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Notre Dame Law School

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Dear Notre Dame Lawyers,

It is early October as I write this, and the fall semester is off to a great start. We have enrolled an outstanding group of first-year students, held a successful inaugural NDLS Homecoming Weekend, welcomed new faculty, launched some exciting new programs and, last but not least, welcomed the return of Notre Dame Lawyer magazine!

I am delighted to report that the Law School is flourishing after navigating one of the most challenging economic environments in the history of legal education. We have matriculated an impressive first-year class as measured by their backgrounds and interests as well as statistics such as LSAT scores and GPAs, while increasing the percentage of diverse students. This year our 1L students come to us with the highest median GPA (3.75) in our history. Our students are responding enthusiastically to an enriched curriculum that combines rigorous classroom instruction with new opportunities for experiential learning. Knowing that the ultimate goal of every student is to obtain a great job after graduation, faculty and staff are working together to imbue each student with the confidence and skills necessary to take charge of their job search and postgraduate careers. In this effort, the justly famous Notre Dame alumni network is stepping up in splendid fashion as well. This year our alumni ambassador program coordinated student networking events with NDLS alumni in nearly 30 cities throughout the country. The result of all this concerted effort by students, faculty, staff, and alumni has been a consistent and measurable improvement in our employment figures every year and the development of a virtuous circle as more outstanding students are attracted by the high value of a Notre Dame J.D. in today’s legal marketplace.

Many of you support the Law School financially as well as in other equally important ways, such as sharing job leads and career advice with our students or even just offering them a key word of encouragement or hard-won insight. Thanks as always for your generosity of spirit and partnership in our mission. With your help, we will continue to educate a different kind of lawyer.

In Notre Dame,

Nell Jessup Newton
Joseph A. Martin Dean and Professor of Law
CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER SPEAKS AT INAUGURAL DEAN’S LECTURE ON RACE, LAW, AND SOCIETY

DIANE NASH, a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and a leader in the push for civil rights in the 1960s, served as the inaugural speaker for the Dean’s Lecture on Race, Law, and Society in March. Nash told the capacity crowd in the Patrick F. McCartan Courtroom that no word in the English language could describe the energy that powered the civil rights movement of the 1960s. So, she made up a new word.

Using the Greek word agape—which means love for humankind—Nash coined “agapic energy” to encapsulate the driving force behind the nonviolent movement that she helped lead.

“If you recognize that people are not the enemy, you can love and respect the person at the same time you attack the attitude or action of that person.” Nash said.
The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces came to Notre Dame Law School in April to hear arguments in United States v. Edward Mitchell—a case that considers issues of self-incrimination and the use of information on a smartphone during a criminal investigation.

Three of the Law School’s students had opportunities to participate in the case before the court, which normally holds its proceedings in Washington, D.C. The court exercises worldwide appellate jurisdiction over members of the armed forces on active duty and other people who are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The court has five judges, one of whom is Notre Dame alumna MARGARETA RYAN, ’95 J.D.

SEAN FLYNN, 2L, presented an oral argument in support of the United States, which was the appellant in the case before the court, which normally holds its proceedings in Washington, D.C. The court exercises worldwide appellate jurisdiction over members of the armed forces on active duty and other people who are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The court has five judges, one of whom is Notre Dame alumna MARGARETA RYAN, ’95 J.D.

DOMINIC BARCELEAU, 2L, presented an oral argument in support of Mitchell, the appellee. Barcelau submitted an amicus brief with Notre Dame Law School in April at the 34th annual University of Virginia National Law School Softball Tournament.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces comes to ND LAW SCHOOL

Two of the Law School’s students earned a place with Notre Dame Law School’s 2L softball team in the semifinals at the ISBA moot court tournament in March in Indianapolis. The team went on to compete in April at the 34th annual University of Virginia National Law School Softball Tournament.

Student Journal Hosts Symposium on International Impact of Sports

The Notre Dame Journal of International & Comparative Law held a symposium in March titled “From Courts of Sport to Courts of Justice: The Impact of International Sports on Individuals, Society, and the World.” The event included several presentations from industry professionals, academics, and students.

One session focused on entering the professional sports industry. It closed with a question-and-answer session with former Fighting Irish football star RAGHIB “ROCKET” ISMAIL, ’94 B.A., who talked about his transition from playing college football as an amateur athlete to navigating multimillion-dollar contract offers from professional sports teams.
Student honors and fellowships

The Law School announced in March that Tia B. Paulett, 2L, was selected to receive the Peter A.R. Landy Memorial Fellowship for the 2017-18 academic year. The Class of 1975 established the fellowship to honor Landy, their beloved classmate who died of cancer during his third year of law school. The award, which includes a substantial tuition remission for the recipient’s third year of law school, is dedicated “to those who exemplify his courage, love, and understanding toward his fellow man.”

Lauren Andrini, Margo Borders, Catherine Gavron, and Robert Sikorski, all 1Ls, were selected in April to each receive a $10,000 fellowship award from Notre Dame Law School’s Program on Church, State & Society to work in a legal capacity for a religious institution during the summer. In spring 2017, the Center for Civil and Human Rights awarded its first summer fellowship to Arianna Cook-Thaujdeem, 2L. She received a $5,000 stipend to support her summer clerkship with the National Housing Law Project in San Francisco.

Scholarship Name Changed to Honor Student

The Law School lost a much-loved student in 2016, when Kararo Moleah died just a few weeks short of graduation. Moleah lived a remarkable life. He was born in Philadelphia and moved to his family’s native country of South Africa shortly after the end of apartheid. Nelson Mandela personally asked Moleah’s father, a professor of political science at Temple University, and his mother, a professor of nutrition at the University of Pennsylvania, to help lead the new South Africa.

With permission from those who created the Williams-Lark Scholarship fund and a generous contribution from Dean Nell Jessup Newton that was matched by an anonymous donor, the Law School changed the fund name to the Williams-Lark-Moleah Memorial Fellowship. The fund was created to nurture the Black Law Students Association community at Notre Dame and seeks to make a profound difference in the range of students able to obtain a Law School education.

When Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg spoke at the University of Notre Dame in September 2016, one of the many points she touched upon was how she balanced being a mother at the same time she was in law school.

Ginsburg told the audience in Purcell Pavilion that caring for her young daughter, Jane, gave her “a sense of proportion” as a law student.

“For me, there was more to life than just attending law school classes,” Ginsburg said. “I attribute my success in law school, in large measure, to two people: my spouse and baby Jane.”

Those words resonated with Corey Hemmerich, a mother of four who was just a few weeks into her first year at Notre Dame Law School.

“It was so meaningful to hear that from someone who has been so successful,” Hemmerich said of Ginsburg.

Hemmerich and her husband, Chris, have three daughters and a son. She decided to stay home with her kids until they were old enough to go to school. Then she went back to school.

“There’s nothing wrong with a mother’s choice to stay home with her children, but I wanted my daughters to know that’s not their only choice,” Hemmerich said. “My children help me remember why I’m doing this. I’m working for more than just a grade in a class.

Hemmerich also realizes that being a mother helps her prepare for the intensity of law school. She works as a freelance writer while at home with the kids.

“You really learn how to maximize your time,” she said. “Having four kids and freelancing, I learned how to maximize 20 minutes.”

In addition to being a mother of four, Hemmerich is an “extreme commuter”.

She lives near Grand Rapids, Michigan—about 100 miles from Notre Dame. She said her husband has stepped up at home to help her juggle law school, the driving, and family responsibilities.

“My husband is unbelievable. I’ve basically stopped doing housework,” she said. “He’s doing all the cooking, all the grocery shopping, the cleaning. Those were the things I did for 10 years. And he hasn’t complained once.”

This past summer, Hemmerich worked as a research assistant for Professor John Nagle, who is writing a book about national parks.

Nagle praised the job that Hemmerich did researching different types of legal questions and collecting information.

“And,” he added, “her daughters helped her by color coding the materials for me.”
The new Program of Study in Real Estate Law is new, it is not being built from scratch. Rather, it is a culmination of faculty expertise and activities that the Law School has developed over the years.

"With real estate, the stakes are not only financial. Every type of real estate—from our homes and offices to our neighborhoods and public spaces—affects our ability to flourish as human beings," said Zeter, who wants to work in real estate in Phoenix after graduation.

"I always found myself asking questions about how transactions happen," Patel said. "Over the next two years, I'll be taking as many courses in the program as I can."

Developing career paths for students to enter real estate, including placement in top law firms and with leading developers and other real estate professionals, is another goal of the program, Kelly said. "A lot of Notre Dame alumni work in real estate, but real estate is pretty decentralized as an industry," Kelly said. "You have to nurture these networks to get people placed."

Program is a culmination

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"Real estate affects people’s lives," Kelly added. "It affects where we live, where we work, our places of worship, and where our kids go to school. With real estate, the stakes are not only financial. Every type of real estate—from our homes and offices to our neighborhoods and public spaces—affects our ability to flourish as human beings." Lawyers play important roles in all aspects of real estate development, finance, investment, and transactions. Lawyers also play critical roles in drafting, interpreting, and reforming the legal rules and institutions that regulate real estate markets and various uses of property—from federal statutes like the Fair Housing Act to local zoning ordinances. In that context, lawyers can use their skills to promote the common good in ways that are conducive to the long-term growth and sustainability of our communities.

