

DICKINSON LAWYER

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DICKINSON LAW ALUMNI MAGAZINE

FALL 2022



more than a gift

Bolstered by generous alumni support, Dickinson Law raises more than \$16.9 million to surpass campaign goal



PennState
Dickinson Law

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Alumni and Friends,

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Penn State Dickinson Law reached several strategic milestones thanks to the ongoing support of our generous alumni, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the perseverance of our students.

- In 2022, Dickinson Law celebrated the remarkable success of our six-year campaign *A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence*, which raised over \$16.9 million for scholarships, transformative experiences, and gender and racial equity programs.
- *U.S. News and World Report* recognized the dedication of our brilliant faculty and staff, the commitment of our hardworking students, and Dickinson Law's incredible value, fueling the rise in ranking from 71 in 2020 to 58 in 2023. Notably, Dickinson Law is the highest ranked public-affiliated law school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and ranked as one of the most affordable law schools in the Commonwealth and nationwide.
- Dickinson Law launched the Antiracist Development Institute (ADI), which offers systems design-based approaches to implementing antiracist practices, processes, and policies in collaboration with representatives from more than 55 other law schools to join the work to dismantle systemic racial inequality and oppression.
- The Law School celebrated the graduates of the class of 2022 who began their law school careers in the midst of a global pandemic. Their perseverance and integrity inspired all members of the Dickinson Law community, and we look forward to celebrating and supporting them in the next phase of their personal and professional development.

These milestones would not have been possible without our dedicated alumni. Your investment creates a pathway for entry into the profession for first-generation students, facilitates the formation of a student's professional identity, and leverages the work of the ADI to promote systemic equity in our profession and across the nation.

Thank you for your loyalty and commitment to Dickinson Law.

Warmest,
Danielle M. Conway
Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law



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DICKINSON LAWYER FALL 2022

Published for alumni and friends
of Penn State Dickinson Law

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Five current law students share their stories about life before Dickinson Law and the impact that law school has made on their lives

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MORE THAN A GIFT: CAMPAIGN IMPACT

Alumni and friends led Dickinson Law to a successful campaign finish in the University-wide, six-year campaign *A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence*. The more than \$16.9 million raised will benefit students, faculty, curriculum, and programming, helping to advance the Law School's tradition of excellence.

16

BEHIND THE LAUNCH OF DICKINSON LAW'S ANTIRACIST DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE



Dickinson Law's Antiracist Development Institute offers organizations across the country systems design-based approaches to implementing antiracist practices, processes, and policies to join the work to dismantle systemic racial inequality and oppression.



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Team Including Professor Gerke Receives €6 Million EU Grant to Research AI and Cancer Surgery



A new four-year project dubbed CLASSICA, which includes Penn State Dickinson Law Assistant Professor of Law Sara Gerke, was recently awarded a €6 million grant from Horizon Europe, the European Union’s funding program for research and innovation, to deliver and clinically validate an artificial intelligence-based (AI) clinical decision support system, which rapidly identifies cancerous tumors and maps their distribution.

As co-principal investigator, Gerke will spearhead the study of the legal and ethical implications raised by AI-assisted surgery, along with Timo Minssen, professor of law at the University of Copenhagen. The team in Copenhagen will focus on the regulatory landscape and bias, and Gerke and her team will focus on liability.

To begin their research, Gerke and her team will explore the topic of liability in AI-assisted surgery from a comparative legal perspective (the United States and Europe). Part of the work will also involve conducting a focus group with surgeons to discover concerns they have about using AI tools in real-time surgery. Gerke said exploring bias issues, data privacy, and medical device regulation will all fall within the scope of the work.

As part of the project, Dickinson Law will co-organize a conference in Copenhagen. Gerke said the conference will occur in the third year of CLASSICA, and she plans to invite surgeons and other stakeholders in AI from around the world.

Groome Receives Equity and Community Engagement Award

Professor of Law and Harvey A. Feldman Distinguished Faculty Scholar Dermot Groome was honored with the 2021-2022 Equity and Community Engagement Award during Penn State Dickinson Law’s annual employee appreciation luncheon on May 17, 2022. The award was created to recognize an individual who has contributed to the community by demonstrating an understanding of, appreciation for, and advocacy on behalf of difference and equity issues; a commitment to fostering an environment in which the values of diversity and equity are understood, developed, and promoted; and a commitment to the principles of difference and equity through hiring practices, sensitivity in developing teaching, research, service or professional development agendas, and/or other activities that include relationships with or promote understanding of diversity and equity.

Groome has demonstrated a commitment to and understanding of each of these ideals through his leadership of programming and initiatives both inside and outside the Law School community. He developed Race and Equal Protection of the Laws, an innovative course addressing issues of race and equity to the American system of laws, and has incorporated critical thinking and analysis of diversity and equity principles throughout courses in the curriculum. He also organized “Genocide, Justice, and Hope: How 400 Bosnian Families Became Neighbors in our Central PA Community,” a large community event meant to raise awareness of ethnic minorities living in the Carlisle area who, in their home countries, faced torture based on their religious and ethnic identity.



Associate Dean Laura Williams '90, Aranda Stathers '23, Professor Emerita Laurel S. Terry, Dean Danielle Conway, Marissa LaWall '18, Sarah Donley '23, and Sara Carnahan '23 pose at the 2022 Rambo Award Ceremony. (Pictured left to right)

2022 Women's Law Caucus Award Recipients Honored

Professor Emerita Laurel S. Terry was selected as the 2022 Honorable Sylvia H. Rambo Award recipient during a ceremony held at Penn State Dickinson Law. The Rambo Award is presented annually by the Dickinson Law Women's Law Caucus to a woman in the legal profession who has had a distinguished career and who, by example, has made the professional success of other women more likely.

Terry retired from Dickinson Law on June 30, 2021, after 36 years. "The Women's Law Caucus was thrilled to honor Professor Emerita Laurel Terry as the 27th recipient of the Sylvia H. Rambo Award. Professor Terry positively affected countless law students, myself included, and alumni in her 36 years at Penn State Dickinson Law, and her scholarship continues to have a significant impact on the legal academy and the practice of law," said Women's Law Caucus President Sarah Donley '23.

Terry held the H. Laddie Montague Jr. Chair in Law title and was Dickinson Law's inaugural associate dean for research and new faculty development. A three-time Fulbright recipient who writes and speaks about the impact of globalization on the legal profession, her scholarship has identified emerging issues for the legal profession and urged stakeholder engagement, new initiatives, and regulatory reform.

The ceremony also honored Marissa LaWall '18, who received the 2022 Recent Alumna Award. "Marissa LaWall is positive proof that law students should follow their passions. While at Dickinson Law, Ms. LaWall built the foundation for her current career at the intersection of health and the law. We were very impressed with the steps she took to realize her goals as both a law student and recent graduate," said Donley. LaWall is a supervising attorney with the Pennsylvania Health Law Project.

Annual Amadure Award Presented to Brenda Garland

The 2021-2022 Patricia Amadure Memorial Award was presented to Brenda Garland, administrative support assistant, in recognition of her industriousness, good humor, dedication, and loyalty to Penn State Dickinson Law, its students, and alumni.

One colleague who nominated Garland for this award shared, "I don't think we could have made it through the recent pandemic

without her. She has been here through thick and thin. Her leadership has been strong throughout. She has worked diligently to become the 'expert' in Canvas to support the faculty and her colleagues. Additionally, her work to support exams has been exemplary. Her always-helpful demeanor and willingness to learn and do new things have really helped everyone through these past two years."

"Extremely generous with her time and talent, Brenda is always ready to help fellow employees work out a problem or to help with a new project," another nominator shared. "She has also been especially supportive to new faculty, making their transition to Dickinson Law much easier at a challenging time."



Members of the Senior Fellows Advisory Board for the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity program gathered in Miami, Florida, in February 2022.

Makhlouf Selected to Join the Advisory Board for the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity Program

Associate Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic at Penn State Dickinson Law Medha D. Makhlouf has been selected to join the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity (AFHE) Senior Fellows Advisory Board. AFHE is a one-year, nonresidential fellowship program that aims to create a global network of committed leaders working across societies and nations to promote health equity. The board plays an important role in developing and informing AFHE program initiatives and building a vibrant community of senior fellows, all of whom have completed the fellowship program.

Reflecting on her reasons for applying for a position on the board, Makhlouf shared, “The community of AFHE senior fellows has become really important to me, both as a source of inspiration and as a network for collaboration. I am honored to use my expertise to develop and inform programming for senior fellows, specifically relating to health justice (law and policy for health equity), migrant health, pandemic-related immigration restrictions, and immigration law as a social determinant of health.”

During her two-year term on the board, Makhlouf looks forward to working closely with leaders in the Atlantic Fellows organization, engaging in strategic dialogue, participating in discussions that help shape the organization in the future, working with her peers, and developing her leadership skills.

Evans Receives Prestigious Co-Hire Appointment



Professor of Law Tonya M. Evans received a prestigious five-year co-hire appointment with the Penn State Institute for Computational and Data Sciences

(ICDS), which commenced on July 1, 2022. This joint appointment with ICDS is a major milestone in Penn State Dickinson Law’s commitment to interdisciplinary research within Penn State University.

Evans’s research focuses on the legal, policy, and economic justice implications of new technologies and innovation; specifically, distributed ledger technologies, cryptocurrencies, and other cryptographically secured digital assets including non-fungible tokens, decentralized finance, and decentralized autonomous organizations. Legal considerations include intellectual property, regulatory frameworks, and cross-border dispute resolution mechanisms.

“I am excited about this opportunity to advance my interdisciplinary research of blockchain and crypto assets as emerging global technologies by gathering, analyzing, and interpreting data related to adoption, use and regulation, and systemically marginalized populations in the United States and around the world. I believe access to, and transparency of, financial innovation is a matter of both civil and human rights, as well as an imperative to create and sustain an equitable future of work, wealth, and creativity,” Evans shared.

(Newly hired Associate Dean for Research and Innovation Daryl Lim also received a prestigious co-hire appointment by the ICDS. See story, page 15)

Dickinson Law Faculty and Students Invited to White House and Department of Justice Meeting

Eight Penn State Dickinson Law scholars were invited to participate in a virtual White House and U.S. Department of Justice meeting in January 2022. The invitation was made on behalf of the White House to recognize and discuss Dickinson Law’s efforts to secure access to justice and housing stability in the year ahead. (Dickinson Law was among the first ten law schools to sign a letter pledging a general commitment to provide support for people facing eviction.) Attorney General of the United States Merrick Garland, Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Adewale Adeyemo, and other top Administration officials were in attendance during this significant event.

Individuals invited to attend from Dickinson Law included Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law Danielle M. Conway, Professor Gary S. Gildin, Professor Megan Riesmeyer, Jessica DeLong ’22, James Smith ’22, Kendell Wilson ’22, Aranda Stathers ’23, and Rachel James ’24.

Conway congratulated the faculty and students who received invitations. “This is the direct result of your amazing work in contributing assistance to clients facing eviction as well as other challenges before and during the pandemic. As such, let me say congratulations and thank you for providing the service and care that our society members deserve,” said Conway.

