

SPRING 2020

Chicago-Kent *Magazine*



The Law and Election Intersection





A Letter From Dean Anita K. Krug

Dear Alumni,

It seems cliché to say that these have been challenging times. The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our lives over the past several weeks and will continue to impact us for years to come.

Here at the law school it necessitated switching our classes to online only and closing the building. The university made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person commencement ceremonies. I know how disappointing this was to our graduating students, as they were understandably looking forward to celebrating their hard work and accomplishments with family and friends. As a new dean, I have felt a special connection with the class of 2020—my first Chicago-Kent graduating class!—and was excited about celebrating this important moment with them, onstage at the Chicago Theatre. Nevertheless, I believe that the university’s decision to cancel (rather than postpone) the event was the correct one, given the information we had in March and guidance from relevant health authorities.

In the face of this adversity, Chicago-Kent students, faculty, and staff, and our alumni community have been resilient. Our information technology staff quickly equipped everyone with the tools they needed to make remote learning happen. Faculty members shared ideas and resources and rallied together to create the best learning environment possible for students. In the first week of online classes, our faculty members reported nearly 100 percent attendance by students. One faculty member noted that some of his students were remotely joining classes in places as far away as Paris and Venezuela. The library staff worked tirelessly to ensure that faculty were supported and that students had access to the casebooks and coursebooks they needed to continue their studies. And our alumni stepped up to contribute to our emergency assistance fund for students.

We began planning for this magazine back in December, when many of us were busy preparing for the holidays and planning gatherings with loved ones. Of the various magazine themes we considered, the 2020 elections were an easy choice. Elections are central to a functioning democracy, and the choices we make on Election Day are consequential to our collective health and prosperity. We elect leaders to make decisions to serve the common good, and the pandemic is a strong reminder of how critical it is to have strong and perceptive leadership.

In this issue, we spotlight three Chicago-Kent alumni involved in our election process. We spoke with Burt Odelson ’72, whose practice represents more than 60 municipal and school clients as well as election clients. John Fogarty Jr. ’99 focuses his practice on election law at Clark Hill and serves as general counsel to the Illinois Republican Party. And Degee Wilhelm ’02 shared her perspective as a former chair of the Ohio Elections Commission who has also served as an elections observer in eastern Europe, including in Ukraine, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, and Northern Macedonia. We are also pleased to announce the Constitutional Democracy Project, which will offer high-quality, hands-on civics programs and teaching materials focused on the Constitution, law, and policy for middle school and high school students and their teachers.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to and support of Chicago-Kent.

Anita K. Krug
Dean and Professor



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CHICAGO-KENT MAGAZINE

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[Left to right] The trial advocacy team of Shawn Anthony Meyer '20, Annisha Arnold '20, Cristina Alma McNeiley '20, and Michael McGee '20 finished among the top four teams in the country.

Chicago-Kent Finishes Among Top Four in 2020 Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition

The Chicago-Kent College of Law trial advocacy team of Annisha Arnold '20, Shawn-Anthony Meyer '20, Michael McGee '20, and Cristina Alma McNeiley '20 finished among the top four teams in the country in the National Black Law Students Association's 2020 Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition.

The team won the Midwest regional championship, and at the nationals defeated Syracuse University College of Law, Florida State University College of Law, and Seton Hall University School of Law before falling to Stetson University College of Law. Arnold also won Best Regional Advocate for the Midwest region and First Runner-Up Best Advocate at the national competition.

The team was coached by Kendra Spearman '15 and Adella Deacon '11.

Monica Pechous '21 Wins Two Prestigious Writing Competitions

Monica Pechous '21 recently won two writing competitions—the American Kennel Club's 2019 Companion Animal Law Writing Contest and the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association's Franklin W. Klein Law Student Writing Competition Award.

In the AKC competition, Pechous received a \$2,500 cash prize for her paper titled "A Leash Too Tight: A Case for a 'Pet-Integrative' Society."

The Franklin W. Klein Law Student Writing Competition Award is given annually to a law student who has submitted an article on a topic relevant to local government law.

Pechous's award-winning paper titled "Do Illinois Municipalities Have Their Heads in the 'Cloud?': Home Rule as Applied to Online Platforms" focuses on how emerging technology creates a challenge for Illinois municipalities operating under home rule.



Monica Pechous '21 [top right, at left], winner of the Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association Franklin W. Klein Law Student Writing Competition Award, meets with the ILGL's Jim Rhodes.



U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit Judge Ilana Diamond Rovner [top right, at left] presented Kristen Merritt '21 with the 2019 Ilana Diamond Rovner Award for Outstanding Appellate Advocate.

Kristen Merritt '21 Wins the 2019 Ilana Diamond Rovner Appellate Advocacy Competition

Kristen Merritt '21 won the 28th annual Ilana Diamond Rovner Appellate Advocacy Competition, sponsored by Chicago-Kent College of Law's Moot Court Honor Society. The competition is named for Chicago-Kent graduate Ilana Diamond Rovner, the first woman to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit.

In the final round of competition, Merritt argued against Hayden Dinges '21. As the first-place winner, Merritt received the Ilana Diamond Rovner Award for Outstanding Appellate Advocate.

Dinges, who placed second, received the Ralph L. Brill Award for Best Brief. Sakshi Jain '21 won the Fay Clayton Award for Outstanding Oral Advocate.

The final round of the competition was judged by a distinguished panel that included Rovner; the Honorable Cynthia Y. Cobbs '88 of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District; and Kent Streseman, former director of the Ilana Diamond Rovner Program in Appellate Advocacy.



[Left to right] The trial advocacy team of Emin Drnovsek '21, Breana Brill '21, and Myles Carroll '20 placed second in the 2019 National Medical-Legal Trial Competition.

Chicago-Kent Places Second in the 2019 National Medical-Legal Trial Competition

The Chicago-Kent College of Law trial advocacy team of Breana Brill '21, Myles Carroll '20, and Emin Drnovsek '21 placed second in the 2019 National Medical-Legal Trial Competition, held November 1–3, 2019, in Hempstead, New York.

Brill, Carroll, and Drnovsek defeated teams from the University of South Dakota School of Law, William & Mary Law School, and Brooklyn Law School in the preliminary rounds. They prevailed against William & Mary Law School in the semifinal round before falling in the final round to a team from Campbell University Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law.

"We are extremely proud of this young team. For all three of them it was their first competition, and they performed like veterans," says Judge David A. Erickson, director of Chicago-Kent's Trial Advocacy Program.

Drnovsek earned an individual award for the Best Use of an Expert, and Carroll was named Best Overall Advocate in the Preliminary Round. Additionally, Donald & Barbara Zucker School of Medicine student Divya Shah, who served as Chicago-Kent's expert, won the award for Best Expert Witness.

The team was coached by alumni and former trial advocacy team members Natalie Adeeyo '16, Amanda Bielinski '13, Matthew McCarter '15, and Daniel Orescanin '19.

Chicago-Kent Wins Best Brief at the 2020 William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition

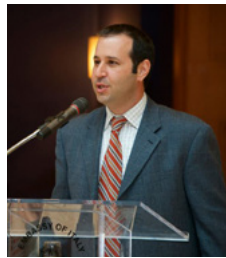
The Chicago-Kent College of Law appellate advocacy team of Hayden Dinges '21, Sakshi Jain '21, and Daniel Kfoury '21 won the Best Brief Award at the 2020 William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition. The team finished as quarterfinalists at the tournament, held February 21–22, 2020, at Mitchell Hamline School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota.

