kent, & Hook's Portland, Oregon, office.

'99

**Jason L. Bergevin** joined Holmquist & Gardiner PLLC in Seattle.

'00

**David A. Hooste** chosen Oneida County (Idaho) magistrate judge by the Sixth Judicial Magistrates Commission.

'01

**Matthew O. Paxton** named partner in charge of Adams and Reese at its Washington, D.C., office.

**Liani J. Reeves '98, JD'01** joined Bullard Law in Portland, Oregon, as of counsel.

**Vicki M. Smith** elected officer for the Oregon Association of Defense Counsel.

**State Rep. Jennifer A. Williamson** selected as majority leader in the Oregon House of Representatives by house Democrats.

'02

**Juan J. Aguiar JD/MBA'02** named director of legal advice in Ecuador's Attorney General's Office.

**Lisa L. Arbogast** joined Kirton McConkie as of counsel in Salt Lake City.

**Vesna O. Dodge** promoted to vice president with Baker Boyer Bank in Walla Walla, Washington.

**Catherine McCann Gaskin** appointed Willamette University associate director of gift planning.

**Nicole C. Hancock** promoted to office managing partner with Stoel Rives LLP at its Boise, Idaho, office.

**Steven M. Kirkelie** named assistant city manager for the City of Puyallup, Washington.

**Deborah R. Lush** elected as 2016 Marion County (Oregon) Bar Association president.

**Marisol McAllister** promoted to shareholder at Farleigh Wada Witt in Portland, Oregon.

**Teresa D. Miller** named Pennsylvania insurance commissioner.

**Nicole M. Nowlin** named partner with Cosgrave Vergeer Kester in Portland, Oregon.

**Michael J. Ryan** joined Boeing Employee Credit Union as vice president and deputy general counsel; received the Raising the Bar award from Willamette University Public Interest Law Project.

**Erin C. Walters** named Oregon Girls State director.

'03

**Michael J. Licurse** promoted to partner with Wyse Kadish LLP in Portland, Oregon.

**Reid S. Okimoto** named to 2015's 40-Under-40 list by Puget Sound Business Journal, published in Seattle.

'05

**Donna L. Barnett** promoted to partner with Perkins Coie LLP in its Bellevue, Washington, office.

**Ryan A. Mulkins** appointed district attorney in Josephine County (Oregon).

**Justin E. Widlund** joined Microsoft as an attorney in San Francisco.

'06

**Vanessa B. Allyn** received the Center Global Advocate Award from the DC Center for the LGBT Community in Washington, D.C.

**Judith A. Parker** received a 2015 President's Member Service Award from the Oregon State Bar.

**State Rep. Daniel A. Rayfield** elected to the Oregon House of Representatives District 16.

'07

**Robert Dengel** promoted to legislative and strategic policy analyst with the Washington State Department of Ecology.

'08

**Kenneth R. Haglund Jr.** elected to shareholder with Lane Powell in its Portland, Oregon, office; named to 2015's 40-Under-40 List by Portland Business Journal.

**Sarah E. Hunt** named a 2015 Emerging Leader in Environment and Energy by the Atlantic Council.

**Shenoa Payne** founded Shenoa Payne Attorney at Law, P.C. in Lake Oswego, Oregon.

**Hayley J. Talbert** named partner with Seed International Property Group PLLC in Seattle.

'09

**F. Jason Seibert** joined CoinOutlet as general counsel in Lititz, Pennsylvania.

'10

**Ross E. Armstrong** appointed juvenile services deputy administrator for Nevada's Division of Child and Family Services in Carson City, Nevada.

'11

**Brian J. Best** joined Zupancic Rathbone Law Group, P.C. in Lake Oswego, Oregon, focusing on complex real estate and property disputes.

**Lindsey M. Howk Duncan** joined Hart Wagner LLP as an associate in the Portland, Oregon, office, focusing on legal and medical malpractice defense as well as appellate health law.

**Jason H. Gershenson** joined White Summers Caffee & James, LLP as an associate, focusing on transactional business law in its Portland, Oregon, and New York offices.

**Joseph W. Lucas** elected district attorney for Harney County (Oregon), beginning term in January 2017.

**Sean Mazorol JD/MBA'11** hired as deputy district attorney for Multnomah County (Oregon) District Attorney's Office.

## Judicial trailblazer retires from Oregon's highest court



After nearly a decade on Oregon's Supreme Court, **Justice Virginia L. Linder JD'80** retired in December 2015. First elected in 2006 and reelected in 2012, Linder was the first woman to reach the high court via election and the first openly LGBTQ person in the nation elected as a non-incumbent to a state supreme court.

