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## Dear Alumni and Friends of Notre Dame Law School,

It seems as if I wrote my first annual letter yesterday, yet it was 10 years ago! Once again I can report that it has been an eventful and fulfilling year for our students, faculty, and staff, and especially for me, as I prepare to return to the faculty and turn the helm over to a new dean. So I hope you will pardon me if I occasionally lapse into the valedictory in this year’s summary of activities at the Law School.

We have always punched above our weight when it comes to federal clerkships, but this year was especially remarkable for the fact that three members of our community have accepted offers to clerk for the Supreme Court. Professor **Stephen Yelderman**, who joined the faculty in 2013 and earned tenure earlier this year, will be clerking for Justice Neil Gorsuch during the 2019-2020 term. Steve will join **Laura Wolk** ’16 J.D., who accepted an offer to clerk from Justice Clarence Thomas. We also just learned that **Audrey Beck** ’17 J.D., will be clerking for Justice Brett Kavanaugh next term or the term thereafter.

In October, and across the pond, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the oldest study-abroad program offered by an American law school—and the only full-year London program approved by the American Bar Association. More than 1,500 students from Notre Dame Law School have studied in the London Law Program that is now directed by Professor **Michael K. Addo**, and a number of alumni flew over to help current students and faculty celebrate the Golden Jubilee. The four days of speakers and events included a tour of Churchill’s War Rooms introduced by Celia Sandys, Churchill’s granddaughter, an academic panel on the importance of comparative law, and a celebratory dinner at the Middle Temple, one of the four Inns of Court, featuring a keynote address by Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, the former president of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom.

## Students

The best part of my job has been working with students. They are our reason for existing and their success is our success. We enrolled another strong 1L class this year. The class boasts a median undergraduate 3.71 GPA and a 165 median LSAT score. Our 191 1L students come from 120 colleges, 36 states, and remarkably diverse life experiences. Only 46 percent of our 1Ls came to NDLS direct from undergrad; the rest worked or volunteered before coming to law school. Minorities accounted for 27 percent of the entering class and for the first time women made up 51 percent.

We also welcomed 14 attorneys to the general LL.M. program from seven countries, three exchange students (one from Peking University, China, and two from Trinity College, Dublin), and six incoming international J.D. students from Saudi Arabia, China, Korea, Canada, and the Czech Republic. In addition, 18 lawyers from 16 countries entered our Human Rights LL.M. program this year. Including a small group of students pursuing a doctoral degree, the J.S.D., we have 25 lawyers from 23 countries in the Law School’s human rights academic programs this year.

As always, we were proud to welcome military veterans to NDLS. This year’s entering class included four vets from the Army, Marines, and Navy. The Law School website contains wonderful profiles of several of our student veterans (just go to law.nd.edu and search for “veterans studying”).

A group of our students created an all-volunteer and student-led Notre Dame Exoneration Project Club that quickly became one of the most popular student organizations. With the assistance of their advisor, Professor **Jimmy Gurulé**, the students successfully proposed to the faculty the creation of an externship, the Wrongful Conviction Externship, which will provide an enhanced learning opportunity and the awarding of credits to participating students.

Another student-led initiative, **Impowerus**, an online platform that connects juvenile immigrants with pro bono attorneys, continues to garner awards. It most recently won \$40,000 in prizes at the 2018 McCloskey New Venture Competition.

Last March, the NDLS team—all members of the Class of 2019—won an international religious freedom moot court competition in Bologna, Italy. Funding from the Nanovic Institute for European Studies and the Law School’s Program on Church, State & Society enabled them to compete.

Our clinical students have been in the news as well. Over the past year the **Community Development Clinic** has won praise for its work with South Bend's Near Northwest Neighborhood, and the **IP and Entrepreneurship Clinic** has become well known for its success in securing patents for area inventors. The **Economic Justice Clinic** has also garnered well-earned national attention as the result of its work on behalf of fair housing. The clinic, led by Professor **Judy Fox**, was the subject of NBC's "What Would You Fight For?" ad shown at halftime during the Ball State game September 8, and the University's website featured a story highlighting the clinic's work in helping a local homeless woman regain possession of her home.

These stories always remind me of how very grateful I am for our ability to help the many students who wish to explore careers in the relatively low-paying nonprofit and government sectors. Our **Loan Repayment Assistance Program** has now disbursed more than \$2 million to NDLS graduates who accept qualifying jobs, and we have worked to strengthen and streamline the program every year.