A second Chicago-Kent team of Megan Escobosa '21, Greyson Fitzgerald '21, and Bora Ndrejoni '21 also argued skillfully, with Ndrejoni and Escobosa earning a perfect score during one round and Ndrejoni earning the Best Preliminary-Round Oral Advocate Award.

Third-year students Mitchell Bild and Zachary Boyce coached Dinges, Jain, and Kfoury, and third-year students David Klein-Rodick and Alexandra Prejzner coached Escobosa, Fitzgerald, and Ndrejoni. As a guest judge, Professor Katharine Baker helped the teams prepare for the competition.



[Left to right] Daniel Kfoury '21, Sakshi Jain '21, and Hayden Dinges '21 won the Best Brief Award at the 2020 William E. McGee National Civil Rights Moot Court Competition.



Abraham L. Newman, professor of government at Georgetown University [left], and Henry Farrell, associate professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University



Henry Farrell and Abraham L. Newman Win 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law/Roy C. Palmer Civil Liberties Prize

Henry Farrell and Abraham L. Newman were named the winners of the 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law/Roy C. Palmer Civil Liberties Prize for their book *Of Privacy and Power—The Transatlantic Struggle Over Freedom and Security* (Princeton University Press 2019). The annual prize honors exemplary works of scholarship exploring the tension between civil liberties and national security in contemporary American society.

In *Of Privacy and Power*, Farrell and Newman examine the disputes between the United States and European Union in regulating privacy and security, and how the politics of freedom, security, and surveillance have reshaped the transatlantic relationship.

Farrell is an associate professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University. Newman is a professor of government in the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. They will present *Of Privacy and Power* at Chicago-Kent at a date to be announced.



ISCOTUS Launches Civics Education Program, the Constitutional Democracy Project

Chicago-Kent College of Law's Institute on the Supreme Court of the United States (ISCOTUS) recently launched a civics education program, the Constitutional Democracy Project. The project will offer high-quality, hands-on civics education programs and teaching materials focused on the Constitution, law, and policy for middle school and high school students and their teachers.

The programs were formerly housed at the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, which served Illinois schools for 45 years, and the Illinois Center for Civic Education. Dee Runaas, formerly of CRFC, has joined the Chicago-Kent staff as the project director. To learn more about the Constitutional Democracy Project and its programs, go to constitutionaldemocracyproject.org.

At this time, the Constitutional Democracy Project's programming is made possible through the support of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, Polk Bros. Foundation, and individual donors. To help sustain this valuable program at Chicago-Kent, the university's Office of Advancement is accepting donations. Gifts can be made online at kentlaw.iit.edu/give; under Designation, choose Constitutional Democracy Project from the dropdown menu. Contributions are tax deductible.



Patrick Foote '20 Named Sole Recipient of 2020 AFL-CIO Legal Fellowship

Patrick Foote '20 is the recipient of the 2020 AFL-CIO legal fellowship. Only one recent graduate is chosen each year, and this is the second year in a row that a Chicago-Kent College of Law student has received the prestigious fellowship.

During the fellowship, Foote will track labor-related litigation and legislation throughout the country. Born and raised in New Port Richey, Florida, Foote studied political science at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, Florida, where he was the membership coordinator for the Student Labor Action Project.

After college, he worked as an organizer for Central Florida Jobs with Justice and as a journalist for *People's World*. As an organizer, he led a campaign to bring bus drivers and bus riders together to protect vital routes for working-class communities from budget cuts and a campaign to build community support for Walmart workers asserting their rights on the job. Walmart sued Jobs with Justice, and Foote was banned from entering any of its stores in Florida. The attorneys who handled the lawsuit inspired him to attend law school.

In the Media...

“As a practical matter, there’s the question of immediate consequences rather than what happens a year or more from now in litigation. And the threatened strike may work. In addition to legal liability, Instacart has to worry about whether it can get workers and the effects of the terrible publicity.”

—Professor Martin Malin (“Virus-Stoked Instacart Strike Exposes Risks for Gig Workers,” *Bloomberg Law*, March 31, 2020)

Atuahene Named a 2019 Soros Equality Fellow

Professor Bernadette Atuahene was named a 2019 Soros Equality Fellow. The Soros Equality Fellowship program supports innovators and risk-takers striving to create and develop new ways of tackling the systemic causes and symptoms of racial disparity and discrimination. The fellowship includes a stipend of \$100,000 over the course of 18 months, which fellows will apply to specific projects. Atuahene's project will build on her academic research by creating a comprehensive guide and user-friendly, interactive information hub that communities can use to fight back against racially discriminatory property tax administration. Atuahene has done extensive research on inequalities in property tax assessments in Detroit. She has been a member of the Chicago-Kent College of Law faculty since 2005 and is also an American Bar Foundation Research Professor.



Batlan Named Co-Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Legal History

Professor Felice Batlan was appointed co-editor-in-chief of the *American Journal of Legal History*, a quarterly, peer-reviewed journal that publishes

outstanding scholarship on all facets and periods of legal history, with a focus on American legal history. Batlan is the author of the award-winning book *Women and Justice for the Poor: A History of Legal Aid, 1863–1945*. She teaches Contracts, Women and the Law, Legal History, and Business Associations at Chicago-Kent College of Law. She is also the co-director of the Institute for Law and the Humanities.

In the Media...

“There can be significant real-life consequences. The health advantages just don’t outweigh the privacy risks.”

—University Distinguished Professor Lori Andrews (“Colleges Want Freshmen to Use Mental Health Apps. But Are They Risking Students’ Privacy?” *Washington Post*, December 27, 2019)



Wright Selected as a Pound Institute Academic Fellow

University Distinguished Professor Richard W. Wright has been selected as an academic fellow of the Pound Civil Justice Institute, a national

legal think tank dedicated to ensuring access to justice for ordinary citizens. Its invitation letter cited Wright's overall body of work relating to the civil justice system. He is a life member of the American Law Institute and has been an active participant in its revision of the *Restatement Third of Torts*. His teaching and research focus on domestic and comparative tort law, jurisprudence, law and economics, and law and artificial intelligence. His published work appears in several international collections of leading scholarship on tort law and legal philosophy.



Schmidt Selected as an American Bar Foundation Research Professor

Professor Christopher W. Schmidt was appointed as one of the American Bar Foundation's three new research

professors beginning in fall 2019. He holds the position jointly with his professorship at the law school. Since 2013, he has served as the editor of the American Bar Foundation's prestigious journal, *Law & Social Inquiry*, and he will continue in this role in the coming years. His appointment as a research professor will help fund the research for his book project on the history of the modern United States Supreme Court and its relationship with the American people.



Reilly Honored with Rowe Excellence in Teaching Award

Assistant Professor Greg Reilly is the recipient of Illinois Tech's 2020 John W. Rowe University Excellence in Teaching Award. The award recognizes faculty

who have made notable contributions to their profession and the university. A member of the faculty since 2016, Reilly is co-director of the Program in Intellectual Property Law. He teaches Patent Law and Civil Procedure. Reilly's research focuses on how institutions and decision makers resolve patent disputes, often addressing the intersection of intellectual property and procedure/federal courts. In Reilly's nomination, colleagues and students say that he has a dynamic teaching style that engages students with difficult material in a way that is intellectually rigorous and accessible. Student evaluations of his courses are consistently some of the highest in the law school. Reilly will receive the award at a faculty recognition and awards reception in the fall.

