

Nell Jessup Newton

Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law
2100 Eck Hall of Law, Notre Dame, IN 46556
574.631.6789 ~ Nell.Newton@nd.edu

Dear Alumni and Friends of Notre Dame Law School,

I write after a visit to Boston for the events leading up to the Shamrock Series game against Boston College, which featured an academic event sponsored by the Law School—a reenactment of the Boston Massacre trial of 1770. Before a packed audience in Boston’s historic Old South Meeting House, O’Toole Professor of Constitutional Law **Anthony J. Bellia** explained the facts and issues in the case before turning the proceedings over to U.S. District Judge **Jack Blakey, ’88, ’92 J.D.**

3L Nico Howard took the part of John Adams, the American lawyer and patriot who, much to the dismay of his friends and colleagues, argued on behalf of the defendant British soldiers. **Ryan Snyder, ’12 J.D.**, served as second chair on behalf of the defense. Arguing on behalf of the Crown was **Stephen LaBrecque**, taking the part of Robert Treat Paine. Stephen may be a 2L at Boston College, but he will also be a Notre Dame Lawyer by virtue of his ’12 B.A. and ’14 M.Ed. With all parties dressing the part of lawyers and judges of that era, the argument was both a spectacle and a reminder of the importance of the rule of law during turbulent times. After Judge Blakey delivered some trenchant closing remarks, the audience walked over to the Old State House for a reception in the historic setting of the massacre itself. It would be impossible to participate in these events and not come home feeling proud to be part of both the legal profession and the Notre Dame family. Please check out the [video of the reenactment](#) posted at law.nd.edu. Many thanks to the generous program sponsors, **Perry, ’82 J.D.**, and **Sheila Vieth**, and **Leo, ’75**, and **Janice Cushing**.

The Class of 2018

Our students are, of course, the Law School’s reason for existence. One of the hallmarks of an NDLS education is the close relationship our students form with each other and with their professors. Our small class sizes help foster that Notre Dame experience, and so each year we aim to enroll only about 180 students. This fall, our yield exceeded our expectations and for the second year in a row we enrolled 200 1L students—still a small class compared to our peers.

Each year the Admissions Office surveys entering students, in part to ascertain why they selected Notre Dame over other options. Among the explanations are our collegial learning environment, Catholic character, outstanding professors, and growing reputation for helping students find jobs in a difficult job market. Importantly, more outstanding students are now finding our fellowship offers competitive with our peer schools, and a great many note our justly famous NDLS alumni network. (Just this past summer NDLS was [ranked No. 4 in the nation](#) for the quality of our alumni network.)

We have also learned that when applicants visit the Law School, they fall in love with the place and are more likely to choose NDLS. Fortunately, we have been able to expand our travel stipend program to ensure that admitted students have the ability to travel to the Law School and see the campus, the buildings, and the faculty in person.

LL.M. Programs

This year the Center for Civil and Human Rights welcomed 20 LL.M. students from 18 countries. In addition eight new LL.M. students from seven countries arrived to study in our South Bend LL.M. program. Assistant Dean **Janet Laybold**, who started both our D.C. externship program and the South Bend LL.M. program, is retiring after a long and successful career, while joining us is **Margaret Lloyd, ’90, ’93 J.D.** She will be directing the programming and student services for our South Bend LL.M. students while also helping these international students adjust to life in South Bend. As a concurrent professor, Margaret is teaching both a specialized legal writing course to the LL.M. students and a section of legal writing

to incoming 1L students. She comes to us from the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies.

Careers

There are significant developments to report in this all-important area. First, the Bank of America Foundation has funded two fellowships in each of the years 2015 and 2016. Each year, a competitive application process will result in two of our 3L students being awarded two-year fellowships to allow them to launch their public interest careers in an organization or city agency that works to advance community sustainability. This generous new fellowship provides full benefits and a salary competitive with that offered by public interest placements for a two-year term.