Early in my deanship we created the Thomas L. Shaffer Fellowships in honor of Emeritus Professor **Tom Shaffer**, who was one of the leaders in the movement to provide legal services to the underserved. The Shaffer fellowship covers salary and benefits for two graduating students whose placements will be providing direct service to low-income or other underrepresented groups. Since its founding, 17 students have served as Shaffer Fellows. Our current fellows are **Ka'sha Bernard** and **Robert Lee**, both of the class of 2018. Ka'sha is working at the Crag Law Center in Portland, Oregon, and Robert is at the Midwest Environmental Advocates in Madison, Wisconsin.

After the Shaffer fellowship was established, the Bank of America Foundation stepped up and has been supporting an additional two graduates each year who work in the broad category of community sustainability. Since launching in 2015, the program has given us seven BOAF fellows, and the graduating class of 2018 can boast three of them: **Arianna Cook-Thajudeen**, **William Tronsor**, and **Terrence Way**. Arianna is serving at the National Housing Law Project in San Francisco, Will Tronsor is at the Disability Rights organization in Albany, New York, and Terrence is at the Chicago Public Schools.

You can read about all of the BOAF and Shaffer fellows and their projects simply by entering their names in the search bar at [law.nd.edu](http://law.nd.edu).

## Faculty

2018 was an exceptionally busy year for new faculty hires, promotions, and retirements. We had the bittersweet experience of congratulating two colleagues who assumed emeritus status at the end of the spring semester: labor law expert Professor **Barbara Fick** and human rights law expert Professor **Douglass Cassel**. Barb taught generations of law students about the importance of treating unionized and nonunionized employees fairly. In his nearly 13 years at the Law School, Doug developed a strong human rights curriculum while remaining active as a human rights advocate and assisting victims before human rights tribunals. He was also instrumental in brokering the peace agreement in 2016 that brought an end to Colombia's civil war.

As we bid farewell to Doug and Barb, we welcomed four new professors. Professor **Sam Bray**, who taught here during the 2017-

2018 school year as a visiting professor, decided to leave sunny UCLA to become a permanent member of our faculty. A graduate of the University of Chicago Law School, he clerked for then-Judge Michael W. McConnell on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Before joining the UCLA faculty he practiced law at Mayer Brown LP and served as executive director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School. Professor Bray will be teaching remedies, civil procedure, property, and constitutional law.

Associate Professor **Emily Bremer**, another experienced law professor, comes to us from the University of Wyoming College of Law. She will teach in the areas of administrative law, civil procedure, and business associations. A graduate of New York University School of Law, Professor Bremer clerked for the Hon. Andrew J. Kleinfeld at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, served as an attorney advisor and research chief for the Administrative Conference of the United States, and practiced law as an associate in the telecommunications and appellate litigation group of Wiley Rein LLP in Washington, D.C.

Associate Professor **Sadie Blanchard** will be teaching contracts and international business law at Notre Dame. After earning her J.D. at Yale Law School, Professor Blanchard was a law clerk to The Hon. Charles N. Brower of the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal, in his capacity as an independent arbitrator in foreign direct investment disputes, and practiced law in Paris in the international arbitration group of King & Spalding. She has also served as a research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Procedural Law (Luxembourg) and most recently as Fellow in Private Law at Yale Law School.

**Christian Buset** is a legal historian with a J.D. who will be receiving his Ph.D. in history from Yale this month. Professor Buset clerked for the Hon. José A. Cabranes at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit before taking a position at New York University School of Law, where he was the Samuel I. Golieb Fellow in Legal History. He will be teaching civil procedure and legal history.

We are also delighted that Professor of the Practice **Thomas P. (Pat) Dore**, '76 B.A., '79 J.D., has joined our faculty to enrich our growing focus on real estate law by teaching courses on real estate law and transactions, and serving as a partner in the University's interdisciplinary Real Estate Institute, a collaborative effort of NDLS, the Mendoza College of Business, the College of Engineering, and the School of Architecture. Professor Dore was a partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York City where he headed their real estate practice group before becoming senior counsel.

Our faculty appointments committee is hard at work recruiting for the 2019-2020 year. We are delighted that **Maria Maciá** has agreed to join the faculty as a visiting assistant professor. Currently a judicial clerk for Judge **Andrew Hurwitz** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, **Maciá** has earned both a J.D. and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago, and her teaching interests include antitrust, business associations, and securities regulation.

Although our faculty innovations and efforts would fill a much longer letter, I will highlight just a few achievements. Professor **Mark McKenna** was awarded an endowed chair, the John P. Murphy Foundation professorship, and was also elected to the American Law Institute. Professor McKenna is one of the

nation's leading intellectual property scholars. Though his core area of expertise is trademark law, he has written broadly on nearly every area of intellectual property, including utility patent, design patent, copyright, and the right of publicity.