"A brilliant lawyer and committed public servant, Justice Linder is the living embodiment of our state motto, 'She flies with her own wings,'" said Oregon Gov. Kate Brown in a statement.

After graduating from Willamette Law, Linder became assistant attorney general in the appellate division of the Oregon Department of Justice, where she discovered that appellate work was her passion. In 1986, she became the first female Oregon solicitor general, supervising more than 30 appellate attorneys.

In 1994, Linder was the first woman to represent Oregon in an oral argument before the U.S. Supreme Court, winning *Oregon Department of Revenue v. ACF Industries* on an 8-1 vote.

Gov. John Kitzhaber appointed Linder to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1997; she subsequently won reelection both in 1998 and 2004. Linder served in that capacity until she successfully ran for the Oregon Supreme Court in 2006.

"It is hard to leave the court," says Linder. "I serve with wonderful colleagues, I love the work, and the work is profoundly important. But after more than 35 years of public service, it is time for me to move on to the next chapter of my life."

Linder will continue to serve as a senior judge and hear cases on an as-needed basis.



**Erin E. Tofte-Nordvick** appointed Wenatchee Valley College director of diversity, equity and inclusion in Wenatchee, Washington.

'12

**Therese J. Adams** hired as a staff attorney with the Oregon School Boards Association in Salem, Oregon.

**Christian C. Ambrosion** joined Fishtrap as development coordinator in Enterprise, Oregon.

**Joel T. Geelan** joined Gevurtz Menashe in its Portland, Oregon, office as an associate practicing primarily in family law.

**Alayna Herr** appointed Willamette University College of Law director of alumni engagement.

**Jeffrey S. Marlink** joined Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt as an associate during the merger with Stolorow Ford Cowgler LLP.

**Eric C. Wareham** hired as director of government affairs with Western Equipment Dealers Association in Salem, Oregon.

'13

**Betsy Cantrell** joined Axiom as an attorney in its Portland, Oregon, office.

**Sarah K. Ferguson** hired as deputy district attorney with the district attorney's office in Linn County (Oregon).

**Kareem R. Walcott** joined Reynolds Law Firm as associate attorney in Corvallis, Oregon.

**Kelley C. Washburn** joined Farleigh Wada Witt in its Portland, Oregon, office as an associate practicing in the areas of financial services, succession planning and corporate law.

'14

**Casandra J. Albrecht** joined Reinisch Wilson Weier in its Seattle office as an associate.

## Order in the Court

### Oregon



Sims



Hill



Rhoades



Graves



Grant

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown appointed **Theodore E. Sims '77, JD'80** to the Washington County Circuit Court and **Col. Daniel J. Hill JD'86** to state judge advocate in the Oregon National Guard.

Sims has been in private practice his entire career and specialized in civil probate and family law. He fills a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Thomas Kohl.

Hill serves as an Umatilla County circuit judge and a colonel in the Oregon National Guard. As state judge advocate, he will supervise

more than 25 judge advocates and legal personnel in the guard.

**Judge James L. Rhoades '75, JD'78** retired from the Marion County Circuit Court in December 2015. **Judge Dennis Graves '70, JD'73** retired from the Marion County Circuit Court in October 2015, and **Judge Joshua F. Grant JD'75** retired as a Lincoln County District Court judge in July 2015.

Rhoades served Marion County Circuit Court for 25 years. She has opened James Rhoades Mediation in Salem, Oregon,

offering litigation mediation services.

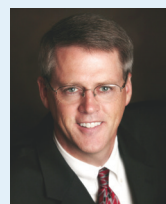
Graves brought the concept of treatment courts, focusing on treatment and not solely incarceration, to Marion County with the first adult drug court in 2001.

Grant served Lincoln County for 15 years as a judge. He is currently practicing law as a sole practitioner in elder law, located in Wilbur, Oregon.

### Washington and Idaho



Hemstreet



Lawler

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee JD'76 appointed **Melissa Hemstreet JD'98** to the Kitsap County Superior Court. The Sixth Judicial Magistrates Commission appointed **David A. Hooste JD'00** as Oneida County (Idaho) magistrate judge. **Judge James Lawler JD'82** will run unopposed for reelection to the Lewis County (Washington) Superior Court.

Hemstreet joins the superior court with 16 years of experience practicing criminal and family law. She is replacing Judge Anna M.

Laurie, who served for nearly 14 years.