REAL ESTATE IN THE CLASSROOM

One of Notre Dame Law School’s distinguished alumni—THOMAS PATRICK DORE JR., ’78, ’79 J.D.—returned to the Law School this fall and is teaching Real Estate Transactions. Dore, senior counsel at Davis Polk in New York, has significant experience in cross-border commercial real estate acquisition and development in Spain and South America and works on joint ventures for the development of golf courses, hotels, and multi-use arena projects. He has been involved extensively over the past decade in creating real estate opportunity funds as well as the public listing of several real estate investment trusts.

"Real estate is complex. You need to know a number of different things—tax law, real property law, banking law—which makes it attractive to learn, because the variety keeps you interested," Dore said. "In real estate, you can always see what you’re working on, and when you’re finished, there’s something tangible that’s been constructed."

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The “real” nature of the field is another part of what makes it satisfying, he added. "No matter how many prospectuses you have, they won’t keep you dry when it rains," Dore said. "In real estate, you can always see what you’re working on, and when you’re finished, there’s something tangible that’s been constructed."

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Ever since she was in grade school, Cristal Brisco knew she wanted to be a lawyer. She grew up in Gary, Indiana, and recalls one of the runs at her Catholic school saying, “Cristal talks a lot, and she always debates. She should be a lawyer.” As a grade-schooler, Brisco didn’t know what that meant, so her father introduced her to a local attorney. “He described his work as helping people,” said Brisco, ’06 J.D.

That mission—using the law in service to the community—stuck a chord with Brisco as a young girl, and it has continued to be a source of inspiration throughout her legal career. After earning a bachelor’s degree at Valparaiso University, she was drawn to Notre Dame by the Law School’s emphasis on service and educating “a different kind of lawyer.” She currently serves as a Notre Dame Law Association board member. Professor Thomas L. Shaffer, who retired, influenced Brisco when she was a law student. Shaffer was the supervising attorney at the Notre Dame Clinical Law Center, where Brisco and many other students over the years have provided free legal services to small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and low-income residents in the South Bend area.

After graduating from the Law School, Brisco worked for seven years at Barnes & Thornburg in the law firm’s Indianapolis and South Bend offices. “The rigor and training you receive at a large law firm can open a lot of doors for you,” she said. One door that opened in 2013 was at the city of South Bend, where Brisco joined Mayor Pete Buttigieg’s administration as corporation counsel. Her clients at Barnes & Thornburg included municipalities, which exposed her to the ways that city attorneys can affect residents’ lives in positive ways. She saw an opportunity to have a positive impact on South Bend at a time when the city was revitalizing and attracting new development and businesses to the urban core. She also saw an opportunity to train and mentor young lawyers.

In September, she walked through another door when she became college counsel at Saint Mary’s College. She sees in Saint Mary’s—a place she did not grow up—“the same mission she supports. These types of career shifts—transitioning from a big law firm to city government to higher education—would scare some people. When Brisco looks at the challenge, she says her confidence, in part, comes from her experience at Notre Dame Law School.

“I received an excellent education at the Law School,” she said. “That’s something I can always rely on—Notre Dame Law School prepared me.”

Cristal Brisco, ’06 J.D., is the new college counsel at Saint Mary’s College. She previously served as corporation counsel for the city of South Bend.

Adjunct Professor John Gallo, ’83 B.A., leading Chicago’s largest legal aid organization

John N. Gallo, an adjunct professor at Notre Dame Law School, is the new executive director of LAF—the Chicago area’s largest legal aid organization. Formally known as the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, LAF has provided free, comprehensive civil legal services to Cook County’s most vulnerable residents since the 1960s. Every year, the organization helps thousands of people obtain justice and start moving out of poverty.

“When the opportunity to join LAF presented itself, I recognized immediately that it would allow me to follow my passion to provide a voice for those in need while helping an incredibly deserving organization continue to grow,” said Gallo, who earned his B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 1983 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1986.

“I’ve always felt that, as a lawyer, I have a responsibility to use my skills to provide services to individuals that otherwise could not afford legal representation,” Gallo said. “It is an honor to be selected to lead the city’s preeminent provider of legal services to people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups.”

Gallo was a partner at Sidley Austin LLP before joining LAF. He held several leadership positions at Sidley Austin during his 21 years at the law firm. He served as head of the litigation group of more than 100 lawyers in the firm’s Chicago office and as global co-leader of Sidley Austin’s White Collar practice group. Before joining the firm, he served as an assistant U.S. attorney for 10 years in the Northern District of Illinois.

Since 2002, he has taught Federal Criminal Practice as an adjunct professor at Notre Dame Law School. Throughout his career, Gallo has demonstrated a deep commitment to providing pro bono counsel to indigent criminal defendants and others in need. For example, he succeeded in persuading the Illinois Supreme Court and Illinois Appellate Court to overturn the conviction of a pro bono client accused of a 1978 murder, and a federal court to order a new trial for an Indiana inmate on death row. He was in charge of Sidley Austin’s Capital Litigation Project and personally represented two Alabama inmates on death row.

He started as LAF’s executive director in October. The organization has more than 1,500 full-time attorneys and staff members who provide clients with comprehensive legal services that lead to healthier, more stable lives for people.

“John is a transformational candidate with an impeccable public service background and exceptional professional pedigree,” said Rich Klawans, co-president of LAF’s Board of Directors. “His ability to think outside the box to conceive and implement innovative solutions will advance our mission to make legal services accessible to the most vulnerable members of our community.”
After his first year as a law student, Michael Hagerty, ’13 J.D., spent his summer hiking the desert trails of the U.S.-Mexico border. As a research assistant for Paolo Carozza, a Notre Dame Law professor and director of the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies, Hagerty was trying to better understand the challenges of the governmental and societal responses to undocumented migration. He performed field work, conducted interviews in several border cities, and traveled to the Tohono O’odham Nation—an area that has witnessed a high concentration of both migration and reservation. Hagerty was a Thomas L. Shaffer Fellow with the Public Counsel Law Center in Los Angeles. During his fellowship, Hagerty was a Shaffer Fellow. Hagerty was trying to better understand the challenges of the governmental and societal responses to undocumented migration. He performed field work, conducted interviews in several border cities, and traveled to the Tohono O’odham Nation—an area that has witnessed a high concentration of both migration and reservation.

Hagerty was a Thomas L. Shaffer Fellow with the Public Counsel Law Center in Los Angeles. During his fellowship, he represented undocumented children in immigration court and before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. In these cases, the children had been very young when their parents brought them to the United States and had lived most of their lives here without immigration status. After his fellowship, Hagerty stayed on at Public Counsel as a staff attorney and began working with “unaccompanied alien children”—minors who flee their home countries and enter the United States alone. He has helped countless young people in applying for immigration relief via Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Asylum status, and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Most of Hagerty’s clients were escaping gangs and domestic violence in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. “We sit down with children who have experienced some of the most unimaginable hardships in their young lives and we give them hope,” he said. “Hope for safety, hope for an education, hope for life.”

One child’s story of hope

In the middle of the agriculturally rich region of central California—where the wide-open land is full of sun, dust, and miles of crops—sits the Tulare County Superior Court in Visalia. On one day in June 2015, Hagerty made the three-hour trip from Los Angeles to Visalia to represent a young client who was facing a crucial hearing. Hagerty knew a favorable decision would mean his client would probably receive a Green Card someday, while an unfavorable decision could mean deportation.

Francisco Montes Montanez was, at the time, a 17-year-old living with extended family in Tulare County after fleeing from Mexico. In Mexico, his father had died—poisoned from working in pesticide-laden fields. His mother, instead of allowing him to attend school, forced him to work in the same poisonous fields that killed his father. In addition, gangs had murdered some of his family members and had been asking questions about Montes Montanez.

So, the teen left his family home and found shelter in Tulare County. Time was ticking for Montes Montanez, who would soon be 18 and ineligible for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

Hagerty presented his petition and evidence before Tulare County Superior Court Judge Antonio Reyes. Montes Montanez, who had a limited understanding of English, was terrified throughout the process. “I was afraid that the judge was going to say ‘no’ and that I would lose my case and be sent back to my home country,” Montes Montanez said. “I was afraid of returning because there is so much poverty there. I wouldn’t be able to study in school, and I didn’t want to be forced to join a gang.”

Reyes, who had ruled on that specific type of immigration guardianship before, reviewed the petition, asked Hagerty some questions, and then granted Montes Montanez’s request to apply for SIJ Status. The status waives several restrictions that block adult immigrants from becoming lawful permanent residents.

Hagerty was ecstatic about the judge’s ruling, but what happened next was even more emotional.

“After Judge Reyes granted the request and signed the documents, he sat there looking at Francisco for a long time,” Hagerty said. Finally, the judge spoke.

He told Montes Montanez that his father also came to the United States from Mexico by himself as a 17-year-old. Reyes said his father fled Mexico to survive, just as Montes Montanez had, and that was why he had the opportunity to be born in the United States and to become a judge.