The Program on Church, State & Society, which Professor **Rick Garnett** founded and directs, reached a significant milestone with the naming of its first program manager, **Jonathan Hannah**, formerly the University's director of foundation relations. Professor **Paul Miller**, Associate Dean for International and Graduate Programs, was appointed as a member of Peking University's Global Faculty at a ceremony held in Beijing in October. Professor Miller also launched the Law School's new Program on Private Law to bring together the faculty's considerable strengths in private law theory.

This year saw Professor and Associate Dean **Randy Kozel's** latest book gain national attention as a major and timely contribution to the scholarship on the role of precedent in judicial decision making. Published by Cambridge University Press, *Settled Versus Right: A Theory of Precedent* has been lauded as an important book for lawyers and judges as well as scholars and students. The University of Richmond held a roundtable discussion of the book featuring leading constitutional law scholars that resulted in a symposium issue of *Constitutional Commentary*.

We were proud to host the investiture of Professor **Amy Coney Barrett** as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. As is the case with Judge **Kenneth Ripple**, Judge Barrett is retaining an office at the Law School and will continue to teach part time. This fall she is teaching her popular Statutory Interpretation Seminar.

## Programs

NDLS students and faculty can always be depended upon to organize impressive public programs and speakers.

April marked 50 years since President Lyndon Johnson signed the Fair Housing Act into law, and the Law School recognized this important anniversary by hosting a major conference to look at why the Fair Housing Act was needed, what the law accomplished, and the challenges that remain in the fight for equal access to housing in the United States. Last summer NDLS also hosted the Indiana Conference for Legal Education Opportunity (ICLEO) Summer Institute, which is designed to assist traditionally underrepresented groups in pursuing a legal career.

This fall the Law School's Sports, Communications & Entertainment Law Forum and the Intellectual Property Law Society partnered to bring the federal government's top antitrust official, **Makan Delrahim**, to speak about the application of antitrust law to college and professional sports. Intellectual property was the focus of Professor Yelderman's public conversation with Judge **Raymond T. Chen** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

NDLS students always have the opportunity to hear from the judiciary, but this year felt extraordinary. In addition to Judge Chen, federal appellate judges visiting the Law School over the past year included: Sixth Circuit Judge **Ray Kethledge**, who was here for a public conversation with Professor **A.J. Bellia**; Judge **Margaret Ryan** of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, who delivered a Clynes Chair Lecture on the appellate process; then-D.C. Circuit Judge **Brett Kavanaugh**, who spoke at the Federalist Society event on the "Role of a Judge," and Seventh

Circuit Judge **Michael Y. Scudder**, who discussed free speech law at this year's Law Review Symposium. NDLS Professor and Seventh Circuit Judge **Amy Coney Barrett** and Sixth Circuit Judge **Amul Thapar** were among the speakers at the Law School's reception celebrating Professor **Randy Kozel's** new book, *Settled Versus Right*. Ninth Circuit Judge **Diarmuid F. O'Scannlain** visited with our London students last spring, and our own Judge **Kenneth Ripple** was one of the judges for the Law School's 68th annual Moot Court Showcase.

State and federal judges participated in various other programs as well. The Moot Court Showcase featured Justice **Mary Yu** of the Washington Supreme Court and Judge **Stephen Murphy** of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Judge Murphy also participated in the 2018 JLEPP Symposium on "White Collar Crime: Public Corruption Law" along with Judge **John R. Blakey** of the Northern District of Illinois. A number of local and out-of-state judges have volunteered in the Intensive Trial Advocacy program for a number of years.

At its annual reception, the Hispanic Law Student Association awarded the 2017-2018 Graciela Olivarez award to **Justice Jesse Reyes** of the Illinois Appellate Court. The Black Law Students Association annual banquet featured awards for three alumni: **Cristal Brisco**, '06 J.D., who received the Alvin McKenna Alumnus of the Year Award; **Max Siegel** '86 B.A., '92 J.D., who received the BLSA Alumni Speaker Award; and **Terrence Way**, '18 J.D., who received the Dwight King Community Service Award.

Other programs featured such dynamic speakers as **Anthony Hinton**, who was hosted by the Exoneration Project to speak about the 30 years he spent on death row and the legal help he finally obtained that helped exonerate him as an innocent man, and the Most Reverend **Edward K. Braxton**, Ph.D., S.T.D., Bishop of Belleville, who delivered the second annual Dean's Lecture on Race, Law, and Society. His topic was "The Catholic Church and the Racial Divide in the United States."