In the Media...

“The integrity of the legal system is at stake.... [If Smollett] would have walked away, everybody would have thought there is no justice in Cook County.”

—Judge David Erickson (“Jussie Smollett Case Revives Questions on Laquan McDonald, Justice,” *Associated Press*, February 13, 2020)

The Law and Election Intersection

Everything from concerns about foreign interference in the electoral process to litigation surrounding voter suppression positions 2020 to be an especially active year for election law. Three Chicago-Kent alumni describe their experiences working at the crossroads of the legal, election, and political professions.

Election Results

Burt Odelson's Esteemed Election-Law Career Has Taken Him from Harwood Heights to the White House

When you get a call to lend your legal expertise in the most important election law case in recent memory, you answer.

The case: Bush v. Gore, with the outcome of the 2000 presidential election hanging in the balance. The lawyer: Burt Odelson '72, whose prominence and expertise in Illinois election law had already brought him before the United States Supreme Court and had positioned him perfectly to be of service on this crucial case.

Since taking on his first election law case six months after graduating from Chicago-Kent College of Law—representing write-in candidates in Harwood Heights, Illinois—Odelson has served as counsel to hundreds of public officials, labor leaders, and candidates at all levels. Among his multitude of clients was Rosemary Mulligan, whose narrow victory in the 1990 race for Illinois state representative from the 55th District led to a recount and was overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court. The decision turned on chads, the tiny pieces of paper punched out on a ballot. (The term was first coined as the Mulligan case passed through the circuit court on its legal journey.) The Illinois Supreme Court ruled that a dimpled or dented chad is a legitimate expression of a voter's intention.

Fast forward to the 2000 presidential election, when the recount totals in Florida's Broward and West Palm Beach counties hinged on how chads were evaluated. The Bush campaign retained Odelson as an attorney. "I argued before the canvassing boards that they were not allowing equal treatment and consideration of the ballots, even within precincts," Odelson says. "There was no standard to the manual counting. The counts were stopped, and they revised the way they were counting ballots. Those cases were then used before the Florida Supreme Court and U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that due process and equal protection were being violated." Victory: Bush. The rest was history.

Odelson himself, and not just his case law, made it before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992.



As a special state's attorney, he successfully represented the Cook County Officers Electoral Board in its bid to keep candidates from the Harold Washington Party on the ballot for Cook County offices. "Every lawyer who litigates, who thinks they are good, has to argue in front of the U.S. Supreme Court to know how good they are," Odelson says. "It was the most intimidating experience of my life. You're surrounded by the Supreme Court justices and don't know where a question is going to come from. We argued on the first Monday in

October, opening day of the session, and Justice Clarence Thomas's first day on the bench. It was a phenomenal experience."

Odelson's practice—Odelson, Sterk, Murphey, Frazier & McGrath, Ltd., in Evergreen Park, Illinois—continues to represent more than 60 municipal and school clients as well as election clients. He represented not only former Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, but also a challenge to Rahm Emanuel's bid to replace him.

Odelson won Chicago-Kent's 2006 Distinguished Service Award and taught courses on election and municipal law at Chicago-Kent for a number of years. "Every law school should have a course on election and municipal law to educate lawyers on ballot access and voting," he says. "Voting is our greatest right as citizens. We need more lawyers in this profession."

He has seen election law cases change significantly over his nearly 50 years in the field. "Now, there are virtually no recounts because of the development of electronic voting," he says. "Ballot challenges for technical mistakes—such as not inserting the correct date of the election or not stating the name of the exact office—are largely gone, too, in part because election lawyers like myself and others have developed the law to add protections for people who want to get on the ballot. The development of cases by those who actually know the law, and get up to the appellate and supreme courts, has revolutionized ballot access and provided certainty on election night."

—Kristin Baird Rattini

"Voting is our greatest right as citizens. We need more lawyers in this profession."

Counsel and Navigator

John Fogarty Jr. Guides Candidates, Office Holders, Political Action Committees, and the Illinois Republican Party Through the Complexities of Election Law

Illinois election laws can seem byzantine, to say the least, requiring candidates to navigate extra turns than are required in other states. Over the past two decades, election lawyer John Fogarty Jr. '99 has guided candidates, office holders, donors, and political action committees, as well as the Illinois Republican Party, through the electoral maze.

Fogarty didn't set out to be an election lawyer; the work found him. Before law school, he worked as a staffer in the General Assembly in Springfield, Illinois, and on campaigns. After law school, as he handled insurance litigation for a Chicago law firm, his contacts from Springfield began sending him cases that dealt with ballot access. His election caseload increased to a point where he set up a solo practice dedicated to election law in 2008. "It grew organically," he says. "Election law was something I'd always loved—and still love—to do."

What does he love about it? "I do a lot of ballot access litigation, which is urgent," he says. "There's not a lot of time for discovery, which can take up an enormous amount of time and be very tedious. Rather, you file a case and then you're arguing the merits in a matter of weeks, if not days. From inception to the appellate or even supreme court, resolution in an election case is maybe two or three months, which is unheard of otherwise. That's very exciting."

Now senior counsel in the Chicago office of Clark Hill PLC, Fogarty balances lobbying work with election law. About a third of his workload involves ballot access, in which he helps keep his clients on the ballot and his clients' opponents off the ballot. Ballot access litigation can involve eligibility issues (e.g., was Rahm Emanuel eligible to be on the ballot for mayor?), but most often involves the propriety of petition signature collection and the veracity of petition signatures.

"The cornerstone of the process, to maintain-



"At the end of the day, whether you're on the Republican or Democratic side, you just want things to run smoothly and fairly."

ing its integrity, depends on the people who are circulating the petitions to actually get the signatures," Fogarty explains. "They must swear they gathered them all themselves, that the signatures are genuine, and that these were all qualified, registered voters. However, when you're trying to gather as many signatures as you can in a short period of time, people will always try to cut corners. If that can be detected, then there's a legal process for keeping a candidate like that off of the ballot." Fogarty recounted one case in which a signature collector miraculously gathered thousands of signatures from all corners of the state at the same time; Fogarty and his team got more than 4,000

of those signatures disqualified.

Fogarty also frequently consults on campaign finance issues for individual candidates, PACs, and nonprofits and as general counsel for the Illinois Republican Party, a post he has held since 2012. "The rules governing money in the political process are complex, and often not intuitive. This is an ever-growing aspect of my practice, especially on the PAC and nonprofit side. And, with a state political party, you have an entity that raises and spends both federal and state campaign contribution dollars simultaneously, and you have to ensure the purposes for which you're spending each are appropriate under the respective statutes and regulations," he explains.

He also advises and represents the party's central committee on a wide variety of items from election administration and free speech issues to party bylaws and convention planning. "The closer we get to an even-year election, the more involved I get with election authorities on behalf of my clients in trying to iron out issues of transparency in how elections will be administered," he says.

"Whether it is voting in nursing homes, voting by mail, military voting, or just regular voting on Election Day, transparency is key. By and large, election authorities do a good job of this," says Fogarty.

"We election geeks just want to make sure it's all done correctly," he notes. "At the end of the day, whether you're on the Republican or Democratic side, you just want things to run smoothly and fairly. Of course, you want your candidates to win, but most of all, you want a smooth, competent, and lawfully administered election that produces a result everyone can believe in."

