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This issue of the Suffolk Law Alumni Magazine is dedicated to “transformers,” those Suffolk Law alumni who are having an unusually transformative impact in the world.

There are so many great stories to share. For example, we profile Judge Frank Caprio, whose humane approach to judging has attracted global attention and over a billion views of his court sessions. We hear from Susan Church, who led a successful challenge to President Trump’s executive order banning citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the U.S. We also catch up with the immediate past president of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association, who has been named one of the nation’s leading lawyers under the age of 40; an executive vice president of a biotech company who came to this country from Serbia with only two suitcases to her name; a leader of IBM’s efforts to apply artificial intelligence to the law; a State Street lawyer who volunteers to help people with debt collection problems; two recently appointed justices to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court; and many others who are having remarkably impactful careers.

These leaders got their start at Suffolk Law, and I am delighted to report that we continue to make extraordinary progress as an institution. I’ve highlighted a few notable developments below, but I hope you will read this magazine for more information about the terrific work taking place at the Law School.

Admissions. We enrolled a larger-than-expected class of 340 first-year students, and they have the strongest academic credentials of any incoming class in five years. Applications to the Law School have increased for each of the last three years, and early signs suggest that we will see another increase for next year as well.

Employment outcomes. A law school’s health depends on the professional success of graduates, so we are pleased that employment outcomes for our graduates have improved for each of the last three years.

Experiential education. Suffolk Law is among the best law schools in the nation for experiential education. We are the only law school in the country that, for two years in a row, earned a top-20 ranking in all four skills areas from U.S. News & World Report (clinics, dispute resolution, legal writing, and trial advocacy). Our experiential programs are so robust that we can now make an experiential guarantee: Subject to eligibility requirements, the Law School ensures that all students have an opportunity to participate in a clinic or externship program.

Professional successes. Suffolk Law’s longstanding focus on experiential education translates into impressive professional achievement. For example, 25% of the judges in Massachusetts graduated from Suffolk Law; 5 out of 11 Massachusetts district attorneys are Suffolk Law alumni; and more patent law partners in Massachusetts graduated from Suffolk than any other law school.

Fundraising. We doubled the amount of money raised last year relative to the prior year. We established a Dean’s Cabinet of major donors, with each member pledging at least $50,000. In under two years, 21 people have become members, representing more than $1 million in philanthropy to the Law School. These pledges help to strengthen our programs and ensure the affordability of a Suffolk Law education.

Tuition. We have seen only two modest tuition increases (both under 3%) in four years. Combined with increased financial aid and scholarship support, students are graduating with less debt now than five years ago.

To be sure, we still have work to do (see page 33 regarding our bar preparation efforts), but we are making great progress in so many areas. I encourage you to read this magazine to learn more and to reach out to me with any questions or suggestions that you may have.

As always, thank you for your support and for all that you do to make Suffolk Law a remarkable institution that enables our graduates to pursue transformative careers.
14 LAW SCHOOLS

have five or more ranked programs in the 2018 edition of *U.S. News & World Report*

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MSNBC Host on “Media in the Age of Trump”
Says lawyers are “the Constitution’s best defenders”

Will political media learn to become prosecutors of lies and defenders of the truth?

That was the key question posed by Suffolk Law School’s 2017 Masterman lecturer, MSNBC’s Lawrence O’Donnell, speaking on the role of the media in today’s volatile and often disorienting political climate.

The Masterman Speaker Series on the First Amendment and the Fourth Estate—established by Edward I. Masterman JD ’50, LLD ’90 and his wife, Sydell—provides a forum for debate on freedom of the press and its attendant responsibilities.

O’Donnell, host of The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell, asserted that the old paradigm of “fair and balanced” news left reporters unprepared for the 2016 election.

Saying that there has been a long history of bipartisan political dishonesty, O’Donnell called on the political media to adopt lawyerly skills to safeguard the truth. That includes building a case based on solid evidence, providing proof, and demanding answers to “yes-or-no” questions.

“The mission of Suffolk Law School has never been more important than it is in the age of Trump,” he said. “When the First Amendment is threatened, when the Constitution is threatened, lawyers and judges—not the news media—will always be the Constitution’s best, most important defenders.”

He revealed that President Trump had called MSNBC’s president directly to request O’Donnell be fired—a fact he himself had just learned.

O’Donnell was awarded an honorary degree at the 2001 Suffolk University commencement. His father, Lawrence O’Donnell Sr. JD ’50, was president of his Suffolk Law class.

In the National Spotlight / Law Student of the Year

National Jurist magazine honors a handful of students each year with the title “Law Student of the Year.” Cherina Clark JD ’17 (shown, top left) earned the accolade this year, and Cherie Ching JD ’16 made the short list in 2016. In a profile of Clark, National Jurist noted that she was able to manage prestigious government internships while still mentoring first-generation law students, training urban high schoolers, and “helping to craft legislation to help people in a city [Flint, Michigan] 700 miles away.”

The publication said of Ching (shown, bottom left), “[She] has encouraged the Suffolk minority community toward public service and to become involved in conversations surrounding diversity, discrimination, and inequalities in the justice system.” As a student attorney in the Law School's Accelerator Practice, Ching represented low- and moderate-income clients in consumer protection and housing discrimination cases.

An App to Report Hate Crimes / Design event helps launch new tool for victims

A majority of hate crime incidents are not reported to the police, according to the results of a Department of Justice hate crime report released in 2017. To make reporting of such incidents simpler and to help victims better understand their rights, the American Bar Association’s Center for Innovation convened a legal design event at Suffolk Law this past March. Suffolk Law’s Dean Andrew Perlman is the chair of the Center’s governing council.