Hooste's experience includes presiding as a part-time, contract tribal-court judge over domestic protection-order cases and other cases as assigned by the chief judge in Oneida County.

Lawler worked for 24 years as a private practitioner in Lewis County before he began serving as a Lewis County Superior Court judge in 2007.

**Rory D. Cosgrove** joined Carney Badley Spellmen in Seattle, focusing on appellate and civil litigation.

**Joshua L. Savey** received an LLM in Taxation from New York University School of Law; hired as a judicial law clerk for Chief Judge L. Paige Marvel of the United States Tax Courts in Washington, D.C.

**Stephanie L. Schuyler** joined Saalfeld Griggs in Salem, Oregon, as associate in the real estate and land use group.

**Andrea Tang JD/MBA'14** joined HP as business marketing and staff operations manager in its Vancouver, Washington, office.

**Eric J. Tweed** joined Saalfeld Griggs in Salem, Oregon, as an associate in the business law and taxation group.

'15

**Tucker Kraght** hired as deputy district attorney for Lane County (Oregon).

'16

**Cole Burgess** joined Dutch Bros. as an associate attorney working from the corporate office in Grants Pass, Oregon.

## In Memoriam

'45

**Charlotte Deane Aslanian '42, LLB'45**, 95, passed away peacefully at home on April 18, 2016, after a brief illness. Born in Pateros, Washington, she was one of two women who graduated with a law degree from Willamette University in 1945. After graduation, she worked in real estate law in Los Angeles until 1959, when she entered the field of education as a kindergarten teacher. She taught for 21 years with the Alisal Union School District in California. She is survived by her three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

'50

**Paul M. Stocker LLB'50**, 84, passed away on Aug. 17, 2014. After graduation, Stocker was elected to the Washington state legislature and served eight years as the 38th District representative. He

spent his last 20 years representing the people of Bougainville Island, Papua New Guinea, against the Rio Tinto mining company. He is survived by his domestic companion, Kay Anderson, three children and seven grandchildren.

'57

**Verden L. Hockett Jr. LLB'57**, 84, passed away on June 19, 2014. Soon after graduation, he began practicing law in the Douglas County (Oregon) district attorney's office and then opened a private practice. He practiced law for more than 40 years.

**Thomas J. Owens LLB'57** passed away on July 18, 2015. After graduation, Owens' first job was deputy district attorney in Coos County (Oregon). Later, he joined the Jackson County (Oregon) district attorney's office, ultimately serving as its district attorney.

'62

**William (Bill) Day** passed away on June 27, 2015, after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Upon receiving his law degree, he became a litigation specialist for State Farm, where he worked for 40 years before retiring.

'69

**Philip Kerr**, 70, passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 10, 2014. He was a founding partner in the law firm Gilbertson, Brownstein, Sweeney, Kerr and Grim. He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and four children.

'70

**Gregory G. Rockwell** passed away suddenly on Oct. 25, 2015, in Palo Alto, California. He is survived by his wife, Mary W. Rockwell, and three sons.

'72

**Robert (Bob) M. Johnstone** passed away in November 2015. He had been an active member of the Oregon State Bar and Washington State Bar for close to 42 years. His most recent of numerous awards was the Pro Bono Public Service Commendation given to him by the Washington State Bar in 2012.

## Williams receives National Bar Association civil rights award



The National Bar Association named Willamette Law alumnus **Lorenzo Williams JD'77** a 2016 Heman Sweatt Honoree at its national mid-year conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on April 22. The Heman Sweatt Award, named after the African-American civil rights activist who played an integral role in the desegregation of higher education, recognizes pioneers who demonstrate concern for human and civil rights.

The nominating committee selected Williams as an honoree based on his accomplishments as a litigator, including his landmark settlements and verdicts, and for his dedication to community service and various humanitarian efforts. During his 38 years of legal practice, Williams has successfully litigated more than 100 cases with verdicts and/or settlements exceeding \$1 million.

In 1995, a jury awarded Williams and his legal team a record-breaking \$500 million verdict against one of the world's largest funeral chains, The Loewen Group. Williams also obtained a \$15 million arbitration award on behalf of an African-American computer distributor against computer giant Hewlett-Packard. By appointment of a federal bankruptcy court, Williams also successfully represented the Federal Trustee against one of the leading multinational military aeronautic contractors, Lockheed Martin, resulting in a \$10 million settlement. He is noted for his integral role in a series of police brutality cases, in which citizens were injured and unfairly treated as a result of excessive force used by law enforcement officials.