Reyes said when he looked at Montes Montanez he saw his father. Then Reyes got tears in his eyes, and Hagerty said everyone else in the courtroom did as well.

Montes Montanez later obtained SIJ Status, which ended his deportation proceedings and enabled him to become a legal, permanent resident. He also cleared the way for the judge’s personal experience to become another guiding light in his life. “I am grateful to Notre Dame Law School for providing me with the opportunity to gain clinical experience in the public interest field, both as a law student and as a Shaffer Fellow,” Hagerty said. “In our nation, there is such a desperate need to provide legal services for the poor, the disenfranchised, and the marginalized, and through the Shaffer Fellowship and other public interest opportunities, Notre Dame continues to feed fresh blood into that fight.”

Prepared at Notre Dame

Hagerty currently works as a pro bono coordinating attorney at KIND, which stands for Kids in Need of Defense. By Angelica Julie and Microsoft Corp. founded KIND with a mission to provide legal representation for unaccompanied children in immigration court. In addition to his own cases, Hagerty mentors other pro bono attorneys from law firms, corporations, and law schools who take on cases through KIND.

“I was fortunate to be on the receiving end of being mentored while at Notre Dame Law School, and now I use that experience and what my mentors taught me to mentor others,” he said.

As a native Californian, Hagerty has always been aware of immigration issues. Also, his mother is an immigrant from Nicaragua, so he was “already sympathetic to the plight of the immigrant.”

But Hagerty said his time as a research assistant for Carozza and other experiences at Notre Dame gave him a firsthand view of the difficulties immigrants face. He was an extern with the National Immigrant Justice Center, based in Chicago, where he worked on refugee and asylum cases, U-visa for victims of crime, and applications for permanent resident status. He also interned at Notre Dame’s Economic Justice Clinic, which provides free legal services for low-income clients in consumer matters such as foreclosures, debt collection, and predatory lending.

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“HOPE FOR SAFETY, HOPE FOR AN EDUCATION, HOPE FOR LIFE.”

SUPPORTING A NEW GENERATION OF PUBLIC INTEREST LAWYERS

Since 2013, the Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellowship has helped 17 graduates of Notre Dame Law School launch their careers in public interest law. Those fellows, including Michael Hagerty, ’13 J.D., have worked at a dozen different organizations across the United States. The Law School partnered with the Bank of America Foundation to create another fellowship for Notre Dame Law students pursuing careers in public service. The fellowship has been awarded to two members of each graduating class since 2015.
“This isn’t the type of work that most lawyers go to law school for, and is perhaps one of the reasons why lawyers are becoming disillusioned with the profession and leaving in droves,” he added. “The rote, tedious work better left to a robot—who feels neither boredom nor the toll boredom takes on accuracy—is still being done by people.”

Boehmig, who founded Ironclad in 2015, recognized the opportunity while working as a corporate attorney for Fenwick & West after law school. At Fenwick & West, a large law firm based in Silicon Valley, he focused on early-stage venture financing and complex corporate transactions for technology companies.

He said there’s an increasing realization that all jobs, even legal jobs, include tasks that are routine and repetitive. That realization is leading legal teams to pay attention to the efficiency of their operations. He told Fortune magazine in August that he estimates the market for automated contract management is about $75 billion.

Boehmig has remained connected with Notre Dame, too. He shares his insight on how technology is changing the practice of law by teaching Law 2.0 at the Law School. He and venture capitalist Ron Dolin teach the class partly from Silicon Valley and partly at Notre Dame’s campus.

“Notre Dame taught me to look deeper and ask the big questions about our profession,” Boehmig said. “That’s been essential to approaching a new field like the impact of technology on the practice of law. I’m grateful for the opportunity to teach the class with Ron and share some of what I’ve learned with the next generation of lawyers.”

John Crowley, ’92 J.D., and his family had been in the spotlight before President Donald Trump lauded his daughter Megan Crowley as “an inspiration to us all” in February during an address to a joint session of Congress. Megan Crowley, an undergrad student at the University of Notre Dame, and her younger brother, Patrick, are both survivors of Pompe disease—a rare neuromuscular disorder that was killing them until John Crowley started a biotech company and, against all odds, developed a cure. The Crowleys’ story was portrayed in the 2010 film Extraordinary Measures, which starred Brendan Fraser as John Crowley and Harrison Ford as a researcher.

But John Crowley, speaking to students in March at Notre Dame Law School, said the congressional address was a particularly proud moment. At a political event, the Crowleys’ story transcended politics.

“For maybe two minutes, there were no Republicans or Democrats. There were moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas, aunts and uncles. That was a proud moment.”

Crowley said there are 7,000 rare diseases that affect about 30 million people in the United States and 300 million people around the world. Taken together, the diseases are not so rare.

“She also realized that her character and her strength were on full display not just that night and throughout the day at the White House and the business we had on Capitol Hill. There’s a lot more work to do, but I think it’s moments like this that really help us step back and think about why we do what we do.”

In research and development for medicine, Crowley said, the odds of success might be 1 in 100 or 1 in 1,000.

“Almost everything we try doesn’t work,” he said. “But I do think—when it works—it’s one of the best jobs you could ever have, because you deliver hope to people. It’s hope that you can beat nature, and it’s hope that you can beat time.”
It was 1987 when JOHN MCCABE returned to Alumni Hall, across Main Circle from the Law School. McCabe, ’86, ’89 J.D., had lived in Alumni as an undergraduate, but was too busy in those days as a member of the Fighting Irish football team to spend much time enjoying dorm life. When he returned as an assistant rector during law school, he had another opportunity to experience the residential life that makes Notre Dame unique.

“I always joked that Alumni Hall was the center of the universe, and for the Law School, that was true,” he said, laughing. “I could be up and out the door to class within three minutes.”

For a special group of Notre Dame Law students, the 2L and 3L years of law school are spent living among undergraduates as assistant rectors in residence halls, guiding students and giving them mental and spiritual resources to handle the demands of higher education.

For the majority of Notre Dame’s history, assistant rectors were priests. Today, many of them are law students. Alumni Hall’s longtime rector REV. GEORGE ROZUM, C.S.C., remembers bringing the first layman assistant rector to his dorm in 1985—a Law School 2L named TOM CUSHING. Cushing served for two years, followed by McCabe.

“I’m drawn to law students for assistant rectors because they have good common sense,” Rozum said, sitting in his apartment in the residence hall. “They bring a lot of knowledge to the role,” Rozum said of law students. “The ARs are meant to take my place when I’m not here. We absolutely have to have them.”

Many other rectors seem to share Rozum’s opinion—42 of 60 assistant rector positions campuswide are held by law students this year. Each residence hall has two assistant rectors. Assistant rectors are compensated for serving as “second-in-command” of each residence hall. They receive a stipend as well as on-campus housing, meals, and parking.

But, for many assistant rectors, the financial reward is not the primary reason for taking the job.
Preparing for practice

McCabe said the skills he garnered as an assistant rector—mentorship, responsibility—impacted his career as a lawyer.

“Certainly it helped, in terms of mentoring, in the law firm and when I was a hiring partner,” he explained. “I always remember the shoes that people are in at that age. You’ve been through it, you know what they’re thinking. The legal industry is a service industry, and you need to know how to talk, but more importantly how to listen. Being an AR helped teach that.”

CHINELO UDOKORO, a 3L serving her second year as Badin Hall’s assistant rector, brought some experience to the role. She was a resident assistant for two years as an undergraduate at Georgia State University, and she said it was a “great fit” for her.

“As a 1L, I didn’t really feel that connection to the University that everyone talks about,” she said. “I’m from an immigrant family, and they didn’t know about Notre Dame before I applied. I asked myself, ‘How do I connect to this school?’”

Udokoro considers Badin’s rector, Sister Susan Sisko, OSBM, a major part of why she loves being an assistant rector. She also loves physically being on campus—and knowing campus—beyond the Law School.

“The weekly hall Mass at 10 p.m. on Sundays is another special experience, she added.”

“I love helping others with their problems, ” she said. “It’s a way to get excited and to live vicariously through them when law school gets stressful. Their stress is over things that I can help them with, especially when I think about how hard law school is.”

Udokoro said she knows she’ll take that skill for helping people to her legal practice someday.

‘Planting seeds’

DANIELA PEINADO, 3L, is serving her second year as an assistant rector in Lyons Hall, overlooking St. Mary’s Lake on South Quad. Her undergraduate years were spent at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she lived in a campus dorm for her first year and then in a sorority house for the remaining three years.

She was drawn to Notre Dame because of the culture of faith on campus, and she was drawn to the position of assistant rector to, at least in part, provide young women with mentorship and faithful guidance.

“I love living with them and being able to share life with them,” Peinado said. “It’s a privilege to share the ups and downs with them.”

“It can be hard to find mentors that you can talk to about anything,” she continued. “Here, you can talk to faculty, staff, hall staff—you don’t have to look far to get really helpful advice.”

She started a women’s prayer group in Lyons this year with the hall’s other assistant rector and loves sharing her happiness and fulfillment in God with the undergraduates in her building.

“You’re planting seeds,” she said of mentorship. “You don’t know if the words of encouragement you’re giving them—to be confident, to be authentic—are sticking until years down the road.”

