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# BENCHMARK

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF LAW CAMPAIGN NEWS

VOLUME 1 • NUMBER 1 OCTOBER 2019

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by mail to UVA Law School Foundation, 580 Massie Road, Charlottesville, VA 22903; by texting VIRGINIA to 41444; or by calling 1-877-307-0158.

### Alumni Events

Connect with friends at an alumni event near you! Check [law.virginia.edu/alumni](http://law.virginia.edu/alumni) for updates and additions.

**October 22 • Dallas**

Adolphus Hotel  
6-7:30 p.m. Reception

**October 23 • Houston**

Four Seasons Houston  
6-7:30 p.m. Reception

**October 24 • Chicago**

McDermott Will & Emery  
6-7:30 p.m. Reception

**October 29 • Salt Lake City**

Michelangelo's on Main  
12 p.m. Luncheon

**October 29 • Portland, Ore.**

Hotel Vintage Portland  
6-7:30 p.m. Reception

**October 30 • Seattle**

Washington Athletic Club  
6-8 p.m.

**November 13 • Charleston, W.Va.**

Spilman Thomas & Battle  
6-7:30 p.m. Reception

**November 14 • Louisville, Ky.**

Rabbit Hole Distillery  
6-7:30 p.m. Reception  
with Joseph C. Ventura '03,  
General Counsel of Humana

**November 20 • Boston**

Omni Parker House  
6-8 p.m. Reception with  
UVA Law Prof. A. Benjamin Spencer

**December 5 • Charlottesville**

Greencroft Club  
6-7:30 p.m. Holiday Reception

**December 12 • Washington, D.C.**

Metropolitan Club  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Holiday Reception

**March 11 • Atlanta**

Atlanta History Center  
6-8 p.m. Reception with  
UVA Law Prof. A.E. Dick Howard '61

**March 26 • Northern Virginia**

The Ritz-Carlton Tysons  
6:30-8:30 p.m. Reception

**May 8-10 • Charlottesville**

Law Alumni Weekend

**June 10 • New York City**

The Yale Club  
11:45 a.m. Reception  
12:15 p.m. Luncheon

**June 11 • Washington, D.C.**

The Willard  
11:45 a.m. Reception  
12:15 p.m. Luncheon

Look for more **2020 events** in Charlotte, N.C.; Greenville, S.C.; Jackson, Miss.; Kansas City, Mo.; Las Vegas; New Orleans; Phoenix; and St. Louis

## BENCHMARK

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# HONOR *the* FUTURE

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

“GIVEN THAT WE’VE  
COME SO FAR,  
IT MIGHT BE EASY  
TO SAY, ‘MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED.’  
BUT WE HAVE MORE  
WORK TO DO.”



# HONOR *the* FUTURE

It’s a momentous time in the life of UVA Law School. Over the next two years, we will observe the bicentennial of our founding and the centennial of coeducation. These two milestones highlight both continuity and change. Our purpose from the start was to train exceptional lawyers for the practice of law, and to serve and lead a then-new democracy. That is our mission still.

At the same time, evidence of how much has changed at UVA Law School over the past two centuries is all around us. Most fundamentally, who we educate has broadened in every conceivable way from our founding. Today, our community of students, faculty, and staff is as diverse in backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and passions as we are unified in our commitment to the importance of the law and the legal education that supports it.

Over the past two centuries, we have become an institution whose greatest strength is its people.

President Jim Ryan’s call for UVA to be both “great and good” was surely influenced by our way of life here at the Law School. We are dedicated to training lawyers to be great—by excelling in their careers and serving their clients with the utmost expertise and professionalism—and good—by embracing the public trust they hold to serve and lead by virtue of their training.

We live these institutional values every day through an academic program that is more than 250 courses and nearly 20 clinics deep, stocked with some of the nation’s leading legal thinkers, and supported by a vibrant intellectual culture that boasts hundreds of lectures, debates, workshops, symposia, and other events each year.

We support students entering public service careers through fellowships, mentoring programs, and loan forgiveness, and we encourage all students, no matter their career paths, to make service a part of their lives.

At the center of it all is the sense of community we foster by connecting our students with one another and with the wider world. Our community is both personally supportive and intellectually challenging. It is the reason our students cherish their time here and leave ready to build new communities wherever they go, remain connected with each other and engaged with us across lifetimes and continents, and become lawyers with empathy, integrity, humanity, and an openness to the ideas of others.

Given that we’ve come so far, it might be easy to say, ‘Mission accomplished.’ But we have more work to do. Technology is disrupting the practice of law. New legal problems and their solutions are increasingly global in scope. The difficulties facing our democracy and public institutions are escalating in urgency and complexity. How we meet these challenges is critically important.

More than ever, the world needs lawyers and leaders taught to analyze with rigor the law as it is and to contemplate with creativity and perspective the law as it should be. In order to generate the truly breakthrough solutions to seemingly intractable challenges, the world needs lawyers and leaders who are not only well educated but trained at a school that facilitates intellectual exchange, collaboration, and a sense of community across our differences.

More than ever, the world needs UVA lawyers.

This, then, is my wish for the historic capital campaign before us. Let us be both great and good. Let us secure our promises to produce lawyers of purpose and distinction, to increase our understanding of the law and better the legal system through research and leadership, to provide broad access to legal education and an ever more diverse profession, and to take pride in our alumni and earn their pride in us.

What happens in the next six years will shape our third century and beyond. To enable our faculty to forge the future of the law and prepare our students for the future that awaits them, we must redouble the investments we make in this unique institution.

We have set an ambitious goal of \$400 million over the next six years. As are our custom and our values, we will measure success not only by that goal but also by your participation. An extraordinary 72% of alumni contributed to the last campaign, and it is my hope that we will exceed that number in this campaign. We need your help to meet these goals.

You are the people who have made this place special, and you are the ones who can help us grow the power of UVA Law. We hope you’ll join us.

Dean Risa L. Goluboff

# SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOAN FORGIVENESS

Our students are our *raison d'être*. They fill the halls with energy, drink in all the learning the faculty has to offer, and ask the hard questions of the law every day. Our success is their success. That is why scholarships and loan forgiveness are a top priority. Financial aid is key to recruiting talented students diverse in every way, removing barriers to entering the legal profession, and enabling careers in public service.