Williams is a partner at the law firm of Gary, Williams, Finney, Lewis, Watson and Sperando, P.L.L.C. in Fort Lauderdale. He has been practicing civil litigation with the firm for nearly 30 years, specializing in personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death, products liability, and commercial litigation.



## International business diplomat channels global experience for cybersecurity firm



**Stanton D. Anderson JD'69** joined cybersecurity giant Blue Ridge Network's team of senior advisors in June 2016. Among the foremost business and cybersecurity leaders in government and industry, senior advisors provide guidance and active assistance to the company.

"We are delighted to have Stan join the team," said John Higginbotham, Blue

Ridge's chairman and chief executive officer. "Anderson brings a wealth of global and business experience, especially in the Asian markets."

Anderson currently serves as senior counsel to the president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, working to advance the chamber's efforts on legal reform and defense of business interests in the courts.

Since 1972, Anderson has been involved in national political affairs, serving in the White House during the Nixon administration and as deputy assistant secretary of state. He served as counsel to the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1980 and was senior director of the White House transition for President Ronald Reagan.

Reflecting on his time at Willamette Law, Anderson says, "Law school teaches you to think," and that the analytical process it provides is the critical ingredient in the decision-making process. But it takes effort to make your career. "The skills and discipline you get (in law school) are important if you apply yourself," he says. "Don't waste the opportunity."

Not wasting his opportunity, Anderson has made an international impact over the years. His presidential appointments include a position on the president's advisory committee on trade negotiations and the presidential commission on personnel interchange. He chaired the U.S. delegation to the United Nations conference on new and renewable energy resources in 1981.

His new advisory role with Blue Ridge is Anderson's latest opportunity to assist an industry that is experiencing rapid growth and continues to have a high economic impact.

'74

**George W. Colby**, 60, passed away on Oct. 9, 2014. Upon graduating, he returned to the Yakima Valley, becoming the first public defender for the Yakama Nation and then Yakama Tribal Prosecutor. Colby served as district court judge in Yakima County before founding a law firm in 2007 located in Toppenish, Washington.

**Judge Edward L. Perkins**, 73, passed away on March 20, 2016. After graduation, he worked as deputy district attorney in Marion, Klamath and Deschutes counties in Oregon before being appointed a Deschutes County district court judge, serving from 1979-2010. He is survived by his wife, Kelly R. McNamara, and two sons.

**William Wallace (Wally) Ogdahl**, 70, passed away peacefully at home on Aug. 23, 2015, after a battle with cancer. After graduation, he joined Paul Ferder to form a joint law firm and practiced law in Salem for more than 37 years.

'79

**Patricia (Patty) B. Latsch**, 61, passed away on Sept. 11, 2015, after a battle with cancer. She spent

27 years serving judgeships in government services, retiring from state employment in February 2015. She is survived by her husband, Ken, and a daughter.

'86

**Gregory J. Murphy** passed away on Oct. 18, 2012. After graduation, he became partner with Eisenhower Carlson PLLC, before opening up a private practice in Tacoma, Washington. He is survived by his wife, Abby, and two daughters.

'89

**Charles J. Cheek**, 66, passed away on Nov. 5, 2015. After graduation, he established his own practice, and then became legislative counsel at the Oregon state Capitol until his retirement in 2015. Cheek is survived by his wife, Mary, and two daughters.

'97

**Billie M. Castle**, 51, passed away on Feb. 22, 2015. After graduation, she returned to Colorado to practice trust and estate law, and went on to become partner in the firm Brown and Castle in Grand Junction, Colorado.

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## Political Report



Williamson



Murkowski



Goodwin



Helm



Rayfield



Vial

### Political Influence

Oregon House of Representatives members elected **Timothy G. Sekerak '87, JD'92** as chief clerk, the house's administrative officer responsible for ensuring that chamber business and proceedings run smoothly.

#### State Rep. Jennifer A. Williamson

**JD'01** was elected majority leader in the Oregon House of Representatives by house Democrats. She is running for reelection unopposed in District 36, which serves northwest and southwest Portland.

### The Stump (2016 Election)

#### U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)

**JD'85** is running for reelection to the U.S. Senate in Alaska.

**Colm Willis JD'15** is running for election to the U.S. House of Representatives in Oregon's District 5, which represents Oregon's central coast through Salem, north to the southern Portland suburbs, and east to the summit of Mount Hood.

#### Councilman Jeffrey D. Goodwin JD/

**MBA'12** is running for election to the Oregon House of Representatives in District 17, which serves the Linn County area in the state's central region. He currently serves on the city council of Sweet Home, Oregon.