Designers from software developer Curo Legal, LGBT rights advocates, and representatives from the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, the Council of American-Islamic Relations, the Anti-Defamation League, and other groups gathered at Suffolk to design a web-based hate crime reporting tool that gives users information relevant to their geographic location and to the specific crime they are reporting. The tool, found at www.hatecrimehelp.com, was ultimately built by Curo, with financial support from the Center for Innovation and Cisco Systems.

The app’s launch was covered by the Washington Post and Forbes magazine.
Suffolk Law's Clinical Programs and the Suffolk University Law Review both held 50th anniversary events in 2017, each of which drew a crowd of more than 250 attendees [see photos, page 42]. Supreme Judicial Court Justice Frank Gaziano JD '89 [see profile, page 14], who served on the Law Review and in the Prosecutors Clinic, was the keynote speaker at both events.

For nine of the past 10 years, U.S. News and World Report has ranked Suffolk's clinical programs among the top 20 nationally, ranking them 17th this year. Students in our clinics provide roughly 40,000 pro bono hours of service to 400 clients in the Boston area every year.

The Law Review has published nearly 2,000 articles, notes, and case comments in its first 50 years. Its works have been cited widely, including 218 times by state supreme courts, 171 times by federal courts, and four times by the U.S. Supreme Court. The journal also boasts nearly 3,000 citations in other law reviews over the past decade alone.

Clinical Professor Diane Juliar, who is retiring after this academic year, was honored for her trailblazing work mentoring students in the Prosecutors Clinic.
**Globe Coverage for Student Mentors**

Teaching con law in Boston high schools

Each year, Suffolk Law students head out to the Boston Public Schools to teach teenagers constitutional law and prepare the high schoolers for a national appellate-style moot court. The 2017 competition was held at Suffolk Law in March and garnered coverage from the *Boston Globe*.

The Suffolk student mentors are part of the Marshall-Brennan Fellowship program, signing on to study constitutional law and teach it to the teenagers during the year-long program.

"The level of competence and accuracy of these high school students rivals, if not exceeds, some of the lawyers that I've seen on both sides of [criminal cases] in Massachusetts," Tim Wilkerson JD '06, a former prosecutor who served as a judge during the competition, told the *Globe*.

The Hon. Merita Hopkins JD '79 of the Superior Court also served as a judge for the program. In her conversation with the *Globe*, she said the profession needs the diversity exemplified by the program. "When you see talent—and this isn't too early to see talent—it is, I think, our responsibility as members of the legal community to support the next generation to [join us]."

Seventy-eight public school students from around the country argued in the competition. The case involved a star basketball player whose high school expelled him for alleged bullying after searching his phone. The basketball player lost his college scholarship and then sued the high school, claiming First and Fourth Amendment violations.

**Teaming Up with Liberty Mutual**

A real-world design challenge

Liberty Mutual’s Robert Taylor (above, center) with Suffolk Law students

Liberty Mutual Insurance sponsored the Design Challenge at Suffolk Law in November. A group of 25 Suffolk Law students competed to come up with the most useful and innovative approach to a real-world problem faced by the U.S. court system, AmLaw 200 companies, and corporate legal departments. The winning team took home a cash prize. [Editor's note: Results of the competition weren't available at press time.]

Design thinking focuses on clients' needs and on working collaboratively to develop solutions that can be tested rapidly. The events are often referred to as hackathons, as participants spend a good chunk of hours on a real-world challenge that didn't have a solution before the marathon began.

Liberty Mutual's sponsorship of the Design Challenge is part of a larger transformation at the insurer to create a more agile organization that leads change in the industry, said Robert Taylor, the company's senior vice president and general counsel, who hosted the event and worked with teams as they designed their presentations. "**WE ARE USING OUT-OF-THE-BOX APPROACHES SUCH AS DESIGN CHALLENGES LIKE THIS ONE TO TEST NEW IDEAS AND MORE QUICKLY TAKE THEM FROM IDEATION TO CREATION,**" he said.

"We can't predict the future, and new competitors can come from many directions; we need to embrace changes and reconfigure our priorities in real time."

The judges for the event were Liberty Mutual's Michael Stevens JD '07, vice president and chief counsel; Jeff Marple, innovation director for corporate legal; and Suffolk Law professors Dyane O'Leary and Jeffrey Lipshaw.
Suffolk Law Alumna Serving on SJC
Justice Elspeth “Ellie” B. Cypher came from Court of Appeals

Elspeth “Ellie” B. Cypher JD ’86 began her tenure as a justice on the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in March 2017. She was nominated by Gov. Charlie Baker.

“Justice Cypher will bring nearly three decades of broad civil and criminal, trial, and appellate experience, including the last 16 years on the Appeals Court, to the Supreme Judicial Court,” said Baker during a press conference. Cypher was nominated to the Appeals Court in 2000 by then-Governor Paul Cellucci.

Six other Suffolk Law alumni sit on state supreme courts in New England, with the chief justices of the Rhode Island, Vermont, and New Hampshire supreme courts holding Suffolk Law degrees.

Cypher has a long history of service to the Commonwealth, including 12 years with the Bristol County District Attorney’s Office, first as an assistant district attorney (1988-1993) and then as chief of appeals (1993-2000).