Financial aid is almost always a significant—if not decisive—factor when admitted students of the highest caliber choose UVA Law. The resources to provide such aid are critical to who we become as UVA Law.

#### NAMED DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIPS — \$1 MILLION

#### NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS — \$750,000 | \$500,000 | \$250,000

Named scholarships, which carry the names of their donors or an honoree, enable the Law School to attract exceptional applicants who are likely to be recruited and supported by

peer schools. These scholarships are awarded to students of particular merit, promise, or need, and are intended to provide substantial tuition assistance. A named scholarship gift of \$750,000 covers more than half of tuition and substantially reduces a student's need for loans. Named scholarships of \$500,000 and \$250,000 also help students reduce their dependence on student loans to varying degrees.

#### NAMED LOAN FORGIVENESS FUND — \$250,000

Named loan forgiveness funds, which carry the names of their donors or an honoree, allow the Law School to fulfill its commitment to making public service a viable career path. A fund endowed with \$250,000 provides more than \$11,000 of loan assistance to a graduate working in public service or in an underserved area of Virginia. Larger endowed gifts can often help multiple recipients.

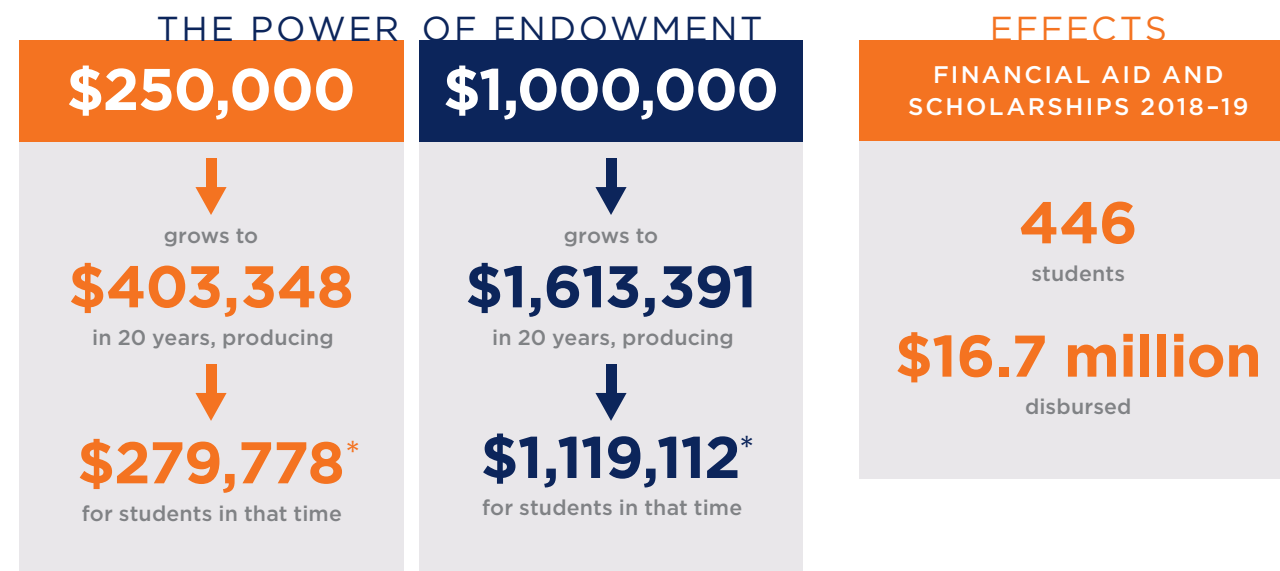
“Your donations make it possible for students like me to attend law school and to seize opportunities to make a difference on and off Grounds.

“After just one semester, I have experienced the life-changing impact of your donations. Whether I am attending office hours with top-notch professors or doing pro bono work with the Domestic Violence Project, all of this started with the scholarship I received.

“Your generosity enables students from a diverse range of backgrounds to experience a UVA Law education. I am grateful for the opportunity to form lasting friendships with my incredibly talented classmates and professors. I look forward to pursuing the countless opportunities that your support makes possible for students like me.

“Choosing to come to UVA Law was one of the best decisions of my life.”

NICOLE BANTON '21  
RECIPIENT OF THE  
DASHA SMITH '98  
SCHOLARSHIP



\*Calculated with a 7% growth rate and a 4.5% spending rate

“I am writing to express my gratitude to you for endowing the Class of 1966 Research Professorship in Law, which has supported my work at the Law School. It is an honor to be a member of the UVA community and to hold this chair. My first book, *Secession on Trial: The Treason Prosecution of Jefferson Davis*, won the Cromwell Prize for the best first book in American legal history at the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History.

“I am now at work on a new book that focuses on another aspect of the legal history of the Civil War. This project has brought me back to archival research, at the National Archives and in Massachusetts and North and South Carolina. Holding the Class of 1966 Research Professorship has allowed me the time and resources to undertake this necessary travel.

“I am fortunate to be a part of the scholarly community at UVA and to teach so many enormously talented law students. It is truly a privilege to teach at a place that is as intellectually vibrant and so warm-hearted as UVA. The Law School would not be the esteemed institution that it is today without the support of donors like you. Thank you for supporting my research and for everything you do to support UVA Law.”

CYNTHIA NICOLETTI  
CLASS OF 1966 RESEARCH  
PROFESSOR OF LAW

*The Class of 1966 Research Professorship in Law was funded by more than 100 members of the class to mark their 25th reunion.*



HOW TO  
HONOR THE FUTURE

# PROFESSORSHIPS

Every law school's core strength is its faculty. That is especially true here at UVA Law, where our faculty value training the next generation of lawyers as much as developing innovative ideas and improving the law. Our faculty are leaders in their fields and in the profession, they are transformative clinical practitioners, and they are award-winning teachers who care deeply about nurturing students' abilities, broadening their intellectual horizons, and preparing them for exceptional careers.

Professorships enable the Law School to attract, support, and retain the world-class scholars and teachers who are so essential to who we are and why we are preeminent. Intense competition for leading scholars has made attracting and retaining the strongest faculty more challenging and more expensive than ever.

## DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS — \$5 MILLION

Vital to the strength of the faculty and the quality of the Law School, distinguished professorships recognize leading senior faculty and are typically held for the duration of the chairholder's tenure. The income from endowment helps attract, reward, and retain preeminent teachers and scholars.

## RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIPS — \$2 MILLION

Research professorships provide a flexible and meaningful way to reward and encourage faculty productivity. They provide significant summer and research support and are usually held for three-year terms. Appointments are based on scholarly distinction and contributions to the institution.

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

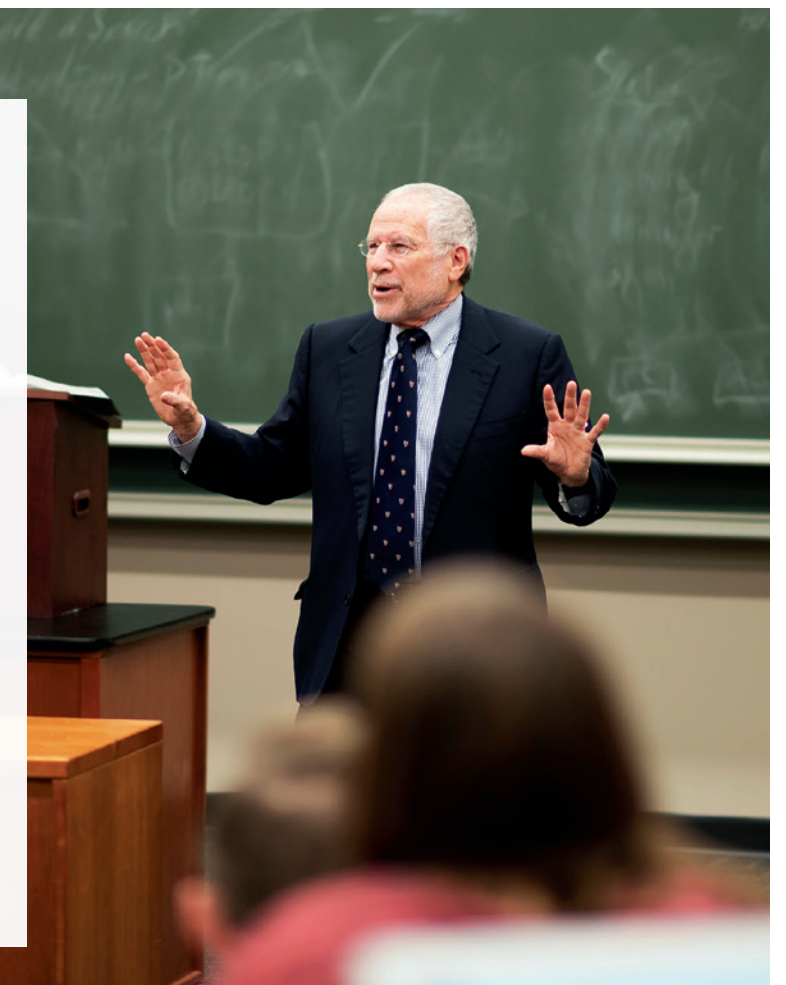
The 2018 and 2019 Princeton Review rankings rated UVA Law as **No. 1 in Best Professors**.

**Nine professors** are members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and **26** are members of the American Law Institute.

The school's faculty was the **most cited by the U.S. Supreme Court** during the 2016 and 2017 terms, according to a study of academic journal citations released in the fall of 2018.

In 2019, **six professors earned honors for publishing top books and law review articles** in their fields, including environmental law, First Amendment law, land use law, philosophy of law, legal history, and corporate and securities law.

**Reflecting the school's emphasis** on the interdisciplinary study of law, many faculty hold doctoral degrees in related fields, including economics, history, philosophy, psychology, and medicine.



# PROGRAMS AND CURRICULAR INITIATIVES

As the practice of law responds to developments in technology, economics, and politics, we must educate our students with both a breadth of knowledge and specialization of expertise to prepare them for how they will spend their first few years of practice and for what we can anticipate they will encounter throughout their careers. In the last campaign, we were fortunate to name and strengthen the John W. Glynn, Jr. Law & Business Program. Through this campaign, we will complement that program with investments in our Program in Law and Public Service and a new Program in Law and Technology. This trio of curricular enhancements will prepare our students for careers in a rapidly changing society by combining theoretical with practical training, equipping them with the expertise they will need for their chosen paths, and exposing them to, and facilitating their networks with, leaders in their fields.

Key to preparing our students to enter practice with both the skills and the judgment the law requires are our extensive experiential curriculum of clinics, pro bono programs, and innovative classroom simulations. We have made clinical education a priority so that we can provide all of our students—whether they are interested in transactional work, direct legal service, appellate litigation, public law, or public policy—the opportunity to develop professional and leadership skills, to learn how to advocate and collaborate, and to begin serving the public while still in law school.

# UNRESTRICTED GIVING

Powering the school's ability to provide an unparalleled educational experience, unrestricted giving allows us to deploy funds where they are needed most, whether it's to supplement scholarships and professorships in support of our students and faculty, to enhance our student body with pipeline programs and our curriculum with new components, or to fund summer and postgraduate public service fellowships.

What makes these funds so special is that they can be deployed to the area of most need at a particular time. Because they provide the dean with important latitude to undertake new initiatives and meet unanticipated needs, they literally enable us to do all that we do.

In short, unrestricted gifts are critical to keeping the school and its programs vibrant. Endowed and named unrestricted funds especially help secure UVA Law's long-term needs by providing unrestricted income year after year.