**State Rep. Ken Helm '87, JD'93** is running for reelection to the Oregon House of Representatives in District 34, which serves the northern Beaverton area in the state's northwest region.

**State Rep. Daniel A. Rayfield JD'06** is running for reelection to the Oregon House of Representatives in District 16, comprised of Corvallis and Philomath in the state's western region.

**Rich Vial JD'81** is running for election to the Oregon House of Representatives in District 26, which serves the Clackamas County area in the state's northwest region.

## Lush elected to lead Marion County Bar Association



**Deborah Lush JD'02** was elected president of the Marion County Bar Association (MCBA) for 2016.

Serving as president, Lush represents the Marion County (Oregon) members of the bar among the legal community, the courts and the state bar, and is responsible for ensuring the MCBA is able to discharge its mission. As president, she also serves on several Marion County judicial committees, including a judicial selection committee, judicial security committee and a criminal justice advisory committee.

Lush is currently shareholder at Heltzel Williams PC in Salem, Oregon, practicing in the areas of probate and trust administration,

business and tax law, as well as retirement plans and employee benefits.

Graduating seventh in her Willamette Law class, Lush finished first in the first-year appellate moot court competition. Later, she was an associate editor on the *Willamette Law Review*, tutored first-year law students in legal research and writing, and clerked for Heltzel Williams.

Lush is a co-founder of the Bridge Builder's Council and former board member and secretary for the Salem Leadership Foundation. She is a class of 2005 graduate of Salem Chamber Leadership and a former board member for the Willamette Humane Society.



# Honor Roll 2015–16

We are honored to recognize our broad community of donors who make the Willamette brand of legal education possible for the next generation of leaders. With ongoing private support, Willamette University College of Law can provide today's law students with an academically strong and practice-focused legal education that prepares them for their future careers.

This Honor Roll reflects gifts made between January 1, 2015, and May 31, 2016. We appreciate every donor and each gift received during this time. The full donor Honor Roll can be found at [willamette.edu/support](http://willamette.edu/support).

## Visionary \$25,000+

Maribeth Collins<sup>E</sup>  
Mary K. Hughes JD'74<sup>E</sup> and Andrew H. Eker  
Robert J. Lytle  
Thomas J. Owens LLB'57<sup>D</sup>  
Kenneth D. JD'80 and Claudia Peterson  
Mike JD'68 and Marcia A. Rodgers  
Melvin Henderson-Rubio '74<sup>T</sup>  
Georgia Spooner '47<sup>D</sup>  
Roderick C. JD'80<sup>T</sup> and Carol Wendt

## Sustainer \$10,000–\$24,999

Mark C. Hoyt JD'92<sup>C</sup> and Maggie Hudson  
Eva M. Kripalani JD'86<sup>TC</sup> and Ken Warren<sup>T</sup>  
Elizabeth J. Large JD'96<sup>T</sup> and Blaine Morley<sup>E</sup>  
Frank D. '53 JD'55 and Nancy P. Riebe  
Lynn E. Ristig JD'85 MBA'85<sup>T</sup> and Craig H. Shrontz JD'81<sup>T</sup>  
Cherida C. Smith '72  
Martin R. Wolf '57 LLB'60<sup>C</sup>

## Founder \$5,000–\$9,999

Susan T. Alterman JD'86<sup>C</sup>  
Richard B. Borgman '77 JD'80  
Curtis Bridgeman<sup>C</sup> and Elizabeth King  
Peter T. JD'79 and Jill Kashiwa  
Cecilia Lee JD'86<sup>C</sup>  
Timothy R. JD'76 and Mary A. Osborn  
Michael J. Ryan JD'02

## Pioneer \$2,500–\$4,999

David Bennett JD'71  
Warren Binford and Christopher Ross  
James R. Dyke JD'66  
Terrence M. Finney LLB'62 and Lenore F. Rice  
Richard Grant LLB'64  
Susan M. Hammer JD'76<sup>E</sup> and Lee Kelly  
Ronald J. Knox JD'81  
Eric B. JD'66<sup>E</sup> and Hollie Lindauer  
Elise F. McClure JD'84<sup>C</sup>  
Tim J. JD'85 MBA'85 and Elizabeth S. O'Connell  
Peter C. JD'88<sup>C</sup> and Megan Sheridan JD'88  
Edward J. JD'69 and Patte Sullivan  
Li JD'97 P'09 and Lili P'09 Wei