Our first two Bank of America Foundation fellows were chosen to complete projects in organizations located in Chicago and San Francisco. **Jason Sethen, '15 J.D.**, is serving as a fellow at the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund, where he is working to create a stable housing environment for low-income individuals and families. **Rachael Winkler, '15 J.D.** is serving at the International Institute of the Bay Area, where she is helping undocumented survivors of domestic violence and other violent crimes in their application process for naturalization.

In addition, each year the Thomas L. Shaffer Fellowship Program selects two more students to receive Shaffer Fellowship salaries and benefits for two years after graduation. **Jessica Binzoni, '15 J.D.**, will support the National Immigrant Justice Center's Asylum Project in Chicago by representing clients applying for humanitarian parole, withholding of removal, asylum, deferred action, and special immigrant juvenile visas. **Audra Passinault, '15 J.D.**, will work with the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago to educate and represent human trafficking victims seeking immigration visas and help with domestic violence issues and access to healthcare. You may have noticed Notre Dame Magazine's heart-warming story about [the great work of 2013 Shaffer Fellow Sarah Gruen](#).

Our Loan Repayment Assistance Program is one of the best in the country in ensuring law graduates' law school loans do not foreclose them from public service careers. (LRAP loans NDLS grads the funds with which to repay qualifying student debt and then forgives those loans over a three-year period. Graduates can sign up for an additional period of up to 10 years.) Last year I noted that we had passed the \$1 million mark in disbursements to NDLS graduates. Since then we have been able to increase the income limits to broaden eligibility. As a result, we've had a surge in applications this year and expect to serve more than 50 applicants in 2015, up from 34 in 2014.

We continue to work hard to help all of our graduates find work that will enable them to flourish as attorneys and advocates. Our employment numbers have improved each year since 2012. As of now, 84 percent of the Class of 2015 has accepted full-time employment, and the Class of 2016 is ahead of where the Class of 2015 was at this time last year. We remain committed to adding resources to the Career Development Office, which

recently welcomed Assistant Director **Patricia McLaughlin, '90 J.D.**, known to many of you as the former director of the Order of St. Thomas More. In addition, **Katelynn McBride**, a program director in the CDO, has relocated to Chicago where she can actively tap into the Chicago market for our students while also supporting the externship program. Katelynn will conduct counseling sessions from Chicago via our video conference link and also return to her South Bend office once a week.

Our clerkship numbers continue to improve as well. As of today (the numbers may still increase) the Class of 2015 has secured 20 traditional judicial clerkships (14 federal and 6 state), up from the 18 accepted by the Class of 2014 (13 federal and 5 state), when NDLS was ranked 8th in the nation for the percentage of graduates securing federal clerkships.

The quality and increasing number of ND lawyers serving as judges no doubt helps advance the reputation of our Law School among judges. This August, Judge **Bernard M. Jones, '04 J.D.**, became a **United States Magistrate Judge** for the Western District of Oklahoma. Judge Jones joins Judge **Robert Numbers, '05 J.D.**, and Judge **Anthony Patti, '90 J.D.**, who became Magistrate Judges last year and Judge **Jack Blakey, '88, '92 J.D.**, and Judge **Jerry Pappert, '88 J.D.**, who were sworn in as federal district court judges last year. Notre Dame grads also serve as judges on the 4th, 7th, 9th, and 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and numerous federal district courts and state courts.

New Programs and Courses

The faculty continually reviews our curriculum to add new programs to meet the changing nature of the marketplace. Last spring, for example, we added a new course on Legal Technology and Informatics taught by **Ron Dolin**, a Silicon Valley VC, which [garnered news](#) coverage for its innovative use of interactive video technology to bring different guest experts to the classroom each week from around the world. In addition, we were delighted to learn that our new 3-year JD/MBA dual degree has already been recognized as No. 6 in [a national ranking of JD/MBA programs](#).