**ENDOWED NAMED UNRESTRICTED FUND — \$100,000**

## THE POWER OF ENDOWMENT

**\$100,000**



grows to

**\$161,339**

in 20 years, producing



**\$111,911\***

for the Law School  
in that time

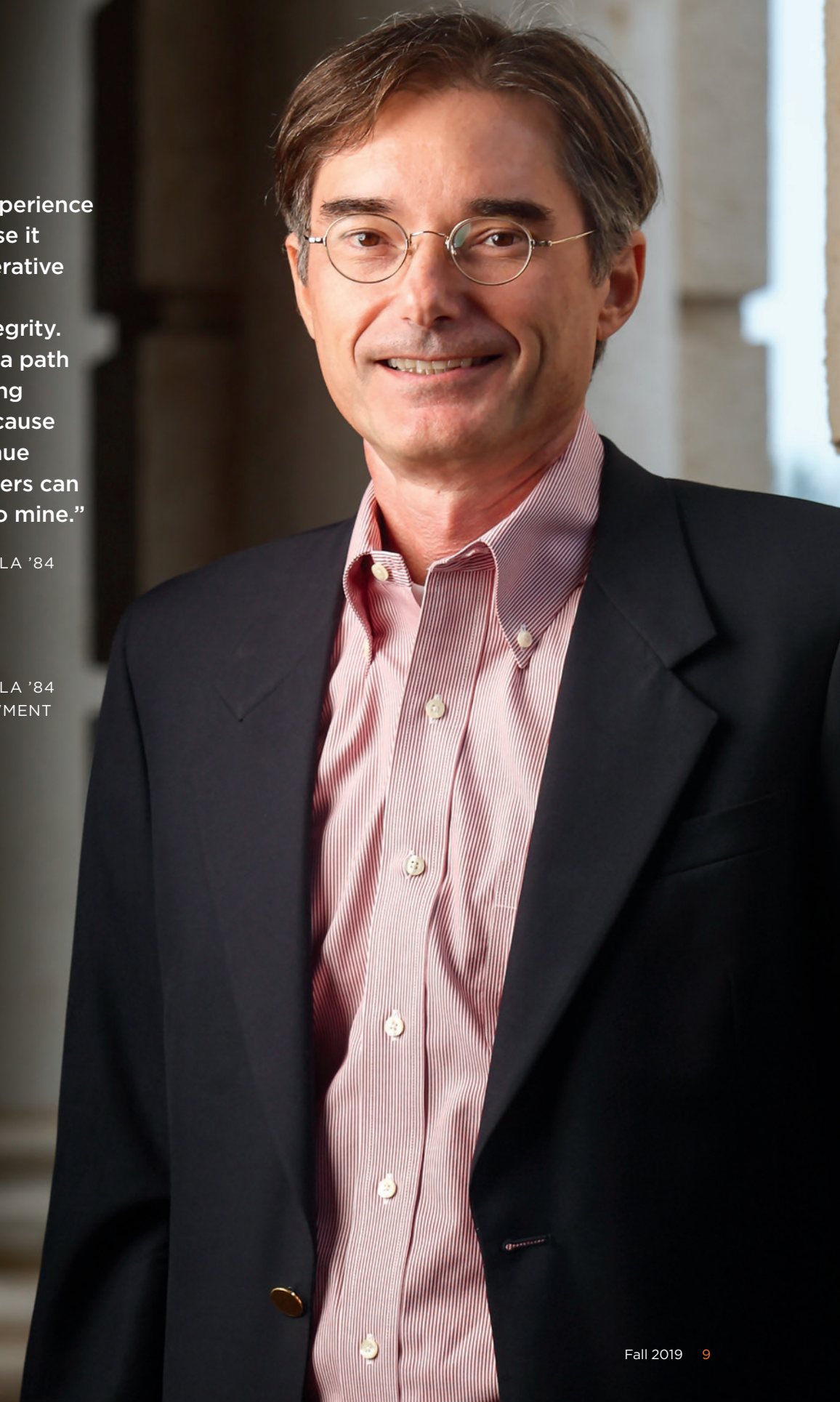
*\*Calculated with a 7% growth rate  
and 4.5% spending rate*



“UVA provides a unique experience among law schools because it teaches the law in a cooperative and community focused environment based on integrity. This foundation set me on a path for a successful and fulfilling career. I made this gift because I want the school to continue these priorities so that others can have experiences similar to mine.”

ARMANDO A. TABERNILLA '84  
GENERAL COUNSEL  
AND VICE PRESIDENT,  
FLORIDA CRYSTALS

FUNDED THE  
ARMANDO A. TABERNILLA '84  
UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT



# HONOR *the* FUTURE

## CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS



L-R: Warren Gorrell Jr. '79  
Dasha Smith '98  
Dean Risa L. Goluboff  
Catherine M. Keating '87  
David C. Burke '93

### J. WARREN GORRELL JR. '79

For more than three decades, Warren Gorrell Jr. '79 worked as a corporate lawyer for the firm now known as Hogan Lovells, where he is CEO emeritus. Gorrell joined the firm's predecessor, Hogan & Hartson, three days after graduating from the Law School and became the first equity partner to advance to that role within six years. He went on to lead some of the nation's most complex mergers and acquisitions transactions, and IPO offerings involving real estate investment trusts and other real estate companies. Throughout his management career as chair of Hogan & Hartson and later as co-CEO of Hogan Lovells, Gorrell maintained an active practice—a rarity among law firm leaders. Retired since the end of 2016, he credits his professional success to calculated risk-taking, dedication to each assignment—big or small—and, most importantly, access to education. As only the second person in his family to attend college, he experienced firsthand the transformative power of higher education. A longtime supporter of the Law School and the UVA Law alumni network, Gorrell said he believes that giving back through strong alumni engagement is the key to strengthening the school, its reputation, and its constituents around the globe.

### CATHERINE M. KEATING '87

Catherine M. Keating '87, CEO of BNY Mellon Wealth Management, also served as president and CEO of Commonfund, a global nonprofit serving endowments, foundations, and public-sector investors. She was Commonfund's first female CEO. Before that, she spent nearly two decades at JPMorgan Chase & Co., where her various roles included head of Investment Management for the Americas and CEO of the U.S. Private Bank. She has been named among the "Most Powerful Women in Banking" and "Most Powerful Women in Finance" by American Banker. For Keating, nonprofits hold a special significance. Upon losing her father at age 8, she and her three younger siblings found support and guidance from several nonprofit organizations, including their Catholic private school and Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops. These experiences instilled in Keating an eagerness to give back to the nonprofit world. She serves on the UVA Law School Foundation Board of Trustees and was chosen by UVA Law students to be the 2017 commencement speaker.

### DAVID C. BURKE '93

"Triple Hoo" David C. Burke '93 is a co-founder and former CEO of Makena Capital Management, which manages \$19 billion in assets from leading North American endowments and foundations. Burke serves on Makena's board of directors and remains a managing director, through which he leads the firm's investment and operational activities. Formerly, he was a managing director of the Stanford Management Company, which oversees the Stanford University endowment's investments in private equity and venture capital. Before that, he ran the private equity investment program for the Investment Fund for Foundations. Currently, Burke serves on the advisory and corporate boards of more than a dozen private equity, venture capital, and direct investments domestically and abroad. Burke has long been an actively engaged alumnus of the University, serving on the boards of both the Law School Foundation and the University of Virginia Investment Management Company. In January 2019, he sponsored UVA Law students participating in the yearlong Human Rights Study Project, which included a trip to Nepal. He has also organized a two-week experiential study abroad course on investing and entrepreneurship that took UVA students to South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and Hong Kong.