Dickinson Law Recognized As A Best Value Law School

Penn State Dickinson Law received an A- for Best Value Law School in the fall 2021 issue of *preLaw* magazine, a ranking that recognizes law schools where graduates have excellent chances of passing the bar and getting a legal job without taking on burdensome debt. Bekah Saidman-Krauss '12, associate dean for admissions and financial aid, noted, "Thanks to our generous merit and need-based scholarships, as well as the affordable cost of living here, our students have low levels of average indebtedness upon graduation."

Dickinson Law Named to Lawyers of Color's Top Law Schools for Black Students

Lawyers of Color, a nonprofit devoted to promoting diversity in the legal profession and advancing democracy and equality in marginalized communities, named Penn State Dickinson Law to the list of Top Law Schools for Black Students. The list is ranked by weighted categories that include Black student enrollment, grants/scholarship awards, selectivity, and law school location. Dickinson Law ranked first for scholarships/grant awards and placed 45 out of 65 overall.



58th Best Law School in the Nation

Penn State Dickinson Law continues to climb *U.S. News & World Report's* Best Law Schools rankings. The 2023 rankings recognized Dickinson Law in 58th position as compared to 60th position in 2022. Dickinson Law also ranked first in the small law school category with total enrollment under 275 students.



Conway Named to Power 30 Law & Lobbyists List

Penn State Dickinson Law Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law Danielle M. Conway was selected by the *Central Penn Business Journal* for its Law and Lobbyist Power 30 list for 2022. The list recognizes individuals who influence their communities' quality of life through legal and political contributions.

Law School Recognized as a Top School for Trial Advocacy



In its Winter 2022 edition, *preLaw* magazine recognized Penn State Dickinson Law as a top law school for Trial Advocacy, awarding an A+ rating for courtroom skills training.



Dusty Elias Kirk Inducted as a 2021 Alumni Fellow

On October 6, 2021, Dusty Elias Kirk '79 received the Penn State Alumni Association's most prestigious award when she was inducted by former President Eric Barron as a 2021 Alumni Fellow during a ceremony at the Hintz Family Alumni Center in University Park, Pennsylvania. Kirk is a partner at Reed Smith LLP in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and currently serves on Dickinson Law's Leadership Council Advisory Board. She championed the Law School's efforts to raise \$16.4 million as Dickinson Law's volunteer campaign chair for the *A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence* campaign. Under her leadership, Dickinson Law exceeded its goal, bringing in more than \$16.9 million.

Student Spotlight

Five current law students share their stories about life before Dickinson Law and the impact that Dickinson Law has made on their lives to date



EZZA AHMED '23, SBA PRESIDENT

“We are grateful for a supportive, strong, and accomplished alumni network. Our current students are always eager to meet and engage with alumni, and we hope you will join us at an upcoming Dickinson Law event.”



JEREMY GARCIA

CLASS OF 2023

“The amount of support that Dickinson Law gave me during CLEO made me realize that if I was going to succeed, it’s going to be with the support of people like that.”

A lifelong New Yorker, Jeremy A. Garcia ’23 never pictured himself living anywhere outside of the Big Apple, let alone in South Central Pennsylvania. After participating in the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc. (CLEO) Pre-Law Summer Institute hosted by Penn State Dickinson Law, Garcia knew that Dickinson Law would be the perfect fit for his law school career.

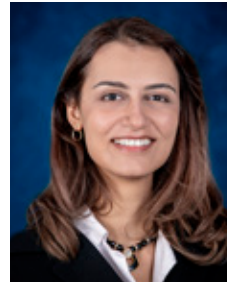
The Pre-Law Summer Institute is designed to introduce students to the skills, knowledge, and values essential to their success in law school. “Throughout CLEO, I had conversations with Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid Bekah Saidman-Krauss and Associate Dean for Academic and Student Services Jeffrey A. Dodge, and they made me an admission offer at the end of the program,” said Garcia. “I thought to myself, ‘Am I really going to leave New York?’

I decided that yes, I was. The amount of support that they gave me during CLEO made me realize that if I was going to succeed, it’s going to be with the support of people like that.”

That amount of support did not stop once he matriculated to Dickinson Law. “The support that I receive from the faculty, classmates, and staff is extremely important while I am navigating learning and adjusting to the legal and social climate of law school. Every professor that I’ve had has asked, ‘How are you doing? How can I help you?’ It is a genuine interest in ensuring that you are doing well,” said Garcia.

Outside of his duties as a law student, Garcia is the national chair of the National Latina/o Law Student Association (NLLSA). Garcia has developed great relationships with people across the organization and has gained experience with writing public statements and how to be more inclusive in his writing. He is also getting a better understanding of working with lawyers, and it has opened his eyes to all the opportunities that exist for him.

“Learning from others that there are different avenues to reach my end goal is something that I have come to value during my time with NLLSA, and resulting from the myriad experiences I have had engaging with other affinity groups and bar associations. My professors at Dickinson Law have also taught me this,” said Garcia.



MERVE SOYLU

CLASS OF 2024

“By becoming a lawyer, you have the license and the power to make and implement change.”

While earning her undergraduate degree at Bogazici University in her hometown of Istanbul, Turkey, Merve Soylu ’24 met Graeme Simpson, the director of Interpeace USA and a law professor at Columbia Law School, during an event at The Hague in the Netherlands. The event focused on exploring the links between injustice and conflict.

“My conversation with Graeme Simpson made me realize that law is such an important and powerful tool in making a difference,” said Soylu. “By becoming a lawyer, you have the license and the power to make and implement change.”

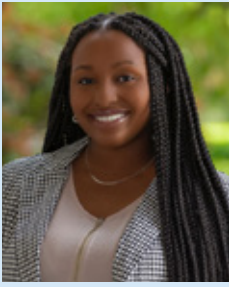
After graduating from college, Soylu took a role at Ernst & Young Global Limited’s Istanbul office as a financial consultant. She was recruited by their London-based team before she realized that she “couldn’t escape seeing the law everywhere I looked, even during my time at EY.” Soylu decided that she needed to

pursue her dream of becoming a lawyer in order to create change in the world.

Turkey was one of the countries deeply impacted by the Syrian refugee crisis. Her experiences with refugees led Soylu to volunteer during her undergraduate studies. She worked with children to help orient them to the Turkish culture, language, and school curriculum. “Meeting and getting to know these children has been the most rewarding experience of my life,” said Soylu.

The community at Dickinson Law has helped Soylu transition to living in the United States and attending law school. In the fall of her first year, Dean Danielle M. Conway invited all the international students to her home for Thanksgiving dinner. “It was a lovely day spent together,” said Soylu. “A Bulgarian LL.M. student, Lyubomir Avdzhiski ’22, and I did a Bulgarian and Turkish dance together. Everyone participated, and it reaffirmed my perception that Dickinson Law is a community that thrives on diversity, inclusiveness, and being supportive of one another.”

Soylu knows the experiences that she is having as a student at Dickinson Law, and the connections that she is making, will help her achieve her goals. Her work with refugees continues to impact her life and her career goals today. No matter what she does, Soylu knows that she wants to solve problems and make a difference on an international level wherever she goes.



PHYLLIS MACHARIA

CLASS OF 2023

“Once I’m passionate about something, I don’t let anyone get in my way. I am going to do it or die trying.”

Phyllis Macharia ’23 is the first woman in her family to pursue a legal career. “I’m a first-generation American; both of my parents are from Nairobi, Kenya. I always thought I would play basketball in college and get my nursing degree,” said Macharia.

Something sparked inside of her when Macharia took her first political science course while attending college in Southern California. She immediately joined her college’s Model United Nations team and was chosen to participate in The Panetta Institute for Public Policy’s Congressional Internship Program. Macharia lived in Washington, D.C., and worked for Congressmen Eric Swalwell from California’s 15th Congressional District.

Swalwell became a mentor to her. He taught her how flexible a law degree was and educated her on how much you can do in the world once you have your J.D. degree.

“It was at that point that I really started to think that law school was the right path for me,” said Macharia. “Once I’m passionate about something, I don’t let anyone get in my way. I am going to do it or die trying.”

After submitting countless law school applications, Macharia decided to attend Penn State Dickinson Law because of the strong sense of community that she felt while interacting with faculty, staff, and current students. “After I was accepted, Assistant Professor of Law Mohamed Rali Badissy sent me a notebook and a personal note. I really felt welcomed. After looking up his background and realizing how engrained he is in the energy law space, I just thought that he was someone that I could learn a lot from.”

“Dickinson Law is very different from what I am used to. Just knowing how personalized everything was and how willing everyone was to make a connection with each student made me feel an extreme sense of community. I grew up in Orange County, California, but I was raised Kenyan. The number one tenet of my parents’ respective tribes was community; you have to be there for one another because that’s all we have.”

That sense of community has not only grown since attending Dickinson Law, but it has been reaffirmed. She now sees Badissy as a mentor after being a team member on his environmental law moot court team. He was a big encourager for her and helped her adjust to life in Carlisle and at law school. Badissy helped to expose her to more people in the environmental law industry and invited her to participate in the Powering Africa Summit held in Washington, D.C., in March 2022.

The experiences that Macharia is having at Dickinson Law continue to show her how versatile the legal field can be. She looks forward to moving back to California after graduation next spring to continue to work hard and align her passion for giving back with her daily work.



FELECIA KHORRAM

CLASS OF 2024

“From reading alumni stories and learning more about the professors, I knew I was interested in attending Dickinson Law. I also love the town of Carlisle; it is so beautiful.”

What do microgreen farming, the U.S. Navy, and attending law school have in common? There might be only one right answer to this question: Felecia Khorram ’24.

Khorram started her career after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2010 with a bachelor’s degree in aerospace engineering. In her almost eleven years with the U.S. Navy, she was deployed three times. She attended the Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston, South Carolina, and learned how to operate a reactor in a prototype facility in upstate New York.

During her deployment on an aircraft carrier, she was able to put her education into practice through the oversight of the operation of the electrical components of the reactor plants. These reactors provided all the power and propulsion for the ship. Khorram was also the weapons officer on the USS McFaul, a destroyer ship, during another tour. It was during this tour that she had the opportunity to coordinate a multinational live fire exercise with the Egyptian and United Arab Emirates navies.

“A lot of our port visits are actually for relationship building,” said Khorram. “We did an exercise with Egypt and the UAE to show that we can cooperate, plan together, and coordinate exercises. I oversaw the live fire exercise. An exercise like this is successful if we can communicate as planned and adapt to different challenges through the language and equipment barriers.”

It was during her time in the Navy that Khorram realized she wanted to go to law school. She listened to podcasts on wrongful convictions and became interested in righting those sorts of wrongs. “I didn’t think it was going to be a possibility for me because I was in the Navy,” said Khorram. “After leaving the Navy, I reopened the law school door and started doing some research.”

“I’ve relied on luck a lot in my life,” said Khorram. She only applied to two schools for her undergraduate degree, and Penn State Dickinson Law was the only law school that she sent an application to. “From reading alumni stories and learning more about the professors, I knew I was interested in attending Dickinson Law. I also love the town of Carlisle; it is so beautiful.”

A passion of Khorram’s is to live a sustainable life. She and her husband started a microgreen micro farm called Hipp Harvest in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, in 2020. They sell their microgreens and heirloom tomatoes at local farmers’ markets. Khorram hopes to build a sustainable home in the hills of Tennessee one day.