We have also been hard at work preparing for meeting the new ABA requirement that students must take at least six credits of experiential classes, including clinics, simulation courses, and externships. For example, recently the Law School won a grant from the Internal Revenue Service for a Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic, and Notre Dame's Office of Research agreed to match that IRS award. We expect a speedy faculty approval of the course, at which time the Taxpayer Clinic will be joining the Law School's four other clinics in allowing students to learn by practicing law under the close supervision of full-time expert faculty. We are also delighted that the Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic, which started as a small pilot program with just four students in 2012, won its first utility patent on behalf of a South Bend client last year.

In recent years, we have added other new experiential courses and programs, including Professor **Mark McKenna's** innovative course in Trade Dress and Design Law and a new intensive transactional course taught by Professors **Ryan**

McCaffrey and **Matthew Wirig**, to give a few examples. ND Law in Chicago and ND Law in DC continue to attract students each year and we have added a new Corporate Counsel Externship program in the South Bend area that will begin in January 2016. Corporations that have already committed to accepting NDLS students through the Corporate Counsel Externship include Whirlpool Corporation and Thor Industries, the world's largest manufacturer of recreational vehicles.

We are confident that we now have sufficient courses to enable our 1L students to meet the new ABA requirement before graduation. Already, 71 percent of the graduating class of 2015 has participated in a clinic or externship, up from 61 percent of the class of 2014 and 51 percent of the class of 2013.

Faculty News

Two distinguished faculty have been called to service by the judiciary. Chief Justice John G. Roberts has appointed Professor **William Kelley** to the Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure. This Standing Committee coordinates the work of the Advisory Committees on the Federal Rules of Appellate, Bankruptcy, Civil, Criminal Procedure, and the Rules of Evidence. Professor Kelley was appointed to a three-year term in September. Professor **Amy Coney Barrett**, the Diane and M.O. Miller, II Research Chair in Law, was appointed to the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure by the Chief Justice in August of 2010 and is serving her second three-year term. In October, Professor Barrett hosted the Advisory Committee at the Law School's Chicago facilities on Michigan Avenue.

We are also proud of Professor **Judith Fox**, who was appointed to the U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Consumer Advisory Board this fall. After being nominated by Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, Judy was appointed to the board along with 11 other external experts, industry representatives, consumers, community leaders and advocates. Judy teaches the NDLS Economic Justice Clinic, which provides free legal services to low-income clients on consumer law matters.

Professor **Douglass Cassel** played a crucial role in the peace talks that resulted in an historic agreement this September between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that promises to end the country's 51-year war. Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos appointed Doug to the bilateral working group that produced the agreement. Separately, Doug was also awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to do research in Mexico on the enforcement of Inter-American human rights law by Mexican courts. That project will begin this spring.

Three professors were awarded endowed scholarships over the past year. **Patricia L. Bellia** was appointed to serve as the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Professor of Law. **Nicole Stelle Garnett** was named a John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law, and **Richard Garnett** was appointed as The Paul J. Schierl/Fort Howard Corporation Professor of Law. Rick was also appointed to the U.S. Commission on

Civil Rights Indiana State Advisory Committee and, last but not least, awarded a football at the University of Texas game in recognition of his scholarship.

The faculty and I are excited to announce that **Marah Stith McLeod** will be joining us this summer from Columbia as an Associate Professor. Marah will fill several important needs at the Law School, teaching courses in the criminal law and procedure curriculum as well as a course in Catholic social thought. Professor McLeod earned her A.B. in Government, *magna cum laude*, from Harvard, and her J.D. from Yale, where she was Notes Editor for the *Yale Law Journal*. She then clerked for both Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain on the 9th Circuit and Associate Justice Clarence Thomas on the Supreme Court of the United States. Before joining Columbia Law School, she practiced law with the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel and later, Sidley Austin LLP, where she was a senior litigation associate in the Chicago office.

As many of you know, we suffered a grievous loss last February when Emeritus Professor **Charlie Rice**, a beloved mentor to generations of Notre Dame Lawyers, passed away after serving the Law School since 1969. [We miss him dearly.](#)

Finally, congratulations to Professor **Joe Bauer**, who has been at NDLS since 1973, and Professor **Eric Smithburn**, a faculty member since 1978, who have both transitioned to emeritus status along with Associate Librarians **Carmela Kinslow**, who has been here since 1990, and **Laurel Cochran** (2002). Research Librarian **Trezlan Drake** and Librarian and Head of Technical Services **Joe Thomas** left to pursue other opportunities, at Northwestern Law and Georgetown Law, respectively.