“We’re incredibly proud of Judge Cypher’s distinguished career in public service. We also are grateful for all that she does for Suffolk Law. Judge Cypher regularly mentors our students and recent graduates, offering them her wisdom and practical advice,” said Suffolk Law Dean Andrew Perlman.

Richard Pline JD ’89 served as Cypher’s career law clerk, and Daniel Goodrich JD ’15 also served as her clerk on the Appeals Court. Goodrich first served as an intern for Cypher through Suffolk’s First Year Summer Internship Program. Through that summer program, more than 80 first-year Suffolk Law students work alongside judges in courthouses across New England. Cypher has worked with Suffolk Law interns since 2007.

Cypher earned her bachelor of arts from Emerson College in 1980. At Suffolk, she was a literary editor of the Law Review.

“Justice Cypher will bring nearly three decades of broad civil and criminal, trial, and appellate experience, including the last 16 years on the Appeals Court, to the Supreme Judicial Court.”
— Gov. Charlie Baker
A Dynasty Rolls On
28 wins in 32 years

Before they graduated in May 2017, Gillian Mann and James Duffy won the New England Regional Championship of the National Trial Competition, defeating Yale Law School in the final round and Harvard in the semifinals.

Victory at the regionals has become a tradition at Suffolk Law. The school's trial advocacy program was ranked 16th in the country by US News in the 2018 rankings guide, and its teams have won the regionals of the National Trial Competition or the American Association for Justice Competition 28 times in the last 32 years. The team's coach, Professor Timothy Wilton, prepared the students with the help of alumni Luke Rosseel JD '14 and Ben Duggan JD '12.

National Trial Team 3Ls Brigitte Cellino and Brian Sears and 2Ls MacKenzie Mahoney and Michaela Weaver finished in second place in the 2017 Peter Johnson National Civil Rights Trial Competition. Several of the U.S. News' top-ranked law schools in trial advocacy competed in the invitational tournament.

Top 20 for Innovation /
National magazine honors Suffolk

Suffolk Law was ranked among the Top 20 Most Innovative Law Schools by preLaw magazine. The magazine highlighted the school's Legal Innovation and Technology Concentration and its work in the areas of legal design thinking, automated document assembly, legal project management, and virtual lawyering. The only other schools listed for legal technology innovation were Stanford and Brigham Young.
Galway Days
From Twitter to the Irish Law Reform Commission

A course on issues in European Union business law that culminates in a sit-down with the head of legal for Twitter International. A high-powered internship at the Law Reform Commission of Ireland. These are just two examples of the experiences available to Suffolk Law students through the new comparative and international summer law program at the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG). Nineteen Suffolk Law students joined the course this summer, and a good portion of those stayed in Ireland for internships.

Among other topics in Professor Michael Rustad’s EU Business Law course, students grappled with whether and how social media giants might be held liable for certain types of illegal activity enabled by their platforms. Twitter, Facebook, and Google have all been meeting with the European Commission to attempt to bring their mass-market contracts into compliance with the Commission’s rulings on terms of service. Students in the class had an opportunity to talk with Twitter’s chief international counsel about the subject.

Lawrence “Larry” Donnelly JD ’99, an Irish-American attorney and lecturer at NUIG, has been instrumental in bringing about the Suffolk-NUIG program. Donnelly, who lives in Galway, is a nationally recognized political commentator on Irish broadcaster RTÉ’s radio and television news.

Professor Sara Dillon, director of the Galway program, said that student reactions have been overwhelmingly positive. “Students have been writing notes to me about the charms of Galway, their engagement with the classes, and their great human interactions,” she said. “Coupled with high-powered internships—the Law Reform Commission and the Children’s Rights Alliance are great examples—the program can be a life-changing opportunity.”
Big in Bankruptcy
Programs make national mark

Brooke McNeill JD '18 is the first Suffolk Law student honored with the American Bankruptcy Institute Medal of Excellence, a prestigious award for a student with a deep background in bankruptcy matters. After graduation, McNeill will be an associate at Ropes & Gray in Boston.

Also, for the first time, the Law School has:
- Forged a relationship with the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel to take on amicus briefs assigned by that court
- Fielded a team for the International Insolvency Moot Court Competition

Suffolk is one of the few law schools offering a course in specialty business reorganizations. The course is taught by Judge Frank J. Bailey JD '80 and Adrienne Walker JD '98 of Mintz Levin.

Vexing Legal Problem? Try the LIT Lab
Student R&D lab offers new approach

Starting this spring, Suffolk Law students in the new Legal Innovation and Technology Lab—LIT Lab for short—will be working with practicing attorneys, courts, and legal aid agencies to offer legal tech and data science solutions to vexing legal problems.

David Colarusso, a Fastcase 50 legal visionary and nationally recognized expert in legal tech solutions and data science, will direct the new consultancy and R&D shop.

It doesn't seem like hyperbole to call Colarusso a Renaissance man, given his wide-ranging interests in computer coding, astronomy, the law, data science, history, carpentry, and physics. Colarusso was a high school physics and astronomy teacher in Lexington, Mass., for six years, co-founded a software business before going to law school, and, most recently, served as a public defender and data scientist at the Committee for Public Counsel Services (CPCS).

The ABA's Legal Rebels column calls Colarusso "a hacker" who's "happiest when doing a deep dive into an information system, finding problems and creating fixes." In 2014, CPCS assigned Colarusso to determine how many defendants had been affected by Massachusetts' drug lab scandal, in which a state chemist falsified results of thousands of drug samples, tagging them positive.