While her future goals aren’t solidified, Khorram is focused on innocence work and living sustainably.



DENNIS SCOGGIN

CLASS OF 2023

“I got to visit Carlisle on a cold, February day, but I remember how warm I felt just being around people who are so genuinely caring, from the current students to the alumni to the faculty and staff.”

Dennis Scoggin ’23 didn’t always know he wanted to be a lawyer. Upon graduating from high school in California, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. After four years in the Marine Corps, he attended Campbell University in North Carolina for his bachelor’s degree and then received a post-baccalaureate premedical degree from Meredith College in Raleigh, North Carolina. His initial goal was to be a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon.

After realizing he may not be able to handle the emotional toll of becoming a pediatric surgeon, he returned to California. He got a job as an operations manager for a medical staffing firm, and it was during his time in this role that he realized he wanted to go to law school.

“My boss was working on a trademark. We received, essentially, a cease-and-desist letter from a Michigan attorney. My boss didn’t want to pay an attorney, so he tasked me with taking care of it because according to him, I seemed ‘capable,’” said Scoggin.

Scoggin quickly began working with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and attorneys from the state of Michigan, and he was able to produce several trademarks for the staffing firm. “That experience helped me figure out that I really liked the legal aspect of work,” said Scoggin. “It was very intellectually stimulating.”

After making the decision to attend law school, Scoggin left his job at the staffing firm and registered to be a substitute teacher to allow for additional time to study for the LSAT. After submitting his applications, Penn State Dickinson Law was one of the first schools to respond.

“I was lucky enough to attend one of the open houses. I got to visit Carlisle on a cold, February day, but I remember how warm I felt just being around people who are so genuinely caring, from the current students to the alumni to the faculty and staff,” said Scoggin.

That feeling of being genuinely cared about has continued through his time at Dickinson Law. The connections he has made with classmates and faculty are relationships that he will have for life, and Scoggin says he feels immensely lucky to have such an amazing support system throughout law school.

Upon graduation in May 2023, Scoggin will serve as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Selena E. Molina in the Delaware Court of Chancery. “Getting this job has really opened up my career options considerably,” said Scoggin. “I’m just along for the ride and excited to see what happens. The future is a big unknown. It was actually Professor Michael Mogill who told me, ‘Treat these unknowns as an exciting adventure into new opportunities.’ That is how I approach things now. I’m excited to see what’s next.”



More Than a Gift:
Campaign Impact



Throughout Penn State Dickinson Law’s more than 188-year history, students, faculty, staff, and alumni have always set ambitious goals. The Dickinson Law community stepped up in incredible numbers to help achieve the latest one, raising more than the Law School’s \$16.4 million campaign goal as part of the University-wide, six-year campaign *A Greater Penn State for 21st Century Excellence*.

In fact, when the campaign ended on June 30, Dickinson Law had surpassed its target by more than \$500,000, exceeding \$16.9 million in gifts and pledges. This success represents more than a gift; it speaks to the Dickinson Law community’s faith in the present and future of the Law School and demonstrates a commitment to bolstering the next generation of lawyers through accessibility, innovative curriculum and programming, and opportunities that will prepare them for 21st century lawyering. The gifts also signify a vote of confidence in Dickinson Law and all it stands for.

“With all of our work, we are giving our alumni an institution that they are proud of, that they can continue to believe in, especially during really trying times,” said Dickinson Law Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law Danielle M. Conway.

“The campaign has spotlighted Dickinson Law’s leadership in its program of legal education. Alumni are seeing the leadership the Law School is demonstrating and responding with generosity.”

Dickinson Law Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law Danielle M. Conway

Emeritus Dean and Professor of Law Gary S. Gildin, the Hon. G. Thomas and Anne G. Miller Chair in Advocacy and director of the Center for Public Interest Law and Advocacy, was dean of Dickinson Law when the campaign began in 2016. He has seen firsthand the impact of giving on the Dickinson Law community.

“These gifts have a direct line to improving the lives of our students and the people they serve,” said Gildin. “For example, scholarships allow our students to graduate without crushing debt and give them the opportunity to pursue the jobs of their passions, such as working in the public interest, rather than jobs of economic necessity.”

**Bolstered by
generous alumni
support,
Dickinson Law
raises more than
\$16.9 million
to surpass
campaign goal**

Alumni and friends had the flexibility to direct their philanthropy to areas close to their hearts, and students felt an immediate impact on their well-being and education. From providing first-generation law students the scholarship funding they need to complete their education, to assisting students suddenly facing crisis due to a global pandemic, to seeding the launch of ambitious projects like the Antiracist Development Institute and Steele Family Leadership Program in Gender and Racial Equity, donors to the campaign touched lives and advanced the Dickinson Law tradition of excellence.

“I was able to do something I wish all the alumni could do: come back and see the students, hear their stories, and learn why they are so grateful for the funds we were raising for them,” said Dusty Elias Kirk ’79, who served as volunteer campaign chair and worked closely with Dickinson Law Director of Development and Alumni Affairs Kelly Rimmer and her team. “That is really inspiring. We have such a wide range of people in the Law School now, with more women and people of color and people who had jobs or were in the military before they went back to school. They really inspired me with their passion for the law, and they can explore that in so many ways thanks to this campaign.”

The campaign’s priorities centered around opening doors, providing students with transformative experiences, and creating opportunities to impact the world. Donors had the ability to direct their support to endowed or current-use funds, could pledge commitments over a period of up to five years, and were able to structure their giving in ways that met both their philanthropic priorities and their personal goals, from outright gifts of cash or securities to bequests, beneficiary designations, trusts, or a combinations of giving vehicles. Gifts of all types and sizes contributed to the campaign outcome.

“I do not think we would have been as successful without what Penn State did in setting out the options for us, giving different ways people could contribute,” said Kirk. “The breadth of the options and the opportunities people had to style their own contributions were really important.”

In total, 1,824 unique individuals gave to Dickinson Law in the campaign, including 1,204 alumni. “Alumni giving makes the Law School legitimate to its students and to society,” said Conway. “When alumni give, especially in support of the current leadership, it says they support the platform we stand on, that we are headed in the right direction, and they are confident that we are headed in the right direction.”

1,204

Dickinson Law Alumni gave to the campaign

Michael W. Gang ’77 believes the high level of alumni participation says a lot about Dickinson Law. “It says that people not only had a good experience in law school, but they have had a good experience after law school,” said Gang, who created the Michael W. Gang Energy and Environmental Law Scholarship and was among the campaign’s most significant donors.

“Without Dickinson Law, we would not have had these careers. I probably would not have been an agency lawyer and an administrative lawyer. Everything at Dickinson Law steers you to a successful career, and you ought to pay it forward, so to speak.”

Michael W. Gang ’77

From funding scholarships to creating new antiracist resources to supporting partnerships that address public health needs, alumni gave in creative and exciting ways that will impact and uplift Dickinson Law for years to come.

Opening Doors

The majority of campaign gifts, over \$9.8 million in fact, were earmarked for student scholarship support, helping to open doors for current and future generations of students. In addition to gifts directed to existing scholarships or to current-use scholarship funds, campaign donors created 45 endowed scholarships and 10 annually funded scholarships.

Early in the campaign, this imperative received a significant boost by Penn State’s first-ever Graduate Scholarship Matching Program, a 17-month initiative during which the University provided a 1:1 match for all new graduate scholarships created with gifts of \$125,000 or more.

Dickinson Law alumni demonstrated remarkable generosity through this limited-time opportunity. Gildin noted that Dickinson Law secured more new graduate scholarship commitments than any other Penn State unit and almost doubled the number of individual gifts at or above \$125,000 in the Law School’s history. Donors created 23 new scholarship endowments for a total of \$3.85 million in new commitments. With the University’s match, their generosity resulted in a \$7.7 million impact to the Dickinson Law endowment.

Steven M. Coren ’80 and Leslie K. Coren were the largest donors to the campaign with \$1,275,000 in gifts. The couple established a scholarship through the Graduate Scholarship Matching Program and later enhanced their overall commitment through a combined bequest and charitable remainder unitrust that became among the largest



H. Laddie Montague Jr. '63 is one of Dickinson Law's most ardent advocates and generous donors. The Law Library is named for Montague and he has made transformational gifts in each of the Law School's campaigns.



gifts in the Law School's history. "My Dickinson Law education launched an exceptionally rewarding career that has spanned more than 38 years," said Steven. "I fear that astronomical increases in the cost of a quality legal education may deny well-qualified students similar opportunities, to the substantial detriment of us all. Perhaps our endowment will help ease that burden and encourage the next generation of lawyers to pursue their dreams unsaddled by crippling law school debt."

H. Laddie Montague Jr. '63, who established the Dean Gary S. Gildin Scholarship during this campaign, said it is vital Dickinson Law continues to have the means to offer needed financial aid. "Penn State's Graduate Scholarship Matching Program provided me with two incentives," said Montague. "One, taking advantage of this generous offer to help provide those means; and two, establishing a scholarship fund in honor of Dean Gildin, who, along with the faculty and staff, envisioned and implemented the successful curriculum and opportunities that Dickinson Law offers today."

Montague has made transformational gifts in each of the Law School's three campaigns and is one of the largest lifetime donors in Dickinson Law history.

Trudy Fehlinger '06 and Charles Fehlinger '09 knew for a long time that they wanted to give back to Dickinson Law, and they also chose to take advantage of the opportunity to have their gift matched 1:1 by the University. "I received a scholarship that helped me attend Dickinson Law. We wanted to pay that forward to other students," said Trudy.

The Fehlingers continue to feel a sense of belonging at Dickinson Law. "As the oldest law school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and one of the oldest in the country, Dickinson Law holds an important position. People who go there form a community," said Charles.

Later in the campaign, the University offered a second matching opportunity for new scholarship endowments, this time an Educational Equity Matching Program to enhance scholarships for students whose gender, race, ethnic, cultural, and/or national background contribute to the diversity of the student body. Dickinson Law donors created four new scholarships through this opportunity, including a Dickinson Law Faculty & Staff Educational Equity Scholarship supported by 100 percent of the faculty and staff cohort.

Thomas L. VanKirk '70 and Bonnie W. VanKirk, also among the lead donors to the campaign, established one scholarship through the Graduate Scholarship Matching Program and then partnered with Highmark to endow the VanKirk/Highmark Educational Equity Scholarship, with the health care company honoring longtime employee Tom's retirement by matching the couple's \$50,000 gift.

"Our lives would not be complete unless we gave to the community. Bonnie and I are happy to have had the opportunity to both support the Law School and hopefully make it possible for future students to obtain the kind of quality, affordable legal education that I and many others received," said Tom.

Create Transformative Experiences and Impact the World

Known for its Practice Greatness mission and a tradition of preparing students through intensive, real-world training, the campaign also cultivated gifts that leveraged Dickinson Law's faculty expertise and interdisciplinary collaborations to enhance the student experience and address societal needs and challenges.

The newly created Antiracist Development Institute (ADI; see story, page 16) was the most well-funded program with approximately \$2 million in gifts and pledges. The newly launched ADI provides organizations across the country with systems design-based approaches to implementing antiracist practices, processes, and policies throughout each of their functions. It also includes a multi-volume book series focused on antiracist practices.