MATTHEW RAZZANO, 2L, being an assistant rector in Siegfried Hall is a return to his undergraduate “Home under the Dome.” He started as Siegfried’s assistant rector this year.

He graduated with his bachelor’s degree in 2012, and when he returned for law school, he was sure he wouldn’t return to on-campus housing, despite enjoying his time as a Siegfried Rambler.

“I realized, though, the best part of Notre Dame is the community that is created, and you find that most in the dorms,” he said. “The dorm community is probably the most unique thing about ND. As an AR, your role is more than disciplinarian—you’re a leader, you’re a teacher. That’s how I remember my ARs.”

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Udokoro said she knows she’ll take that skill for helping people to her legal practice someday.

A lot of law students think you can’t be an assistant rector and balance school and a social life, but it’s all possible,” she said. “There’s a life on campus outside of the Law School buildings, and once you tap into that, you can be a well-rounded person.”

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“Notre Dame’s reputation is international, and time and time again it has opened doors for me.”

Notre Dame Lawyers

COAST TO COAST

PART OF WHAT MAKES NOTRE DAME LAW SCHOOL DIFFERENT IS IT’S A TRULY NATIONAL LAW SCHOOL.

by KEVIN ALLEN

Most law schools are regional in nature. They attract applicants who live nearby or want to work in the market where the school is located.

Notre Dame Law School is different.

It attracts students from throughout the United States—and abroad, and the Law School’s alumni work across the map.

That makes Notre Dame Law School rarity—a truly national law school.

According to statistics from the American Bar Association, Notre Dame Law School alumni who graduated between 2012 and 2016 are more widely dispersed than their counterparts from any other U.S. law school.

The top three states where Notre Dame Law graduates are employed—Illinois, California, and New York—literally stretch from coast to coast. And those three states are home to only 36 percent of recent graduates. By comparison, the top 30 law schools overall in U.S. News & World Report’s rankings see about 70 percent of their graduates concentrate in just three states.

The average for all U.S. law schools is 83 percent.

Notre Dame Law students benefit from this geographic diversity because they end up connected with an alumni network and opportunities that enable them to go anywhere and do anything.

“There are two institutions that have led to the most opportunities for me in my career—one is the Department of Justice and the other is Notre Dame,” said JUAN CASTANEDA, ’05 J.D., a former assistant U.S. attorney who now has his own law practice in San Diego.

“They provide instant credibility and a certain level of cachet,” Castaneda said. “Notre Dame’s reputation is international, and time and time again it has opened doors for me.”

But having a national—and international—network of alumni poses a challenge, too.

How does a community that is spread across so much geography stick together and maintain its ties with a campus in northern Indiana?

In recent years, Notre Dame Lawyer Committees have become one of the keys to connecting alumni with each other and helping current students gain a foothold in their target markets.

The committees have proliferated since the Notre Dame Law Association launched the initiative in 2013. There are now more than 30 Notre Dame Lawyer Committees in 20 states plus Washington, D.C.

The NDNA Board invited the Hon. WILLIAM H. BAUGHMAN JR., ’74 J.D., of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Assistant U.S. Attorney MICHAEL SULLIVAN, ’85 B.A., from the Northern District of Ohio, and Cleveland attorneys RAY MARVAR, ’79 J.D., and BRIAN ROOF, ’94, ’99 J.D., to a board meeting in 2012 to give a presentation on the Cleveland committee’s structure. Then board members worked with the Law School’s Career Development Office to identify the top markets where students wanted to work so the board members

CREATING CONNECTIONS

BETH SCHNEIDER NAYLOR, ’86 J.D., a member at Frost Brown Todd Attorneys in Cincinnati, was NDNA president at the time it launched the committee initiative. She said it was a response to the sudden difficulty that law students—even from top-tier schools like Notre Dame—experienced in the job market during the Great Recession.

“We decided we needed some sort of infrastructure to support students, and we knew it needed to be centered around people in the legal profession,” Naylor said.

A group of Notre Dame Lawyers in Cleveland provided the successful model.

Since 2006, the Notre Dame Club of Cleveland’s Lawyers Alumni Committee had been promoting participation in the Law School’s public service internship program and managing a network to introduce Notre Dame Law students and graduates to lawyers—and career opportunities—in the Cleveland area.

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Notre Dame Lawyers

Notre Dame Lawyer Committee

By KEVIN ALLEN

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could contact alumni in those cities through various committees. And, finally, the NDLA assembled an online toolkit and how-to guide to help other Notre Dame Lawyers form committees in their cities.

One of the Cleveland Committee’s ongoing projects has been maintaining a contact list of local Notre Dame Lawyers and making the list available to Notre Dame students and alumni.

PHILOMENA O’HARE, ’12 J.D., put that list to good use as a law student by asking lawyers to meet with her during breaks from school. “I never had a single attorney say ‘no’ to me,” she said.

Now O’Hare, despite being a busy mother and practicing attorney, repays those favors. She makes time for current students and assists with the Cleveland Committee’s holiday mixer and summer picnic, which usually draws about 70 people to its annual June reception.

One of the newest committees is in Portland, Oregon. The Portland Committee’s kickoff event, which featured a First Amendment presentation from Professor RICK GARNETT, drew about 40 people in June.

“People all seemed to share the same realization — there are a lot of us here in Portland, and we didn’t necessarily know each other,” said KEVIN KRESS, ’03 J.D., who was involved in organizing the Portland Committee. “Some people who had worked together before didn’t realize they had a Notre Dame connection in common.”

BRANCING OUT

As the committees have increased in number, they have also broadened their activities beyond the original networking and career-centered focus. Committees host Law School faculty members for Hobbs Lectures and organize events where alumni can earn continuing legal education credits, participate in pro bono work and other community service projects, and raise money for scholarships.

The Notre Dame Lawyer Committee of Minneapolis drew about 40 people to its first event, featuring Minnesota Vikings COO KEVIN WARRREN, ’90 J.D., in March. About 70 people attended the second event — a continuing legal education event that featured Law School dean emeritus REV. DAVID T. LITTLE, ’50, ’61 J.D., and other speakers who talked about the criminal justice system.

“People are hungry to connect with each other,” said MAUREEN WATZ GORNICK, ’83, ’96 J.D., deputy-in-charge at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit in St. Paul, Minnesota.

“The goal in starting these is to help the Law School – to funnel good students to the Law School and help students with their job placements,” Gornick added. “And, out here, it’s to help alumni network for social reasons and for business — anything to tie their Notre Dame family together.”

Castaneda said the San Diego Committee, formed in 2013, organizes monthly events with speakers and breakfasts where people can meet for conversation.

The committee organizes a few happy hours a year, but has only once hosted a full banquet — such as a panel of Notre Dame alumni in sports that was held at Petco Park, home to Major League Baseball’s San Diego Padres. Castaneda said 70 to 90 people attend the marquee events.

The committee also set up “trinitaries” where Notre Dame Lawyers in the San Diego area are matched to meet for lunch with each other. “At the trinitaries, each people really get to know each other,” Castaneda said. “That cements relationships.”

In Denver, the Colorado Committee participates twice per year in Law Line 9 — an outreach effort organized by the local NBC affiliate where Notre Dame Lawyers field calls from viewers on any number of legal topics. The committee also sponsors summer stipends for Notre Dame Law students to work in Colorado Legal Services and organizes regular mixers, including its famed St. Patrick’s Day party, where alumni and students can network.

“Here we sort of view it like an Inn of Court,” said BRIAN BATES, ’79, ’86 J.D., of the Colorado Committee. “It’s been really good to get to know other Notre Dame Lawyers because of the background we all share.”

NETWORK BENEFITS

CHRIS AVILA, ’11 J.D., said the Lawyers Committee in Miami has provided a great opportunity to connect with the Law School as well as with other Notre Dame Lawyers. Professor RICK GARNETT and JOHN NAGLE have both delivered Hobbs Lectures to the Miami group.

Avila, who is originally from Miami, said Notre Dame’s national character was one of the reasons he decided to go to the Law School. He was confident that Notre Dame’s network would help him land a job back home in Miami after graduation.

“Notre Dame has a very strong alumni community, but you’re only in that community if you show up,” he said. “The more you participate, the more you can benefit from it.”

Kreis, the Portland attorney, grew up in Louisiana and said one of the reasons he chose Notre Dame was that it would enable him to find job opportunities across the country. “I didn’t decide where I wanted to practice,” he said, “so it was a plus to know there was a national alumni network that would open doors.”

Bates, in Denver, grew up in Toledo, Ohio. “The network very much helped me in terms of looking for work,” he said. “I was not interested in going back to Toledo or even going to Chicago. I was looking to go west.”

The national, and international, character of the Law School also offers benefits beyond networking for career opportunities. Looking back at their time as law students, alumni say Notre Dame’s geographic diversity enriched their experiences socially and in the classroom.

“Geographic diversity lends itself to diverse thought,” said O’Hare, the Cleveland attorney. “I think the national character of the Law School gave me a broader mindset, because I was exposed to so many people who had vastly different experiences, and they grew up and think in different ways,” she said. “It forces you to think about things from several angles. That helps me in my practice now.”