—Kristin Baird Rattini

Political and Legal Operative

Throughout Her Lifetime, and at Home and Abroad, Degee Wilhelm Has Been a Party to the Intersection of Law and Politics

Degee Wilhelm '02 is a political lifer: she's the daughter of an Iowa state legislator, a veteran of countless campaigns over the last three decades, an eight-year member of the Ohio Elections Commission (including two terms as its chair), and is married to a former Democratic National Committee chair. She's seen it all—almost.

Yet last year she had a front-row seat for two elections that changed her perspective on the electoral process. The first, more hopeful experience was in Ukraine, where Wilhelm was stationed in a small city for three months and watched as a maturing democracy rallied behind a young actor, Volodymyr Zelensky, propelling him to the nation's presidency. Government corruption was an animating issue during the election, with Zelensky viewed as a reformer.

"Ukrainians want so badly to demonstrate that they're trying to follow established election laws on their path to becoming a better democracy," says Wilhelm.

Wilhelm then proceeded to Belarus, where she encountered a different sort of election—one that didn't appear to live up to the same democratic ideal. For example, the country's legal authorities kept some promising candidates off the ballot by ruling that their petition signatures were invalid.

"I saw what it looks like when there's an unspoken mandate from the top determining who's going to win and who's not," says Wilhelm. "Candidates don't always have an unbiased legal system to adjudicate complaints; the legal system will often rubber-stamp whatever the government authority said in the first place."

That intersection of law and politics now inspires Wilhelm, whose Columbus, Ohio-based firm, O'Connor, Haseley, & Wilhelm, counts the state Democratic Party among its clients. But Wilhelm was a star political operative long before she became an attorney, beginning with a stint working for Joe Biden's 1988 presidential campaign while she was in college; she



ascended quickly through the staff ranks to become a scheduler for then-Senator Biden's wife, Jill Biden.

"I can't think of another industry where you can take on so much responsibility at such a young age. When you prove yourself capable, you're rewarded very quickly—at least if you consider more responsibility to be a reward," says Wilhelm.

From there, she worked on presidential campaigns for Democratic candidates Bill Clinton, John Kerry, and Barack

Obama, meeting her husband, David Wilhelm, along the way; he was Clinton's national campaign manager in 1992. Degee Wilhelm enrolled at Chicago-Kent College of Law in her early 30s, when the couple's two children reached school age, and quickly discovered that law school had much in common with her favorite campaign experiences.

"I was around extremely smart, motivated people who cared about the bigger picture and were really engaged, and I loved it," she says.

It didn't take long for Wilhelm to find a niche in election law.

"Someone providing political law advice has to understand the intersection of law and politics, and how campaigns work, because campaigns are such weird entities," says Aaron Pickrell, principal of Columbus-based political strategy firm Remington Road Group, one of Wilhelm's clients. "To have someone like Degee with all those different skill-sets you can turn to, it's an amazing value-add."

This year, as the United States navigates an especially complex election cycle, Wilhelm says she feels a renewed sense of gratitude for the relative reliability and fairness of the American electoral system—and for the strength of its legal system—because of her experiences in Ukraine and Belarus.

"Ours is not a system where you have to pay bribes to get things done in government, or to get the doctor to pay attention to you in the hospital. Not to say that corruption doesn't exist here and there, but hopefully when it does, it's rooted out and prosecuted," Wilhelm says.

—Steve Hendershot

"Not to say that corruption doesn't exist here and there, but hopefully when it does, it's rooted out and prosecuted."

Class Notes

1973

Thomas A. Demetrio, Chicago, was named the top lawyer in the state by *Illinois Super Lawyers*. This is the fourth consecutive year that he has earned the top spot.

Michael J. Fusz, Antioch, Ill., has retired after more than 15 years as associate judge in Lake County Circuit Court.

1977

Michael Filipovic, Seattle, received a 2019 Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers President's Award.

Jon D. Goldman, Evansville, Ind., was selected by his peers to *The Best Lawyers in America* in 2020. He was recognized for his work in employment and labor law, specifically in management, and advises employers on compliance with state and federal employment laws.

1978

Rick Reibman, Highland Park, Ill., was named managing partner of Thompson Coburn, where he serves as legal adviser to trading firms, brokerage firms, trade execution firms, and investment managers in the futures, commodities, securities, and options markets.

1979

Susan L. Brody, Glenview, Ill., taught her final class at UTC John Marshall Law School. She joined the John Marshall faculty in 1982.

Michael K. Demetrio, Chicago, received a 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law Distinguished Service Alumni Award. He is a partner at

Corboy & Demetrio, representing plaintiffs in personal injury and wrongful death cases, including aviation disasters, railroad cases, product liability, construction liability, and motor vehicle liability.

Jeffery M. Leving, Chicago, appeared on *Court TV* in December 2019 to discuss fathers' rights and his role in helping to reunite Elián González with his father in Cuba.

1982

Maria Pappas, Chicago, created the children's music video "Me and My Iguana" as part of a new web series. She is Cook County treasurer, a position she has held since 1998.

1983

Beth Burk, Chicago, was named interim chief legal and compliance officer at Green Thumb Industries. She has more than 25 years of experience as a legal and compliance strategist including 15 years with Aon, a Fortune 200 professional services firm, where she most recently served as global chief compliance officer.

Anne Burke, Chicago, was named chief justice of the Illinois Supreme Court. She is the third woman to lead the state's highest court.

Eileen Flaherty, Chicago, published the book *The Perilous Step*. She is managing director of The Global Capital Group Ltd., a legal and regulatory consulting firm.

Ted Koenig, Highland Park, Ill., was featured in the *Crain's Chicago Business* story "The \$1 Billion Firm You've Probably Never Heard of Sets an Ambitious New

41st Annual Chicago-Kent Alumni Awards

On November 20, 2019, members of the Chicago-Kent College of Law community gathered for the 41st annual Alumni Awards celebration to honor alumni and faculty for their outstanding professional and community service achievements and to raise money for the Chicago-Kent Alumni Board of Directors Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is awarded annually to students who display financial achievement and academic merit.

Distinguished Service Award

Ann M. Cresce '94

Financial Services Senior Executive

Michael K. Demetrio '79

Partner, Corboy & Demetrio

Professional Achievement Awards

Hon. Eileen M. O'Neill Burke '90

1st District Appellate Court Judge

Mark T. Cumba '98

Deputy Attorney General, California Department of Justice

Outstanding Young Alumnus/a Awards

C. Matt Alva '11

Associate, Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP

Sulema Medrano Novak '09

Partner, Drinker, Biddle & Reath

Institutional Partner Award

Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP



Alumni Awards Celebration [Back row, left to right] Alumni Board President Jason Sposeep, C. Matt Alva '11, Michael K. Demetrio '79, Ann M. Cresce '94, and Mark T. Cumba '98 [front row, left to right] Dean Anita K. Krug, Hon. Eileen M. O'Neill Burke '90, Sulema Medrano Novak '09, and C. Matt Alva '11

Growth Target." Koenig is the chief executive officer of Monroe Capital.

Nancy E. Paridy, Evanston, Ill., was named chair of the Loyola Academy Board of Trustees. She is the first woman to serve as Loyola's board chair and will serve for a three-year term.