## Member \$1,000–\$2,499

Sheena R. Aebig JD'76 and Eric W. Taylor  
Carl R. JD'85 and Tami Amala  
David J. JD'81 and Ruth E. Arthur  
Keith J. '69 JD'73<sup>C</sup> and Madge H. '69 Bauer  
Mark E. Birge JD'66 and Tenley N. Webb  
Frank J. Bothwell JD'76 and Linda Becker-Bothwell  
Robin O. JD'83 MBA'83<sup>T</sup> and Barbara Brena  
Theodore C. JD'60 and Alzora Carlstrom  
Wallace P. JD'62<sup>E</sup> and Gloria Carson  
Richard S. Ciceric JD'65

Ronald L. JD'72 and Linda R. Coleman  
Marie E. Colmey JD'89<sup>C</sup>  
Mary D. JD'85<sup>C</sup> and Carl A. Del Balzo  
Thomas H. Denney JD'66  
Robert L. JD'66 and Carolyn A. Engle  
Brian C. Erb JD'89<sup>C</sup>  
Russell D. JD'88<sup>C</sup> and Margaret C. Garrett  
Louis T. JD'89 and Laura Giaquinto  
Douglas E. JD'81 and Jennifer Goe  
Randall JD'81 and Julie A. Grove  
John D. JD'87 and Mary R. Hawkins  
Dale M. '65 JD'69<sup>E</sup> and Adelaide Hermann '65  
James R. '56 JD'61 and Gayle Hershberger  
Daniel J. JD'81 and Kathleen S. Hess  
Henry H. JD'69<sup>E</sup> and Sharon C. Hewitt  
Faith Ireland JD'69 and Chuck Norem  
John A. '60 JD'64 and Suzanne Jelderks  
Charles A. '61 LLB'64 and Carol S. Lane '61  
Jennifer Leach  
John H. JD'74 and Anne C. Ludwick  
Douglas A. JD'85 and Sherrey Luetjen  
Jon B. JD'66 and Rosiland D. Lund  
James C. JD'53 and Joann E. Maletis  
James L. JD'76 and Lynn A. Maxwell  
James A. JD'65<sup>D</sup> and Kay McClaskey  
Albert A. JD'76<sup>C</sup> and Julie Menashe  
Wade M. '96 JD'00 and Crystal L. Moller  
Gary A. Morean JD'81  
John L. JD'74 and Arlene L. Murdock  
Rudolph M. JD'75 and Anita A. Murgo  
Douglas S. JD'81 and Janice R. Parker

Tyler F. Parker JD'85 MM'85  
James S. JD'72 and Susan L. Pleasant  
Daniel P. Santos JD'85  
Bonnie Serkin JD'78 and William H. Emery  
June A. Smith JD'72 and Kenneth A. Schwartz  
Ron Stone LLB'64 and Laarni P. Gonzales  
Keith JD'69 and Karen Swanson '65  
Yvonne Tamayo  
Jeffrey C. JD'79<sup>C</sup> and Janice T. Thede  
Edgar W. Van Valkenburg JD'78 P'17 and Turid L. Owren  
Leslie A. Wagner JD'81 and Edwin C. Curtis  
Eric B. JD'77 and Carolanne C. Watness  
Stephen R. Wegener JD'95 MM'93  
David P. Weiner JD'72 and Teresa J. Spada  
Steven E. '74 JD'77<sup>T</sup> and Deborah J. Wynne '74 JD'82

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Sarah E. Akinaka JD'03  
Dina E. Alexander JD'96  
Karen M. Art  
David B. '67 JD'74 and Jean B. Avison  
Baron C. JD'91 and Brenda L. Bartel  
Robert P. JD'90 and Rhonda M. Brouillard  
Stephen H. Buckley JD'80 and Crystal Buckley  
Robert W. JD'80 and Susan K. Burns  
Charles L. Butler JD'05  
Dennis M. JD'64 and Lavon L. '65 Chorba  
Ernest E. JD'76 and Evangeline E. Estes  
William J. JD'78 and Abigail Fleming  
Wally '55 JD'57 and Virginia Gutzler  
Gene JD'74 and Mary Hallman