Gornik, from the Minnesota Committee, said she also continues to see the benefits of the Law School’s national character. “I have friends all over the United States to refer business to, and I have contacts right away in law firms across the country,” she said. “It’s wonderful that St. Louis is all over the United States, both while you’re in school and later.”

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F E A T U R E

COAST TO COAST
The U.S. Senate voted October 31 to confirm Notre Dame Law Professor Amy Coney Barrett as a judge for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

“Amy Barrett has been a beloved teacher and outstanding scholar,” said Nell Jessup Newton, the Joseph A. Matson Dean of Notre Dame Law School. “I am confident she will be a wise, fair, and brilliant jurist as well.” Barrett earned her J.D. at Notre Dame Law School in 1997 and joined the Law School’s faculty in 2002. She teaches and researches in the areas of federal courts, constitutional law, and statutory interpretation. Students selected her as the Law School’s “Distinguished Professor of the Year” in 2006 and 2016. President Donald Trump nominated Barrett in May to fill a vacant seat on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, a jurisdiction that covers Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.

Every full-time member of Notre Dame Law School’s faculty signed a strong letter of support for Barrett’s judicial nomination. Every law clerk who served a U.S. Supreme Court justice during the term that Barrett clerked for Justice Antonin Scalia also endorsed her nomination.

The University of Notre Dame recognized two members of the Law School faculty in May at the annual President’s Dinner for Faculty. ROBERT L. JONES, a clinical professor of law and associate dean for experiential programs, received the Rev. William A. Toohey, C.S.C., Award for Social Justice. The award recognizes a faculty member who has shown dedication to teaching and research that emphasize the social justice dimension of the Gospel in an exemplary way.

"The success of the programs that I teach in depends on the involvement and leadership of students," Jones said. "This is really a testament to students′ interest and engagement and commitment to these ideals that I think are at the heart of Notre Dame′s mission."

DOUGLASS CASSEL, a professor of law and Notre Dame Presidential Fellow, received the Grenville Clark Award, which is presented to a faculty member or administrator whose voluntary activities serve to advance the cause of peace and human rights. Cassel has served as a consultant for the Organization of American States and the United Nations, including as a legal adviser to the UN Commission on the Truth for El Salvador from 1992 to 1993. He has also represented victims of human rights violations in Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru, and Venezuela in cases heard by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. He played a crucial role in the talks that led to Colombia’s government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, forging an agreement in 2016 to end that country’s half-century of civil war.

CAROZZA RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

Pázmány Peter Catholic University awarded an honorary doctorate to PAOLO CAROZZA, director of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and law professor at Notre Dame Law School, on March 27 in Budapest, Hungary.

The doctorate was conferred in recognition of Carozza’s “excellent and tireless service to the community and the Church, especially in the area of human rights, by cultivating jurisprudence and … through many [other] works and efforts.”

This was the first honorary degree for Carozza, who said the honor was “unexpected but gratifying.” Notre Dame and PPCU have a long history of working together, particularly through the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

ALFORD APPOINTED TO LEADERSHIP ROLE AT U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROGER P. ALFORD, a professor of law and associate dean for international and graduate programs at Notre Dame Law School, was appointed in August to a position at the U.S. Department of Justice where he will promote the enforcement of antitrust laws around the world.

As deputy assistant attorney general for international affairs in the DOJ’s Antitrust Division, Alf ord will manage all aspects of the division’s international work, including managing cases with an international dimension and developing policy on issues of international antitrust enforcement.

“T his is an exciting opportunity to shape policy in a positive direction,” Alf ord said. “With the proliferation of antitrust laws around the world, there is a critical need to ensure that other countries are enforcing antitrust laws with due regard for transparency, due process, and nondiscrimination.” Alf ord has focused on international economic law throughout his career. The link between trade and antitrust law is one of his core interests.

Alford remains a member of the Law School’s faculty, but he is on leave while serving in the DOJ position.

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LEADING FIDUCIARY LAW SCHOLAR PAUL MILLER JOINS FACULTY

Notre Dame Law School welcomed Professor Paul B. Miller as a tenured faculty at the beginning of the fall term. Miller is a private law theorist whose work focuses on philosophical questions in equity, fiduciary law, trust law, and corporate law. “Notre Dame Law School is an exciting place to be,” Miller said. “Especially for people like me, who work in private law. We’re seeing private law attract new interest in the United States, and I think that Notre Dame is uniquely well positioned to assume a leadership role in promoting further development of the field.” Miller also highlighted the Law School’s international reach as something that sets the school apart. “Notre Dame Law School stands out for the international scope of its scholarly engagement and level of scholarly impact,” Miller said. “My own research networks extend beyond North America, so I feel fortunate to be taking my place amongst a community of scholars who feel that international research collaboration and exchange are valuable.”

Prior to joining Notre Dame Law School, Miller taught at two Canadian universities—McGill University in Montreal and Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario. “Paul is a leading fiduciary law scholar who has earned a wide reputation throughout the U.S. and Canada,” said Nell Jessup Newton, the Joseph A. Matson Dean of Notre Dame Law School. “Equally important, he is an outstanding teacher and reputation throughout the U.S. and Canada,” said Nell Jessup Newton. “When trying to understand the origins and foundations of American law, it’s helpful if you can understand the common law of England,” he said.

LONDON LAW PROGRAM HIRES NEW DIRECTOR

MICHAEL K. ADDO started as the new director of Notre Dame’s London Law Program on July 1. He came to Notre Dame from the University of Exeter as an international law and human rights specialist with more than 25 years of experience in research, teaching, management, and policy advice. His work outside the university has included holding several leadership positions with the United Nations. Addo said studying in London is a valuable experience for law students. The program provides them with experience living in another culture, exposes them to how the law operates in another country, and deepens their understanding of American law. “When trying to understand the origins and foundations of American law, it’s helpful if you can understand the common law of England,” he said.

KRESGE LAW LIBRARY HIRES NEW DIRECTOR

THOMAS MILLS, the new director of the Kresge Law Library, arrived at the Law School this past summer. He previously worked at Cornell University, where he was a lecturer in law and director for collections and faculty services. Mills said the Law School’s mission to educate “a different kind of lawyer” is part of what attracted him to Notre Dame: “It’s educating lawyers who know their roles in society, the roles they play in the justice system,” he said. “Law librarians have an important part in that education.”

STRENGTHENING THE LAW SCHOOLS CLINICS

PATRICK M. THOMAS joined the Law School as a founding director of the Notre Dame Tax Clinic, which launched in the fall of 2016 at the Notre Dame Clinical Law Center on Howard Street in South Bend. Thomas trains and supervises law students who represent low-income clients in disputes with the Internal Revenue Service.

DAVID PRUITT is the new program director for the Notre Dame Clinical Law Center. He was previously a partner at Barnes & Thornburg in South Bend and has taught at Notre Dame Law School as an adjunct faculty member. Pruitt is a Double Domer who earned a B.B.A. in finance at the University in 1992 and a J.D. from the Law School in 1999.

VERONICA ROOT SELECTED AS ‘NEW VOICES’ SCHOLAR

VERONICA ROOT, an associate professor of law at Notre Dame Law School, was selected to participate in the New Voices in Civil Justice Scholarship Workshop on May 10 at Vanderbilt Law School. Root, who joined the Notre Dame Law School faculty in 2014, was one of four junior scholars invited to present at the annual workshop. She talked about the American Bar Association’s Model Rule 8.4(g)—which the ABA approved in 2016 to assert Rule 8.4(g)—which the ABA approved in 2016 to assert that it is professional misconduct for a lawyer to “engage in conduct that the lawyer knows or reasonably should know is harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status or socioeconomic status in conduct related to the practice of law.”

RANDY KOZEL DEVELOPS A THEORY OF PRECEDENT IN NEW BOOK

In the American legal system, it’s a generally accepted view that judges should not disrupt the decisions of their predecessors unless they have a compelling reason to do so. The principle is known by the Latin phrase stare decisis—“to stand by things decided.” The goal is to preserve the law’s core without permanently entrenching every judicial mistake. The key question is: When should judges break from precedent? Randy J. Kozel, a law professor and associate dean for faculty development at Notre Dame Law School, examines this question in his new book, _Settled Versus Right: A Theory of Precedent_ , published by Cambridge University Press. At first glance, the question of whether judges should stand by prior decisions they view as incorrect or set the record straight may appear to have an obvious answer. “But the calculus turns out to be complicated,” he writes. “People might have made investments and modified their behaviors as a result of past judicial decisions. There is also the worry that if judicial decisions are reversed too readily, the law will lose its durability and impersonality and be reduced to what ever today’s judges say it is.” Kozel, who also directs the Law School’s Program on Constitutional Structure, presents a theory of precedent that is designed to enhance the stability and impersonality of constitutional law.
Dear Fellow Notre Dame Lawyers,

I venture to guess that you can remember the very first occasion you saw the Golden Dome—with the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary watching over campus and welcoming all visitors.

For me, it was a beautiful June day in 1981, when I made the left-hand turn from Angela Boulevard onto Notre Dame Avenue. It was at that moment my life changed forever. Truly, I could not be more grateful for the caliber of the Notre Dame education, the spirituality that permeated everyday life on campus, and the tremendous support of the alumni network, all of which I credit for helping me achieve my goal of becoming a successful lawyer.