1989

Theresa M. Friel-Draper, Amboy, Ill., is a new associate judge in the 15th Judicial Circuit. She has been chief operating officer of the Whiteside County Community Health Clinic in Rock Falls, Illinois, since August 2003 as well as

the assistant public health administrator for the Whiteside County Health Department.

Vincent M. Imhoff, Los Angeles, was selected for a Best of Los Angeles Award as one of its Fascinating 100.

Maria McCarthy, Mt.

Prospect, Ill., retired from service as a Cook County prosecutor.

Peter J. Roskam,

Wheaton, Ill., joined the law firm Sidley Austin as a partner in its Government Strategies practice group.

1990

Eileen M. O'Neill Burke, Park Ridge, Ill., an appellate judge for the Illinois First District, received a 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law Professional Achievement Alumni Award.

Mark C. Curran, Waukegan, Ill., is the Republican nominee for the United States Senate in Illinois. He is the owner of Mark C. Curran Jr. Attorney at Law and served as the sheriff of Lake County, Illinois, from 2006 to 2018.

William S. Schwartz, Northfield, Ill., was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law. A partner in the Banking and Restructuring group at Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC, he represents borrowers and lenders in financial services, litigation, and workouts.

Vanessa J. Weathersby, Chicago, has retired from BMO Harris Bank.

1991

Patricia S. Kocour, Chicago, was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law. She is an executive committee member of Swanson Martin & Bell, LLP and was longtime chair of the Medical Negligence and Healthcare practice group.

Brent S. Lipschultz, Rye Brook, N.Y., re-joined EisnerAmper LLP as partner in its Personal Wealth Advisors group. He specializes in domestic and international income tax planning, executive compensation, estate and gift tax planning, charitable planning, and wealth preservation strategies.

Tracey L. Truesdale, Oak Park, Ill., joined Franczek P.C. as a partner in its Labor and Employment practice group. Her employment law practice includes strategic advice to clients in force reduction and other business scenarios; preventive counseling on matters of employee discipline, discharge, and leave issues including FMLA, ADA, and Chicago and Cook County paid sick leave as well as other state and local leave laws; and development of personnel policies and employment handbooks.

1992

Justin L. Weisberg, Chicago, joined Robbins, Salomon & Patt, Ltd. as a shareholder. He has more than 20 years of experience representing private, public, local, and international clients in diverse construction-related transactions and litigation matters.

1993

Nicholas B. Clifford, St. Louis, partner at Tucker Ellis LLP, was named to the list of *The Best Lawyers in America* for 2020 for the 10th year in a row. He prosecutes and defends

litigation and counsels clients in patent, copyright, and trademark infringement matters.

Randy Hultgren, Plano, Ill., was named president and chief executive officer of the Illinois Bankers Association. He was a former United States state representative from 2011 to 2019, representing the Illinois 14th Congressional District.

Bob Statchen, Stonington, Conn., is running for the Connecticut 18th House of Representatives District seat, after an unsuccessful bid in 2018. He is an associate clinical professor of law at Western New England University.

1994

Todd W. Betke, University Park, Md., was named a shareholder for Polsinelli in the national Securities and Corporate Finance practice. He has more than 20 years of experience representing domestic and international private equity and venture capital funds, hedge funds, real estate funds, funds-of-funds, and small business investment companies in connection with the formation, operation, restructuring, and

liquidation of such funds.

Ann M. Cresce, Long Grove, Ill., received a 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law Distinguished Service Alumni Award. She is a financial services senior executive with significant management, legal, regulatory, and compliance experience in the futures and derivatives industry and was most recently general counsel for Bcause LLC, a cryptocurrency ecosystem.

Amy C. Kurson, Vernon Hills, Ill., managing partner of minority-certified Reyes Kurson, was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law. Her practice includes land use, municipal law, procurement, and legislative strategy.

Susan Meyer, Chicago, was appointed as Norway's honorary consul for Illinois. In this role, she assists with consular affairs and helps to facilitate development of business, cultural, and educational relations between Norway and the United States. In her legal practice, Meyer frequently advises companies on matters related to commerce between the U.S. and Scandinavia.



Welcoming Dean Anita K. Krug Last fall, Chicago law firms including Seyfarth Shaw LLP hosted welcome receptions for Dean Anita K. Krug.

1995

Andrea E. Bertone, Houston, was appointed to the DMC Global Board of Directors. She has more than 20 years of senior management experience and has spent the majority of her career in the energy industry.

Heather Beverly, Atlanta, received the Legal Champion Award at the third annual Rolling Out Innovation Digital Entertainment Conference in September 2019.

Karen Klein, Clarendon Hills, Ill., executive vice president and general counsel for Ticketmaster, was named chair of the Chicago-Kent Board of Advisors.

Earl A. Peterson, Fairbanks, Alaska, was appointed to the Alaska Superior Court (Fairbanks). He has been an Alaska resident for more than eight years and has practiced law for 23 years.

Andrew S. Rosenman, Chicago, was appointed as co-leader of Mayer Brown's Employment Litigation and Consulting practice.

Kimberly B. Schutt, Windsor, Colo., was appointed as district court judge in the Colorado 19th Judicial District. She has been a senior attorney at Wick & Trautwein, LLC since 1997.

1996

Nancy F. Ardell, Chicago, joined Northwest Community Healthcare as vice president and general counsel.

Scott J. Fisher, Chicago, managing partner for Neal Gerber Eisenberg, was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law.

Michael Kelber, Chicago, a partner at Neal Gerber Eisenberg, was selected as a World Trademark Review Global Leader for 2019.

Krista S. Schwartz, Lafayette, Calif., joined Hogan Lovells's San Francisco office as a partner in the Intellectual Property, Media, and Technology practice.

1997

Pablo J. Almaguer, McAllen, Texas, is running for president-elect of the State Bar of Texas.

Stephen R. Auten, North Barrington, Ill., was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law. He is a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, heads the Pharmaceutical and Life Sciences Litigation practice, and is on the firm's executive committee.

Robin Bresky, Boca Raton,

Fla., was featured in Law.com's "Daily Business Review." She is the founder and president of The Law Offices of Robin Bresky, a boutique firm in Boca Raton that focuses on appellate law, and trusts and estates.

Stacey C. Bromberg, Chicago, joined BMO Harris Bank as a senior trust administrator in the Estate Settlement Services group. She spent her private practice career assisting families and financial institutions in the administration of estates for decedents, adult disabled individuals, and minors.

Mark T. Cumba, San Diego, a deputy attorney general for the California Department of Justice, received a 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law Professional Achievement Alumni Award.

Andrew P. Fox, Chicago, was named the City of Chicago's first-ever director of labor standards. He will implement Mayor Lori Lightfoot's groundbreaking worker-protection platform by managing the enforcement of Chicago's landmark labor laws, including minimum wage, paid sick leave, and fair work week.

Carrie Leahy, Ann Arbor, Mich., was appointed chair-elect of Bodman's Executive Management Committee. She is the fourth chair and first female chair to lead Bodman since the firm established the position in 1975.

1998

Howard L. Huntington, Naperville, Ill., co-authored the article "Sudden Medical Emergency Defense" published in *CLM Magazine*, a nationwide periodical of the Claims and Litigation Management Alliance. He is a partner of Harrison & Held, LLP, where he focuses his practice on commercial litigation.