The ADI received generous commitments from individuals and organizations that include the Law School Admission Council, whose mission is to support a diverse community of talented individuals from prelaw through practice; AccessLex Institute, a nonprofit that helps talented law students become professionals; and the National Association for Law Placement, an association of legal professionals that advises law students, lawyers, law offices, and law schools. The most recent partnership came through a prestigious grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

"Attracting these sophisticated donors and grantors is very helpful. It makes you feel confident you are doing something right," said Conway. "Another benefit is when we are able to publish our results, we will have a network to distribute the knowledge that we have assembled. These organizations are critical to our success."

Another new program created during the campaign looks to spark similar global impact. The Steele Family Leadership Program in Gender and Racial Equity offers funds to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; support victims' rights (particularly those of women of color); and seek solutions to race and gender injustice and inequities through programming and research focused on the intersectionality of gender and race. It was established by the late J. Rodman "Rod" Steele '66 and his wife, Karen, with support from Rod's son, Kevin '92, and Kevin's wife, Tracy '95. Kevin and Tracy also made a separate \$25,000 gift to create the Steele Family Leadership Program Educational Equity Scholarship.

"The program is an element that can give Dickinson Law a platform for raising its visibility and being on the cutting-edge of issues centered around diversity, equity, and inclusion," said Kevin.

Other areas enhanced through the campaign include the Law School's interdisciplinary Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) Clinic and its energy law program.

The MLP encourages critical thinking to create a more equitable health system and provides law students the opportunity to work with health care professionals to identify and address health-harming legal issues that may have otherwise gone undetected or unaddressed.

First, students learn the law, and then they put it into practice. "One of my goals is to prepare students to represent individuals in an imperfect legal system and to push against unfair laws," said Associate Professor of Law and MLP Founding Director Medha D. Makhlof.

Brian Clark '85 believes Dickinson Law is providing the next generation of lawyers with the education they need to be well-rounded and outstanding lawyers and chose to earmark his campaign gift, an outright gift of \$50,000 and an additional \$100,000 through his estate, to create the Brian J. Clark Energy and Environmental Law Program Support Fund. Through his gift, Clark said he hopes to support programming and create educational resources that will cultivate the next generation of energy leaders, lawyers, lobbyists, and policymakers in the private and public sectors.

Assistant Professor of Law Mohamed Rali Badissy, who has worked in the energy field in the private and public sectors, noted that Clark's gift is timely as Dickinson Law and the University focus on training a generation of lawyers and policymakers to navigate the current energy transition. "We want to establish Dickinson Law as a center of excellence on energy and related policy," said Badissy. "Pennsylvania is one of the most dynamic energy states. We can help people make energy-related decisions in the most informed ways by putting out smart research in the energy space. That also matches our mandate as a public university."

Changing students' lives for years to come

As the campaign went on, Kirk was thrilled by the high level of engagement across every imperative. She believes it reflects alumni esteem and appreciation for their education. "Gary Gildin always says that the Law School is what gave us our careers. So many of us have felt that affection and gratefulness for what we were able to achieve in our careers, in addition to all the friends that we made. The commitment of the Dickinson Law community really inspired me," said Kirk.

Conway notes that the past six years have been more than a campaign. They also represent the rebirth of Dickinson Law. "It began with my predecessor, Gary Gildin, who was able to make the connections with people who had lost confidence in the Law School. He reignited those relationships," said Conway. "This campaign is about belief and a renewed sense of loyalty. It is about rekindling the love for the institution and it is about honoring that reconnection."

DICKINSON LAW Welcomes New Faculty

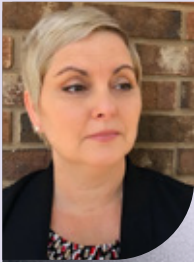


Daryl Lim

Daryl Lim joined Penn State Dickinson Law as the H. Laddie Montague Jr. Chair in Law, teaching courses on intellectual property law, civil procedure, and antitrust law. Lim also serves as associate dean for research and innovation; founding director, Intellectual Property Law and Innovation Initiative; and co-hire, Institute for Computational and Data Sciences, Penn State University. (Professor of Law Tonya Evans also received a prestigious co-hire appointment by the ICDS. See story, page 4)

Lim is an award-winning author, observer, and commentator of global trends in IP and competition policy and how they influence and are influenced by law, technology, economics, and politics. His publications are featured in leading flagship and specialty law reviews. He has served as a peer reviewer for the *Yale Law Journal*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Antitrust Enforcement* (Oxford University Press), the National Academy of Inventors, Cambridge University Press, John Wiley & Sons, and Carolina Academic Press. His views have also been featured in *Forbes*, *The Daily Journal*, and *USA Today*. He comes to Dickinson Law after serving as professor of law and the director of the Center for Intellectual Property, Information & Privacy Law at the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law.

“I thank Dean Conway and the Dickinson Law family for their warm welcome. Our conversations underscore many opportunities to build new bridges and strengthen existing ones with partners both at home and abroad. I look forward to the trails we will blaze together,” said Lim.



Mae Quinn

Mae Quinn joined Penn State Dickinson Law as associate dean for experiential education and professor of law. Quinn previously served as professor of law and director of the Youth Justice Clinic at the University of the District of Columbia, David A. Clarke School of Law in Washington, D.C. Her teaching and litigating have been highlighted by both National Public Radio and *The Washington Post*.

Quinn’s advocacy efforts and youth justice initiatives have contributed to training materials produced by the National Juvenile Defender Center and U.S. Department of Justice reform efforts. Quinn has also served as an expert witness before the Ferguson Commission, legislative bodies, and in other settings. In addition, she has trained legal professionals across the country at programs like the Darrow-Baldus Criminal Defense College, Ethical Society of Police, National Association of Children’s Counsel, and National Institute for Trial Advocacy.

“It is an honor to join Penn State Dickinson Law, especially in this important new leadership role. Consistently committed to experience-based legal education rooted in real-world justice concerns, Dickinson Law is leading the way in creative approaches to teaching, learning, and serving. I am thrilled to become a part of its diverse community of engaged scholars and change agents,” said Quinn.



Julie Tedjeske Crane

Julie Tedjeske Crane joined Penn State Dickinson Law as professor of legal research and assistant law librarian in the H. Laddie Montague Jr. Law Library. Crane previously served as faculty scholarship and educational technology librarian at Chicago-Kent College of Law, and as the electronic resources/reference services librarian at Duquesne University School of Law in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition to more than 17 years of practice as a litigation attorney, Crane brings extensive experience in instructional services, website creation, and electronic resources, and recently completed a certificate program in instructional design from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Crane received a J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, an M.S. in Information Science, an M.L.S., and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from the University of Pittsburgh. She was a managing editor and published member of the *University of Pittsburgh Law Review* and was elected to the National Order of Barristers.

“I am thrilled to be coming home to Pennsylvania, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to use my dual passions for teaching and legal research to help our students develop the skills they’ll need to ‘Practice Greatness,’” Crane said.

Behind the Launch of Dickinson Law's Antiracist Development Institute

The ADI takes a collaborative, design-based approach to implementing antiracist practices, processes, and policies

“Today is going to be about the joy of working together.”

With those words, Penn State Dickinson Law Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law Danielle M. Conway welcomed more than 100 participants to an early June 2022 chapter contributor conference for the book series titled “Building an Antiracist Law School, Legal Academy, and Legal Profession.” The attendees, who had committed to writing parts of the book series on antiracism, gathered to exchange ideas, explore ways to build a working coalition, and think about how to, in Conway’s words, “bring antiracism to new heights.”

It marked the first major event held by Dickinson Law’s Antiracist Development Institute (ADI), a program launched in fall 2021 to offer organizations across the country systems design-based approaches to implementing antiracist practices, processes, and policies throughout their functions.

The chapter contributor conference held importance in many ways, perhaps most of all because of what it represented: an approach anchored in collaboration. In the view of Conway and TaWanda Hunter Stallworth, MDiv, the program manager of the ADI, one of the most critical aspects of the Institute is its inclusivity.

“Everybody has been invited to this party, and everyone is finding their own path to the realization of the need for systemic racial equality at their own time, within their own sphere, within their own capacity. We are doing this work as a collective. And I think that is what is transformative,” said Conway. “It is rare in any discipline to see this kind of collective action, this collective growth and development among professionals.”

It is an iterative project that may involve failure, going back to the drawing board, and reenvisioning concepts. Stallworth compares antiracism to an elephant you have to eat one bite at a time. “You cannot escape the enormity of it,” said Stallworth. “Dean Conway often talks about the necessity of confronting antiracism in the legal community because of the structural nature of racism and white supremacy and the ways in which the laws have scaffolded the policies, laws, and institutions in this country.”

“We are right at the precipice of something amazing.”

- Dean Danielle M. Conway

What is the ADI?

The long-term promise of the ADI is transformation. “If there is any mainstay in this project, it is in its iterative nature, the recursive ideation,” said Conway. “We never stop learning. Within antiracism, you never come to a point of omnipotence and/or omniscience. It is a constant and recursive cycle of learning.”

The ADI’s first project includes an eight-to-ten volume book series, edited by Conway and featuring chapter contributors from dozens of institutions, which is meant to guide a collective movement among the approximately 200 American law schools to embrace antiracism as a core value for teaching and learning. The goal is perpetuating systemic equity throughout the legal academy and the legal profession.

The ADI will build on concepts and information presented throughout the “Building an Antiracist Law School, Legal Academy, and Legal Profession” book series to provide law schools and other institutions with a starting blueprint that will be iteratively workshopped through the stages of systems design and design thinking.

“We do not claim to be able to solve all of the problems caused by systemic racism, but we are helping people and the organizations and institutions they work in to think about how to solve them,” said Stallworth.

The Benefits of a Systems Design Approach

Systems design involves defining the components and processes making up that system and determining how to leverage each component in the work of transformation for improved outcomes. Conway appreciates the freedom and flexibility the approach offers to identify the user’s needs and the challenge the user faces.

“Most times, we have this top-down approach of defining what the obstacle is,” said Conway. She cites an example of how Dickinson Law recently used systems design. “We needed to raise faculty of color by ‘x’ percentage. But is that really how it should be defined? Maybe instead you look at the user, who is the student who says, ‘I have not had a professor who looks like me teach me in a first-year class, so I feel as though that space is not where I am supposed to be.’ If that student is the user, then we as systems designers can say, ‘What is the challenge?’ ”

“A lot of people say the challenge is actually getting a pool of ‘qualified’ people to teach who identify as people of color. But maybe the challenge really is redefining what we determine as ‘qualified.’ Maybe the processes, practices, and procedures require that lens for investigation. How are we finding qualified candidates?” That opens the door to change. She cautioned that systems design does not offer close-ended solutions. “It will never end. It is always something to practice, it is always something to be engaged with. And you will never be perfect at it,” said Conway.

A Collaboration Across Law Schools

Another aspect of the ADI that excites Conway and Stallworth is the opportunity to work with other law schools at a time when Dickinson Law has established itself as a leader in antiracist legal education efforts.