With tremendous gratitude, I now begin a two-year term as president of the Board of Directors of the Notre Dame Law Association. The NDLA is the principal organization committed to furthering and strengthening the relationships of all Notre Dame Lawyers to Notre Dame Law School.

Inspired by the warmth and hospitality I felt at Notre Dame from day one, my first initiative as president is to ensure that every student and graduate feels welcome. To that end, I have created a Diversity & Inclusion Committee to help the Law School attract quality minority law students, assist these students while in law school and in obtaining employment, and encourage minority graduates to be more involved in mentoring minority law students. For law schools to succeed, they must attract and nurture talent in its multiplicity of forms. A diverse student population leads to a better learning environment and a better understanding of different cultures and perspectives.

Secondly, I am committed to strengthening the Notre Dame community beyond campus. Thanks to the initiative started by past NDLA President Beth Naylor, we have more than 30 Notre Dame Lawyer Committees across the country. These organizations have energized the Notre Dame alumni network for the good of Notre Dame and its lawyers. I am pleased to have been one of the founding members of Notre Dame Lawyers of New York City, and it is my mission to continue the expansion of these committees to other cities. You can read more about the committees in the cover story on page 20 of this magazine.

In this time of rapid change in the legal marketplace and increasing competition for the best and the brightest law school applicants, the need for Notre Dame’s strong alumni family has never been greater. Please get involved. On behalf of the NDLA Board, I thank you for your support of Notre Dame Law School.

Go Irish!

Jim Carr, ’87 J.D., President, Notre Dame Law Association

NOTRE DAME LAW ASSOCIATION

The NDLA is open to all attorneys with a Notre Dame degree, either from the University of Notre Dame or Notre Dame Law School. All law graduates are automatically members of the NDLA.

Visit law.nd.edu/ndla to learn more about the many ways you can help Notre Dame Law School fulfill its mission of “educating a different kind of lawyer.”

James H. Cavley, ’70 J.D., joined the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, law firm SkarlatosZonarich as an energy consultant. Cavley, a retired lawyer, served as a member of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission from 1979 to 1985 and from 2005 to 2013.

Kathleen Cekanski-Farrand, ’73 J.D., retired after serving 42 years as the council attorney for the South Bend Common Council. She served with six different administrations of South Bend mayors.

John T. Lynch, ’75 J.D., was named to the list of 2016 Massachusetts Super Lawyers. Lynch is a shareholder with Davis Malm & D’Agostine in Boston, practicing in the areas of business and trusts and estates.

Catherine M. Karol, ’78 J.D., joined Butzel Long as counsel in the firm’s Detroit office. Karol concentrates her practice in transactional negotiations, regulatory compliance, mergers and acquisitions, and directorships. She recently retired from a 38-year career on the General Motors legal staff.

Super Lawyers named James R. Mall, ’74, ’78 J.D./MBA, to its 2017 list of Pennsylvania attorneys. Mall is a partner at Meyer, Uniessco & Scott in Pittsburgh.

Scott C. Sullivan, ’76, ’79 J.D., a partner at Williams McCarthy in Rockford, Illinois, was named to the 2017 Best Lawyers in America “Lawyer of the Year” for Education Law in Syracuse, New York.

NOTRE DAME LAWYER CLASS 2017

‘70s

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Mark Spitzer, ’82 J.D., a partner at Gibson, McAskill & Crosby, was included in the Best Lawyers in America as “Lawyer of the Year” for Professional Malpractice Defense in Buffalo, New York. James F. Slattery Jr., ’81, ’84 J.D., delivered the keynote address at the 2017 General Counsel Summit in Sydney, Australia. The topic was “International Piracy of Online Video Content in the Digital Age.” Slattery is a media legal and business affairs consultant in Rye, New York. Jeffrey C. McDermott, ’86 J.D., was named president and CEO of the Center for the Performing Arts in Carmel, Indiana. He was previously a partner at Krieg DeVault in the Indianapolis area.

Father and Son Named Leading Lawyers

Patrick A. Salvi, ’78 J.D., and Patrick A. Salvi II, ’07 J.D., were honored this summer when the father-son pair were both named to the Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America for 2017. The elder Salvi is chairman and managing equity partner at Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard in Chicago, and the younger Salvi is managing partner. Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard set a new record in August when it won a $140 million jury verdict for a Chicago-area woman who was partially paralyzed when a bus shelter at O’Hare International Airport collapsed on her during a storm. The verdict was the largest ever handed down in a Cook County personal injury case. Five of the firm’s attorneys—including Patrick A. Salvi, Patrick A. Salvi II, and Eirene N. Salvi, ’15 J.D.—participated in the 10-day trial.

Manyard Cooper & Gale announced that Peter S. Fruin, ’90 J.D., was chosen as a Law360 MVP in the area of securities law. Fruin, a shareholder and co-chair of Manyard Cooper’s securities litigation practice, is based in the firm’s Birmingham, Alabama, office.

Mark Your Calendars

The Law School’s inaugural Homecoming Weekend was a huge hit as Notre Dame Lawyers from all over the United States returned to campus at the end of September. The highlight of the weekend was the tailgate party on the DeBartolo Quad before the Fighting Irish played Miami of Ohio. Almost 300 alumni reconvened as they enjoyed craft beers, wine, and a delicious buffet. See a full recap and photos from the weekend at law.nd.edu/homecoming.

And plan to attend next year’s Homecoming! Save the weekend of September 15, 2018, when the Irish will take on Vanderbilt.

Mark Y our Calendars

Michael N. Chesney, ’92 J.D., joined the Board of Directors of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Cleveland. He is a partner at Franzl, Ward in Cleveland, where he practices labor and employment law. He was recognized last year in The Best Lawyers in America.

Thomas W. Curvin, ’92 J.D., a partner at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan and co-chair of the firm’s litigation practice group, was selected to join the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation Board of Directors.

James P. Sledge, ’92 J.D., was named vice president of state government affairs for Comcast. Sledge previously held senior positions at the Chicago Transit Authority and most recently was the executive officer for the Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office.

Stacy C. Gerber Ward, ’93 J.D., joined von Briesen & Roper as a shareholder in Milwaukee. She previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney for more than 14 years and was most recently the deputy chief of the Civil Division for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions appointed Frank T. Pimentel, ’87, ’94 J.D., as an immigration judge in thePort Isabel Immigration Court in Texas. Prior to his appointment, Pimentel served as an assistant U.S. attorney from 2009 to 2012 in the Southern District of Texas and from 2012 to 2017 in the Western District of New York.

The Michigan Supreme Court appointed James Joseph Rosati, ’85, ’95 J.D., to the business court in the 17th Circuit Court in Kent County. The court hears complicated business cases, including business claims on partnerships and terminations, antitrust franchising and trade regulation claims, and corporate receiverships.

Mark Rauter, ’96 J.D., a partner at K&L Gates and E&K LLP, was recognized by Best Lawyers in America as the 2017 “Lawyer of the Year” in Securities Regulation Law in Cincinnati.

Christopher J. Spataro, ’96 J.D., joined Elkhart, Indiana-based Greasie Products as vice president of human resources. Spataro was most recently a partner at Fager Balick Daniels EY selected Brad Wiskichan, ’96 J.D., as a 2017 Finalist for Entrepreneur of the Year, Utah Region. Wiskichan is the founding CEO of Kount, a leading fraud prevention solution. The company is based in Boise, Idaho.

’00s

Gov. Susana Martinez appointed Emil Kiehne, ’01 J.D., as a judge to the New Mexico Court of Appeals in September. Kiehne was previously a shareholder at Modrall Sperling in Albuquerque.

Stacey Mossio McConnell, ’96, ’00 J.D., founded Adroit Legal Talent Group—a boutique freelance network of high-achieving lawyers and paralegals that works with law firms, in-house legal departments, and businesses—while she was president of Notre Dame Law School. She was appointed to serve on the board of the South Bend Community School Corporation.

Rodolfo “Rudy” Monterrosa, ’01 J.D., opened Monterrosa Law Group in March in South Bend.

He said the opening fulfilled a promise he made when he entered Notre Dame Law School in 1998, in work to provide equity and opportunity to every student.

Alum devoted to serving South Bend

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Jason Schiederer, ’01 J.D., was honored as a 2016 Up & Coming Lawyer by Missouri Lawyers Weekly. Schiederer is a member of Dentons’ Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice in Kansas City.

Stone Grissom, ’00 J.D., published his first novel, A Cry for Justice. The legal thriller includes several references to Notre Dame Law School, which Grissom says “is my small homage to my cherished time as a Doner.”

Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper appointed Andrew C. Baum, ’99, ’02 J.D., to serve as District Court Judge in the 10th Judicial District in suburban Denver. Baum was a magistrate in the 18th Judicial District since 2016.

Courtney A. Kirley, ’00, ’03 J.D., joined Kay Casto & Chamer as an attorney practicing in the areas of commercial and financial law. She will serve clients from the firm’s Fayetteville, West Virginia, office. The U.S. Attorney’s Office for the District of Montana announced that it created a new position focusing solely on civil rights cases, both civil and criminal.