## Alumni

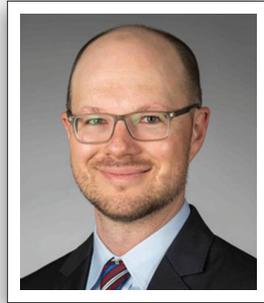
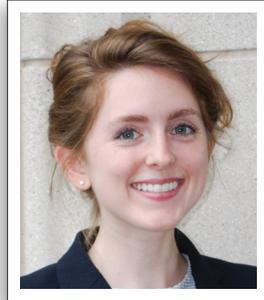
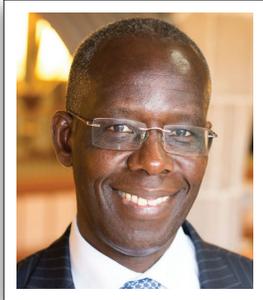
While our wonderful alumni have earned too many awards, promotions, and accolades over the past year to recount in this brief letter, special congratulations are perhaps due to our new alumni judges: St. Joseph Circuit Court Magistrate Judge **Cristal Brisco**, '06 J.D.; **Daniel J. Gallegos**, '00 B.B.A., '05 J.D., New Mexico Court of Appeals; U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals Judge **Joseph L. Falvey, Jr.**, '81 B.A., '87 J.D.; **Christine E. Mayle**, '01 J.D., Ohio Court of Appeals for the Sixth District; Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge **Theresa R. McGonigle**, '87 J.D.; **James Sweeney II**, '96 J.D., of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana; and Indiana Court of Appeals Judge **Elizabeth Tavitias**, '85 B.A., '90 J.D. Congratulations also to **Lisa Thibault Schenck**, '89 J.D., who was recently nominated to serve as a judge on the Court of Military Commissions Review.

I know our judiciary and our country are well served whenever a Notre Dame lawyer ascends to the bench. Please check and contribute to the Alumni Notes on the alumni page of our website to make sure you see all of the other amazing accomplishments of your classmates and fellow alumni.

Thanks to our incredible alumni network, the Student/Alumni Ambassador Program was able to host networking events for over 300 students and alumni in over 15 cities during Christmas break. It has been so gratifying to see these events grow each year and

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## Educating a Different Kind of Lawyer

Clockwise from upper left: Professor and London Law Director Michael Addo; new Supreme Court judicial clerk Audrey Beck, '17 J.D.; Professor Stephen Yelderman; and Laura Wolk '16 J.D.

I am confident that the program will continue to flourish. I am proud to note that Law School alumni also hosted student/alumni receptions, happy hours, and picnics over the summer, and that new Notre Dame Lawyer Committees were formed in Houston, Eastern North Carolina (Raleigh), and San Antonio. These lawyer committees have been instrumental in bringing alumni together to celebrate the Law School and to provide above-and-beyond mentoring for our students and recent graduates.

The second annual Law Homecoming Weekend last September was a most gratifying success. Many of you came to hear a panel discussion with Notre Dame Lawyers who are now serving as U.S. attorneys or participated in an ethics CLE, and more than 375 of you gathered on the DeBartolo Quad for a perfect tailgate on a beautiful September day prior to the Vanderbilt game. Please check out all the great photos from this memorable weekend by entering "Homecoming" in the search box on the Law School's homepage at law.nd.edu and then mark your calendar for Homecoming 2019, which will be held on the weekend of Sept. 28, 2019, with a tailgate before the ND vs. Virginia game.

### Law School Losses

As many of you know, our beloved colleague and longtime Law School registrar, **Anne Christine Hamilton**, died August 17 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka, Indiana, surrounded by her family. Our close-knit community gathered to pray for her earlier that day in a special Mass in the Law School's

St. Thomas More Chapel. Anne was a special person who put the needs of Notre Dame Law School students first throughout her 33 years of service. Generations of students noticed and loved her for it. Many joined us in Eck Commons after her interment at Cedar Grove Cemetery to mourn together and share memories of Anne. To honor her memory, the Law School will give the Anne C. Hamilton Award each year to the graduating Notre Dame Law student who has done the most to help his or her fellow students.

I am also sorry to report that we lost 29 NDLS alumni over the past year whose names we have memorialized in the 2018 issue of the Notre Dame Lawyer magazine.

Finally, on a personal note, while I will be stepping down as dean in July after 10 wonderful years, I will be returning to the Law School faculty and hoping to stay in touch with you over the coming years. It has been a great blessing to work with so many talented and caring faculty and staff and to meet so many alumni with one goal in mind: to help form our students' talents and their consciences—to hold them up during difficult times and to celebrate their many successes. May you have a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Nell Jessup Newton  
*Joseph A. Matson Dean and Professor of Law*