Courtney A. Rosen, Chicago, joined Jackson National Life Insurance Company as the vice president and deputy general counsel of investigations, regulatory enforcement, and litigation. She leads litigation in arbitration defense, regulatory enforcement

defense, investigations, information governance, and employment law functions.

David S. Slovick, Washington, D.C., joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP as a partner in the litigation department. He is a former senior enforcement attorney at both the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission.

1999

Kathryn B. Ashton, Oak Park, Ill., was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law. As a global chair of Denton's Health Care group, she oversees 150 lawyers and professionals worldwide. Ashton also is co-chair of Denton's Cannabis group and provides transactional and regulatory advice to businesses in or affected by the cannabis industry.

Robert Dore, Yorkville, Ill., retired after 20 years as assistant state's attorney for Kendall County.

Michelle H. Swann, Phoenix, joined Lang & Klain, P.C. as an employment and litigation attorney. She practices in the areas of commercial litigation and employer-focused employment law and has appeared before federal, tribal, and state trial and appellate courts and administrative tribunals.

2000

Paul J. Ferak, Naperville, Ill., was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable Gen X Leaders in Law. As co-chair of Greenberg Traurig, LLP's Financial Services Litigation practice, he manages a nationwide team that defends financial institutions in consumer and business litigation and class actions.

Thomas A. Vaclavek, Cary, Ill., founded the family and real estate law firm Vaclavek Hartman Vaclavek, P.C., located in Barrington, Illinois.

2001

John Abramic, Naperville, Ill., was appointed managing partner at Steptoe & Johnson



Young Alumni Gathering Chicago-Kent College of Law hosted its annual Young Alumni Gathering on November 6, 2019, at Taxman, Pollock, Murray & Bekkerman, LLC.

LLP. His practice is focused on intellectual property litigation, representing patent holders and companies accused of intellectual property infringement.

Thomas T. Field, Chicago, a divorce attorney for Beerman LLP, was named to the 2020 Lawdragon 500 Leading Family Lawyers list of best advisers across the United States.

William J. McFadden, Eden Prairie, Minn., joined Briggs and Morgan, P.A. (now part of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP) as a shareholder and member of the business litigation section.

Barbara Sondag, San Mateo, Calif., was appointed assistant general counsel of privacy and data protection at Intuit. She is also a member of The Better Ethics and Consumer Outcomes Network Board.

2002

Jeffrey D. Gardner, Phoenix, was elected to the Management Committee for Jennings, Strouss & Salmon. He primarily focuses his practice on securities litigation, class action defense, employment, intellectual property, and real estate matters.

Daniel T. Morro, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., was named principal security adviser for Ross & Baruzzini, a global technology consulting and engineering firm in St. Louis. He was previously a senior member of the United States Department

of Homeland Security Investigations Division operating in Europe, West Africa, and more recently, Chicago.

2003

Brandon R. Freud, Northbrook, Ill., joined Chuhak & Tecson, P.C. as a principal. He represents his clients with determination in state and federal courts at both the trial and appellate levels.

Matthew W. Miller, Riverside, Ill., joined Reveal Data, which provides an SaaS-based e-discovery solution to law firms and in-house legal departments in the United States and in Europe.

Burke Nihill, Nashville, Tenn., is senior vice president/business operations and chief legal officer for the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League. He originally joined the organization as general counsel in 2016. Nihill oversees the club's legal and human resources functions and regularly works on club initiatives related to state and local government, company culture, and general business planning and strategy for both the Titans and the team's home base, Nissan Stadium.

Jennifer L. Watt, Indianapolis, was appointed and promoted to chief legal officer, secretary, and vice president of Thermwood Corporation, with oversight of all legal aspects of the company and its corporate governance. Thermwood is a United

States-based, multinational, diversified CNC machinery manufacturer that markets its products and services through offices in 11 countries.

2005

Edward L. Garris, Bryn Mawr, Penn., joined Bryn Mawr Trust as a vice president and wealth adviser.

Scott A. Maybee, Atlanta, was named president of NextGear Capital. Previously, he was general manager of Manheim Northstar Minnesota and was responsible for all facets of the Minneapolis-based operation.

Tonya G. Newman, Chicago, was selected among the 100 Women Who Inspire Us at the American Bar Association 2019 Women in Litigation CLE Conference. The list recognizes women leaders for their success in the courtroom, the judiciary, and the profession. The conference is part of the ABA Section of Litigation's year-long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which guarantees and protects women's right to vote.

David N. Pruitt, Chicago, a privacy and technology lawyer, joined InfoLawGroup LLP as a partner in its Chicago office.

Yesenia Villasenor, Fremont, Calif., was promoted to associate general counsel for the Environmental Health and Safety team at Tesla.

2006

Robyn H. Ast-Gmoser, St. Louis, was elected partner at Thompson Coburn LLP. She is an experienced patent litigator who represents clients in patent and trademark matters in federal courts. Ast-Gmoser's litigation experience has included intellectual property relating to a wide range of products, from simple mechanical devices to highly valued pharmaceutical patents in Hatch-Waxman (ANDA) litigation.

Evan Lison, Springfield, N.J., joined Spotify as senior employment counsel.

2007

Megan A. Chorey Hymore, Cincinnati, Ohio, was elected as a partner of Keating Muething & Klekamp PLL. She practices in the Business Representation and Transactions group, and advises small startup companies and large international corporations on intellectual property and privacy matters.

Erin R. Conway, Romulus, Mich., joined McDonald Hopkins as counsel in the intellectual property department. She has 12 years of intellectual property prosecution, litigation, and licensing experience.

Matthew M. Daniels, Chicago, joined the Office of the State Appellate Defender as an assistant appellate defender. Prior to this role, he was a staff attorney at the C-K Law Group: The Law Offices of Chicago-Kent.

Courtney D. Fong, Northbrook, Ill., was named a 2019 Notable General Counsel by *Crain's Chicago Business*. He is the chief legal officer and chief privacy officer at CompTIA, a trade association dedicated to advancing the global technology industry.

Adam S. Garber, Chicago, a partner in the Trusts and Estates group at Levenfeld Pearlstein, LLC, was named to the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin's* 40 Under Forty.

Kurt S. Kwidzinski, Mundelein, Ill., was named partner at Berger Schatz.

Ryan Lee, Nashville, Tenn.,



Welcoming Dean Anita K. Krug Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP hosted an alumni reception welcoming Dean Anita K. Krug.



Honors Scholars Reception Former and current Chicago-Kent Honors Scholars attended the Honor Scholars Reception on November 7, 2019.

joined Dickinson Wright PLLC, as counsel. He advises owners, general contractors, subcontractors, design professionals, and suppliers in various construction-related litigation matters, including disputes related to design and construction defects, mechanics' and materialmen's liens, contractor licensing, and Prompt Payment Act and other payment issues.

Fiona M. McEntee, Chicago, published the children's book *Our American Dream*.

Juan Morado, Chicago, was named partner at Benesch and

named to the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin's* 40 Under Forty. He is a health care regulatory and policy attorney with extensive experience in working with state and federal agencies.

Gavin J. O'Keefe, Chicago, was elected partner at McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff LLP. He serves as chair of the Prosecution Advisory Committee, which oversees and advises the firm on prosecution-related procedures and best practices.

Kristen E. Prinz, Chicago, was named one of the *Crain's Chicago Business* 2019 Notable

Gen X Leaders in Law. She is the founder and managing partner of The Prinz Law Firm, where she focuses on providing cost-effective legal and business advice to business owners, entrepreneurs, and professionals.

