



Photo by Matt Cashore.



Nell Jessup Newton

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Dear Alumni and Friends of Notre Dame Law School,

Teachers tend to mark the years by remembering the students they taught, and I was fortunate to teach 47 1L students in the fall of 2016. I had not taught first-year contracts since 2013, but last May, as I handed my former students their diplomas, it occurred to me that it was time to get back in the saddle. Teaching on top of serving as dean adds a great deal of stress to the fall semester, but the benefits to me personally and to the administration of the law school are invaluable. Teaching enables me to connect with students in ways that cannot be easily duplicated outside that student-teacher relationship. In the classroom, and during office hours and lunches with student study groups, I had the privilege of getting to know my students as individuals and learn more about the class's interests, hopes, and concerns about this formative first year of law school. My hope is that learning that the "Administration" is a real person who cares about their welfare will spread from the students in my class to the wider student body. Besides, to be frank, teaching is singularly energizing.

Students

The Admissions Office was able to bring in a great class that will make you proud. The median undergraduate GPA for the entering class increased to a record high of 3.71 while the LSAT median held steady at 164. For the first time, women comprise 51 percent of the entering class, while diversity students make up 25 percent. The Class of 2019 represents 123 colleges, and they come from 36 states, including D.C. The top five states are Illinois (28), Texas (21), California (17), Michigan (16), and New York (14). These 187 1Ls include 75 who speak a second language, 67 who have studied abroad, 25 varsity athletes (including Division I basketball star **Cameasha Turner**, the standout guard from the University of Texas at El Paso), and three military veterans (Army, Marines, and Air National Guard).

The upper-class students are no slouches, either. **Christina Shakour** and **Stephanie Torres** were featured in an NBC-produced "[What Would You Fight For?](#)" ad that aired during the network's national broadcast of Notre Dame football. Shakour and Torres participated in the law school's National Immigrant Justice Center (NIJC) externship program when

they successfully represented a mother and son who sought asylum from gang violence in El Salvador.

Deserving special kudos as well were four second-year students (**Matthew Ciulla**, **Christina Dines**, **Kyle Maury**, and **Christina Milanese**) who teamed up to win the 2016 International Law and Religion Moot Court competition in Venice, Italy.

We also have four new public interest Fellows, winners of our competitive fellowship programs. The [Thomas L. Shaffer Public Interest Fellowship](#) gives two NDLS students the opportunity to launch their legal careers in nonprofits that provide direct legal services to low-income people. The 2016 winners are **Neysa Nankervis**, who is working with the Public Counsel Law Center representing sexually exploited children in the Los Angeles area, and **Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin**, who is working with Catholic Charities Legal Network of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Funded entirely by annual contributions, the Shaffer Fellowship pays salaries, health, and other benefits for two full years.

Our other two-year fellowship program, the [Bank of America Foundation Community Sustainability Fellowship](#), also places NDLS graduates in agencies or private nonprofits. The 2016 BOA Fellows are **Christina Jones** and **Nicholas Bedenk**. Nicholas is working for First Defense Legal Aid in Chicago representing clients (mainly young men) between their arrest and their initial court hearing, while Christina is in Washington, D.C., working with the Arc of the United States's Center for Special Education Advocacy to enforce the Arc's special-needs clients' rights to assistance in transitioning from school to employment.

Faculty News

Our wonderful faculty had another good year as well. First, Colombian President **Juan Manuel Santos** awarded Professor **Douglass Cassel** [Colombia's Order of Merit](#) in recognition of his pivotal role in negotiating the transitional justice component of a peace agreement between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). The medal is the highest award Colombia grants to foreign citizens. President Santos was subsequently awarded the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in negotiating the peace agreement, and he invited Professor Cassel to join him at the prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway.

From Rome comes news that Pope Francis has appointed Professor **Paolo Carozza** to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, an international body composed of 25 scholars from around the world who assist the Church by promoting the social sciences, such as economics, sociology, law, and political science. The pope also named Professor **Carter Snead** to the Pontifical Academy for Life, the pope's principal advisory group on the promotion of a consistent ethic of life in the Catholic Church.

Here at home, the University has awarded Professor **Nicole Stelle Garnett** the Reinhold Niebuhr Award for promoting social justice through her academic work and life. Throughout her professional career, Professor Garnett has worked to increase

educational opportunities for disadvantaged children and to strengthen K-12 Catholic schools. The University also took notice of Professor **Jennifer Mason McAward**'s expertise in civil rights and constitutional law when it recently named her the new director of the Center for Civil and Human Rights.