David Colarusso

His wide-ranging work in the areas of politics, the law, and design have been featured in the Washington Post, the Atlantic, the New York Times, and on MSNBC and NPR.

Colarusso graduated from Cornell University in 2001 with a self-designed major in physics and science education. Then came a master's degree in education from Harvard University and a law degree at Boston University.

The LIT Lab is affiliated with the Law School's Institute on Legal Innovation and Technology (LIT Institute) and its top 20-ranked Clinical Programs. Learn more about the LIT Lab at suffolklitlab.github.io.
This issue of the magazine looks at individuals who are changing the way we think, practice, and serve the public good. For so many, the Suffolk Law experience has played a critical role in their ability to become transformers.
FROM "LOCKER ROOM LAWYER" TO SJC

The transformation of Justice Frank M. Gaziano
By Stephanie Schorow

As might be expected, the spacious office of Frank M. Gaziano JD '89, associate justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, is lined with neat rows of legal volumes that stretch from floor to ceiling. But what really arrests your attention is the large poster of a husky, shaggy-haired Frank when he was a linebacker for Lafayette College. Looking like a '70s rocker, he seems to regard the world with devil-may-care insouciance. Gaziano admitted during his comments at the Suffolk University Law Review's 50th anniversary that his grooming during that time included a luxuriant moustache that made him look like a henchman on the 1980s cop show Miami Vice.

That poster strikes a broad contrast to today's bespectacled, clean-shaven, and soft-spoken judge. Which is precisely why his friends had it made up for his Supreme Court swearing-in ceremony. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, who appointed Gaziano, got such a kick out of the poster he took a selfie with it.

Why keep such an offbeat image in a place of honor within the austere Adams Courthouse? To understand that is to grasp Gaziano's wry, very human outlook on life.

The first Suffolk Law graduate to reach a seat on Massachusetts's highest court also joked to the crowd at the Clinical Programs 50th anniversary that he remains "an incredible disappointment" to his mother, an immigrant from Sicily—because he "could have been successful" if he had chosen to stay in private practice. He is the kind of legal expert who pokes fun at his days at the Law Review by declaring to an audience of review alums that it was finally time for Suffolk to acknowledge the "groundbreaking impact" of his 1987 Law Review comment on "Rhode Island non-conforming use zoning."

When Gaziano became a trial judge, he joked: "If I didn't play football in college, I'd be on the SJC." Now he can't make that joke anymore. Playing football ensured that Gaziano, who grew up in Quincy, Massachusetts, as the child of first-generation Italian immigrants, could get a college education. At Lafayette, a coach once accused him of being a "locker room lawyer," probably because he knew how to hold his ground in an argument. "Law was something that was completely foreign to me and my family, so that's why it was somewhat interesting that I got into this field," he said.

Another sketch on the judge's office walls shows him passionately giving a closing argument in federal court. When Gaziano entered Suffolk Law, he thought he might concentrate on real estate or construction law. But a criminal law course with James "Jamie" Sulton fired his imagination. He also was impressed by how Professor Jeffrey Wittenberg took a dry subject like the Uniform Commercial Code and made it come to life. And Gaziano's participation in Suffolk's Clinical Programs as a student prosecutor was transformative; he developed a passion and talent for courtroom advocacy.

After graduating magna cum laude, he began his legal career at the Boston law firm of Foley Hoag as a litigation associate. In 1991, he became an assistant district attorney with the Plymouth County District Attorney's Office in Brockton, despite the pleading of his mother, who told him, "I can't believe you're throwing your diploma away to work for the government." He was appointed to the state's Superior Court in 2004 and the Supreme Judicial Court in 2016.

His days pondering Rhode Island non-conforming use zoning are long past. Today, for example, Justice Gaziano has been tasked with determining if a search for cell phone data in a drug case exceeded the
permissible scope of a warrant (Commonwealth v. Perkins). And in November, the high court heard arguments on whether a family could sue MIT for wrongful death over the suicide of their son, an MIT student. Gaziano's question to the MIT lawyer (over whether a resident adviser could be responsible for stopping a student who is threatening to kill himself) was scrutinized by court watchers.

While he cannot discuss specific cases nor even comment with any depth on broad issues, Gaziano is forthright about the benefits of televising legal proceedings. "I'm a big proponent of cameras in the courtroom," he says. "The public paid for the courtroom, so they have a right to know what's going on in public buildings. ... The fact that they don't televise Supreme Court arguments, I think, is a shame." He adds, "Who wouldn't want to watch Bush vs. Gore? Who wouldn't want to watch any other case? They should be on C-SPAN."

He's very happy that Supreme Court proceedings are archived by the Law School so students can watch the arguments. Gaziano ponders: "What you say shapes the law, and it's what the next generation of law students is going to learn on common law. And you have a responsibility, obviously, to get it right."
ON FIGHTING AN EXECUTIVE ORDER
Susan Church JD '95 and one historic night
By Stephanie Schorow

As Susan Church JD '95 sprinted through a chaotic Logan Airport on January 28, 2017, she realized that history was being made, even if she had no time to ponder its significance. She was too busy playing her part in a legal drama that would turn out to be a transformative moment for the nation.

On that wintry Saturday, Church was among the attorneys challenging an executive order from President Trump that banned entry into the United States by citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries for 90 days, halted all refugee entry for 120 days, and barred Syrian refugees indefinitely. After a frantic effort at Logan to find a client and a gripping, late-night hearing before a federal judge rousted from home, Church and her colleagues won a wide-ranging, if temporary, block on the order. For Church, a trial and appellate attorney focusing mainly on immigration law and criminal defense, the moment was a victory for the American justice system.