### DASHA SMITH '98

Dasha Smith '98 is executive vice president and global chief human resources officer for Sony Music Entertainment. Prior to Sony, Smith worked at GCM Grosvenor, a global alternative asset management firm, where she served as managing director, a member of the office of the chairman, and chief human resources officer. She also worked five years at Time Inc., where she was head of employee relations and chief employment counsel. Her early career included stints in London and New York with firms such as Latham & Watkins and Covington & Burling. As an executive overseeing global human resources functions, Smith focuses on diversity as a competitive differentiator. She said she was drawn to the legal profession because of its power to move the needle toward inclusivity. As an African American and a woman, she said opportunities available to her were due in part to the efforts of lawyers who preceded her. A member of the Law School's Alumni Council, Smith aims to give back by using her voice to encourage diversity and positive change in all contexts.

## HONORARY CO-CHAIRS

### BRUCE A. KARSH '80 MARTHA LUBIN KARSH '81

**B**ruce Karsh is co-founder, co-chair, and chief investment officer of Los Angeles-based Oaktree Capital Management, a global investment company that manages \$120 billion in assets. He serves on the executive board of the NBA's Golden State Warriors, which he and Martha co-own. A leader in the nonprofit world and co-manager of the Karsh Family Foundation—which has contributed more than \$250 million in education philanthropy—Martha Lubin Karsh co-founded the Los Angeles design firm Clark & Karsh and serves on the national board of the Knowledge is Power Program, the nation's largest network of high-performing public charter schools. A "Double Hoo" and trustee emerita of the UVA Law School Foundation, she is co-chair of the University-wide Honor the Future campaign effort. The Karshes met at UVA as law students and have broken records in giving to the Law School. Combined, their contributions have made them the school's first \$50 million donors. Their \$44 million gift in 2018, to be fully funded by 2022, created the Karsh Center for Law and Democracy, established an endowed professorships fund for faculty affiliated with the center, endowed the Justice Anthony M. Kennedy Distinguished Professorship, and provided support to the school's premier student scholarship program, now known as the Karsh-Dillard Scholarships.





## School's Largest Gift Stimulates Democratic Dialogue and Civil Discourse

To launch the Law School's bicentennial celebration, Martha Lubin Karsh '81 and Bruce A. Karsh '80 made a \$44 million gift that renamed and expanded the school's premier scholarship program, funded endowed professorships, and created the Karsh Center for Law and Democracy, which promotes democratic dialogue, civic engagement and citizenship, and respect for the rule of law.

The largest gift in the school's history sparked early momentum for the Honor the Future campaign while fueling new intellectual discovery, collaboration, and community across differences, in addition to helping the school attract the best and brightest students.

The Karshes have now committed in excess of \$50 million to the institution where they met and earned their law

degrees. Most of their gifts have focused on student aid—funding the school's most generous awards, the Karsh-Dillard Scholarships, named for the Karshes and former Dean Hardy Cross Dillard, a 1927 alumnus and former judge of the International Court of Justice. Matched in part by funds from the University's Bicentennial Scholarships Program, the awards provide full tuition and fees to recipients for three years.

"Education is the foundation of a healthy, thriving democracy," the couple said in a joint statement shortly after their historic gift was announced. "We want to empower students to pursue their goals as knowledgeable, engaged citizens, and we want democratic principles to flourish for the good of society. The University of Virginia, established by one of our most respected Founding Fathers and devoted as it is to honor and truth, makes it the perfect place to do both."

Three new endowed faculty chairs were also announced this year as Martha Lubin Karsh and Bruce A. Karsh Bicentennial Professorships. The chairs will support the research and scholarship of professors Michael Gilbert, Micah Schwartzman '06, and Mila Versteeg. The professorships, matched in part by funds from the University's Bicentennial Professorships Fund, will rotate every three years and are designed to further the mission of the Karsh Center for Law and Democracy.

The center, a nonpartisan legal institute that promotes understanding and appreciation of the principles and practices necessary for a well-functioning, pluralistic democracy, was launched in November 2018 with an event featuring retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, for whom Bruce Karsh clerked when Kennedy was a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Kennedy was interviewed by financier-philanthropist David Rubenstein in front of a live audience in Caplin Auditorium. The segment was also recorded for national broadcast on PBS stations and Bloomberg's "The David Rubenstein Show." During their conversation, Kennedy and Rubenstein discussed the inner workings of the court, Kennedy's decision to retire after a 30-year tenure, and the future of the federal judiciary.

"The public will see the system works," Kennedy said. "Over time, over a very short time, you will see that the system has worked and these justices are working very well with their colleagues."

Kennedy's visit exemplified the center's goal to bring together leaders from public life, as well as from the academy, bar, and bench, for intellectual exchange. The Karshes announced, as part of the event, that they were endowing a faculty chair in Kennedy's name.

Looking ahead, Schwartzman, who also serves as director of the center, predicts the Karsh Center will become a focal point for national conversations about law and democracy.

"The Karsh Center had a great start last year, with the visit of Justice Kennedy, a faculty-student series on the future of the Supreme Court, and our first annual May Gathering, a colloquium bringing together faculty from all over the country," he said. With the addition of the faculty chairs, the center plans to expand its activities this year.

"In recent years—and especially in Charlottesville—we have seen alarming attacks on democratic principles," Schwartzman said. "In our own streets, we have witnessed shocking assaults on those representing basic commitments to equality, pluralism, and inclusiveness. At the same time, our public rhetoric has become increasingly vicious and polarized, creating conditions in which citizens increasingly cannot hear each other over the noise of partisanship and personal attack. A sustained effort will be necessary to repair this damage over the years to come, and that effort cannot begin soon enough."