I am also delighted to tell you that Professor **Randy Kozel**, who was voted Distinguished Professor of the Year by the NDLS class of 2014, has been granted tenure. Randy joined the faculty in 2011 and teaches and researches in the fields of constitutional law, federal courts, and contract law, with a particular focus on the role of precedent in legal decision-making. And congratulations are due Professor **Bruce Huber**, who has been named a Robert and Marion Short Scholar, a three-year rotating appointment for pre-tenure faculty members. The gift will help facilitate Bruce's research activities through 2019 in the areas of environmental law, natural resources law, property law, and energy law.

Professor and Associate Dean for Library and Information Technology **Ed Edmonds** is retiring at the end of this fall semester and is assuming emeritus status after serving NDLS since 2006 as the school's sixth librarian. An expert in advanced legal research, sports law, and all things baseball, Ed did a great job overseeing the Kresge Law Library's move into its present space in Biolchini Hall and he went on to lead its transition into 21st century research technologies. To find a new director for this challenging position, I appointed a Library Director Search Committee and asked it to launch a nationwide search. We are delighted that Associate Director **Dwight B. King Jr.** has agreed to serve as the Interim Law Library Director during the search.

New Faculty

As we noted last year, Professor **Marah Stith McLeod** has joined us as an Associate Professor teaching Catholic social thought as well as criminal law and procedure. In addition, this fall saw the addition of Professor **Patrick Thomas** to our faculty as the founding director of our new [Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic](#). Prior to launching the Law School's fifth clinic, Professor Thomas represented low-income tax clients at the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic in Indianapolis. He earned his B.A. in Germanic studies, international studies, and Near Eastern languages and cultures at Indiana University, and he earned his J.D. at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

Another great addition to the NDLS family is **Fr. Pat Reidy**, C.S.C., who has taken on the job of chaplain at the Law School following the assignment of **Fr. Bill Dailey**, C.S.C., to the Newman University Church in Dublin. Fr. Pat is a Colorado native who graduated from ND in 2008 with a B.A. in political science. He was ordained in 2014 and is the longtime rector of Keough Hall.

Law School Losses

I am very sorry to report that Professor Emeritus **Conrad Lawler Kellenberg** passed away last April. Con joined the

faculty in 1955 and served NDLS for 50 years. Some of you knew him as the founding director of the Notre Dame Law School Neighborhood Legal Services Program, which is now known as the Clinical Law Center. Many of you were his students in property, family law, estate planning, legal ethics, criminal law and procedure, environmental, energy, minerals, water, agricultural, land-use, public-lands and housing, or community development law courses. He was a dear and good man who will be much missed.

Our community lost a much-loved student last spring when **Karabo Moleah** died just a few weeks short of graduation. The University marked Karabo's passing with a Mass at the Basilica celebrated by President **Rev. John I. Jenkins**, C.S.C. The **Rev. Bill Dailey**, C.S.C., delivered the homily. Before Mass, Fr. John and I met with his mother, aunt, and sister to present his posthumous diploma. After the Mass, classmates, friends, and family gathered in the Eck Commons to share their memories of a person aptly described by one classmate as an "intense but jubilant" friend.

I got to know Karabo well, since he was a first-year student of mine in 2013. He lived a remarkable life, moving from Philadelphia, where he was born, to his family's native country of South Africa shortly after the end of apartheid. Nelson Mandela personally asked Karabo's father, Alfred, a professor of political science at Temple University, and his mother, Thabisile, a professor of nutrition at the University of Pennsylvania, to come back to help lead the new South Africa. When he was 10 years old the family moved again to Vienna, Austria, where his father served as South Africa's ambassador. With the permission of those who created the Williams-Lark Scholarship fund, and a generous additional contribution, we have changed the fund name to the **Williams-Lark-Moleah Memorial Fellowship**. This fund was created to nurture the BLSA community at the Law School and seeks to make a profound difference in the range of students able to obtain a Law School education.

Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic

Last year the Law School won a grant from the Internal Revenue Service to help develop a [Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic](#). Much has happened since then. First, thanks to the hard work of the clinic's founding director, Professor **Patrick Thomas**, the clinic opened this fall without a hitch, and NDLS students are now representing clients in controversies with the IRS and educating individuals about their rights and responsibilities as taxpayers. Second, the IRS has been so pleased with the clinic's work that the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service has just approved a new three-year grant. The clinic cannot know the amount of funds it will receive from this grant until Congress officially appropriates them (a task usually tackled in the opening months of the new year) but it hopes to receive the maximum \$100,000 allowed under U.S. statute.

The clinic is a great opportunity for our students, who can gain practical experience in resolving taxpayer disputes with the

IRS as well as important experience in developing interviewing, counseling, fact-gathering, negotiation, and litigation skills under close faculty supervision.