"I was trying to remind myself to take stock of this moment because I knew it was historical, and I knew it was probably never going to be repeated in my lifetime," Church recalls months later.

Gracing the walls of her Cambridge, Massachusetts, law office is a photo of her barreling through Logan past crowds of protesters, her hair askew, power cords trailing from her pockets. The photo has a place of honor near a framed poster celebrating freedom of the press and photos of her husband and law partner, Derege Demissie JD '97, and their children.

She met Demissie, an immigrant from Ethiopia, at Suffolk Law. He was the one who nudged Church to focus on immigration issues; he asked her to take over his immigration cases when he moved from a law firm to the public defender's office. "I remember telling him I didn't want to have anything to do with it," she says. "I'm a criminal defense attorney—and that's all I wanted to do."

But as soon as she started looking into the cases, she was hooked, motivated by the experiences of immigrant clients who fled repressive regimes. Her criminal defense background proved important after the passage of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, which authorized the deportation of immigrants convicted of even minor offenses.

She speaks of her clients with passion: the Jamaican man with brain injuries so severe that he was twice declared dead and yet was threatened with deportation for shoplifting. The woman who was effectively kept as a slave by a family for 14 years; traumatized, she pled guilty to larceny and could have been deported. The 12-year-old rape victim from Central America who was returned to the land of her attacker, despite Church's efforts. Church has also seen changes in attitudes about immigrants, including an increase in fear and hostility.

To bring the case, she needed a client
Church had braced for something like the travel ban since President Trump's inauguration but couldn't bring herself to believe it would affect Massachusetts. But by late on Friday, January 27, it was clear some individuals were being deported or barred from entry. As chair of the New England chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers' Association, she was fielding frantic calls to "do something." So on Saturday afternoon, she called an associate from her firm, Heather Yountz, who drove to Church's house from a protest rally. Since Yountz was dressed too casually for court, Church lent her some clothes—a suit and shoes two sizes too big.

They quickly created fliers with the names and contact information of eight lawyers willing to take cases pro bono, grabbed the only tape they could find—Church's son's hockey stick tape—and drove to the airport to distribute the fliers. By 6 p.m., the airport was teeming with protesters, police, politicians, and families waiting for loved ones to come through U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

To bring a case, Church needed a client; through an overheard conversation, she and Yountz managed to discover that people were indeed being held by customs. She found
someone who said that her sister and brother-in-law, two University of Massachusetts Dartmouth professors from Iran who had traveled to France for an academic conference, were being detained on their return. Church had a plaintiff. Working with the ACLU, they drafted a complaint. Now, they needed a judge. Church managed to get the cell phone number of U.S. Magistrate Judge Judith G. Dein.

What happened next was surreal. As she punched in the number, Church was thinking: “Am I really going to call a federal judge and demand a hearing right now?” She left a message. At 8 p.m., the judge called back.

“Hi, this is Judge Dein.”

“Hi, this is Susan Church.”

“What’s going on?” asked the judge. Church says, “What I think she wanted to say is, ‘Why the heck were you calling me on a Saturday night?’”

Church explained, insisting that a hearing had to happen as soon as possible because people were being detained.

There was a long pause.

“OK,” Dein said. “I’ll see you at 9 o’clock.”

“9 o’clock ... when?”

“Tonight.”

“Where?”

“At the federal courthouse.”

Feeling almost foolish, Church blurted out, “Is it going to be open?”

The judge said simply, “I’m going to make it open.”

So, slipping through the crowd, dodging reporters, and nearly getting hit by a car, Church and Yountz, stumbling in her oversize shoes, arrived at the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse, which indeed had been opened. Dein was joined by U.S. District Court Judge Allison D. Burroughs. Others arrived: a lawyer, from her child’s birthday party; a security guard, from a high school reunion. Ray Farquhar, a lawyer from the U.S. Attorney’s office, came from an engagement party, wearing a sweater vest. Matt Segal, legal director of the ACLU of Massachusetts, arrived. The group needed to file papers to get a case number; Church frantically called her husband at home, and he did the paperwork online. The hearing started around 10 p.m. By early Sunday, the judges had issued a temporary restraining order against the ban and more broadly ordered that the government could not detain or remove individuals who had arrived legally from the countries mentioned in the executive order.

“It was certainly the highlight of my legal career, and it will be hard to match that drama with anything else,” Church recalls. “It was really the first big victory by the courts against this administration and against the discriminatory policies of this administration. It really allowed the courts to step up in a role that they were just born for.”

**The pendulum swings**

“If you look at the history of immigration, you will look at a history of pendulum swings, and the pendulum is rarely in the middle,” Church says. She cites the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and President Franklin Roosevelt’s 1942 executive order that detained Japanese-Americans and others in internment camps. She recalls the massive immigration waves through Ellis Island and how President Ronald Reagan approved immigration amnesty in 1986. “And now people are swinging back to the Chinese Exclusion Act days, which is quite sad, because I think our country has clearly been made great by the labor and the contributions of immigrants.”