Scott A. Hart JD'96 and  
Schnell B. Hart

David M. LLB'63 and  
Lee Hollingsworth

Ronald C. JD'79 and  
Dorinda A. Holloway

Lester R. JD'70 and  
Claudia Huntsinger

William P. JD'69 and  
Barbara S. Hutchison

Christopher P. Jennings JD'79 and  
Ann M. Vandeman

Ronald B. JD'60 and  
Jewel A. Lansing

Kenneth R. JD'74 and  
Marlyn K. Marble

James M. '88 JD'89 and  
Cynthia R. Mei

Jonathan R. Meyers JD'03 MBA'03

Richard R. Neilson JD'83 and  
Kathryn L. Hall MD

Robert F. JD'78 and Marcia Nichols

Jeffrey A. Ostomel JD'79 and  
Connie J. Steinheimer JD'79

Audrey P. '62 and Albyn Pearn

Travis S. JD'00 and Kendell Prestwich

Shelby Radcliffe

Joe B. LLB'54 and Marian V. Richards

Allen R. Scott JD'73

James O. JD'69 and Jane L. Smyser

Nathan A. JD'68 and  
Marjorie K. Talbot

Stephen E. Thorsett<sup>T</sup> and  
Rachel Dewey Thorsett

Kirk S. and Valerie Tracey

Kerry R. '81 JD'84<sup>T</sup> and  
Rebecca J. '81 Tymchuk

### Corporations, Foundations and Organizations

Ayco Charitable Foundation

Boeing Employee Credit Union

Community Foundation for  
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Deloitte Foundation

Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund

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The Boeing Company- Employee  
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The Peterson Family Foundation

The Standard Charitable Foundation

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Wells Fargo Foundation

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YourCause, LLC

### D Deceased

### C Leadership Cabinet

### E Life Trustee Emeriti

### T Trustee

In preparing this report, every effort was made to ensure accuracy and completeness. Please contact Rebecca Lerback, director of development, with any questions or concerns at [rlerback@willamette.edu](mailto:rlerback@willamette.edu) or (503) 370-6837.

## Preparing students for practice: The Collins family's enduring commitment to the College of Law

Every law student knows the name Truman Wesley Collins Sr. It is inside the Truman Wesley Collins Sr. Legal Center where they receive the majority of their legal training. What they may not know is that the Collins family is still very much involved with the law school. Two recent gifts from the Collins family have provided opportunities for law students to gain practical experience off campus that both complement their formal education in the classroom and give them an edge in future employment.

The Truman W. Collins Sr. Law Internship Fund was endowed in October of 2015 from Mr. Collins' widow and longtime Willamette trustee, Maribeth Collins H'93. Truman Collins, Sr. '24 was a Willamette student, alumnus, trustee and successful Portland businessman who served as president of the university's Board of Trustees until his sudden death in 1964. In 1967, at the completion of the construction of the new law school building at Willamette, the trustees dedicated the building as the Truman Wesley Collins Legal Center in his honor.

Maribeth Collins established the new law internship fund with the idea of helping law students in their pursuit of real-life practical experience while pursuing their degrees, and to encourage and

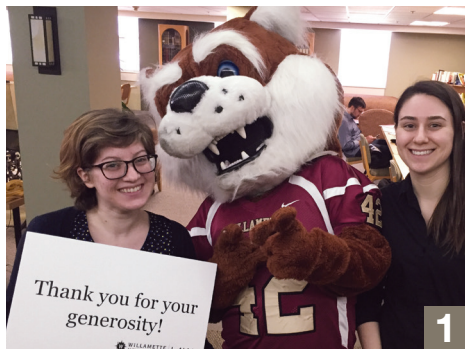
support law students in their efforts to assist select non-profit organizations by helping provide, with supervision, some of the legal work that they need. She very much appreciates the educational outcomes available to law students as a result of their involvement with the Willamette University Public Interest Law Project (WUPIP), as well as those found in Willamette's Legal Clinic, which she has supported in the past.

In support and enhancement of her mother's effort to help WUPIP increase the funded opportunities available to WUCL students, Cherida C. Smith '72 contributed to the endowment of the Truman W. Collins, Sr. Law Internship Fund in November of 2015 and also gave additional support for the summer 2016 WUPIP internships.

When asked about the importance of their gifts, Dean Curtis Bridgeman remarked that "the generosity of the Collins family is greatly appreciated by all of us at the law school. Maribeth and Cherida have been stalwart supporters, and their gifts for internships have had double impact. Our students benefit by developing practical lawyering skills and the most vulnerable members of our greater community receive the legal assistance they need to improve their lives."



# SCENE OF THE CRIME SCENE



## 24 Hours of Giving

Feb. 23, 2016

[1] Kia Murdoch JD'17 and Alicia LeDuc JD'17.

[2] Kevin Gleim JD'18, Megan Hinzdel JD'18, Autumn Mills JD'18.