The Dickinson Law faculty adopted two resolutions condemning violence against Black and Brown people through police impunity and resolving to be part of the solution following the murder of George Floyd in 2020. The Law School developed an antiracist curriculum featuring a course required for all 1L students called “Race and Equal Protection of the Laws.” And Conway, a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Executive Committee, came together with four other law school deans to form AALS’s Law Deans Antiracist Clearinghouse Project, a website for law deans, faculty, and the public featuring resources and information addressing systemic racial inequality in law schools and in other institutions.

She wants others to join in that work. “The Antiracist Development Institute allows us to build a coalition of law schools. Members of the legal profession and members of the legal academy can act to bring systemic racial equality to the forefront,” said Conway. “This coalition does not know hierarchy. This coalition does not know exclusion.”

With representatives from more than 55 law schools already participating, that vision is being fulfilled.

New Funding and Support for the ADI

The ADI received initial seeding from the Law School Admission Council, whose mission is to support diverse, talented individuals from prelaw through practice, and AccessLex Institute, a nonprofit that helps talented law students become professionals, as well as the National Association for Law Placement, which includes career professionals who advise law students, lawyers, law offices, and law schools. Recently retired Penn State President Eric J. Barron allocated annual support of \$90,000 in institutional funds for the next five years (the equivalent payout on a \$2 million endowment) to support the initiative.

In June, the ADI received a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, boosting the Institute to over \$2 million in funding just seven months after its introduction. Conway said she could see from her first meeting with MacArthur Foundation President John Palfrey that the idea resonated. He saw the promise of addressing systemic racial inequality using a systems design approach.

Conway believes the prestige conferred by the MacArthur Foundation backing will spark wider interest in the ADI. “What we presented was not just theoretical. We have used systems design to create change and improvements at Dickinson Law in a measurable way,” said Conway. “It helps to have measurable outcomes, for example, that show your student cohort expanding from 20 percent to 44 percent students of color, or when your faculty of color goes from 12 percent to 35 percent, and when your staff numbers go from single-digit percentages to 15 percent.”

“The Antiracist Development Institute moves beyond performative diversity to disrupt systemic injustices, with a focus on oppression rooted in racist policies, practice, or acts,” said Claire Poelking, Program Officer at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. “We are proud to support Dickinson Law in the development and demonstration of a novel systems-based approach that situates structural antiracist reform within legal institutions. Our hope is that its replicable model will also benefit other educational entities and nonprofit organizations.”

How Alumni Can Get Involved With the ADI

Stallworth and Conway say the success of the Institute depends on getting as many people as possible involved, and they hope alumni will join. How? There are many avenues open, including:

- Sharing information and articles about the ADI on social networks
- Reading and offering feedback on book chapters
- Contributing chapters and suggesting chapter topics
- Proposing new volumes in the book series
- Offering effective antiracist exercises they have employed in their work experience
- Sharing strategies they have deployed to change their work recruitment and retention processes to become antiracist
- Donating to the ADI
- Suggesting topics for antiracist case studies

Conway wants all to feel welcome. “The Antiracist Development Institute is about including everyone in the work and in the conversation. This is not an exclusive exercise, this is a collective. And whether you know zero or 100 things about antiracism, you are not just welcome, you are encouraged to be involved in any way that suits you.”

Alumni can begin by taking the book series survey at: <https://dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/adisurvey>

Groome Receives 2022 President's Award for Excellence in Academic Integration

Dermot Groome, professor of law and Harvey A. Feldman Distinguished Faculty Scholar, was awarded Penn State's 2022 President's Award for Excellence in Academic Integration.

Groome, who led a number of significant war crimes prosecutions before joining Penn State, uses his life experiences to reshape and improve the curriculum at Dickinson Law and also society at large, nominators said. Groome led the prosecution of five international criminal trials including the case against Ratko Mladić, who was convicted of genocide for the murder of over 7,000 people in Srebrenica in 1995. He also led the investigation of the president of Serbia, Slobodan Milošević, for crimes committed in Bosnia and drafted the indictment charging him with genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

"Professor Groome's work has saved lives and restored hope for many," a nominator said. "The novel theories he developed through years of prosecuting genocide and war crimes have created processes and substantive doctrines that will guide international prosecutors and lawyers for decades to come. While he has set the standard for delivering justice to survivors of atrocity crimes, his level of humility has reached the highest of heights."

Nominators said Groome's prosecution work led him to establish programs, projects, and curriculum at Dickinson Law that will train the next generation of lawyer leaders in the protection of human rights around the world and civil rights at home in the United States. For example, the International Justice Program sends Dickinson Law students to work as interns in one of the international criminal courts based in The Hague.

In 2019, Groome put on a symposium titled "Responding to Atrocity Crimes," which focused on genocide, war crimes, and justice. The symposium relied on Groome's work with Judge Guénaél Mettraux, who serves in the Kosovo Specialist Chambers in The Hague and, up until February 2021, served as a Dickinson Law affiliate faculty member. Groome's students conducted research for Mettraux related to cataloging, describing, and analyzing atrocity crimes.

Groome launched a companion event for the community that featured 400 families who survived the Bosnian conflict and settled in Central Pennsylvania as refugees. After a screening of the 2019 *PBS/Frontline* documentary on Groome's last trial, members of the Bosnian refugee community shared their stories of survival and thanked Groome for his efforts to hold Mladić and others accountable for the atrocities.



Groome also supported and advised a team of third-year law students to build the Female Genital Mutilation Legislation Project in 2017. Groome challenged students to bring attention to the abhorrent worldwide practice of altering female genitalia for nonmedical reasons, a practice that impacts 200 million women and girls globally, including in the United States. Students spearheaded the interdisciplinary project which resulted in an international symposium and the creation of draft legislation for the Commonwealth and an international protocol to address this human rights violation.

Groome also works to improve diverse and inclusive education related to race at Dickinson Law. He helped create a year-long required course for first-year law students titled "Race and Equal Protection of the Laws." Groome managed a collaborative process involving faculty and students to design the eight sessions of the program, which recognizes the unique opportunity and important responsibility legal educators have to help tomorrow's attorneys discern their individual response to structural racism and promote greater equality in our country.

After the invasion of Ukraine, Groome created the Justice for Ukraine webpage on the Dickinson Law website. The webpage contains a primer in international humanitarian law that reminds volunteers going to Ukraine of their legal obligations to protect civilians. Groome also recorded a "Short Course in International Criminal Law and Investigation" to help Ukrainian prosecutors and human rights investigators document evidence of war crimes. Groome recently traveled to the Polish/Ukrainian border to help senior Ukrainian prosecutors investigate war crimes cases in a project funded by the U.S. State Department.


"Professor Groome is a humanist. The thread that runs through his research, teaching, service, and community engagement is humanism," a nominator said. "He holds himself to meeting and exceeding this core value every day, and he extends this expectation to his students, his colleagues, and his community. He has risen to greatness because he has built a tower of knowledge and activism on a structure with a foundation built on the rule of law, justice, equality, fairness, humility, and humanism. He is a model of excellence in academic integration."



Phillip Michael Scott

Class of 2022 Master of Laws

**establishes excellence
awards to honor
“letter-perfect” LL.M.
experience**



Phillip Michael Scott '22 often thinks about something his late father told him. “He would say, ‘When you have folks around you who are exceptional, who are talented, and who carry on the day-to-day activities of your business, you always want to be appreciative of those folks,’” said Scott.

Now, wherever he goes, Scott notices such people. It is the professor who comes to class every day excited to engage students even amidst a COVID outbreak. It is the person who smiles and greets you with a sincere “good morning” from behind their mask when you walk in the door each morning. It is the housekeeper who performs their job diligently day in and day out throughout a pandemic.

“They can impact your day. And if they have such an impact on you over a sustained period, you want to be appreciative of those persons,” said Scott. During his year in the Master of Laws (LL.M.) program at Penn State Dickinson Law, Scott got to know many of these people. He realized members of the faculty, staff, and administration improved his and others’ experiences, and he wondered if they understood how their small kindnesses and support uplifted the students.

“People need to know that what they are doing makes a difference, and because of that, you must find ways to support their endeavors,” said Scott. A desire to recognize faculty, staff, and administrators for their positivity and inspiration amidst the headaches of COVID inspired Scott to create a non-endowed fund at Dickinson Law. The Phillip M. Scott Teaching, Leadership, and Staff Excellence Award recognizes the contributions of professors, administrators, and staff to cultivate and nurture an environment of learning.

Consideration is given to faculty who have shown outstanding teaching and leadership; administrators who demonstrate strategic thinking and innovative and proactive actions that contribute to the development of Dickinson Law’s graduate programs, cultural diversity, and national and international prestige; and staff whose work ethic, character, attention to detail, and dedication contribute to the mission and success of Dickinson Law.

A survey of other students, to learn who made the biggest positive impact on their year, was used to determine the winners.

This year’s award recipients for teaching excellence were Associate Dean for Academic and Student Services and Assistant Professor of Law Jeffrey A. Dodge, Visiting Assistant Professor of Law Andrea J. Martin, Assistant Professor of Law and Director of Legal Analysis and Writing Samantha J. Prince, and Assistant Professor of Law Sarah J. Williams. Dr. Anthony C. Ogden, director of international programs and graduate education, was recognized for leadership excellence, and housekeepers Debra Marpoe and Dawn Stephens were honored for staff excellence.

Finding a way to say “thank you”

Scott’s parents encouraged him to think big while growing up in Jamaica. “My dad always said to me that if you do not dream it, it is not possible,” said Scott. So he dreamed. Scott invested in real estate and dabbled in other investments, including private equities, precious metals, and stones. As a child, he had been fascinated by the castor bean plant, which grows wild throughout Jamaica. When he was older, he realized the castor bean, with its high oil content and abundant crop yield, could be used in biodiesel development, and a bean-based product he helped create is rolling out in the Jamaica Urban Transit Company Limited fleet of buses to diversify their fuel sources while cutting greenhouse gas emission. Scott also invented a hydrogen-based fuel system that he said has the potential to transform energy production.

“My modest upbringing, cultural diversity, experience, and reverence for humanity heightened my attention to details and devotion in making every experience in which I face adversity count,” said Scott. In the early 2000s, the evolution of his hydrogen invention triggered the advancement of his company Elhydro, a renewable lubricant, fuel additive, and energy products and services company to complement his global operations.

His interests have always been varied. While working on the patent for the fuel system more than a decade ago, he became intrigued by the legal aspects of the process. Scott, who splits time between Jamaica and New York, visited Carlisle to see the Dickinson Law campus and immediately fell in love. But his busy business schedule made committing to a year in Pennsylvania challenging.

Then, when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Scott reassessed. His father and his wife encouraged him to enroll. He was surprised by how much his real-world experience helped him during his LL.M. classes. “It all came naturally to me,” said Scott. “When we began talking about entrepreneurial law, it was so realistic. It was almost like I could see the class mirroring my whole life.”

Scott is back to having a hand in the day-to-day aspects of his many entrepreneurial pursuits, bolstered by the knowledge and insights he gained in the LL.M. program. He loves the notion that his gift will help give back to Dickinson Law long after he has left. “My time in Carlisle was letter-perfect,” said Scott. “From the writing classes to family law, it dovetailed with my life and was the right match. I am so glad to give a gift that says ‘thank you for doing your best work’ for years to come.”