The Law School nurtured her interest in public affairs and politics, Church says. She was profoundly influenced by the police misconduct course taught by Karen Blum and the Suffolk Defenders Program. She also learned critical lawyering skills in the school’s mock trials and moot courts. “I wouldn’t have been able to do what I did without the criminal training I received at Suffolk,” she says. “I wouldn’t have had the confidence I have as a lawyer without that training.”
State Street counsel offers “a clean slate”  
By Stephanie Schorow

Charles Koech JD ’14, a new member of Suffolk’s Law Alumni Board, steps from one world into another. He leaves his office at State Street Bank in Boston, where he is a vice president and counsel, and heads to the Edward W. Brooke Courthouse. Here, in small claims court, he is assigned to represent a client, often a young person facing debt collection from a credit card company.

While the monetary amounts involved are dwarfed by the huge sums passing daily through State Street Bank, the financial obligations can be crushing for that young person in court. “What we’re doing here is we’re helping people in tough situations, to allow them to not bury themselves,” says Koech, who, with the support of State Street, is volunteering his time. “We don’t want them to be buried in small amounts of debt that could be handled but that could become critical very fast.”

Koech sketches out a typical scenario: “Let’s say you’re 24 years old, you’re in a tight family situation, and you’re looking to help around the house with bills. An emergency comes up, and let’s say you have to open up a credit card and spend $2,000 at Walmart for new bedding or new furniture for a younger sibling.”

Then maybe that person, who works part-time or at a low-paying job, starts missing monthly payments, and the debt balloons. As Koech notes, compounded interest—as Albert Einstein once supposedly declared—is the most powerful force in the universe. Now the young person’s future credit status is at risk. And the credit card company still has not been paid and is faced
with writing off a debt. Nobody wins.

This is when he or she is referred to the Fair Debt Collection Lawyer for the Day and Discovery Clinic, run by the Volunteer Lawyers Project, which is open only to those who meet a low-income threshold. Attorneys like Koech try to work out reasonable payment options for the parties involved; as Koech puts it, “What can we do to resolve today’s debt?”

His efforts are not for those with resources who just don’t want to pay off their obligations. “We’re not looking for loopholes to get people out of things where they maybe made a mistake,” says Koech. “We’re allowing them to get back to the table to move forward with their lives.”

At age 31, Koech is using his expertise in financial law to provide service to those with low incomes and few resources. This is an attitude nurtured both by his personal life and his Suffolk education.

“When you’re at a certain stage in your career, you want to say, ‘Where can I help?’ ‘Where can I help my community?’” Koech says. “I’m born and raised in Boston. I want to help out the community. I want to help out people who are a little bit disadvantaged. And one way you can do it is by making them a little bit more economically sound.”

Koech, the son of Haitian and Kenyan immigrants, knows what it’s like to have to work hard to reach his goals. He attended community college before transferring to the University of Massachusetts Amherst and worked for “a couple of social justice programs” after graduation. “But I realized I wanted to go to law school and try on a new hat,” he says. Asked why he decided on law school, he chuckles. “This is going to sound kind of corny: I listened to my parents. They were like, ‘You should go to law school.’ I think they just knew me better than I knew myself at that age. And it ended up working out for my personality. I like being persuasive.”

He rattles off the classes and professors at Suffolk Law who profoundly affected his outlook on the law, admitting he could go on and on. Research Professor of Law Marie Ashe introduced him to constitutional law. “Once I started taking constitutional law, I knew law school was the place for me,” he says. When he started working as a prosecutor after graduation in 2014, he took with him lessons from Gregory Massing’s criminal law classes; Massing is now an Appeals Court associate judge.

He recalls with relish the 2014 Irving R. Kaufman Securities Law Moot Court Competition, where his team earned second place. Professor Joseph Franco “prepared us so well—he was amazing,” he remembers. Up against Georgetown and other top schools, the Suffolk team held its own: “We just kept doing well and getting good reviews and getting to the next round. And then before you knew it, we had made it to the final round in front of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and four U.S. Court of Appeals judges.” Koech still lights up when he recalls “seeing Justice Alito’s eyes raise when he saw the second-place brief get placed on us. It was just one of those things, where for that day you show them what you have.”

Suffolk also pushed Koech to focus on financial and business law; he was deeply interested in the implications of the 2008 economic crisis and the effects of globalization. Which is why, after spending two years working as a Middlesex County prosecutor after graduation, he jumped at the chance to work at State Street Bank in the legal division. He relishes the work at State Street, an institution that encourages pro bono work and enables him to do volunteer work in the small claims court clinic.

“I think this clinic is great, because it allows people to at least have their day in court and see what they’re facing. It allows the third-party creditor to settle and get something that’s firm versus just a default judgment. And it allows that person who owes the money to get a clean slate,” he says.

Creating financial stability is a great way to help someone, Koech believes. With assistance from a lawyer, a life can be transformed. After all, law school helped transform him.
Student among winners in CEO's legal competition — $25,000 prize / by Chris Caesar

Usually you need to at least graduate from law school before multimillionaires come knocking for legal advice, but a fierce court battle for control of a privately held New York company prompted its CEO to conduct an unusual experiment last spring: offering $100,000 in scholarship prizes to law students submitting the best defense of his position. Suffolk's own Catherine Dowie JD '18 won a $25,000 prize in the Philip R. Shawe Scholarship Competition, tying for second place in a pool of 240 applicants who submitted briefs to the crowdsourcing contest.

TransPerfect and deadlock

Contestants had a straightforward but intimidating assignment: Prepare a compelling legal brief in favor of reversing the 2015 court-ordered sale of TransPerfect Global, a profitable, privately held translation services company based in New York. The 25-year-old company, originally founded in a dorm room at New York University, has grown to bring in over half a billion dollars in revenue each year, with offices in cities all over the world.