"THIS GIFT IS A TESTAMENT TO THE KARSHES AND TO UVA LAW. MARTHA AND BRUCE BELIEVE IN THE POWER AND IMPORTANCE OF A TOP LEGAL EDUCATION TO CHANGE LIVES, SUPPORT THE RULE OF LAW, AND UPHOLD DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC IDEALS. WITH THEIR SUPPORT, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH MORE THAN WE EVER IMAGINED FOR OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY, AND FOR OUR NATION."

DEAN RISA GOLUBOFF

### LEARN MORE

Watch Justice Kennedy interviewed by David Rubenstein at [bit.ly/KennedyatUVAL](https://bit.ly/KennedyatUVAL)

ABOVE LEFT: David Rubenstein interviewed retired Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy at the Law School for Bloomberg's "The David Rubenstein Show."



# New Professorship Supports Scholarship in Democracy and Equity

T

hanks to the generosity of Nancy L. Buc '69, the first of 20 new Research Professorships in Democracy and Equity at UVA will reside at the Law School.

These rotating two- to three-year positions, spanning various schools and departments, will examine the underlying causes that fueled the violent white supremacist demonstrations in Charlottesville and at UVA during Aug. 11-12, 2017.

The professorships were a product of the University's Deans Working Group, charged with assessing the events of Aug. 11-12. Led by Dean Risa Goluboff, the group released a report analyzing the University's response and recommending policy changes. Among its recommendations, the group proposed that \$20 million be allocated by the Board of Visitors for the Democracy and Equity professorships—

as dollar-for-dollar matches for donor contributions. Last year, President Jim Ryan '92 announced the effort had BOV approval.

Buc had already been contemplating the gift of an endowed professorship at the Law School. Angered and saddened about the events of August 2017, Buc said she was inspired by Ryan's challenge to the UVA community to grapple with and close the gaps between aspirations and reality, both at the University and in the United States. So when Goluboff called to ask about setting up a Nancy L. Buc '69 Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity, Buc said it took "less than five seconds to say yes, because this is exactly what I want to support at the Law School."

"I am so grateful to Nancy for this gift," said Goluboff. "Supporting our faculty is one of my highest priorities. Supporting their research into subjects that are crucial to our constitutional democracy will redound not only to the benefit of the Law School itself but to our legal system and our society as a whole."

Buc explained, "I believe that law and the rule of law are central, essential underpinnings of our society, and that both are currently threatened. This professorship is my way of fighting back."

Buc said she was particularly drawn to the linkage of democracy and equity: "The University, and the country, have been better at democracy—though there remains much work to do—than at equity, and the idea that better equity would create better democracy and that better democracy might create better equity is a compelling one," she said.



Clark Hall midcentury: The inscription above the cornice—"That those alone may be servants of the law who labor with learning, courage, and devotion to preserve liberty and promote justice"—inspired Nancy L. Buc '69.



"I BELIEVE THAT LAW AND THE RULE OF LAW ARE CENTRAL, ESSENTIAL UNDERPINNINGS OF OUR SOCIETY, AND THAT BOTH ARE CURRENTLY THREATENED. THIS IS MY WAY OF FIGHTING BACK."

NANCY L. BUC '69

At the Law School, the professorship will support scholarship in the legal, sociopolitical, or historical aspects of democracy or equity in the United States. Buc hopes the position will lead to greater knowledge and understanding of the forces that shape our law and our society—and even to change and reform.

"I always recall the legend on the Clark Hall portico—"That those alone may be servants of the law who labor with learning, courage, and devotion to preserve liberty and promote justice," Buc said, referring to words carved on the Law School's former home and now emblazoned on Clay Hall. "I have tried to be that kind of lawyer, and I am proud to be establishing a professorship devoted to democracy and equity, words which add meaning and specificity to liberty and justice."

"Nancy blazes new trails with her gift, not only because it is the first Research Professorship in Democracy and Equity across the whole University, but also because it is the first professorship named by and for an alumna at the Law School," Goluboff said. "The timing is especially propitious as we approach a century of coeducation at the Law School in 2020. Naming professorships for our alumnae has been my dream throughout my deanship. Nancy has made my dream come true, and I am confident that others will follow where she has led."

Buc graduated from the Law School at a time when women were a tiny minority of the student population (she was one of seven in her class), and when some senior faculty and students resisted their attendance. She went on to lead a distinguished legal career focused on health care policy and government service, including stints as chief counsel for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and at the Federal Trade Commission. She was the managing partner of the Washington, D.C., office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges before founding her own firm, Buc & Beardsley, which specialized in food and drug law.

Retired since 2011, Buc is a lifetime member of the Law School Dean's Council and has served on the Law School Foundation Board of Trustees and the Campaign Executive Committee for the School's first capital campaign (1993-2000).

# Spanning the World Beyond the Classroom



Since its inception in 2002, the Law School’s Human Rights Study Project (HRSP) has aimed to further the study of law protecting basic rights in foreign countries. By traveling abroad, students taking the course engage in a learning experience that brings their studies to life.

Each year, equipped with a semester’s worth of research and preparation, students journey to a country to observe and study its political system and how it protects (or doesn’t protect) human rights. Gathering information primarily through first-person interviews, students report their findings in research papers and formally present them to the Law School and University community. From Cuba to Myanmar, students have visited 17 countries spanning four continents. When the project started, students also spent a significant amount of time fundraising for the trips. P.J. Cowan and Cam Cowan ’81 stepped up in 2006 to support the students and their work. The Cowans created an endowment and provided additional current-use funding which covered the expenses of the trips.

HRSP’s most recent trip, to Nepal, was funded chiefly by Kelly Burke and David Burke ’93 and included a trek to the base of Mount Everest. Burke is a “Triple Hoo” and co-founder, managing director, and former CEO of San Francisco Bay Area investment firm Makena Capital

Management. The trip provided participants the opportunity to witness one of the world’s poorest countries in transition economically and politically following a 10-year civil war and recent devastating earthquakes.

“I wanted to give students the opportunity to explore an incredible place in the world and challenge themselves in ways they had never experienced—all the while surrounded by successful alumni with whom they could unpack everything they saw and experienced,” Burke said. “Observing the messy realities of life in front of them is a very different experience than textbook learning in the classrooms of the Law School.”

Led by Assistant Professor Nelson Camilo Sánchez León, director of the International Human Rights Clinic and the instructor for the HRSP course, and accompanied by former U.S. Ambassador to Sweden Mark Brzezinski ’91, the students met with members of government—including drafters of the Constitution of Nepal; members of the nation’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Human Rights Commission, and Supreme Court; and on-the-ground change agents, such as Nepalese law students and young working lawyers.

