

# Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)

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Volume 56 | Number 2

Article 10

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Fall 2013

## Giving

University of Michigan Law School

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### Recommended Citation

University of Michigan Law School, *Giving*, 56 *Law Quadrangle (formerly Law Quad Notes)* - (2013).  
Available at: <https://repository.law.umich.edu/lqnotes/vol56/iss2/10>

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MICHIGAN LAW'S

# Next Chapter



On September 1, the University of Michigan Law School welcomed Mark West as its 17<sup>th</sup> dean. For an academic and alumni community, a dean transition can be an uncertain time, especially when the outgoing dean is an inspiring leader who understands the importance of a strong alumni network and the power of alumni giving. The Law School couldn't have asked for a better dean over the past decade than Evan Caminker. We all have benefitted from Evan's vision—which touched all aspects of life in the Quad—and his commitment to securing the funds to execute it.

But as Dean West settles into his new role, we are all in good hands. Mark already has a 15-year track record of leadership at the Law School, and part of what makes him such a tremendous asset as dean is that he understands the essence of Michigan Law—because it is a part of him already. Many of you have had him as a professor, while others were impacted (knowingly or unknowingly) by his work as associate dean for academic affairs. Mark is the perfect choice to lead our School, and I look forward to you getting to know him in the coming months and years.

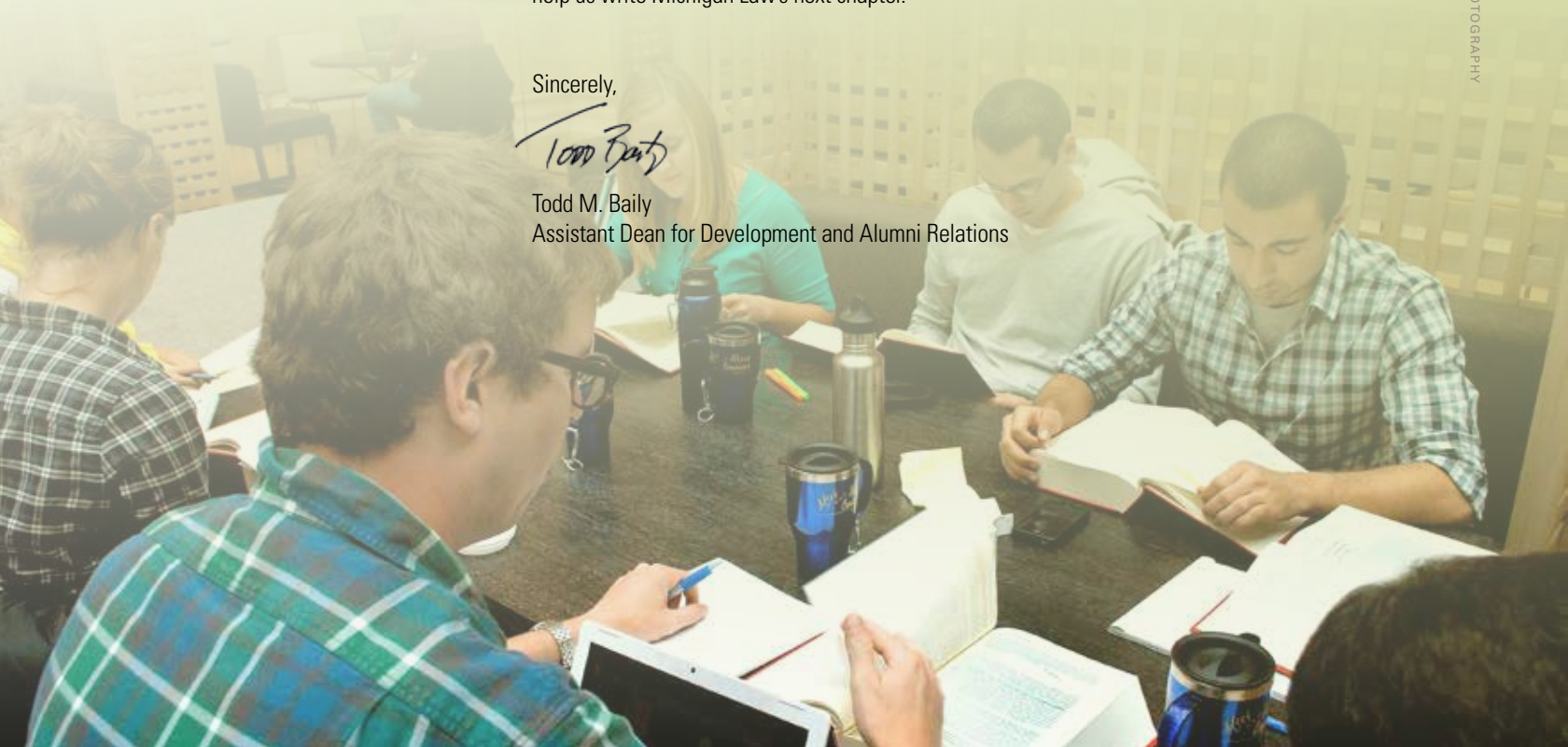
The new chapter being written in the Quad, however, extends beyond the dean's office. On November 8, the University will kick off a multiyear, multi-billion-dollar fundraising campaign. Known as the Victors for Michigan campaign, it will be one of the most ambitious efforts in the history of higher education. The No. 1 priority for the campaign, both at the University level and here at the Law School, will be student support. Michigan provides one of the country's preeminent legal educations, but it comes at a steep price. That price impacts the ability of students to attend our School, and it can affect their choices both during and after their time on campus. We will be calling on all alumni to help us make a Michigan Law education—and the opportunities it offers—affordable to today's inspiring crop of students.