Alumni Feature

MAKING THEIR MARK



BRANDON BIEGENZAHN

CLASS OF 2004

“I wanted to find a way to give back to Dickinson Law not only monetarily but also strategically.”

It is Brandon Biegenzahn’s job as president of executive search at McDermott + Bull in Irvine, California, to talk to people and make connections, so it only seems natural that one way he has given back to Penn State

Dickinson Law is by, yes, talking to people and making connections. This has included hosting accepted student dinners for students from California who are considering attending Dickinson Law. “I can share my experience at Dickinson Law,” said Biegenzahn. “My hope is that they feel like they are talking to someone who understands the culture, and they can get insights to make their decision.”

That is not the only way Biegenzahn supports the Law School. He also serves on the Dickinson Law Leadership Council Advisory Board and recently endowed the Brandon J. Biegenzahn Class of 2004 Scholarship at Penn State Dickinson Law. He regularly

volunteers his time and expertise, including serving as a guest lecturer for the Practicing Law in a Global World: Contexts & Competencies course. “I have given talks about my experience in law school and the applicability of the education to a non-legal career,” said Biegenzahn. “Each time I fly back to Carlisle to lecture, I stay at the Comfort Suites, visit the Gingerbread Man, and enjoy my favorite lager. It makes me miss those days at Dickinson Law.”

Biegenzahn says he feels compelled to support the Law School because he learned so much about himself while at Dickinson Law. “I really wanted to give back to a place that is foundational for me,” he said.

He enjoys bringing a fresh perspective to the Leadership Council Advisory Board “from a vantage point outside of a practicing lawyer and from a different marketplace.” Biegenzahn says he will continue to serve Dickinson Law whenever and wherever he is needed. “It is awesome to be able to help in different ways,” said Biegenzahn.



RICH BOBBE

CLASS OF 1999

“Giving back to this magical place has always been an easy decision for me.”

Rich Bobbe was, in his own words, “not what many would consider a great student” as an undergraduate student. Though he had a good LSAT score, “I was not a slam dunk ‘yes’ when the Dickinson Law admissions staff was going over

applications. The Law School took a chance when they admitted me,” said Bobbe. “Everything I have done professionally traces itself back to that decision. The people I met; my fellow students, the faculty, the staff, the alumni, each had an impact on both my professional and personal life.”

Bobbe shared that he truly loved his time in law school. “You rarely hear that, unless you happen to be talking to a graduate of Dickinson Law,” said Bobbe, a partner in the criminal defense group at Weir Greenblatt Pierce LLP practicing in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. “I have been able to do things and help people in ways I never would have been able to but for that decision to go to law school and,

thankfully, Dickinson Law.” That is why Bobbe, president of the Dickinson Law Alumni Society, does everything he can to give back to the Law School while encouraging other alumni to do the same.

“Life and law school are expensive these days. I know donating money is not an easy choice for alumni and their families, but it is very important,” said Bobbe. “While the cost of school has increased significantly since my days as a student, so has the amount of money available in scholarships and financial aid. I believe Dickinson Law does an exceptional job using the money raised from alumni in a responsible way that continues to burnish the reputation of the school both locally and nationally.”

If a gift is not possible, noted Bobbe, there are other ways to help. “Reconnect. Go back to Carlisle. Meet Dean Conway. Meet the new faculty and staff. Make the faculty and staff who were there when you were a student feel older!” said Bobbe. “Give involvement a chance. You will not regret it.”



TARA BURNS

CLASS OF 2017

“It is never too early or too late to get involved and give back.”

As a member of the Penn State Dickinson Law Leadership Council Advisory Board, Tara Burns has the chance to offer input and recommendations to Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law Danielle M. Conway and other leaders on a range of Law School-related

topics. She sees it as a way to support the attorneys of tomorrow. “My service to the Dickinson Law Leadership Council Advisory Board allows me to invest in future generations of Dickinson Law lawyers and ensure the continued success of the Law School,” said Burns.

She looks back on her own experience at Dickinson Law and sees so much she wants to promote and preserve. “Dickinson Law is a challenging and supportive learning community where students are encouraged to actively participate in class and take advantage of a number of experiential opportunities to better prepare them for real-life practice. Dickinson Law lawyers have an edge when it comes to written and oral advocacy skills,” said Burns.

As an associate at Ogletree Deakins in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, she works in labor and employment law. “It is a boutique firm where I can further develop skills to become a subject matter expert. It is rewarding to be a trusted advisor to clients and assist them with myriad workplace issues,” said Burns. “I have had many experiences that affirmed my decision to go to law school, all of which involve advocating for employers and helping them to maintain a fair and equitable work environment.”

She envisions continuing her service to Dickinson Law well into the future. “Dickinson Law gave so much to me. It is more than a law school; it is a family. Through an intensive learning process, you rely on one another and develop lifelong connections. Your classmates and professors become your colleagues and expand your network in practice,” said Burns.



JENNIFER GOMEZ HARDY

CLASS OF 2013

“Connecting with alumni and networking opened many doors for me, and I want to do the same for Dickinson Law students.”

Jennifer Gomez Hardy believes investing in relationships is a critical aspect of practicing law successfully. She landed her first two positions, one immediately after graduating from Penn State Dickinson Law, thanks to the networking

she did as a student. “An attorney I met at a networking event later called me when they had a vacancy at their firm,” said Gomez Hardy. “The second position I got because someone else interviewed for the position and told the partner, ‘This is not for me, but Jennifer would be perfect for this position.’ I interviewed and got the job.”

She returned to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, post-graduation, where she continued to network. “I tell students the best thing I did as a student was develop relationships,” said Gomez Hardy. Recently, she has focused on connecting students at the Law School with the Hispanic Bar Association of Pennsylvania (HBAPA) and its Legal Education Fund (LEF), where she serves as a board member.

“I am very active in working to help law students realize the opportunities presented by HBAPA,” said Gomez Hardy. She educates students about HBAPA LEF scholarships, which can be used to cover books, tuition, and/or build a professional wardrobe.

Gomez Hardy became a lawyer to give a voice to those who are not always able to fight for themselves. “Everyone deserves the same aggressive, passionate representation, regardless of their lack of financial resources or the monetary value of their case,” said Gomez Hardy.

Despite the demands on her time after opening her own practice, Gomez Law Group, four years ago, she still prioritizes attending networking events and getting to know Dickinson Law students. She appreciates the continued engagement of her classmates and those who graduated before and after her. “Iron sharpens iron, it is good to be around people who take discussions seriously and expand your own thinking,” said Gomez Hardy.



YIO KYUNG “JOY” LEE

CLASS OF 2018

“I try to show up in whatever capacity I can to support the Law School community.”

Yio Kyung “Joy” Lee’s firsthand experiences taught her the importance of giving back. “Giving back has always been ‘the norm’ in my family. As a child of an immigrant family, I grew up in a diverse

community where kindness and the generosity of time, resources, and whatever else were necessary to help each other survive and thrive,” said Lee. “I know that it really did take a village to get me where I am today.”

As an associate with the Labor & Employment Group at Stevens & Lee, P.C., in Princeton, New Jersey, Lee is thankful that her job allows her to help people. She enjoys hearing clients’ stories and learning about their goals. “I was drawn to the story-intensive nature of employment litigation,” said Lee, who served as a summer associate at the firm during her 1L and 2L years. “I enjoy that my work requires

me to be ‘people-facing’ rather than just be stuck behind a computer screen. Whether it is corresponding with in-house counsel or interviewing fact witnesses, I get to sharpen my communication skills every day.”

Lee noted her time at Penn State Dickinson Law prepared her well to practice law. “My professors taught us to think critically and gave us the opportunities to apply our knowledge in practical settings,” said Lee. She appreciates the opportunity to now speak to Dickinson Law students and share her own experiences. “There may be students of diverse backgrounds sitting in Lewis Katz Hall who need the reminder that they deserve a seat at the table when they feel discouraged by the lack of faces that look like their own in the industries they want to pursue,” said Lee. “I recently had the privilege of visiting Associate Dean for Administration Laura Williams’s iL Contexts class as a panelist, and I encouraged the students to not be afraid to be the ‘only ___’ in the room. Representation matters.”

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Dickinson Law alumni help fuel the life of the Law School in many ways. Our graduates contribute their time and talent as guest speakers in the classroom and through programs sponsored by student organizations. Alumni serve as admissions ambassadors, help current law students with practice interviews, and volunteer as judges in moot court and mock trial competitions.

Alumni interested in volunteering through more formal channels serve on various advisory boards including the Leadership Council Advisory Board, Trusted Advisors Groups, and the Dickinson Law Alumni Society Board, a constituent society of the Penn State Alumni Association.

To get involved, visit the alumni section of our website at dickinsonlaw.psu.edu or email the Office of Development and Alumni Affairs at DickinsonLawAlum@psu.edu.

Current Alumni Volunteer Boards/Groups:

- Leadership Council Advisory Board
- Dickinson Law Alumni Society of the Penn State Alumni Association
- Trusted Advisors Groups
 - Diversity and Inclusion Trusted Advisors Group
 - Entrepreneur Trusted Advisors Group
 - Environmental, Energy and Agriculture Law Trusted Advisors Group
 - Government Center for Law and Public Policy Studies Trusted Advisors Group
 - In-House and Company Counsel Trusted Advisors Group
 - Law and Health Care Trusted Advisors Group
 - LL.M. Trusted Advisors Group

Class Notes

Thomas J. Ridge '72 received the 2022 William Oliver Baker Award from the Intelligence and National Security Alliance (INSA) on May 14. The award was presented during a ceremony at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. The press release noted that the Baker Award was established in 1984 in order to recognize extraordinary contributions to U.S. intelligence and national security affairs. Ridge previously served as an Army non-commissioned officer in Vietnam and as a congressman and twice-elected governor of Pennsylvania. He concluded decades of exemplary public service as the first secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from 2003 to 2005.

Ronald L. Hershner '78 has been named to the *Central Penn Business Journal's* Power 100 List for the second consecutive year. This list recognizes individuals who inspire innovation, spark economic growth, and make decisions in their positions to shape their communities. Practicing law for 40 years, Hershner recently celebrated two decades with the law firm of Stock and Leader in York, Pennsylvania, where he concentrates his practice in business transactions, estate and business planning, commercial real estate acquisitions, leasing, and finance. He served as the firm's managing partner for 10 years, stepping down in 2021 to return to full-time practice. He serves on the firm's management committee and mentors his successor.

Michael J. McDonald '78, a founding partner in the Scranton, Pennsylvania, law firm of McDonald and MacGregor PC, became president-elect of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) at the conclusion of the Association's May 2022 House of Delegates meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania. McDonald will serve as the Association's 2023-2024 president. McDonald recently concluded his term as PBA vice president and previously served as PBA secretary.

Craig Staudenmaier '81 was inducted into the National Freedom of Information Coalition Open Government Hall of Fame as a "Hero of the 50 States." Founded in 1989, the National Freedom of Information Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that promotes press freedom, litigation, and legislative and administrative reforms that ensure open, transparent, and accessible state and local governments. Heroes of the 50 States: The State Open Government Hall of Fame recognizes the long-term contributions of individuals to open government in their respective states. Staudenmaier was

nominated by Susan Schwartz, president of the Pennsylvania Freedom of Information Coalition, citing his unwavering commitment to advancing the public's access to records under the state's right-to-know laws, which Staudenmaier is known for helping to establish. He was one of four inductees for 2021. Staudenmaier is a partner in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office of Nauman Smith.