Conferences and Symposia

NDLS organized important symposia throughout the year that attracted scholars from around the world. The *Notre Dame Law Review* hosted a symposium entitled "Religious Liberty and the Free Society: Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dignitatis Humanae," and the Center for Ethics & Culture, which is directed by NDLS Professor **Carter Snead**, participated in the 3-week-long Synod on the Family by co-sponsoring several events. Some of the world's leading copyright experts met at NDLS to attend a Law and Market Behavior program roundtable on "What's Wrong with Copying?" Our London Law Center hosted a two-day conference that featured more than 25 experts exploring "Asset Stripping: Responses to the Financing of Terrorism and Crime" as well as a Program on Constitutional Structure conference on "The Common Law in an Age of Regulation."

Visitors

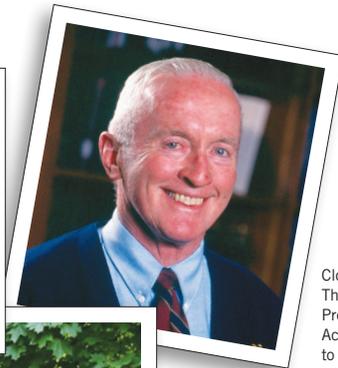
This fall our students had the honor to meet with not one but two Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. Justice **Sonia Sotomayor's** visit was sponsored by the Office of the President, the Institute for Latino Studies, and NDLS. **Samuel Anthony Alito Jr.'s** visit was sponsored by the Department of Political Science's Constitutional Studies

(Continued on back)

The Law School

2100 Eck Hall of Law
Notre Dame, Indiana 46556

NonProfit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Notre Dame, IN
Permit No. 10



Clockwise from upper left:
The 2015 Shaffer Fellows;
Professor Charles E. Rice;
Academic Procession
to the Basilica



Educating a Different Kind of Lawyer

Program, the Kellogg Institute, and NDLS. Both justices gave generously of their time, conversing with students and participating in lively Q&A sessions with overflow crowds in the Law School's Patrick F. McCartan Courtroom. Justice Alito, whose senior thesis at Princeton was on the Italian Constitutional Court, also participated as a panelist on the Book Launch and Discussion of *Italian Constitutional Justice in Global Context*, coauthored by NDLS Professor (and Kellogg Institute for International Studies Director) **Paolo Carozza**.

Other distinguished visitors to NDLS included former President of Ireland **Mary McAleese**, 7th Circuit Judge **Ann Claire Williams, '75 J.D.**, and California Supreme Court Associate Justice and Adjunct Professor **Carol A. Corrigan**.

ABA Accreditation

This spring the ABA will send a site team to evaluate NDLS to ensure we meet the standards required for accreditation. This team will also include a representative of the Association of American Law Schools whose job will be to make sure we meet the standards required for us to continue as members of that learned society as well. The process takes place every seven years, and while it is time-consuming, we always welcome the opportunity to take a hard look at our entire program of legal education and learn from the experience and feedback of the site team members.

Reunion News

In recent years, the number of alumni returning to campus in May for reunion weekend has been somewhat disappointing, with a few notable exceptions. A number of classes have pleaded for support for separate, informal class reunions, which are often held on non-football weekends in the fall. After reviewing attendance for the last ten years, we have decided to move in a new direction and host an NDLS-only reunion in the fall of 2016 for the class years ending in '1 and '6. There will be more information to follow from the Law Alumni Relations Office after the first of the year. Understanding that some law alumni have already started planning for the usual Notre Dame Reunion in June, however, we will keep both options open for Reunion 2016 during this transition year.

I am literally out of space, so that will have to be all for now. On behalf of everyone here, thank you for supporting your Law School, and may you have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Nell Jessup Newton

Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law