While we have beautiful facilities, we are not defined by them alone. The Victors for Michigan campaign will focus our attention on the people and experiences that bring our buildings to life. Please begin thinking now about the legacy you can leave in this new campaign—how you can help us write Michigan Law's next chapter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Baily".

Todd M. Baily  
Assistant Dean for Development and Alumni Relations



## University Announces Matching Fund for Student Support

To encourage donors to make gifts supporting students, the University has announced a new, \$25-million matching gifts program. The Michigan Matching Initiative for Student Support will match gifts of \$100,000 to \$1 million for endowed scholarship funds, with the match providing \$1 for every \$4 gift. Gifts may be designated for new or existing endowments, and may be designated to support scholarships on a University-wide basis or for a specific school or program, as long as the funds directly support students. In addition to scholarships, programs such as the Law School's Loan Repayment Assistance Program and Student Funded Fellowships also are eligible for the match. Gifts from individuals and family foundations qualify, as do contributions from groups of up to four donors who pool their gifts. Pledges are payable over a maximum of five years.

"Making a Michigan Law degree accessible for students—and easing their financial burden both during and after their time on campus—is one of my top priorities as dean and the Law School's primary focus in the upcoming Victors for Michigan campaign," Dean Mark West says. "The Michigan Matching Initiative for Student Support is a wonderful opportunity for new and existing donors to increase the impact of their giving."

To learn more about the Michigan Matching Initiative for Student Support, contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 734.615.4500.

*"The Michigan Matching Initiative for Student Support is a wonderful opportunity for new and existing donors to increase the impact of their giving."*

## Save the Date: African American Alumni Reunion

African American alumni of the Law School are encouraged to attend the inaugural African American Alumni Reunion, March 21–23, 2014, in Ann Arbor.

"This reunion is an important step for Michigan Law and its African American alumni community," says tri-chair Curtis Mack, '73, of Atlanta. "While we all had different experiences in law school, our time in the Quad and the education we received were important and formative components of our careers. The time has come to return home and celebrate that experience with each other." Joining Mack in chairing the event are Elizabeth Campbell, '78, of Houston, and Saul Green, '72, of Detroit.

The intent of the African American Alumni Reunion is to bring alumni and current students together for networking opportunities, and re-engage alumni with Michigan Law and each other. In the wake of declining minority enrollments at the School, the committee also hopes the reunion will mobilize alumni to improve and support recruitment and matriculation of African American students through outreach and scholarships.

A reunion was first discussed formally among a small group of African American alumni in late 2012, with the idea of celebrating the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the Butch Carpenter Scholarship banquet. With 1,000 living African American law alumni, the fact that it has evolved into a weekend-long event is exciting, says Lara Furar, the Law School's director of alumni relations and reunion programs. "This is a highly enthusiastic, dedicated group of volunteers who are organizing the reunion. We are thrilled to be partnering with them on this important endeavor and can't wait to welcome attendees back to the Quad in March." Highlights of the weekend include a session led by NPR's Michele Norris, founder of the Race Card Project.

Honorary co-chairs of the event are Amalya L. Kearse, '62, the Hon. Harry Edwards, '65, David Lewis, '70, Walter Sutton, '70, Jim Jenkins, '73, Anita Jenkins, '74, Michele Mayes, '74, Larry Thompson, '74, the Hon. Roger Gregory, '78, Broderick Johnson, '83, Reginald Turner, '87, Charlotte Johnson, '88, David Cade, '96, and Harold Ford Jr., '96.

Green says the diverse locations, class years, and career paths of the reunion's organizers are reflective of the event's mission. "An important goal of the reunion is to celebrate the history of diversity at Michigan Law. Our honorary co-chairs and planning committee members are a testament to the diversity within our own African American alumni community and the impact of a Michigan Law degree, wherever you go."—AS





## Program Support

### Professor Emeritus Tom and Ruth Green

Tom Green and his wife, Ruth, have given \$75,000 to create the Green Legal History Endowment Fund at the University of Michigan. The endowment seeks to develop and sustain interest in and scholarly contributions to legal history at U-M, and to provide direct support and mentorship to the next generation of legal historians. In addition, the Greens hope to foster closer relations between the Law School and the history department in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA), which will jointly administer the Fund.