Brendan McCarthy, ’99, ’04 J.D., was selected for the position. McCarthy has been an assistant U.S. attorney in the Billings office since 2013.

Rebecca D’Arcy O’Reilly, ’04 J.D., joined Bodman as a member in the firm’s Detroit office. She is co-chair of Bodman’s Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation, Practice Group and a leader of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan service team.

Erin Clary Seki, ’98, ’04 J.D., was named a trustee on the board of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas. Seki is managing counsel for H-E-B, a San Antonio-based grocery retailer.

Marisa A. Lorenzo, ’03 J.D., was elected to partner at Kelley Drye & Warren in New York. Lorenzo is a litigator who focuses on investigations, enforcement actions, and lawsuits involving the communications industry.

Andrew C. Villere, ’91, ’05 J.D./MBA, was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie in Denver. Villere is a member of the firm’s private equity practice.

Timothy B. Collins, ’02, ’06 J.D., was promoted to partner at Daines Morris in Philadelphia. He focuses on employee benefits and executive compensation.

Latham & Watkins promoted Nathan J. Logan, ’06 J.D., to counsel in its Chicago office. Logan is a member of the firm’s finance department.

Christopher R. Drewry, ’07 J.D., was promoted to partner at Latham & Watkins in Chicago. Drewry is a member of the firm’s corporate department.

Brian T. Kilbasa, ’07 J.D., was elected a shareholder of Lane Powell in Portland, Oregon. Kilbasa concentrates his practice on the representation of financial institutions, businesses, and individuals in a broad range of commercial and complex litigation matters.

Citywealth, one of the leading business publications in the United Kingdom, shortlisted Chris McLemore, ’07 J.D., as Lawyer of the Year in the partner category of its annual Future Leader Awards. McLemore is an attorney at Butler Snow in London.

Jason Morrill, ’07 J.D., was promoted to partner at Latham & Watkins in Chicago. Morrill is a member of the firm’s corporate department.

Carolyn A. Blessing, ’01, ’08 J.D., was promoted to partner at Locke Lord in Chicago. Blessing focuses her practice in IP pharmaceutical matters and Hatch-Waxman litigation. She represents pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies in all aspects of federal intellectual property litigation.

Robyn Bowland, ’08 J.D., was promoted to partner at Akerman in Chicago. Bowland is a member of the firm’s Intellectual Property Practice Group and focuses her practice on intellectual property, litigation, and counseling.


Hugh Bruen & Rosenthal elevated Michael Parme, ’08 J.D., to partner. Parme handles cases in the San Diego firm’s risk management and insurance, employment, and labor, and construction practice groups.

Manish Antani, ’09 J.D., joined Blank Rome as an associate in Los Angeles. He practices in the firm’s corporate, mergers and acquisitions, and securities groups.

Thomas M. Burnett, ’09 J.D., was named a shareholder in Reinult Boerner Van Deuren’s Litigation Practice in Milwaukee. Burnett represents a variety of clients such as business owners, insurers, actuaries, and financial institutions, as well as manufacturers, developers, and distributors.

Morgan, Hallgren, Crowell & Kane hired Ryan M. Davidson, ’09 J.D., as an associate in the firm’s Lancaster, Pennsylvania, office. He focuses on litigation and general practice.

Andrew J. Hofland, ’09 J.D., joined Crown & Dunley as an associate in the firm’s Tulsa, Oklahoma, office and a member of the Litigation & Trial and Bankruptcy & Creditors’ Rights Practice Groups. Hofland previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma.

The Missouri Commission on Human Rights named Cynthia L. Cortes, ’04 J.D., the recipient of its 2016 Judge Arnold Kerkel Trailblazer Award for promoting civil rights and equal justice. The award is named after the federal judge who presided over Missouri’s 1865 Constitutional Convention, signing the ordinance abolishing slavery in Missouri.

Cortes is a partner at Hoach Blackwell in Kansas City. She leads the firm’s Human Trafficking Corporate Compliance initiative and founded the firm’s Human Trafficking Legal Clinic—the first of its kind in the United States.

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**O’Scallanín tapped as Labor Department’s top lawyer**

The White House announced this fall that Kate O’Scallanín, ’99, ’05 J.D., would be President Donald Trump’s nominee for solicitor at the U.S. Department of Labor.

The solicitor’s office is tasked with meeting the entire department’s legal needs, which include providing legal advice to the labor secretary and other officials as they work to accomplish the department’s goals.

O’Scallanín was promoted to partner at Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, D.C., in 2011. She is also a member of the Notre Dame Law Association Board.

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**Lindsey Brazys Pianowski, ’10 J.D., was promoted to partner at Sanders Pianowski in Elkhart, Indiana. Her practice is concentrated in estate planning, business succession, corporate law, and mergers and acquisitions.**

**Alvin A. Adjei, ’09, ’12 J.D., joined Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Arizzi as an associate. He joins the Houston firm after serving as an assistant district attorney in the Harris County District Attorney’s Office.**

**Samantha Dravis, ’12 J.D., was appointed senior counsel and associate administrator in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Policy. Previously, Dravis was president of the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a public policy organization affiliated with the Republican Attorneys General Association.**

**Brittany Brandtley, ’13 J.D., joined Fisher Phillips as an associate in Cleveland. Brandtley represents employers in a wide range of labor and employment matters.**

**Brian L. Salvi, ’99, ’13 J.D., an associate with Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard in Chicago, was named to the 2017 list of Illinois Super Lawyers.**

**Reed W. Burritt, ’14 J.D., joined Abraham, Watkins, Nichols, Sorrels, Agosto & Arizzi as an associate. Prior to joining the Houston firm, Burritt was defense counsel for numerous large corporations.**

**Brian Ellison, ’14 J.D., joined Fisher Phillips as an associate in the firm’s Philadelphia office. As an employment and trade-secrets litigator, Ellison will focus on trade secrets, restrictive covenants, non-disclosure agreements, unfair competition, and employer raiding.**

**The American Heart Association named Frederick R. Bentley, ’12, ’15 J.D., to serve on its Kentucky Board of Directors. Bentley is an attorney at Stites & Harbison in Louisville and is a member of the firm’s business litigation service group.**

**Catherine Díaz, ’13 J.D., joined Berardi Immigration Law as an associate attorney in Buffalo, New York.**

**Joseph P. Guenther, ’16 J.D., was hired as an associate at Frantz Ward in Cleveland. Guenther was a summer associate at the firm in 2015.**

**Steven Melzak, ’16 J.D., joined Morris, Nichols, Ardis & Tunnell as an associate in Wilmington, Delaware. Melzak practices in the firm’s commercial law counseling group.**

**Eric Nichols, ’16 J.D., joined Faegre Baker Daniels as an associate in South Bend. Nichols practices in the firm’s finance and restructuring group.**

Charles C. Davis III, ’17 J.D., was hired as an associate at Burr & Forman in Tampa. Davis works in the firm’s financial services practice group.

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**Metro Board of Directors.**

**Kevin J. Murphy, ’14 J.D., was among the lawyers from Chicago-based Jenner & Block that won a pro bono case in the spring on behalf of Patrick Pursley—an Illinois man who asserted his innocence while serving a life sentence for a murder conviction.**

In March, Pursley was granted a new trial based on ballistic evidence that established a gun recovered from his home did not fire bullets or cartridge cases found at the crime scene. He was released on bond in April and is awaiting a possible retrial.

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“With a few words, the conviction that had kept him in prison for 23 years was wiped away,” Murphy said. “It was great to be there to see the look on Patrick’s face, the look on his fiancée’s face, and to be a part of that moment.”

Jenner & Block began representing Pursley in 2008. Murphy, an associate in the firm’s litigation department, joined the team on Pursley’s case in May 2016.
IN MEMORIAM

These members of the Notre Dame Law School community passed away between fall 2016 and fall 2017.

Justice TOBIAS ‘TOBY’ BARRY, ’52 J.D. He served in the Illinois House of Representatives for 14 years and later served for more than 20 years on the Third District Appellate Court.

CHARLES "CHUCK" ROEMER, ’53, ’58 J.D. He practiced law, with a focus on estate planning, for many years in South Bend and retired as a partner at Barnes & Thornburg in 2004.

PAUL J. SCHIERL, ’57, ’61 J.D. He was the longtime president of Fort Howard Corporation in Green Bay, Wisconsin. The company honored him in 1988 by creating the Paul J. Schierl/Fort Howard Corporation Professorship at Notre Dame Law School.

Judge THOMAS “TOM” O’TOOLE, ’60. A member of the Law School’s Advisory Council since 2011, he and his wife, Elaine, endowed the O’Toole Professorship of Constitutional Law.

Professor REGIS CAMPFIELD, ’63. He founded the Notre Dame Tax and Estate Planning Institute and served on the Law School’s faculty from 1970-97 before moving to SMU School of Law.

GERALD G. VAIRO, ’62, ’64 J.D. He was the senior member and partner of the law firm Vairo, Mechina, Tomasini, Johnson & Manchester in Houghton and Calumet, Michigan.

ROBERT “BOB” KRAUSE, ’66, J.D. He had a long career at Dickinson Wright in Detroit, where he represented the Big Three automakers and several other corporate powerhouses.