Founders and co-CEOs Phil Shawe and Liz Elting, once engaged to be married, ended their romantic relationship in 1997. Fifteen years later, Elting turned to the courts to explore what options she might have to sell off her 50 percent ownership stake in the company, prompting a series of legal challenges from Shawe, who opposed the forced sale of his shares to facilitate a higher price for hers.

The controversy ultimately lead to a 2015 State of Delaware Chancery Court ruling that found the owners were legally "deadlocked" and ordered their stock to be sold at auction—a ruling normally reserved for companies facing bankruptcy or whose sale might otherwise serve a compelling public interest.

But TransPerfect is not only profitable—it's slated to continue growing. And that fact has brought much attention to the case.

"Unconstitutional taking"

Dowie's argument focused on what the fourth-year evening student called "a lack of a sufficient public purpose." She contended that without such a public purpose, the ruling is unconstitutional, creating a scenario in which the government deprives an individual of beneficial use of his property without just compensation.

Snoop Dogg was a surprise guest at the competition.
"If you look at the benefits that the Chancery Court identified, they are primarily about reputational harm to TransPerfect, the fact that they've been deadlocked and could potentially be more profitable if they weren't," she says. "That doesn't impact the economy. It doesn't impact the industry. Generally, it really only impacts the shareholders and potentially the employees at TransPerfect."

She contended that if there isn't a public benefit, the court cannot reasonably justify forcing a sale over the objections of the shareholders. Judges in these situations often appoint a conservator to work with the shareholders and the board to resolve the ongoing issues, she says, calling the order "unprecedented."

Harvard Law professor emeritus and legal scholar Alan Dershowitz, who represents Shawe's family in the appeal, raised similar objections when arguing in the Delaware Supreme Court. The justices did not allow him to employ that argument in his appeal, however, noting it was not part of the original argument brought before the lower court. Shawe is appealing the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A star-studded affair
The scholarship competition was full of big names pulled not only from the world of law but also from sports and pop culture. The team of informal judges included Dershowitz and Melvin Schweitzer, a retired acting New York Supreme Court justice who had presided over hearings related to the real-life case. New York Giants Jason Pierre-Paul and Bradley Wing also were on hand, with Snoop Dogg himself making a surprise appearance to entertain attendees.

A Suffolk Law School foundation
Dowie credited close work with Suffolk Law professors and her practical learning opportunities on campus for preparing her for the competition. She specifically mentioned her first-year judicial internship with the Massachusetts Appeals Court and the school's Supreme Court Clinic last spring—a program that, fittingly enough, focused largely on legal writing and research related to amicus briefs in real-life appellate cases. Her time on the National Moot Court team also prepared her well for inquiries from "aggressive judges," she says. Suffolk Law's trial advocacy program is ranked 16th in the country by U.S. News & World Report.
Stop Thinking Like a Lawyer
Prof. Jeffrey Lipshaw’s book on the perils of legal logic / By Tom Mashberg


For Lipshaw, who has taught first-year contracts and upper-level business law at Suffolk since 2007, the answer, at least for transactional lawyers, is a decided yes. And he can point to headline-making debacles like the United Airlines passenger-eviction drama last spring to explain why.

In the United case, the company’s CEO, Oscar Munoz, let his lawyers convince him that United had the upper hand because—at least legalistically—dragging a passenger off a plane was permissible under the terms of the airline’s highly technical “contract of carriage” document.

“I’m sure the first thing they thought of was United’s potential for liability,” Lipshaw said, and how any public apology by Munoz would undercut United’s position in litigation.

“You can be right legally and wrong in so many other ways,” he said, adding that the airline’s lawyerly logic cost the airline far more in market value and good will than “anything United might have had to pay.”

In the interview excerpted here, Lipshaw, a graduate of Stanford Law School and a former vice president and general counsel for two corporations, discusses the United case, his lawyering philosophy, and the insights he hopes to share with students and attorneys.

What’s wrong with thinking too much like a lawyer?
You lose sight of the fact that the pure logic of legal reasoning is essentially indifferent as to moral outcomes. Once a lawyer sets a particular problem into a particular legal theory, the logic of the law takes over and dictates the anticipated result. Understanding how to translate stories into legal theories is the fundamental skill we teach in the first year. It’s like learning to draw if you are going to be an artist. But when your client needs good advice, you may need to call on business acumen, good sense, or morality.

So this “unlearning” is something students need to do later, after they’ve mastered the basic legal reasoning skills, because following purely legal logic can lead lawyers and clients astray.

Isn’t it a lawyer’s job to win the case?
A lot of what lawyers do is sublimated war. They think, “My job is to kill the other side,” and empathy only matters tactically—you want to hear what they have to say solely for the purpose of anticipating a parry and a response. But in a PR crisis like United Airlines faced, that outlook precludes the ability to hear something you don’t want to hear, like maybe the other side has a point!

Again, resolving problems short of war or litigation means having an affective or emotional inclination to learn, rather than merely react or fight. We used to call it “drinking your own bathwater.” United is an example of that. It really takes a certain kind of empathy to get beyond the logic and righteousness of your own position.
Clients are urged to listen to their lawyers. Is that the right advice?
Well, you should always listen to a good lawyer. When I was a corporate vice president and general counsel, I sat at the event horizon, so to speak, between the business imperatives and the legal consequences. Take a public company's business acquisition that hasn't worked out. You might determine that yes, we have a rock-solid contractual claim against the seller. But what you might really be saying to the market is that we are not very good at doing our acquisition due diligence. Do you really want to file that lawsuit?