Joel E. Roberson, Arlington, Va., was hired by Smithfield, a meat-processing company, to lobby on trade policy and food safety.

Joseph E. Silvia, Chicago, joined Howard & Howard, where he advises financial institutions and corporate clients on general corporate matters, mergers, acquisitions, strategic transactions, private equity and venture capital, and banking and financial services regulation.

Daniel S. Stringfield, Oak Park, Ill., was selected as one of the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin's* 40 Under Forty. He is a partner at Steptoe & Johnson LLP, where he is an advocate and adviser for companies facing intellectual property and technology issues.

2008

Margaret P. Battersby Black, Elmhurst, Ill., a partner at Levin & Perconti, was featured in *Leading Lawyers Magazine*.

Daniel O. Canales, Chicago, joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner leading the labor and employment practice in Chicago. He further enhances the firm's

employment litigation and counseling capabilities.

Nick Cummings, Chicago, was named deputy city attorney for the City of Evanston, Illinois, where he assists counsel in providing legal representation.

Stacey J. Dembo, Chicago, received the Davis, Gidwitz & Glasser Young Leadership Award from the Jewish Federation of Chicago. The award recognizes leaders under 40 who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication and commitment in the Jewish community. Dembo's efforts have helped hundreds of low-income individuals and families get critically needed Social Security and disability assistance.

Michael J. Hallock, Oxford, Miss., presented at the Speaker's Commission on Public Policy regarding the issue of investigation and prosecution in human trafficking.

2009

Judd Z. Fineberg, Chicago, was named to the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin's* 40 Under Forty. He is an associate at Dussias Wittenberg Koenigsberger LLP, where he specializes in the litigation and settlement of complex financial matters and custody disputes.

Kara L. Goodwin, Frankfort, Ill., joined RR Donnelley as vice president and associate general counsel in labor, employment, and compliance.

Jason M. Kroot, Chicago, joined Cavanagh Law Group as a partner and has more than two decades of experience handling complex personal injury and medical malpractice cases in county, state, and federal courtrooms.

Sulema Medrano Novak, Chicago, a partner at Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP, received a 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Hailee R. Zabrin, Chicago, was named to the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin's* 40 Under Forty. She is a partner at Berger Schatz and represents individuals in all aspects of family and matrimonial law.

2010

Justin Haselden, Washington, D.C., joined PilieroMazza PLLC as an associate in the Government Contracts Law and Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice groups.

Terrence M. Hart, Hyattsville, Md., joined the United States Copyright Office as an assistant general counsel, where he assists in the agency's litigation, regulatory, and other legal matters. Hart was previously vice president of legal policy and copyright counsel at the Copyright Alliance, a nonprofit advocacy and education organization in Washington, D.C.

Jin-Won Jung, Chicago, joined Allstate as a law and regulation innovation patent attorney. He previously practiced for six years as a patent attorney at K&L Gates LLP.

Moshe Z. Marvit, Pittsburgh, received the 2019 Labor and Employment Relations Association Ken May Media Award for his reporting at the The Century Foundation on employment and labor topics. His current research focuses on labor organizations, excluded workers, and employment and civil rights.

Patrick Wartan, Chicago, was named a partner of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of food and beverage, general corporate and securities matters, and commercial real estate.

2011

C. Matt Alva, Highland Park, Ill., a partner at Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP, received a 2019 Chicago-Kent College of Law Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

Aura L. Lichtenberg, Chicago, joined Berger Schatz as an associate. She devotes her practice to all aspects of family law, specializing in the litigation, negotiation, and alternative dispute resolution of divorce and post-divorce matters, parentage and support matters, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, and incidents involving domestic violence.

Courtney L. Nichols, Clarkston, Mich., was named

to the list of *Michigan Super Lawyers* 2019 Rising Stars. A partner at Plunkett Cooney in Bloomfield Hills, Nichols serves as co-leader of the Labor and Employment Law practice group and focuses her litigation practice on employment law.

Rachel S. Ruttenberg, Evanston, Ill., joined the Heartland Alliance as director of policy and will lead a research and policy team focused on ending poverty. She previously served as the executive director of The Family Defense Center.

Rachel Schaller, Chicago, was named a partner of Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP.

Mark A. Silverman, Chicago, was elected a member of Dykema Gossett PLLC. He practices in the areas of business and financial services litigation, is a member of the Financial Services Litigation team, and is a co-leader of the Commercial Mortgage-Backed Securities Special Servicer group.

Sodiq R. Williams, Flossmoor, Ill., was profiled in the September 2019 edition of *Chicago Lawyer* magazine for her work with the Safer Foundation.

2012

Bruno R. Marasso, Chicago, was appointed senior associate at Romanucci & Blandin LLC. He has been with the firm since 2008 and has recovered millions of dollars on behalf of his clients.

Carly B. Robin, Chicago, joined Chuhak & Tecson, P.C. as an associate attorney. She focuses her practice on individualized estate planning documents, including wills, powers of attorney, and revocable and irrevocable trusts.

Neha Tannan, Chicago, an associate attorney at Ford & Britton, was profiled in the September 2019 edition of *Chicago Lawyer* magazine for her volunteer work at Chicago's Indo-American Center, where she works on immigration matters.

Jessica K. Velez, Chicago, was appointed as a commissioner of the Hispanic National Bar Association's 2019–2020 Latina Commission.

Jonathan R. Walton, Chicago, joined BatesCarey LLP as an associate. He serves as coverage and litigation counsel to domestic and international insurers in a variety of complex

insurance coverage matters, including third-party and first-party coverage matters.

2013

George C. Lepeniotis, South Bend, Ind., joined Krieg DeVault as an of counsel in the Business, Acquisitions, and Securities practice group. He concentrates on corporate and business law, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and construction, and litigation.

Philip P. Terrazzino, Chicago, an associate at Tomasik Kotin Kasserman, LLC, was named to the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin's* 40 Under Forty. He handles personal injury and wrongful death cases in the areas of transportation, product liability, medical malpractice, and construction.

2015

Justin D. DeAngelis, Chicago, an associate at Quarles & Brady LLP, spoke at the United States Patent & Trademark Office 13th annual Design Day on case law updates related to design patents.

Kelly K. Koss, Chicago, joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP as an associate. She was



Chicago-Kent Alumni Event in Miami [Left to right] Associate Vice President for Major and Planned Gifts Susan Lewers, Andy Moriber '74, Carlosandres A. Somarriba Tablada '04, Bonnie Weiner, Jeff Weiner '74, Dean Anita K. Krug, Ali Golden '14, and John Golden '14



Chicago-Kent Trial Advocacy reunion [Image on left, left to right] Guy E. Guenther '18, Kristen Farr Capizzi '18, John M. Montelongo '92, and The Honorable David A. Erickson [image on right, left to right] The Honorable Warren D. Wolfson, Mariam Chamilova '19, and The Honorable David A. Erickson



previously with Stein Ray LLP, where she focused on complex commercial construction litigation and arbitration.

Jared M. Reynolds, Chicago, joined Daniel P. Costello & Associates, PC as an associate, defending his clients against premise liability and negligence claims, as well as construction and personal injury.

2016

Gabrielle Romano, Chicago, joined Chuhak & Tecson, P.C. as an associate, representing clients in the probate administration process, including decedent and guardianship estates for disabled adults and minors.