The Green Legal History Endowment Fund will bring prominent legal historians from many specializations to the University for lectures, proseminars, and meetings with students. A joint committee of Law and LSA faculty will select the annual or biannual speakers. "It is always special when a faculty member chooses to lend significant financial support to the institution that already has claimed so much of his or her time and intellectual rigor," says former Dean Evan Caminker. "Tom and Ruth's gift will open up exciting new channels for discourse and collaboration at the University."

"Our gift is in grateful recognition of the support and encouragement extended to me, and the friendship extended

to us both, over four decades by two truly great and collegial scholarly communities," says Green, the John P. Dawson Collegiate Professor of Law Emeritus and professor emeritus of history. "Establishing the endowment seems an appropriate step to take, as the activities of these communities—as with all scholarly communities—are as much a matter of building a foundation for those who will inherit and shape the future of the enterprise as they are a manifestation of present interests. We hope that the lectures, proseminars, and other corresponding events will draw attention over the ensuing decades to work in legal history that's being done on campus, and help likeminded scholars find and connect with each other."

The endowed public lecture will be known as the Simpson Lecture in honor of former Professor A.W. Brian Simpson, who died in 2011. The associated proseminar will be named for John P. "Jack" Dawson, who taught at Michigan Law from 1927 to 1958. "In naming the lecture after Brian and the proseminar after Jack, we honor two superb legal historians and teachers who spent many years at the Law School and contributed greatly to its scholarly tradition," Green says.—AS

## Program Support

### Tom Prose

Tom Prose, MD '82, MedRes '84, MPH '93, MBA '97, has witnessed the devastating effects of human trafficking firsthand, and when he read about Professor Bridgette Carr's work with the Human Trafficking Clinic in *The New York Times*, he wanted to help.

"I was immediately struck by the work they are doing and the fresh, entrepreneurial approach Bridgette is taking," says Prose, whose \$50,000 gift to the Clinic will fund a pilot program focused on identifying trafficking victims who have been arrested. "They understand the challenges and burdens, and we've talked at length about what could be done to bring this tragedy to the forefront and stop turning victims into criminals."

Prose learned about human trafficking while serving as Consul General for the Czech Republic, since Eastern Europe is a nucleus for both sex and labor trafficking. But it's not just a problem elsewhere. Cases in the United States, and those involving U.S. citizens, are increasing rapidly. The Clinic currently is handling more than 50. "We need to see this as a societal problem that can happen to anyone," says Prose.

With human trafficking often a misunderstood or ignored issue, Carr, '02, the Clinic's director and clinical professor of law, appreciates Prose's eagerness to unravel additional layers of the problem. "From my first conversation with Tom, he has impressed me," she says. "We wanted to make an impact on this issue, and he wanted to know the best way to do it. He realized it might not be an approach that made headlines, but that didn't matter. His focus is on helping victims."

Carr and Clinical Assistant Professor Elizabeth Campbell, '11, are developing a pilot program in Washtenaw County (including Ann Arbor) that will intervene in the criminal justice system to better protect human trafficking victims. They seek to provide across-the-board training for law enforcement in identifying victims, and want to establish a trafficking-risk assessment for anyone arrested in the county for prostitution-related crimes. A similar program in New York City has found that nearly one-third of those arrested for such crimes are victims of human trafficking, and another 20 percent are high risk. "This matches anecdotally what we have said to be true, but we don't have the access to verify it," says Campbell. "We are looking for the best way in our local system to have an intervention point, so we can stop the criminalization of victims and represent them better."

To conceptualize the pilot, Carr and Campbell have been collaborating with local public defenders, judges, and law enforcement and educating them about human trafficking. "The criminal justice system often funnels defendants, who are in fact victims, quickly through the system and unknowingly returns them to their traffickers more vulnerable than before," says Campbell, noting that the pilot has received a strong level of excitement and support among key local players.

Carr says she is "amazed and grateful" that the *Times* article had such a meaningful effect for the Clinic. "With Tom's gift, we can help those who are often forgotten in the fight against human trafficking." —AS



## Alumni Create Fund Honoring Dean Caminker



In April, alumni and friends of the Law School regaled outgoing Dean Evan Caminker and his wife, Stacey, with thank-you gifts. An honorary Lawyers Club membership. A custom football jersey. A vase made from the elm tree that used to stand near the Quad. But they also gave him a gift that will live in perpetuity at Michigan Law by establishing the Evan H. Caminker Fund, an endowment that will be used for both student scholarships and faculty recruitment and retention.

The Fund was the brainchild of Bruce Bickner, '68, and Dick Pogue, '53. As chairs of the Development and Alumni Relations Committee and the Dean's Advisory Council, respectively, the pair had numerous chances to work with Caminker on a wide array of projects, including the building of South Hall and Aikens Commons. "In every endeavor, Evan brought intelligence, integrity, thoughtfulness, energy, good humor, and an eye to the Law School's future," said Bickner. "His leadership was visionary, and its impact will be seen and appreciated for decades to come. So we wanted to show our appreciation in a similarly impactful way."