[3] Blitz the Bearcat and Dean Curtis Bridgeman.



## Alumni Receptions

[1] Honolulu Alumni Reception, March 2016: More than 20 alumni showed up to meet and remember Willamette.

[2] JD/MBA Reception, Portland, March 2016: Matthew Costanzo JD/MBA'10, Ryan McGraw JD/MBA'09, Benjamin Willis JD/MBA'15, Melissa Lopeman Tahir JD/MBA'05, Douglas Bray JD'86, MBA'78, Sean Mazorol JD'07, MBA'11.

[3] Olympia (Washington) Alumni Reception, May 2016: Richard Phillips JD'73, Patricia O'Brien JD'80, Marti McCausland, Joshua Weissman JD'08, David Hankins JD'89.

[4] Seattle Alumni Reception, May 2016: Alyson Roush JD'12, Rory Cosgrove JD'14, Inna Levin JD'13.

[5] Bend Alumni Reception, June 2016: Christian Malone JD'05, Megan Burgess JD'04, Jon Napier JD/MBA'97.

[6] Bend Alumni Reception, June 2016: Henry Hewitt JD'69 (Life Trustee Emeriti), Dean Curtis Bridgeman, Richard Borgman JD'80.

[7] Bend Alumni Reception, June 2016: Ben Becker JD'10, Dean Curtis Bridgeman, Peter Werner JD'08, Corey Driscoll JD'15.

[8] Portland Alumni and Admitted Student Reception, May 2016: Julie Vacura JD'84, Whitney Boise JD'85, Kim Boswell JD'06.

[9] Portland Alumni and Admitted Student Reception, May 2016: Aaron Reichenberger JD'14, Scott Rennie JD'14, Erin O'Riley JD'18.





## Willamette Valley Reception at Illahe Country Club

July 2016

[1] Associate Dean Daniel Santos '86, Rebecca Kueny JD'13, Arash Afshar JD/MBA'15, Amanda Peterson JD/MBA'17.

[2] Cody Gregg JD'17, Alison Kelley '94 JD'98, Judge Don Dickey JD'72.

[3] Sarah Troutt JD'95 and Lisa Lampe Norris JD'95.

[4] Russ Garrett JD'88 and Dean Curtis Bridgeman.

[5] Megan Blakelock JD'19, Chance Blakelock, Joe Huddleston JD'19, John Ferlin JD'19, Suzanne Johnson JD'19, Keanon Ferguson JD'19.

[6] Jeff Jorgenson JD'12, Rebecca Kueny JD'13, Michael Chartrey JD'12.



## Reunions

[1] Class of 1973, Tualatin Country Club, September 2015: James Averill JD'73, Professor Edward Harri JD'73, Professor Richard Hagedorn JD'73, Roscoe Nelson JD'73, Dean Curtis Bridgeman.

[2] Class of 1985, BridgePort Brewpub, October 2015: More than 25 alumni met in Portland to see old friends and remember Willamette Law.

[3] Class of 1995, BridgePort Brewpub, October 2015: More than 20 alumni met in Portland to see old friends and remember Willamette Law.

## Leadership Cabinet Retreat

Ashland, Oregon, July 2016

Back row: Peter Sheridan JD'88, Mark Hoyt JD'92, Marie Colmey JD'89, Dean Curtis Bridgeman, Martin Wolf '57, JD'60, Jim Reinhart '89, JD'92, Albert Menashe JD'76. Front row: Cecilia Lee JD'86, Mary Del Balzo JD'85, Lucy Jensen JD/MBA'13, Susan Alterman JD'86.





# Tom's Gift Changed Kate's Life...

## Your Gift Can Do the Same



By including Willamette University College of Law in his estate plans, Thomas J. Owens JD'57 left a very special legacy at his alma mater that will help deserving students for generations to come. His gift continues to provide direct scholarship support for students like third-year law student Kate Beck.

"It would have been impossible for me to afford law school without my scholarship. Knowing that my tuition is paid for is a huge relief. Because of generous gifts from people like Tom, I have the freedom to explore my passion for the law and advocate for others. I am truly grateful to the amazing donors who make scholarships like mine possible. Thank you." —Kate Beck

Leaving a gift to the College of Law through your will or trust is a simple way to make a huge impact on the next generation of Willamette Law students. For more information, contact Cathy McCann Gaskin JD'02 in the Office of Gift Planning at (503) 370-6492 or email [cmccann@willamette.edu](mailto:cmccann@willamette.edu).