Benjamin S. Van Airdale, Ada, Mich., joined DKM&O Attorneys as an attorney whose practice areas include corporate transactions, business law, secured lending and capital funding, and estate and business succession planning.

2017

Sarah D. Casey, Chicago, joined Grund & Leavitt, P.C. as an associate who practices primarily in family and matrimonial law. She represents clients in a variety of complex domestic-relations issues, including prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, divorce, paternity, custody, visitation, and spousal and child support.

C. Kelley Flanagan, Chicago, an attorney with Flanagan I Bilton LLC, appeared on Season 24 of *The Bachelor*.

Andrew G. Fullett, Chicago, joined Chuhak and Tecson, P.C.'s Banking group. He represents financial institutions on matters involving asset-based lending and commercial real estate loan transactions.

Margaret A. Herrmann, Palatine, Ill., joined Irwin IP as an associate. She is a registered patent attorney whose intellectual property law experience includes IP litigation, patent post-issuance proceedings, patent preparation and prosecution, and clearance and legal opinions.

2018

Lauren E. Payne, Chicago, joined Berger Schatz as an associate representing clients in all aspects of family law, including complex financial matters and high-conflict child-related matters.

2019

Sara A. Agate, Sycamore, Ill., joined Benesch as an associate in the Healthcare+ practice group. She supports clients in digital health and emerging technologies, along with academic health care centers, in matters related to data privacy and security, health care regulatory compliance, and policy and advocacy.

Zachary Beaver, Crown Point, Ind., joined Chuhak & Tecson, P.C. as an associate concentrating his practice in banking law. He has more than 10 years of experience in public service as an active duty infantryman in the United States

Army and as a state trooper with the Indiana State Police.

Taylor Brewer, Chicago, won a jury verdict for \$93,000 against the City of Chicago before Judge Israel A. Desierto '90.

Miranda L. Huber, Chicago, joined Raise the Floor Alliance as a staff attorney.

Michael J. Schostok, Madison, Wis., joined Salvi Schostok & Pritchard P.C. as an associate whose practice areas include personal injury, medical malpractice, and products liability.

Andrea M. Silva, Chicago, joined Lavelle Law, Ltd. as an associate whose practice areas are litigation and family law.

Wisu Sul, Chicago, joined Dinsmore & Shohl LLP as a patent agent in the Intellectual Property practice.

Felicia S. Thomas, Kew Gardens, N.Y., joined the Queens County District Attorney's Office in New York as a criminal law associate. She served as a United States Coast Guard

Academy officer for three years before completing her J.D.

Joseph P. Trunk, Glen Ellyn, Ill., graduated from Chicago-Kent College of Law a century after his great grandfather Francis F. Trunk graduated.

Nicholas Ustaski, Chicago, joined Kirkland & Ellis as an associate.

Zachary T. Van Engen, Chicago, joined the intellectual property law boutique firm Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery LLP as an associate. A registered patent attorney, Van Engen assists clients ranging from startups to global manufacturers working in areas such as computer technology, electronics, mechanical engineering, and medical devices.

Hannah D. Vanderlaan, Chicago, joined Freeborn & Peters LLP as an associate in the Litigation practice group and as a member of the Environment and Energy Law practice group.

In Memoriam

Stephen D. Hurst '81

John B. Kincaid '63

John D. Marshall '65

Joseph Mirabella '64

William C. Null '65

Alan G. Schuster '80

Barbara W. Smith '79

OPINION

On the Ballot in November: How Much Do We Care About Democracy?



Carolyn Shapiro

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, it was clear that the 2020 elections were going to be hard-fought—and that those fights were not just going to be between candidates. Instead, we were always going to see fights over fundamental questions about who gets to vote, and when, where, and how they can do so. COVID-19's arrival in the midst of the primary election season has intensified those battles, even as it has highlighted the decentralized and idiosyncratic nature of our election system.

Each state schedules its own primaries, and they have not all responded to COVID-19 in the same way. Illinois and Ohio, for example, both had primaries scheduled for March 17, 2020, just as each state was entering its lockdown. The Democratic governor of Illinois, J. B. Pritzker, took enormous criticism for allowing the election to go forward as scheduled, although he pointed out that he did not have the authority to change it himself. (Arizona and Florida also held primaries that day.) Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine, on the other hand, cancelled in-person voting and rescheduled the election. Overall, at least 16 states have now postponed primaries due to the virus. And numerous states, including Illinois, are considering expanding mail-in or absentee voting for the November general election.

But in some states, officials appear uninterested in ensuring that all eligible voters can safely cast their ballots. To the contrary. On April 7, Wisconsin held an election, including for a state Supreme Court seat. The GOP-controlled state legislature refused to act to change the date or make vote-by-mail more accessible, and both the state and federal Supreme Courts blocked such efforts. Poll workers, who tend to be elderly, were so scarce that in Milwaukee there were only five polling places rather than the usual 180. In Kentucky, where voter registration closed on April 20 for its June 23 primary, the Republican-controlled legislature passed a bill making it harder for individuals without state-issued IDs to vote, even as the state DMV offices are closed due to the virus. Governor Andy Beshear, a Democrat, vetoed the bill, but the legislature overrode the veto. The American Civil Liberties Union is considering a lawsuit over this bill. The ACLU is also suing the state of Texas over whether voters can vote by mail if they are fearful of contracting the virus at the polls, even as the Texas attorney general has threatened criminal sanctions for third-party groups that advise voters to seek absentee ballots due to their fears of the virus.

These fights over voter ID laws, voting by mail, and reduced numbers of polling places are not new. But their prevalence in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic highlights the reality that our proud national identity as a democracy is subject to challenge. Historically, there have long been significant defects in our democratic governance, most vividly in the almost complete exclusion of African Americans from the franchise in the South well into the 1960s. But we profess to something more.

If COVID-19 lays bare the gap between our stated aspirations and our reality, it also creates an opportunity. As of this writing, Democrats in Congress are pushing to require (and help fund) vote-by-mail opportunities for November in every state if emergencies like the pandemic justify it. Making such plans sooner than later will allow states to develop vote-by-mail systems that are secure and that operate smoothly. One of the most common stated objections is that elections have traditionally been run by the states. That's true, but the Constitution explicitly gives Congress the power to regulate the "Times, Places and Manner" of congressional elections. And as I've argued in a recent article in the *Arizona Law Review*, the Guarantee Clause of the Constitution empowers congressional control over elections when necessary to protect democratic governance.

Americans overwhelmingly believe that no eligible voter should be denied the right to vote. We have, through times of war and peace alike, cast ourselves as a beacon to the world because of our commitment to democracy. Whether we live up to those principles will be shown by how we decide to manage our elections in the time of COVID-19. —Carolyn Shapiro, Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute on the Supreme Court of the United States



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INSECURITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted more than courses for Chicago-Kent College of Law students. Some students are experiencing food and income insecurity, among other heightened challenges, during this unprecedented time. To support our students, the law school has established the Chicago-Kent Student Emergency Fund.

Your gift to this fund provides immediate support in the following ways:

Virtual Food Bank

Allows students to obtain \$50 grocery gift cards

Other Emergency Funds Requests

Provides financial support for students struggling with unexpected financial burdens due to the coronavirus

Help Alleviate the Unexpected. Make a Gift Today.

alumni.kentlaw.iit.edu/give