Bickner and Pogue initially set out to raise \$500,000 for the Fund from a small group of alumni leaders. To date, more than \$700,000 has been given, and additional gifts from the School's alumni and friends are welcome. Pogue said he is pleased but not surprised by the enthusiastic response. "Not that there was ever any doubt about Evan's popularity

among alumni, but if there were, it most certainly has been dispelled by the response we received. To have exceeded our goal is an outstanding testament to the fact that the alumni community realizes what a special leader we had in Evan."

Caminker also has been honored with a plaque identifying the portico adjacent to the south side of South Hall as the Caminker Arcade. The plaque reads, in part, that the arcade was "named by alumni and friends of the University of Michigan Law School, who recognize and thank Evan H. Caminker ... for his exceptional efforts to expand and enhance the campus."

In thanking the donors during the April 12 event, Caminker joked that he's not usually at a loss for words, but said the establishment of the endowment fund left him nearly speechless. "Not only have you created this wonderful fund, but it was your heavy lifting that made these buildings possible," he said. "I can't tell you how touched I am by the fact that there will always be this connection between us."

Bickner pointed out that while Caminker has moved on, the alumni community's work continues. "We know that, like all of us here tonight, you will always hold a special place in your heart for the Michigan Law School. Our promise to you, Evan, is that the alumni of Michigan Law will do whatever we can to sustain the momentum and build on the successes that you created during your tenure."—AS

Former Dean Evan Caminker (shown above with his wife, Stacey) was honored with many gifts, including a new fund spearheaded by Dick Pogue, '53 (middle), and Bruce Bickner, '68 (below).





### Planned Giving

## Ray Potter, '37, and Alice Potter, MD '38



While growing up, Martha (Potter) Dewees knew her family wasn't extravagant. But she knew her parents, Alice and Ray Potter, '37, believed in the value of education and the importance of philanthropy—two forces that joined together in a powerful way after their deaths.

The Potters left a generous portion of their estate to the University of Michigan, divided equally between the Law School and the Medical School.

"My parents connected very strongly with their Michigan educations and their Michigan friends," says Dewees. "The University of Michigan was the center of their social world for most of their lives."

Ray Potter came to Michigan Law from Swarthmore College, after spending a "gap year" studying at the University of Heidelberg in Germany and bicycling around Europe. His future wife also was a Swarthmore graduate. Although Swarthmore was a small school, the two had never met—until the day Ray saw Alice in Ann Arbor, recognized her from Swarthmore, and asked the dean of women for her name and telephone number. In an era of less stringent privacy concerns, the dean agreed, the call was made, and rest was history.

The couple's on-campus courtship included theater outings, and through the years Ray always tried to get tickets with the same row and seat numbers as they had in their first theater subscription. At one point, they were prohibited from dating for several weeks, after Alice arrived back at her dormitory past curfew. Ray and Alice married after he graduated from the Law School, and moved into married student housing while she finished her degree—although she was not permitted to complete her internship while living there. Ray worked stateside in support of the war effort before becoming the attorney at Alice's family's abstract and title company in Detroit, where he remained for his entire career.

Although she doesn't know exactly why her father wanted to become a lawyer, Dewees says he may have had concerns about earning a living in the wake of his father's sudden death and the difficult economic circumstances of the 1930s. She also says the profession suited him well. "He loved the law and thinking about the law. He talked about the law constantly and enjoyed its philosophical basis. He did a lot of traveling as a child, and it was always part of who he was—he was interested in the world and the ways in which we govern ourselves."

Alice never practiced medicine professionally, although she volunteered throughout her life and was called upon by friends and neighbors for medical advice or to administer in-home care. She also busied herself raising Dewees and her siblings, Susan and Louis, '65. Alice and Ray instilled the importance of education in all of their children. "I don't remember being lectured about going to college; I always just knew I was going. It's one of those things you grow to assume," says Dewees, a professor emerita of social work at the University of Vermont. The same went for philanthropy.

The Potters didn't talk openly about money, but while they lived relatively simply in some ways, the children were aware that their parents donated to various charities. Ray and Alice, like their families before them, also donated to several public institutions in Michigan. That they chose to remember the University of Michigan so substantially in their estate plan does not surprise their daughter.

"They both loved their time at U-M," says Dewees, who notes that her father played tennis with Michigan friends at their Sun City, Arizona, home shortly before his death. "It was obviously a happy time of their lives, and I'm glad they are able to leave a lasting impact."—AS



## Building Support/Student Support Liz and Richard Burns, '71



Family ties are huge for Liz and Richard Burns, '71. Richard started a practice with his brother, William, '68, and 16 others, and he remains of counsel. Son Brian is vice president and COO of Morgan Murphy Media—Liz's family's business—with Liz serving as president and CEO. Richard is vice president of business development and general counsel.

"My two bosses are my wife and my son," he says. "We try to leave work at work, and not worry about it or talk about it at home." But Liz notes, "Some days, that is easier than others."