ND Law in DC

This spring we will send 11 students to D.C. to participate in the [D.C. externship program](#), now in its third year. Placed in federal agencies, on the Hill, and in judicial chambers, these students will have an exciting semester learning firsthand about the challenges of serving in the government. Many thanks to **Tom Yannucci**, '76 J.D., and **Kirkland & Ellis** for providing conference room space and technology assistance. Assistant Dean **Janet Laybold** did an amazing job creating the program and teaching the externship seminar. Before she retired she handed me a thick binder with all the information needed to carry on her work. As a result, Director of Academic Advancement **John Lloyd** and I will be able to build on the solid foundation she created.

Janet was also responsible for creating a South Bend cohort for the Law School's "general" LL.M. program (to distinguish it from the LL.M. in Civil and Human Rights, which is also in South Bend). Now ably directed by **Margaret Lloyd**, '93 J.D., the South Bend LL.M. program welcomed 14 students representing nine countries (Colombia, Taiwan, China, South Korea, Brazil, United States, Mexico, Ukraine, and Italy). During the ABA accreditation process last spring, the site team commented on how glad our J.D. students were to take classes alongside our LL.M. students who bring their varied experiences into the classroom.

Speakers and Symposia

We always do our best to take full advantage of the magnificent venue that the Law School's Patrick F. McCartan Courtroom provides for hosting exciting programs, speakers, and live court sessions for our students.

At the top of this year's speaker list was Justice **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** who visited the courtroom in April to field questions from NDLS students. Judge **Amul Thapar** of the Eastern District of Kentucky was here to give the Constitution Day Lecture in September, and Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, Fighting Irish All-American, and Pro Football Hall of Fame member **Alan Page** visited in October.

Our busy law students were visibly impressed by the life story and work ethic of Justice Page who, as most of you know, earned his degree in political science while at the same time playing outstanding Notre Dame football, and then went on to earn his law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School while simultaneously playing professional football at the very highest level.

Other events this fall included a major symposium on global terrorism that opened with remarks by Ambassador **Ted McNamara**, a former senior advisor for counter-terrorism and homeland security to the secretary of state. The keynote address was delivered by the vice chair of the 9/11 Commission,

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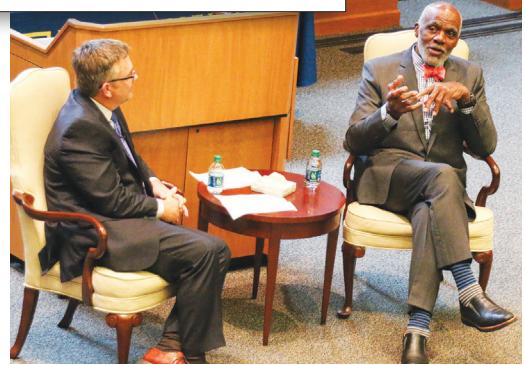
The Law School

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Clockwise from upper left:
The 2016 Shaffer Fellows,
Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg,
Professor Mark McKenna
and Justice Alan Page.
Photo of Justice Ginsburg
by Matt Cashore.



Educating a Different Kind of Lawyer

former Congressman **Lee Hamilton**. Professors **Jimmy Gurulé** and **Doug Cassel** both moderated panels for this fascinating program entitled, "Fifteen Years After the 9/11 Terrorist Attacks: Reassessing the Nature of the Threat and Response to Global Terrorism."

And as always, the courtroom hosted live state and federal court sessions for our students to study and observe. The Indiana Court of Appeals and the Indiana Tax Court both held sessions there in November, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces will hear oral arguments in the spring.

Careers

Alumni have often volunteered to conduct mock interviews for our students, but in recent years we have developed a more formal program. When we reached out to alumni to help us build and expand our summer mock interview program, the response was heartwarming. This past summer more than 355 Notre Dame Lawyers volunteered their time and expertise to serve as mock interviewers in nearly 70 cities across the country (and even in Beijing, China). We are seeing tangible results, with employers going out of their way to praise our students' interview skills.

Faculty response to the tightened job market has been terrific as well, with many devoting substantial hours to writing

letters of reference, passing on tips regarding job openings, and counseling students on their career decisions and job-hunt strategies.

All this work has been bearing fruit for several years now. Fewer than 10 percent of our 2016 grads are still looking for jobs, continuing the steady increase in employment outcomes of the past few years. Equally encouraging is that, despite being a larger class, the Class of 2017 is also ahead of the Class of 2016's pace in securing employment.

Notre Dame's reputation for punching above its weight in terms of post-graduate judicial clerkships remains strong as well. Fifteen of our 2016 grads are now doing clerkships (nine federal; six state), and three of those 15 have accepted multiple, consecutive clerkships.

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and especially the students, thank you for supporting your Law School, and may you have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

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