DEMETRIO “BUTCH” VERICH, ’76, J.D./MBA. He had a 20-year career in the Navy before attending law school. After graduation, he served as district attorney in Benton County, Wisconsin.

MATTHEW G. NIELSEN, ’76, ’84 J.D. He was a partner at Marshall, Gerstein & Borun in Chicago. He passed away after a fight with pancreatic cancer.

I am very sorry to report that Tom Singer, a superb trial lawyer, colleague, and instructor in Notre Dame’s trial advocacy program, died on March 4. Tom was a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, but his ties to NDLS ran deep. His wife, Carmen Piascik, is a 1973 NDLS grad and her daughter, Kate Singer, is a 1997 grad who has been an adjunct professor here since 2000.

During his 40 years as an NDLS adjunct professor, Tom mentored generations of trial lawyers, many of whom credit him for their professional success. Timothy Roosney, a 1982 Law School graduate and partner at Winston & Strawn, was a student in Tom’s 1982 trial advocacy class before going on to a career as a litigator. Later, Tim returned to NDLS to teach in the trial ad program along with Tom.

Like many of Tom’s former students, Tim stressed that Tom’s influence continued during his entire career: “I frequently told the ITA students that they should pay very close attention when Tom Singer lectured, because if they looked around, they would see all of the faculty members—experienced and very accomplished litigators—doing that very thing. We took every opportunity we could to hear Tom lecture. Even as I grew up to be a senior litigator at a major firm, I truly looked forward to teaching with Tom, because I learned something from him every time I did. He was a special talent, and a very special man. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had my path cross with his.”

Jim Seckinger, the Notre Dame professor who first hired Tom to teach in the program, described him as “my closest friend—personally and professionally—since I arrived in South Bend in 1975. Tom has been a tremendous gift to me personally and professionally, and has touched so many lives throughout the U.S. and Canada. From 1975, Notre Dame Law students have been the special beneficiaries of Tom Singer and he will live on at NDLS beyond my years at the Law School.”

Jim Moran, a partner at Mullerin, Rehfledt & Varchetto, P.C., in Wheaton, Ill., recalls that “when I first started with the ITA class, it was in the old Law School. My wife, Linda, would also travel to Notre Dame with me. Linda started joining us for lunch in the basement each day. Linda made a beeline for Tom. I asked her why she always sought out Tom (thinking she just wanted to listen to Tom’s voice). Linda related, ‘I look for Tom because he always makes me feel like I belong.’ That is, simply, Tom Singer.”

Jeanne Jourdan, a 1975 Notre Dame grad and retired St. Joseph Superior Court judge, recalls that Tom looked and sounded “like a Midwestern Atticus Finch” and that he “prepared each class, lecture, and demonstration of a trial skill as if he was at trial. Tom’s only exception to no ‘war stories’ happened when Tom talked about his own mistakes. His passion for excellence was unparalleled in the classroom and the courtroom.”

Jim Seckinger created the innovative Innovative Trial Advocacy program, but would be the first to say that Tom Singer was its heart and soul. Tom was truly a legend in the law and will be missed by so many who learned from him and now, in turn, teach the current generation of Notre Dame students.

Nell Jessup Newton is the Joseph A. Matson Dean of Notre Dame Law School.
Another Fulfilled

Generosity

the

One Alum,

His Dream

By Denise Wager

Through the Generosity of One Alum, Another Fulfilled His Dream

How fellowships give both ways

As far back as fourth grade, RILEY KOVAL, ’16 J.D., would write in the back of his notebooks at school, “I will attend the University of Notre Dame.” Raised as a Fighting Irish fan, he made annual trips to Notre Dame with his family to see a football game, attend Mass, and visit the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

So, when Koval was applying to law schools after graduating from Macalester College in Minnesota, Notre Dame was at the top of his list. At the same time, he and his father, a police officer, worried that Notre Dame Law School would be a big financial stretch.

“I knew Notre Dame Law School would be a perfect fit for me,” he said. “Notre Dame educates a different kind of lawyer, and I wanted to be a different kind of lawyer. I was attending law school to gain a skill set so that I could pursue my passion to work in collegiate athletics.”

When Koval received his acceptance letter, he was also given a three-year fellowship that would offer a portion of his law school costs and make it possible to pursue his dream.

In his first year, Koval went to a thank-a-donor event to show his gratitude to those who support Notre Dame Law students.

STEVE MACKEY, ’76 J.D., and his wife, Jana, were also attending the event. Steve Mackey is a former executive vice president, general counsel, and chief administrative officer at Helmerich & Payne in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Mackeys have underwritten a fellowship at Notre Dame Law School since 2010.

“One of the Law School’s strengths is its insistence that all its students should view the law as a means for improving society in whatever way they think they can best accomplish that goal,” Steve Mackey said. “Our fellowship hopefully allows a student to embrace that mission and have the ability to choose a career based on what he or she wants to do, not what they have to do for financial reasons.”

Koval and the Mackeys happened to be sitting together at the thank-a-donor event, and Mackeys jumped out of their seats, gave me a big hug, and Jana Mackey said, “That’s perfect because we already love you.”

The bond grew stronger during Koval’s next two years of law school. The Mackeys always took him out to dinner while visiting campus. During one of those dinners in Koval’s second year, the Mackeys asked if he was taking out loans to pay for costs that the fellowship did not cover. When Koval said he was, the Mackeys told him they wanted to pay the remainder of what he owed for his final year of law school.

“Riley is truly a ‘different kind of lawyer’ who will have a meaningful impact on his colleagues, community, and the University. As a fellowship recipient, Riley has a personal connection to what it means to give back. We are excited to see how he will use his time, talents, and resources to benefit others in the future,” Steve Mackey said. “Riley has now become a part of our family, and we look forward to continuing that relationship for years to come. Our fellowship has truly been a gift that gives back in ways we could never have imagined.”

For Koval, the feeling is mutual. He said the Mackeys haven’t given so much to me and ensure that other students are able to enjoy the same experience I did at Notre Dame.

NOTRE DAME Lawyer 2017

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For Koval, the feeling is mutual. He said the Mackeys haven’t become a second family to him; he feels like they’re part of his immediate family. The Mackeys traveled to Koval’s hometown just to visit his parents, and the two families coordinate which football games they attend each fall to make sure they see each other.

Steve Mackey not only was present for Koval’s law school graduation in 2016 but also “honored” Koval at the ceremony. “It was a special moment that I’ll never forget,” Koval said, and “I’ll always be grateful for it.”

As a law student, Koval had the opportunity to work with the Notre Dame football team as a recruiting analyst, as a legal intern for the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill athletic department, and as a summer associate for the Minnesota Vikings general counsel office.

“I am so grateful for what Steve and Jana have given me,” Koval said. “They know that my route, my passion may not be lucrative, and by this very generous gift they have allowed me to pursue that passion.”

Since graduating from the Law School in 2016, Koval has worked in Notre Dame’s Office of Development as the assistant director of recognition societies.

“Having an understanding of development is crucial to being a well-rounded athletic director, so the position is both very fulfilling for me and also an incredible opportunity to learn from and work with the best development team in the country,” Koval said. “I love what I do because it allows me to give back to a school that gave so much to me and ensure that other students are able to enjoy the same experience I did at Notre Dame.”

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As a law student, Koval had the opportunity to work with the Notre Dame football team as a recruiting analyst, as a legal intern for the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill athletic department, and as a summer associate for the Minnesota Vikings general counsel office.

“I am so grateful for what Steve and Jana have given me,” Koval said. “They know that my route, my passion may not be lucrative, and by this very generous gift they have allowed me to pursue that passion.”

Since graduating from the Law School in 2016, Koval has worked in Notre Dame’s Office of Development as the assistant director of recognition societies.

“Having an understanding of development is crucial to being a well-rounded athletic director, so the position is both very fulfilling for me and also an incredible opportunity to learn from and work with the best development team in the country,” Koval said. “I love what I do because it allows me to give back to a school that gave so much to me and ensure that other students are able to enjoy the same experience I did at Notre Dame.”
Why Notre Dame?

“I wanted a nationally known school that had an intimate academic setting. Notre Dame Law School fosters a tight-knit community with helpful professors, staff, and genuine people, and it has provided a great opportunity for me to get to know each of them on a more fundamental level.”

“I knew going to Notre Dame Law School would equip me with the necessary resources to help me professionally—for starters, by having access to one of the best alumni networks in the country. Our alumni are always willing to help fellow Notre Dame students.”

“I chose Notre Dame because I thought it was the best school to which I was accepted and the best for me, even though I was challenged both financially and academically throughout my tenure. The ND Law network helped me land my first job in a law firm, as Don Bebenek and Carl Eck of Meyer Darragh Buckler Bebenek & Eck were both ‘Double Domers.’ What followed were 36 years of trial practice and going on 11 years of sitting as a federal judge in Pittsburgh.”

Athena Aherrera
President, Student Bar Association J.D./MBA, Class of 2019

Bruce Huber
Professor of Law and Robert & Marion Short Scholar
Notre Dame Law School Distinguished Professor of the Year, 2017

The Hon. Nora Barry Fischer, ‘76 J.D.
U.S. District Court Judge, Western District of Pennsylvania

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