Family also has greatly influenced the couple's philanthropic philosophy. They have long been generous donors to the Law School, partly because of the example set by their parents, for whom civic engagement and philanthropy were priorities. Liz and Richard's many contributions to the Law School include a \$500,000 gift to the building fund—for which an alcove in the Reading Room was recently named in their honor—and a \$500,000 bequest in support of the Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), also known as the Debt Management Program. And they are active volunteers and donors to colleges in Minnesota and Wisconsin, as well as Liz's alma mater, the University of Arizona.

"It's natural for us to support Michigan because I feel like I owe a lot to the place. It's special because of the relationships I had with my fellow students, and the collegial work we did together. In addition, I was very close with several professors who really helped shape my career," says Richard, who worked for more than two years with Professor Arthur R. Miller, including on his treatise, *Wright & Miller on Rules of Civil Procedure*. "He would sit down with me and others individually and

go over our subsection writings sentence by sentence. I owe most of my ability to write clearly to him."

Burns came to Michigan Law largely because of his father, Herbert, '33. "I didn't become a lawyer just because my father was a lawyer," Burns says. "I did it because I saw how much he loved it." But five years after graduation, while doing employee benefits and tax work at a large San Francisco firm, Richard wasn't feeling that same love. He decided to move to Duluth, Minnesota, and go into partnership with his brother. At Michigan, Professors Doug Kahn and J.J. White, '62, had instilled in Richard a passion for codes, and that, plus his work in San Francisco, led him to focus his practice on estate law. He had finally found the enjoyment that he'd sought. "Being a small-town lawyer allows you to see the impact of your work," he says. "It also gave me the opportunity to be involved at an important level in community affairs."

Richard and Liz have contributed so generously to LRAP because he wants today's students also to have the opportunity to find the career path about which they are most passionate. "I fear that people sometimes get trapped in a job that's not as satisfying because of all the debt they have. If they could take a lower-paying job and have their debt managed in a reasonable way, they might not be unhappy lawyers 10 years out of law school," says Richard.

Burns also wants his classmates to recognize the importance of giving back to Michigan Law. He has served on the Law School's Development and Alumni Relations Committee and the Dean's Advisory Council, and was an active volunteer with U-M's Michigan Difference campaign. Additionally, he has chaired multiple reunion committees and funded matching gift challenges for Cavaedium Society-level gifts to the Law School Fund—gifts that are at least \$2,500. "Matches help people understand that someone else thinks this cause is important, and it also helps their money go further than they thought it could," says Burns. "I owe much of my career to the Law School, and I want others to think about what the School means to them."

While Liz doesn't hold a degree from Michigan, she has adopted her husband's maize-and-blue fervor. Richard's class was among the first to have a double-digit enrollment of women, and she says they have made her an honorary member of the class. "It would be nice to be able to wear red once in a while," she laughs, "but never scarlet and gray."—AS



Law School Fund

Anne Larin, '83

Anne Larin, '83, has embraced change throughout her career. But one thing remains constant: giving to the Law School Fund.

Since graduation, Larin has contributed to the Fund every year except one. "Ah, yes, 1984," laughs Larin. "I was clerking and had *no* money. I still feel bad about it, though." Over time, her habit has made a big impact—she has passed the \$100,000 lifetime-giving milestone. "I certainly never started out thinking it was possible for me to give that kind of money," she says.

As the School's unrestricted pool of gifts, the Law School Fund annually provides discretionary resources for programs with greatest need, including the Loan Repayment Assistance Program and Student Funded Fellowships. It also substantially funds core programs such as the Legal Practice Program, which includes the first-year research and writing course. Larin says giving helps acknowledge the generosity that enabled her to attain undergraduate, graduate, and law degrees. "Through scholarships, someone else paid for me to go to school. So I've always felt like I need to help today's students."

It also doesn't hurt that she loves Michigan Law. "Even if you can only give a small amount each year, know who you are and what you love, and plan your giving accordingly," she says.

Larin's love of Michigan Law was enhanced by the fact that she began her career on a different path, as the curator of a collection of historic homes in Westchester County, New York. She enjoyed the workplace but ultimately decided the career wasn't for her. "After a few years, I realized that if I never came to work again, it wouldn't make any difference. I didn't like that."

She returned to her native Birmingham, Michigan, where her sister steered her to law school. Larin says that because she had been in the workforce, she approached Michigan Law like it was her job. "I would have been very intimidated by the professors and other students if I had come to Michigan right from undergrad. But after being accountable to an employer, I had a more balanced perspective."

Although she didn't live in the Lawyers Club, joining *Michigan Law Review* provided a sense of community because of the intensity of the long hours spent together and the unique responsibility. "We owned the rights to the Coke machines," she says, "so we'd go around collecting returnable bottles from the library late each night. We felt like we owned the School."

After graduation, Larin clerked for Judge Cornelia Kennedy, '47, on the U.S. Court of Appeals in Detroit before heading to Munger, Tolles & Olsen in Los Angeles, where she felt at home with the contingent of fellow Michigan grads in the firm's securities and corporate practice. It was 1980s L.A., the golden age of junk bonds, yet after six years, the history and art buff wasn't sold. "I never found business as sexy as others did, and I wanted to get away from a life ruled by billable hours," she says.

