LAWYERS WORKING WITH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS must understand the complex relationship between law and public policy to be effective at shaping it. Virginia’s strength in public policy and regulation law draws from faculty members who have brought their experiences working for the government or other institutions back to the classroom. These connections benefit students in a variety of ways.

When professors work for Congress or federal agencies such as the State Department, volunteer for government commissions, consult for state and local governments, or work with advocacy organizations that seek to influence public policy, the experiences enrich their teaching, facilitate student opportunities to network with practicing attorneys in a variety of fields, and inspire fresh insights in research and scholarship.

THE LAW SCHOOL’S PROXIMITY to Washington, D.C., provides rich opportunities for a close-up view of how regulations, policies and the government interact. The location also allows top government lawyers and Washington-based practitioners to teach part-time at Virginia, which exposes students to the kinds of concrete issues they may one day face as government officials, practicing lawyers or policy advocates.

VIRGINIA’S ALUMNI CONNECT the school and students to Washington and other public policy networks. The Law School’s graduates work for the White House, Congress, the Justice Department, the military and numerous federal agencies. SEE BIT.LY/UVALAWALUMNI

J.D.-M.P.P. (PUBLIC POLICY) PROGRAM The Law School offers a dual-degree program with the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, in which a student may obtain both a J.D. and a Master of Public Policy degree (M.P.P.) in four years, instead of the five years that would be required if each were taken separately. Students who have been admitted to the program may elect whether they want to start in the Law School or the Batten School.
The Law School attracts high-profile speakers on public policy, many of whom are alumni. BOB BAUER ‘76 (left), co-chair of the Presidential Commission on Elections, former White House counsel (2009-11) and former general counsel for Barack Obama’s presidential campaigns, recently discussed the commission’s work.

Former U.S. District Judge JOHN GLEESON ’80 returned to the Law School to offer his prescription for criminal sentencing reform while in town to accept the THOMAS JEFFERSON FOUNDATION MEDAL IN LAW.