Sean P. McDonough '86, a partner in the law firm of Dougherty, Leventhal and Price in Moosic, Pennsylvania, began a three-year term on the Pennsylvania Bar Association's (PBA) Board of Governors at the conclusion of the association's May 2022 Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania. McDonough will represent Bradford, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming County lawyers. McDonough has been a voting member of the PBA House of Delegates, the association's policymaking body, since 2014. He also is a member of the PBA Federal Practice Committee and the PBA Civility in the Profession Committee. In addition to his service to the PBA, McDonough is a member of the Lackawanna County Bar Association and the American Board of Trial Advocates, and he has served on the board of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice.

Mark R. Parthemer '87 is now the Florida regional director and chief wealth strategist for Glenmede, a privately held and independently owned investment and wealth management firm. Parthemer is based in Palm Beach, Florida, and is responsible for the continued buildout of Glenmede's presence in the region.

June J. Essis '88 has been elected by members of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel (PADC) as the organization's new president for the 2022-2023 year. Essis previously served as PADC's vice president of operations. She will oversee the operations of the 75-year-old organization comprised of over 300 defense lawyers from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Essis is a partner in Weber Gallagher's Philadelphia office.



Pictured from left to right: Thomas J. Ridge '72, Ronald L. Hershner '78, Michael J. McDonald '78, Craig Staudenmaier '81, Mark R. Parthemer '87, June J. Essis '88

Robert D. MacMahon '88 was named co-chair of the General Liability Practice Group in the law firm of Weber Gallagher where he is a partner in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, office. MacMahon focuses his practice on premises liability, dram shop defense, construction, commercial carrier litigation, inadequate security defense, and products liability matters. His clients include promoters, entertainment companies, nightclubs, concert halls, venues, arenas, bars, restaurants, taverns, retail establishments, janitorial service providers, and malls. MacMahon has conducted more than 50 jury and bench trials in significant exposure cases.

James W. Kraus '89, a partner in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, office of the law firm of Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers during its 2021 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Kraus has spent over 20 years focusing on white collar criminal defense, government enforcement, internal investigations, health care litigation, and commercial litigation. He has extensive trial experience in a wide variety of complex matters, including health care litigation, securities matters, preliminary injunction proceedings, and criminal trials in both state and federal court. Kraus has also handled environmental litigation and regulatory enforcement matters. Prior to joining private practice, Kraus served as a JAG criminal prosecutor with the U.S. Army's 4th Infantry Division. In addition to his work in the courtroom, Kraus has represented clients in response to investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other government agencies.

Stephanie A. Fox '91 was elevated to member at the law firm of Maron Marvel Bradley Anderson & Tardy LLC in January 2020. With over 30 years of experience, she is a seasoned litigator concentrating her practice in the areas of asbestos and toxic tort defense, general business, and commercial litigation including Chapter 11 insolvency matters. Fox has worked with a wide range of industries, notably energy and oil companies, automobile product manufacturers, paper and pulp mills, freight carriers, real estate developers, retailers, financial service industries, investment brokers, and numerous health care enterprises. She serves as the chair of the firm's Business and Commercial Litigation Practice Group and is based out of its Wilmington, Delaware, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, offices.

Jennifer D. Lee '97 has been appointed to serve as a judge in the Contra Costa County Superior Court. Lee previously served as a court commissioner at the Contra Costa County Superior Court. She was security counsel at Apple Inc. from 2018 to 2019. Lee served as a deputy district attorney at the Los Angeles County, California, District Attorney's Office from 2006 to 2018, as a deputy city attorney at the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office from 2002 to 2006, and as a deputy public defender at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office from 2001 to 2002. She served as a staff attorney at Legal Aid of Marin in 2000 and as a deputy public defender at the Centre County, Pennsylvania, Public Defender's Office from 1997 to 1999.

Hannah Greenwald Ross '98 was appointed to the Executive Committee of the law firm of Bernstein Litowitz Berger & Grossmann LLP where she is partner in New York, New York. Ross has over two decades of experience as a civil and criminal litigator. In addition to her firm management responsibilities as a member of the Executive Committee, she serves as the chair of the firm's Diversity Committee, as well as co-chair of the firm's Forum for Institutional Investors, and the Women's Forum. She serves on the Corporate Leadership Committee of the New York Women's Foundation and recently concluded a three-year term on the Council of Institutional Investors' Market Advisory Council.

Matthew M. Haar '00, managing partner of the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP, has been appointed to the Pennsylvania Bar Association's (PBA) Board of Governors as the unit county governor. He began a three-year term at the conclusion of the Association's May 2022 Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Haar is the vice chair of the PBA Shale Energy Law Committee and serves on the PBA Administrative Law Section Council and the PBA Civil Litigation Council. He is a member of the PBA Large Law Firm Committee and PBA Federal Practice Committee. Haar is a voting zone delegate in the PBA House of Delegates and a former chair of the PBA Administrative Law Section. He is a past president of the Dauphin County Bar Association and the current chair of its House Committee, and a member of its Local Rules Committee. Haar is also currently the president of the James S. Bowman American Inn of Court, focused on state administrative practice. He is a former president of the Middle District of Pennsylvania Chapter of the Federal Bar Association.



Pictured from left to right: Robert D. MacMahon '88, James W. Kraus '89, Stephanie A. Fox '91, Jennifer D. Lee '97, Hannah Greenwald Ross '98, Matthew M. Haar '00

Robert Miller '00, a partner in the law firm of Rourke & Blumenthal in Columbus, Ohio, was inducted by the Ohio State Bar Foundation (OSBF) into its Fellows Program during a ceremony at the Supreme Court of Ohio on June 14. As the Professional Honorary of Ohio Lawyers, the OSBF welcomes a new class of fellows each year, comprised of a group of attorneys who exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and are committed to serving their communities. OSBF fellows design their own class experience, creating a Fellows Week of Service centered around a legal topic they choose. Miller is a member of the American Association of Justice, the Ohio Association of Justice, the Franklin County Trial Lawyers Association, the Columbus Bar Association, and the Ohio State Bar Association.

David Tshudy '00 was promoted to partner at Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP. He practices in its Harrisburg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, offices. Tshudy focuses his practice on real estate and land use.

Karl S. Myers '02 joined Stevens & Lee as a shareholder and as co-chair of its Appellate Practice Group with fellow Penn State Dickinson Law alumnus **Hon. Thomas I. Vanaskie '78** (Ret.). Myers is based out of Stevens & Lee's Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, offices.

Michael T. Traxler '03 was named chair of Saxton & Stump's Insurance Law Group. A shareholder in the firm's Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office, Traxler is experienced in handling matters for both insurers and insureds in a variety of industries including trucking and commercial transportation, construction, and others. He also serves as chair of the Trucking and Commercial Transportation Group.

Joseph John Nash '04 was elected to a six -year term as magisterial district judge in Butler County, Pennsylvania.

Jennifer (Sultzaberger) Caron '05 was recently appointed to the Lower Allen Township Board of Commissioners of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Caron is a member attorney in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC. She concentrates her practice in the areas of public and municipal finance. Caron resides in Lower Allen Township, Pennsylvania, with her husband and two children.

Sunshine Thomas '05 joined Reminger Co., LPA in its Columbus, Ohio, office. Thomas focuses her practice on employment litigation as well as general litigation matters. Prior to joining Reminger, Thomas practiced employment law at various firms across Pennsylvania. She also served as a law clerk to the Honorable John R. Walker of the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

Eric M. Prock '08, a partner in the Pottsville, Pennsylvania, based law firm of Fanelli, Evans & Patel PC, began a three-year term on the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Board of Governors at the conclusion of the Association's May 2022 Annual Meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Prock will represent Berks, Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton, and Schuylkill County lawyers. He has been a voting delegate in the PBA House of Delegates for the past two years. Prock is also a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice, the American Association for Justice, the American Bar Association, and the Schuylkill County Bar Association, where he has served on the Board of Directors since 2018.

Sara Humphries '11 has been named a partner in the GSJones Law Group in Port Orchard, Washington, where she started as a contract attorney in 2005, later working as an associate attorney with the firm. Prior to 2005, she worked as a law clerk in North Carolina. In addition to private practice, Humphries has been a volunteer attorney for Kitsap Legal Services. In 2015, the Kitsap Bar Association honored her with their Humanitarian Award for her work on the KLS board and with the KLS Housing Clinic. Humphries earned a J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2003, and an LL.M. focused on appellate law in 2011 from Penn State Dickinson Law.

Chad Zimmerman '12 was promoted from assistant chief counsel III to deputy chief counsel for litigation and administration of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board in February 2022.



Pictured from left to right: , David Tshudy '00, Karl S. Myers '02, Michael T. Traxler '03, Jennifer (Sultzaberger) Caron '05, Sunshine Thomas '05, Eric M. Prock '08

Sarah Hyser-Staub '13 was named a 2021 *Central Penn Business Journal* 40 Under 40 recipient. The award recognizes professionals 40 years of age and younger who have been successful in the Central Pennsylvania area. Honorees, chosen by the *Central Penn Business Journal* editors, were selected based on professional accomplishments, community service, and commitment to inspiring change. Hyser-Staub is a member in the Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office of McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC and co-chairs the firm's White Collar Defense and Internal Investigations Group. She also serves her community as a member of the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg's Junior Board Executive Committee and Harrisburg Rotary Club. Hyser-Staub was part of Leadership Harrisburg's Class of 2020.

Lindsay A. Berkstresser '14 has been elected chair of the Pennsylvania Bar Association's Public Utility Law Section for 2021-2022. Berkstresser is a principal in Post & Schell, P.C.'s Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, office. She practices in the firm's Energy & Utilities Group, where she represents energy companies in regulatory matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and appellate courts.

Stephanie Sweeney '15 joined the Newport News, Virginia, office of Huffman & Huffman Brothers-in-Law, PLLC as a litigation attorney. She began her legal career working at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges in Newport News, first as an attorney-advisor to an Administrative Law Judge and then as the staff attorney. Following her time at the U.S. Department of Labor, Sweeney handled insurance and workers' compensation defense at Mason, Mason, Walker & Hedrick in Newport News. Sweeney resides in Yorktown, Virginia with her husband and rescue dog, Gus.

Kadeem Morris '17 was named one of National LGBTQ+ Bar Association's 40 LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40. The award is given to a professional under the age of 40 who has distinguished themselves in their field and demonstrated a profound commitment to LGBTQ+ equality. Morris serves as a supervising attorney in the Housing Unit at Community Legal Services of Philadelphia in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

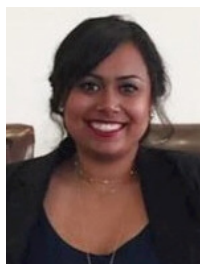
Just in time for Women's History Month, several Dickinson Law alumnae teamed up for a panel discussion during the National Organization of Social Security Representatives ("NOSSCR") NextGen Retreat held in Boulder, Colorado, in March 2022.