So Larin returned to Michigan and accepted a position with General Motors Corp.'s in-house legal team, ultimately becoming the lead attorney for corporate and securities law. She had left big law for the stability of Mother Motors—until it all fell apart in 2008 and 2009. Larin found herself at the center of a business and political firestorm, as the world's largest automaker faced closing its doors forever. Right up to the end, she worked tirelessly on deals that would save the company. "We had a plan where, if everything had gone right, we would have squeaked by with just enough cash," she says. "But of course, nothing went right."

Larin acknowledges there were dark days, but says the chaos also offered a unique professional stimulation. "For a lawyer, bad times can be good times. After all the work I had been doing in corporate governance, the chance to be involved with creating a new company that reassures our stockholders and the public that we're not going to fall back into bad habits has been amazing."

She has a front-row seat to the new GM as corporate secretary, acting as the liaison between the company and its board of directors. "They don't know and don't care how we used to do things. They want to know what works and how we know that it does. It's an attitude I can relate to," says Larin.

And as she professionally supports the newcomers at GM, she philanthropically continues to aid the newcomers at Michigan Law. "The Law School Fund keeps me in touch with what's going on at the School," she says. "It's fun to think that every year there's a new crop of students excited by what they're learning and doing. It connects me with who I was then and am now."

—AS



## Student Support

### Alfred Wiederkehr, MCL '68

Alfred Wiederkehr, MCL '68, comes from a family of lawyers, so it was natural for him to follow suit. After law school in his native Switzerland, he began his career by clerking in a district court. But Wiederkehr longed for a different path, so he came to Michigan's Master of Comparative Law Program. Now his career includes everything *and* the kitchen sink.

Wiederkehr is a founding partner at Sears Wiederkehr Hugelshofer Widmer, a Zurich-based boutique firm that represents Swiss and foreign individuals and corporations. He heads the private-client section, helping individuals with business-related legal matters. But he spends the majority of his time working with his family's extensive business interests—which these days range from a bank in Beirut to the kitchen sink manufacturer Franke. He and members of his family showed their entrepreneurial spirit when they helped launch and grow Crossair, a Swiss regional airline that took over Swissair when it went bankrupt in 2002.



While Wiederkehr considers himself a businessman at heart, his legal training helps him see business problems through a unique lens. "Being a lawyer but also a businessman allows me to better relate to my clients," he says. "In the end, a lawyer is a consultant. I understand the issues they're facing because the chances are good that I've faced them myself. In addition, understanding the law makes it much easier to operate and grow my companies."

Wiederkehr's MCL training adds an additional layer of perspective. "Legal systems might be different from country to country, but the end goals are the same. Knowing how American lawyers think has been extremely helpful in my work, both as a lawyer and a businessman," he says.

Although it's now common for European lawyers to train in the United States, Wiederkehr was something of a pioneer. One of just a few Europeans in his class, he relished his Ann Arbor experience. In addition to his studies, Wiederkehr loved strolling through Nichols Arboretum—except for the day he nearly got hit by a train while walking, lost in thought, on the tracks. He also enjoyed working a few hours a week at Discount Records, near campus. "I didn't have much time to work, since school kept me so busy," says Wiederkehr, who was the store's classical music expert. "It was a very fast year."

During that year, Wiederkehr immersed himself in all aspects of American law, including its seedy underbelly. He audited a criminal law class and remembers the professor saying on the first day, "Don't think crime doesn't pay. It does pay—handsomely." But the future entrepreneur focused his studies on corporate and business law, and credits Professor Alfred Conard with motivating him to pursue a position in an American law firm. After graduation, Wiederkehr joined White & Case in New York, where he spent a year and a half translating and interpreting foreign law. When the firm offered him a position in its Paris office, he hesitated before opting to join a firm in Geneva. "I knew that if I didn't go home then, I probably never would," he says.

Although today his business pursuits outweigh his legal practice, Wiederkehr often encourages European lawyers to attend American law schools. He also gives generously to the Law School, mostly in support of scholarships for LLM and MCL students. "My time in Ann Arbor was important to me," he says. "Living and working in the U.S. is very different than studying it from abroad. Being at the University of Michigan gave me the opportunity to do many things I otherwise wouldn't have been able to do."—AS



## Student Support

### Agneta and John Solomon, '73

After completing his first year of law school, it took John Solomon, '73, six years to finish his second and third. What he experienced in the interim is at the heart of his giving to Michigan Law.

With his wife, Agneta, Solomon gave a gift to create the Agneta E. and John W. Solomon Scholarship Fund to support Michigan Law students—with a preference for bilingual Spanish speakers. The endowed fund honors Solomon's love of the Law School, while acknowledging the importance that South America has had in his life.