“The rule of law is very new to Nepal right now because of the new constitution,” said participant Roger Dean ’20, a former consultant at the World Bank. “So meeting these

young lawyers and learning about their strategy and how they are going about litigation in a system that’s very new—I thought that was a really cool experience.”

While the trip was academically and professionally eye-opening, students maintain that the most powerful component was the cultural exchange.

“Being able to literally walk for days on end with Nepalese and hear what it’s like for them to live in a place that’s so different from the United States was such an enriching opportunity,” said Alana Broe ’19. “It taught me more than I ever could have learned within these four walls.”

HRSP was founded on the belief that experiential learning is a key to developing lawyers who are responsible and effective global citizens.

“If we are to motivate students to become human rights advocates,” Sánchez said, “we need to think holistically and connect strategically the different opportunities that the school can offer, including academic reflection and training, experiential education, community engagement, and other out-of-classroom experiences.

“Preparing for practice also means creating ways to expose students to what is going on beyond the United States,” he added. “What is happening within this country

and in many others is much more deeply connected than we think.”

Opportunities for experiential learning are made possible not only by financial gifts to the Law School but—as this recent trip illustrates—by gifts of time, expertise, and connections. Brzezinski urges alumni to consider giving back in these especially important ways.

“Whether in the private sector or government—locally, regionally, across the country, or internationally—the learning experience

“PREPARING FOR PRACTICE ALSO MEANS CREATING WAYS TO EXPOSE STUDENTS TO WHAT IS GOING ON BEYOND THE UNITED STATES.”

NELSON CAMILO SÁNCHEZ LEÓN,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

students derive from this engagement is limitless. To give students what your years of experience taught you is empowering and transformational.”

Brzezinski saw the impact of that engagement and support up close in Nepal.

“Travel teaches tolerance,” Brzezinski said, quoting 19th-century British statesman Benjamin Disraeli. “The connection between the students and the Nepalese Sherpas was one of the most amazing transcultural connections I have ever witnessed. The Sherpas come from the Himalayas and have virtually no connection with the West. None of the students had ever been to Nepal. Yet, through a shared love of the outdoors and the environment, they related and showed genuine respect with each other. It was extraordinarily touching.”



## LEARN MORE

View a video of the Nepal HRSP experience at [bit.ly/uvanepal](https://bit.ly/uvanepal)

Read trip reports from all HRSP trips at [bit.ly/hrspreports](https://bit.ly/hrspreports)

COUNTRIES INCLUDE: Nepal, Myanmar, Zambia, Colombia, Ghana, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, Malawi, Egypt, Cambodia, Uganda, India, China, Lebanon, Syria, Sierra Leone, and Cuba

TOP: Welcoming gate at the Aadikavi Bhanubhakta Campus in Nepal. The school, which focuses on an indigenous, female, and minority (Dalit) population, was founded in 1987 after the community recognized the need for higher education.

ABOVE: Students at the Kathmandu School of Law.

ABOVE LEFT: Students and alumni get their first glimpse of Mount Everest in Sagarmatha National Park.

# Students, Faculty, and Donors Partner to Help the Innocent

**E**merson Stevens, Darnell Phillips, Messiah Johnson, Bennett Barbour, Edgar Coker, and Gary Bush are a few of the incarcerated Virginians who have been released thanks to the efforts of the Law School's Innocence Project. To say the Innocence Project has changed lives is an understatement. The Innocence Project began at UVA Law in 2008 as a yearlong, for-credit clinic for 12 students who investigate and

litigate wrongful convictions of inmates throughout Virginia. It is directed by attorneys Deirdre Enright '92, who founded the Law School's effort, and Jennifer Givens.

Student interest quickly outpaced available spots, and in 2014, a second, not-for-credit pro bono clinic was established. Even with the additional 50 spots, a waitlist exists—a testament to the Innocence Project's significance to its clients and to the student lawyers-in-training.

Dennis Barrett '09, an attorney with Schaner & Lubitz, was a member of the clinic in its first year. He and his classmates worked to uncover new evidence in the case of Darnell Phillips, leading to his release in 2018 after having been sentenced to 100 years in prison for the 1990 rape of a child in Virginia Beach.

At the time of Phillips's release, Barrett stressed the Innocence Project's value.

"Most importantly, the clinic has helped free a man who has been unjustly imprisoned for nearly three decades, but I also know the clinic has had an indelible impact on those students fortunate enough to work on it," Barrett said. "Few of us will end up with a job working on wrongful convictions full-time, but none of those who have worked at the Innocence

**"THE CLINIC HAS HELPED FREE A MAN THAT HAS BEEN UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED FOR NEARLY THREE DECADES."**

DENNIS BARRETT '09

Project will leave the experience without a profoundly different view of the justice system that we'll carry forward in our personal and professional lives."

While the for-credit clinic is funded by the Law School, many of the pro bono clinic costs—including private investigators, travel expenses, and copying court files—have been paid for with donations. This year, private support is also funding a third attorney for the Innocence Project. After national Innocence Project founding board member Jason Flom issued a matching challenge in October 2018, and with further support from alumni and friends, the pro bono clinic was able to hire a fellow, Juliet Hatchett '15, to serve as a staff attorney and as the Jason Flom Justice Fellow

"With a new staff attorney, we can all take on more cases, and the more students we can involve, the more people we can get released," Enright said. "We've also started to address a policy component. This year we have a team of students who are going to work on nothing but policy reform. Our goal is always to release people who are innocent—but it would be great to be part of changing some of the things in Virginia that cause these wrongful convictions."

Flom considers his contribution just one of the necessary components fueling this worthy cause: "It is a privilege for me to be able to be of service to [Innocence Project] clients, but I must say that the real heroes in this fight—aside from the exonees themselves—are Enright and her staff, who work bravely and tirelessly against tremendous odds to right these wrongs," he said. "Bravo to the UVA team. Let's keep the momentum going."