Pictured here are **Marisa Burkett '13**, **Jessica Mitchell '11** and **Maren Bam '13**

Kira Chhatwal '18, along with two former colleagues, received the Lancaster County Bar Association's President's Award for her work on the continuing legal education project titled "The History of Slavery and Discrimination," a four-part webinar series during which she presented on "The Institution of Slavery: A Closer Look at America's Original Sin." Chhatwal serves as an executive member of the Lancaster Bar Association's Diversity Committee. She is an associate in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, office of Post & Schell, P.C.

Triston "Chase" O'Savio '18 joined Blank Rome LLP's Washington, D.C., office as an associate in the firm's General Litigation group. He concentrates his practice on a wide range of general litigation matters, with experience representing employers and HR professionals in various labor and employment issues. Prior to joining the firm, O'Savio served as an associate at a Harrisburg-based law firm, as a federal judicial law clerk to the Honorable James M. Munley of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and as an appellate judicial law clerk to the Honorable Jack A. Panella of the Pennsylvania Superior Court.



Pictured from left to right: , Sarah Hyser-Staub '13, Lindsay A. Berkstresser '14, Stephanie Sweeney '15, Kadeem Morris '17, Kira Chhatwal '18, Triston "Chase" O'Savio '18

Nader A. Amer '19 joined the Miami, Florida, office of Carlton Fields as an associate in the firm's Business Litigation Practice. Amer's practice focuses on complex commercial litigation, securities and derivative litigation, and bankruptcy. He has experience in a wide range of business disputes, including shareholder derivative actions, disputes related to mergers and acquisitions, directors and officers advancement actions, and noncompete disputes. Admitted to the bar in Florida and Delaware, Amer has a background in corporate reorganizations.

Marisa C. Halm '20 joined the Miami, Florida, office of Carlton Fields as an associate. She is a member of the firm's national Real Estate and Commercial Finance Practice. Halm represents developers, institutional lenders, and individual investors in a wide range of complex commercial real estate and finance transactions. She also has experience in construction litigation, including coordinating all aspects of discovery, preparing witness examinations, overseeing, and reviewing demolition testing, and attending and preparing for hearings.



Pictured from left to right: Nader A. Amer '19, Marisa C. Halm '20

The Delaware law firm Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP is pleased to congratulate four Dickinson Law alumni on their admission to the Delaware Bar in January 2022. "This was a unique bar exam for Delaware given that it was remote and involved two years of applicants," said Morris Nichols hiring partner Jason Russell. These alumni included **Travis Murray '21**, Intellectual Property Litigation group; **Tori Remington '20**, Bankruptcy & Restructuring group; **Jacob Ryder '21**, Commercial Law Counseling group; and **Sarah Zomaya '20**, Corporate Counseling group.



*Pictured from left to right:
Travis Murray '21, Tori Remington '20, Jacob Ryder '21, Sarah Zomaya '20*

In Memoriam



Joseph M. Harenza Jr. passed away September 29, 2021. He graduated from Dickinson Law in 1971 and later served the Law School as an adjunct professor of securities law, as lead counsel for its 1996-1997 merger negotiations with Penn State, as a member of the Penn State Board of Trustees from 1999 to 2002, and as a generous supporter of the Law

School and its students. In 2016, Joe endowed the Sidney D. Kline Jr. Scholarship, which to date has provided \$72,000 in aid to its student beneficiaries, and in 2019, he endowed the Harenza and Stevens & Lee Griffin Business and Entrepreneurial Scholarship for first-generation college students ranked in the top 10 percent of their law school class and who are pursuing a joint Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degree. In recognition of his philanthropy to Dickinson Law, Joe was a member of the Law School's John Reed Society and the University's Mount Nittany Society.

Joe had an outstanding career as an attorney and investment banker and as the visionary creator and leader of a unique and important platform of professional service firms. After a career as a college and professional football quarterback, Joe entered law school. In 1974 Joe joined the law firm of Stevens & Lee as an associate. At that time the firm had fewer than 20 lawyers and its only office was in Reading, Pennsylvania. Joe specialized in tax and corporate finance law and became a practice group leader. After the retirement of Sidney D. Kline Jr. (class of 1956) as chief executive of Stevens & Lee, Joe became the firm's chief executive and served in that position for more than 20 years.

As a result of Joe's vision and leadership, Stevens & Lee grew into a law firm that today has nearly 190 attorneys located in 17 offices and has six affiliated professional service firms, ranging from an investment bank to an insurance consulting firm. It is fair to say that a half-century ago Joe joined an excellent, regional law firm and then, through his energetic leadership, created a modern, multistate, multidisciplinary group of professional service firms. But that extraordinary accomplishment represents only one facet of Joe's career.

Joe's legal and investment banking clients greatly appreciated and respected him, with good reason. He was an exceptionally gifted and creative lawyer and banker who understood clients' needs. He was able to apply his extraordinary work ethic and his considerable expertise in corporate governance, finance, tax, and banking to develop transactions that were advantageous to his clients. His well-deserved reputation as a skillful professional extended far beyond Reading.

But most of us will remember Joe for his personal qualities as well as his professional expertise and success. Joe was an energetic leader, an exceptional motivator, a trusted mentor, a loyal friend, and a man devoted to his family, including his brothers Chuck '84 and John '86 and his son, Jeff '01. Under what has been aptly described as a "tough-as-nails" demeanor, Joe cared for and provided guidance and opportunities for people with whom he lived and worked. Joe lived an exceptional life. He will be sorely missed.

Prepared by Peter G. Glenn, Dean Emeritus



William C. Kollas died February 3, 2022, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. An Army Veteran of the Korean War era, Bill was a 1959 graduate of Dickinson Law, where he was a member of The Woolsack Honor Society. He remained active in the life of the Law School for many years, generously supporting the school with his time and resources. Bill was a member of the Law

School's former Board of Counselors, and he and his wife, Dianne, endowed the Kollas Family Scholarship and named a lobby in Lewis Katz Hall the Bill and Dianne Kollas Lobby, a gift they made to honor their parents "who encouraged giving." Bill was a member of Penn State's Mount Nittany Society, the University's most prestigious donor recognition society, and Dickinson Law's John Reed Society, which celebrates the Law School's most significant lifetime donors.

Bill was also a graduate of Mercersburg Academy; Dickinson College, where he joined Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity; and New York University, where he earned a Master of Laws in Taxation. He started his career in law with the Internal Revenue Service, later spending most of his career in private practice, including most recently with Kollas and

Kennedy in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania. He was an astute businessman, philanthropist, and supporter of the local Greek community. He was an active sports fan and enjoyed traveling with his family and friends, including attending many Penn State college bowl games over the years.

He was born December 28, 1932, in Salamanca, New York, to the late Charles and Mary (Lois) Kollas. His parents were the original owners of the Hamilton Restaurant in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

He is survived by his wife, Dianne; children, Chad D. Kollas, MD (Beth) of Orlando, Florida, Mary K. Kennedy '93 of Camp Hill, and James W. Kollas '98 (Tara '98) of Lemoyne; his sister, Helen Kollas of Carlisle; grandchildren, Paul, Sarah, Charles, Demitria, Amara, Teagan, Liam, and Aria; great-granddaughters, Lyra and Evryn; four nephews and a niece. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Calliope Kanganis and Katherine Demetris.

In Memoriam

*As reported to Penn State,
June 26, 2021 to August 31, 2022*

Floyd M. Baturin '56

John A. Black '69

John W. Blasko '62

Thomas N. Boland '90

John J. Burfete Jr. '73

Craig R. Burggraf '72

Gifford R. Cappellini '77

William A. Cornell '82

Jo Ann Dittman '83

Mark Q. Emick Jr. '99

Edward A. Fedok '70

Robert C. Fernandez '65

James W. Fredericks '59

The Honorable George W. Gekas '58

Philip G. Guarneschelli '59

Joseph M. Harenza Jr. '71

Jonathan R. Hofstetter '05

David D. Hukill '85

Michael P. Kelly '83

Thomas F. Kilroe '57

William C. Kollas '59

Paul J. Laskow '73

Jon C. Lyons '68

Martin R. McGowan Jr. '78

The Honorable Robert P. Meehan '72

Dr. Barry J. Nace '69

Katherine O. Nelson '80

Mark Edward Orton '60

Joseph A. Ricci '87

Stuart A. Rosenfeldt '80

Irwin Schneider '55

The Honorable Geoffrey L. Seacrist '80

Dr. Rebecca N. Shingleton '85

Andrew L. Silberman '69

Quin M. Sorenson '03

Edward A. Stankoski Jr. '77

James R. Stanley '58

Howard P. Stewart '81

The Honorable Harold A. Thomson Jr. '62

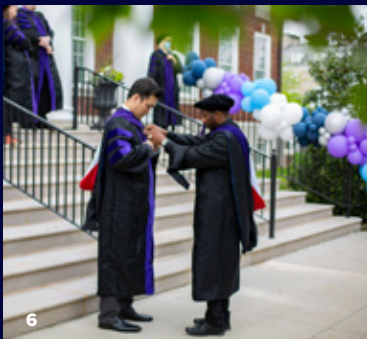
David W. Waties '85

Christopher M. West '00

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2022



Top to Bottom: 1: Faculty and staff await the beginning of the ceremony. 2: Tyler Eckert '22 and Dean Conway are all smiles on commencement day! 3: Graduating students take their seats and await the arrival of the stage party.



Top to bottom, left to right: 1: The Class of 2022, including J.D. and LL.M. students, pose in front of Trickett Hall prior to the commencement ceremony. 2: It was a beautiful day to celebrate the Dickinson Law Class of 2022! 3: J.D. students Campbell Goin, Maame Boateng, Bruce Hall, and James Smith. 4: LL.M. students Phillip Scott and Lyubomir Avdzhyski. 5: Students gather in the atrium of the Anita Tuvin Schlechter Auditorium at Dickinson College before the ceremony. 6: LL.M. student Phillip Scott assists J.D. student Yangmo Harvey Ahn with his regalia before heading over to the ceremony. 7: Members of the J.D. Class of 2022 celebrate before the ceremony. 8: Karlie Huber '22 and Jennifer Zerfer '22 were selected by their class as the student speakers for commencement. 9: Dean Danielle M. Conway poses with Dr. Nicholas Jones, former executive vice president and provost of Penn State. 10: Faculty and staff snap a few photos before the ceremony begins. 11: Peter Glenn, dean emeritus, delivers the keynote address. "Today, you have a commencement speaker who knows you and admires you, and who feels greatly honored to have been invited by you and Dean Conway to speak to you this afternoon," said Glenn. In the Fall of 2019, Glenn was the Civil Procedure instructor for the entire class of 2022, a graduating class he considers the best of his entire teaching career.

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Washington, D.C. Area Alumni Reception

Thursday, November 10, 2022
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Washington, D.C.

Human Trafficking: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Investigation and Prosecution

Monday, November 21, 2022
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Carlisle, PA

2nd Annual Health Justice Summit

January 20, 2023
Carlisle, PA

U.S. Supreme Court Bar Small Group* Admission

April 17, 2023
*limited to 12 applicants



Visit dickinsonlaw.psu.edu/alumni-events for a complete list of alumni events.