"My exposure to other cultures has been important, and I want to strengthen that element of diversity at the Law School," says Solomon, who also continues to generously support the Law School Fund.

Just months before he was to matriculate at Michigan in 1966, Solomon passed the Foreign Service Exam, which is the entry point to join the U.S. State Department's diplomatic corps. He deferred his appointment for a year to give law school a try. But Solomon—who first fell in love with South America when his parents hosted two exchange students and he spent a summer on an exchange in Peru—ultimately decided he had to pursue the opportunity to work abroad.

He was posted in Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador. While in Quito, Solomon met Agneta, a Swedish national working for her embassy. State Department policy at that time mandated that Solomon's first post-marriage assignment be in Washington, D.C., in order to assimilate his foreign-born wife. During that time, Solomon decided he was ready to return to the Quad. Frustrations with U.S. foreign policy in South America as well as the ambiguity of his work left him longing for the tangible outcomes of the legal profession. "In law, you feel like you've gotten something done, and you move on," he says.

During his 2L summer, Solomon stayed stateside but kept true to his passion for South America. He worked for Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) in Toledo, Ohio, helping non-English-speaking clients navigate the complexities of the American legal system. "Having lived abroad, I knew how difficult it could be to overcome a language barrier," says Solomon. "Having that empathy and knowledge of Spanish enabled me to better serve my clients."



Upon graduation, Solomon went to work for Brouse and McDowell in Akron, Ohio. He remained for 30 years, before spending the last nine years of his career in business and banking litigation at Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease. Even though his career was devoted to the private sector—"I just assumed that when you go to law school, you go to work for a law firm"—he never forgot his time in South America and his work with ABLE.

"Now that I'm retired, I can think about the legacy I want to leave and see that I can afford to make a gift like this," says Solomon about the scholarship. "Sometimes when you're in the throes of working and raising a family, you don't take time to assess such things."

Solomon's parents were early supporters of his interest in South America, but they also helped him realize the importance of education and philanthropy. Both his mom and dad were first-generation college students who commuted nearly four hours a day to attend classes at Brooklyn College. Each went on to endow a scholarship at the college.

"I am continuing something that was ingrained in me early on: the value of education," says Solomon. "Now that I can, I want to help someone else get an education at my favorite school."  
—AS

## Law School Fund

### Adam Dubinsky, '07

Adam Dubinsky, '07, embraces communities—in a clerkship at the top of the world, on a bike, or at his San Francisco nonprofit. It's also why he gives to the Law School Fund.

While peers might say the demands of burgeoning careers, young families, and student loan debt prevent them from staying engaged with the School, Dubinsky is a loyal donor and active volunteer who led his five-year reunion committee.

"I made lifelong friends at Michigan Law. It was clear from the first semester that those three years would change my life," says Dubinsky, who was active in several student groups and the Nannes 3L Challenge giving program. "After graduation, I couldn't let that sense of community disappear. I didn't just want to stay involved, I needed to. Even a small gift is a symbolic connection."

Dubinsky's Michigan Law community was so important to him that he took a medical risk to graduate with his class. He was born with a heart defect, and doctors advised him to have surgery during his 2L year. However, he waited until his diploma was in hand.

When he had the post-op green light, Dubinsky headed to Barrow, Alaska, for a yearlong clerkship and appointment as deputy magistrate with the town's sole judge. Because his sternum hadn't yet fully fused, he wasn't cleared to carry anything heavier than a gallon of milk. "It was a risk, but I didn't want to miss the opportunity to have a unique clerkship," he says. "It was a weird and amazing place to recover from surgery."

Cases included a negligent embalming and a personal injury claim stemming from a hole in ice. In the winter, Dubinsky walked outside at lunch and saw stars, while summer meant iceberg-hopping in the Arctic Ocean at 2 a.m. "It was hard to remember to go to bed," he says. For all intents and purposes, the two-square-mile town was a gated community, given its close proximity to polar bears. During Barrow's half-marathon, Dubinsky needed rescue as polar bears approached him on the beach.

But despite the challenges, Dubinsky thrived. He enjoyed legal research so much that he began seeking other similarly focused positions, and his body grew stronger. By the time he landed in San Francisco as a legal research attorney in a superior court, he decided to commute as the locals do—by bike.

"I hadn't ridden a bike since I was a kid, and I was intimidated to start in such a hilly, urban environment," says Dubinsky, now a legal writer and editor for LawRoom, an online training center and resource for employment law compliance. "But it seemed like a great way to make life more convenient and improve my cardiovascular health."

To say he was hooked is an understatement. Dubinsky became a daily bike commuter and a weekend warrior, culminating in a cycling tour through the California Alps called the "Death Ride," which he says is the toughest thing he's ever experienced. "Part of it is about proving I can do this. Part of it is that, after a while, you can't think of a better way to spend a weekend than exploring beautiful landscapes and meeting fascinating people. It also helps that you burn enough calories to justify eating anything you want the rest of the week."