LEARN MORE

In the inaugural episode of the Law School podcast "Common Law," best-selling author John Grisham and Innocence Project Director Deirdre Enright '92 sat down with Dean Risa Goluboff and Vice Dean Leslie Kendrick '06 to discuss criminal justice, wrongful convictions and "junk science." Grisham talked about the 2018 Netflix docuseries adapted from his nonfiction book, "The Innocent Man," and Enright gave insight into the project's work in Virginia. Find the podcast and its transcript at [bit.ly/innocencepod](http://bit.ly/innocencepod).



**ABOVE:** After serving 28 years in prison, Darnell Phillips hugs his mother upon his release. **LEFT:** Emerson Stevens, released after 31 years in prison, greets Innocence Project advocates Jason Flom, Dean Strang '85, and Jarrett Adams, along with freed clients Messiah Johnson and Gary Bush. UVA Law Innocence Project Director Jennifer Givens is at the podium.

## INVALUABLE TRAINING FOR FUTURE LAWYERS

While the professors/staff attorneys provide guidance and hold final decision-making authority, student participants take an active role in the Innocence Project clinics:

- Conducting preliminary review of cases by examining facts and evaluating whether the clinic should accept the case; and/or
- Forming teams of 3-4 to investigate and litigate the cases accepted by the clinic. The teams interview potential clients and witnesses, review case facts, collect records, search court files, and draft pleadings/briefs.

# Forgiving Loans, Forging Public Service Careers

**W**ith generous support from alumni and friends, the Virginia Loan Forgiveness Program (VLFP) helps make public service a more viable career option for graduates. Established by the Law School in 2001, VLFP covers the law school loan payments of accepted participants, making it financially feasible for them to serve in lower-paying public interest jobs, such as those with federal, state, and local government offices; legal aid/advocacy or legal reform groups; or other nonprofit offices and organizations.

The amount of loan forgiveness is based on total law school debt and on income, with those making \$55,000 or less receiving 100% forgiveness and those making more (up to \$75,000) receiving a prorated amount.

Once accepted into the program, participants receive loan forgiveness each year for up to 10 years (as long as they remain in public service law practice and meet the income requirements).

The Law School Foundation recently caught up with several current and former beneficiaries of VLFP. Following are excerpts from those conversations.



## MICHAEL McFADDEN '10

**TIME IN PROGRAM:** Nearly 8 years

**POSITION(S):** Former general counsel and current board member for Farm Forward, which promotes conscientious food choices, reduces farm animal suffering, and advances sustainable agriculture.

“Words fail to express the depth of the impact that VLFP has had on my career. When I joined Farm Forward as its second employee, our budget only allowed for very small salaries. VLFP was essential to my ability to help a cause I feel passionately about—farm animal welfare—because it allowed me to help build an amazing organization that has done much to spread awareness about the problems endemic to our industrialized food system. I take great pride in the fact that I attended a law school that takes public service so seriously. An education from UVA Law is a great gift, and I hope that my fellow alumni continue to support VLFP because it allows us to share that gift with those who need it most.”

## ESTELLE HEBRON-JONES '11

**POSITION(S):** Staff attorney at Texas Defender Service, which offers post-conviction litigation, resources to capital trial lawyers, and policy reform throughout Texas. Previously served as a staff attorney at the Equal Justice Initiative, a Montgomery, Alabama-based nonprofit that confronts racial injustice, in part by providing legal representation to prisoners who may have been wrongly convicted, unfairly sentenced, or abused in state jails or prisons.



“At EJI [the Equal Justice Initiative], I represented people facing the most severe criminal penalties in our society, like the death penalty and life without parole. I also worked with formerly incarcerated people who participated in EJI’s post-release program and did a lot of work within the initiative’s Racial Justice program. One of the greatest opportunities I had at EJI was working on the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum. These cultural sites have educated thousands of people on the connections between slavery and mass incarceration and will continue to do so for years to come. My contribution was a small part of a very large effort. Having [a loan forgiveness program] can alleviate some of the financial constraints that can come along with certain public interest jobs. It is often these types of jobs that have the most direct impact on communities that cannot easily access legal services, and so, by supporting the VLFP program, you are also supporting access to justice.”

## SNAPSHOT

### VIRGINIA LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM

**100–130**

graduates receive VLFP benefits each year

**\$40,000 to \$75,000**

salary range of participants



## MARIO SALAS '14

**TIME IN PROGRAM:** 5 years

**POSITION(S):** Attorney for the JustChildren Program as well as internship and fellowship coordinator at the Charlottesville-based Legal Aid Justice Center. JustChildren provides legal aid and advocacy for some of Virginia’s most vulnerable young people, including those from low-income households and those who are incarcerated.

## PEGGY NICHOLSON '11

**TIME IN PROGRAM:** 7 years

**POSITION(S):** Director of the Youth Justice Project for the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, which works to ensure equity, fairness, and justice for youth in North Carolina’s education, juvenile justice, and criminal justice systems. Previously, spent five years as an attorney at Legal Aid of North Carolina for its Advocates for Children’s Services project, which assists low-income students and families with overcoming barriers to academic success.



“I entered law school knowing that I wanted to pursue public interest law. Many people counseled me against it. They warned of the low pay and crushing student debt that would make it impossible for me to find a happy life as a public interest lawyer. I’m glad I didn’t listen and even more pleased that I chose a school like UVA that offers educational, career, and financial support to burgeoning public interest attorneys. At UVA, I found a community dedicated to fostering the growth of students who wanted to take the path less traveled. As a VLFP recipient and practicing public interest attorney, I’ve found quite a happy and full life where I’m able to pursue my passion for social justice without feeling like I’ve had to sacrifice my quality of life.”

“VLFP has allowed me to pursue a career in legal aid and impact advocacy on behalf of low-income Virginians. My salary is significantly lower than the average for my peers, but VLFP helps to narrow that gap and contributes to the financial independence I have been able to achieve even in a nontraditional legal career. UVA Law has a solid commitment to supporting students who want to serve the public good and works hard to facilitate careers in that field. Lawyers practicing law are all public servants to some degree—shaping institutions and changing systems, even in traditional private practice. UVA Law should continue to instill a sense of duty in its graduates to practice law responsibly and with an eye towards the public good— aspiring toward equity and justice whenever delivering legal services. During a time when we are suffering foreign and domestic attacks on our institutions and the rule of law, when income and wealth inequality are at historic highs, and when racism and bigotry are legitimized and emboldened, it’s our duty to join the fight for equal justice under law.”