His longest journey to date was a seven-day, 545-mile ride from San Francisco to L.A. in June with the AIDS/LifeCycle. Dubinsky was one of 2,500 cyclists who raised a total of \$14.2 million for AIDS research. "Cycling communities are diverse and welcoming—because of the intensity of the experience, the LifeCycle was especially so. It reminded me of Michigan Law," he says.

When he's off the road, Dubinsky spends a lot of time helping others get on it. He is a cofounder of the San Francisco Yellow Bike Project, part of a global movement to increase access to cycling. The nonprofit shop accepts bike donations in all conditions. Volunteers refurbish the bikes and get them in the hands of people who can't afford them, and provide education to safely maintain them. The group also has partnered with [freespace], a community incubator, to offer a bike lending library. Dubinsky helped the organization secure its 501(c)(3) status, and now does everything from fundraising to training volunteers. "Our mission is simple: to get more people on more bikes on the streets of San Francisco," he says.

Providing access is another reason Dubinsky gives to the Law School Fund. "I am helping to educate people who are doing amazing legal things," he says. "Contributing to the Law School Fund promotes good legal education and gets more good lawyers out into the world." —AS





Recent Gifts



**Lois and Avern Cohn**, '49, of Birmingham, Michigan, have made a gift of \$50,000 to establish the Cohn Summer Fellowship Fund. The Fund provides stipends to Michigan Law students

who accept unpaid or low-paying summer jobs in public interest in the state of Michigan, working either in state or local government or for nonprofit organizations. The inaugural Cohn Fellowships were awarded for summer 2013. Cohn is a U.S. District Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. (Learn more about Cohn on p. 60.)



**Eileen and Robert J. Currie**, LLM '63, have made a \$162,500 gift to the Currie Scholarship Fund at Michigan Law in honor of Bob's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Bob serves on the Houston

Regional Council for the Victors for Michigan Campaign. The Curries' gift will be matched at 25 percent by the Michigan Matching Initiative for Student Support (see page 49). Bob and Eileen reside in The Woodlands, Texas. He is former general tax counsel for several ExxonMobil affiliates.



**Murray Feiwell**, AB '60, JD '63, and his wife, **Lynda**, AB '61, have made a \$50,000 gift in honor of Murray's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Murray is co-chair of the Class of 1963 Reunion Committee. The gift is

designated for the Feiwell Family Scholarship at the Law School. Murray is a past national chair of the Law School Fund. He is retired from practice, and he and Lynda split their time between Carmel, Indiana, and Palm Desert, California.



**Robert B. Fiske Jr.**, '55, HLLD '97, of New York, and his wife, **Janet**, have made an additional \$500,000 commitment to the Fiske Fellows. Established in 2001, the Robert B. Fiske Jr.

Fellowship Program for Government Service has helped more than 30 Michigan Law graduates follow careers in government service. This newest gift, combined with gifts from two of Fiske's clients, will enable the granting of an additional fellowship—increasing the annual number to four. Fiske is a senior counsel in the litigation department of Davis Polk & Wardwell.



**Herb Kohn**, AB '60, JD '63, and his wife, **Nancy**, AB '62, have given \$50,000 to the Law School in honor of Herb's 50<sup>th</sup> reunion. Herb is co-chair of the Class of 1963 Reunion Committee. The gift

will be split between the Law School Fund and the charitable remainder trust the Kohns already have established for the ultimate benefit of Michigan Law. Herb and Nancy live in Kansas City, Missouri, where Herb is a partner in Bryan Cave LLP's Kansas City office.

**Olivia and Martin Lagina**, '82, of Traverse City, Michigan, have given an additional \$75,000 to the Lagina Family Scholarship Fund, bringing their total giving to the Fund to \$200,000. Martin has been involved in the energy business since graduating from law school. His previous company pioneered the techniques to produce oil and gas from unconventional reservoirs. He currently is the CEO of Heritage Sustainable Energy LLC, which primarily develops wind energy facilities in Michigan.



**Martha and Frederick Mahan**, '57, have made a \$2 million bequest to endow a professorship. They also have been substantial donors to the building project and are funding the

Frederick Mahan Scholarship to promote professionalism in the law. Fred is retired, and the couple lives in San Francisco.



**Robert D. McFee**, BSE '50, JD '52, and his wife, U-M Regent Emerita **Shirley M. McFee**, AB '51, have given \$50,000 to the Zell Entrepreneurship and Law (ZEAL) Program as part of

the matching gift challenge issued by Sam Zell, '66. Bob is of counsel to the Battle Creek, Michigan, firm of Vandervoort, Christ & Fisher, and is a former shareholder. He is chairman and secretary of Battle Creek-based G.H.S. Corp., one of the world's preminent makers of guitar strings, whose subsidiaries manufacture industrial-grade air compressors.

**Beverly Bartow**, '80, and **James Stengel**, '80, of New York, have given \$50,000 to the Law School Fund. Bartow is an independent fundraising consultant. Stengel is senior litigation partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, where he was instrumental in orchestrating the firm's \$250,000 multiyear gift to the Law School's Michigan Innocence Clinic.