If you view your job solely as being the client's "warrior-in-chief," you are likely not providing the right judgment. And if you are letting your client's anger dictate the decision, then you are not really doing a great job.

Are you concerned about a future in which "machine lawyers" replace human lawyers?
I think we'll have to make our peace with them. I'm pretty sure that, within my lifetime, you'll be able to give a fairly rich narrative to a computer and it will spit out a pretty good memorandum of law. But computers are never going to be able to decide every issue in every case. We can program them to decide lots of issues if we have thought about those issues, but ultimately, choosing, at its very core, is either uniquely human or the very hardest thing for a robot to learn to do. And even if you could program the computer to learn how to make decisions nobody's yet considered, I don't see humans completely ceding that in every case to a machine.

So how would you have managed the United Airlines fiasco?
I've been in those circumstances as a general counsel of a corporation, and I've overruled my lawyers or clients who were being unduly legalistic to accomplish what I thought was the appropriate result—and I did that by advocating that thinking legalistically was not the solution.

United's thinking should have been, "I do have a conceivable defense—I was within my rights to drag a guy screaming off the plane—but maybe we ought to have the good sense not to assert that right here." Because being right isn't always what it's cracked up to be.
Suffolk Law’s Dean’s Cabinet now has 21 members, each of whom has committed at least $50,000 to support the initiatives of the Law School. Since this magazine featured the Dean’s Cabinet last December, nine new members have joined the team of generous benefactors dedicated to advancing the Law School’s mission—through both philanthropy and strategic consultation. We asked a few of the new members what inspired them to join.

“Joining the Dean’s Cabinet was a logical next step following my membership on the Dean’s Advisory Committee. The cabinet provides a meaningful voice to help Dean Perlman guide the Law School into the future. I applaud the dean for seeking the input of committed alumni who care so much about the future of Suffolk Law, and I look forward to an ongoing partnership that will help the school’s students get the experience they need, in and out of class, to be standouts in the profession.”
Gerard DiFiore JD ’84
Partner ReedSmith LLP

“I’m thrilled to be giving back to Suffolk Law School. Over my career in banking, the foundation in both law and business that I received at Suffolk has been invaluable. I’m committed to assisting those who need a hand up in finishing their education and getting that same foundation Suffolk provided to me.”
Christine Newman Garvey JD ’72
Global Head of Corporate Real Estate and Services (retired)
Deutsche Bank AG

“Suffolk is on the leading edge of a rapidly changing legal industry, and the practical skills that our graduates possess are game-changers for legal recruiters in both the private and public sectors. I joined the Dean’s Cabinet to do my part to help attract the best candidates to Suffolk and to help the law school stay ahead of the curve—from its clinics to new technological advances.”
Ken Gear JD ’95, BSBA ’89
Chief Executive Officer
Leading Builders of America

“My family has a long history at Suffolk Law School. My father attended the school in the late ’60s. My uncle, Lewis Sassoon JD ’69, is a proud alum and also a member of the Dean’s Cabinet. I now run a medium-sized law firm in Deerfield Beach, Fla. It was important for me to give back to the school that gave me such a great education and the skills I needed to become a successful lawyer. In my 2L year, Dean Perlman taught my professional responsibility class, in his first year teaching at Suffolk. I always wanted to help him in his quest to make Suffolk one of the top law schools in the country.”
Jamie Sasson JD ’04
Managing Partner
Ticktin Law Group
## DEAN'S CABINET:

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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Patricia M. Annino JD '81</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Rimon Law, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abdellatif Banaja JD '16</td>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>Osama Al Yamani Law Office, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerry D'Ambrosio JD '93</td>
<td>Founder &amp; Managing Partner</td>
<td>D'Ambrosio Brown LLP, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerard DiFiore JD '84</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Reed Smith LLP, New York, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christine Newman Garvey JD '72</td>
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<td>Deutsche Bank AG</td>
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<td>Ken Gear JD '95, BSBA '89</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>Leading Builders of America, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marc S. Geller JD '71</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Cedar Crossing Management, Houston, TX</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph W. Giannon</td>
<td>Professor of Law</td>
<td>Suffolk University Law School, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ernst Guerrier BS '91, JD '94</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Guerrier &amp; Associates PC, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>George N. Keches JD '75</td>
<td>Senior and Founding Partner</td>
<td>Keches Law Group/Keches Realty, Taunton, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Warren G. Levenbaum JD '72</td>
<td>Founding Partner</td>
<td>Levenbaum Trachtenberg, Phoenix, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Konstantinos Ligris JD '01</td>
<td>Founder &amp; CEO</td>
<td>Ligris + Associates PC, Newton, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deborah Marson JD '78</td>
<td>Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary</td>
<td>Iron Mountain, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael J. McCormack JD '72</td>
<td>Founder</td>
<td>The McCormack Firm, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rob Noonan JD '85</td>
<td>Regional Managing Partner - Tax</td>
<td>KPMG East, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric J. Parker JD '86</td>
<td>Co-Founder and Managing Partner</td>
<td>Parker Scheer LLP, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamie Sasson JD '04</td>
<td>Managing Partner</td>
<td>Ticktin Law Group, Deerfield Beach, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lewis A. Sassoon JD '69</td>
<td>Founding Partner</td>
<td>Sassoon &amp; Cymrot LLP, Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Janis B. Schiff JD '83</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Holland &amp; Knight LLP, Washington, D.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan B. Sharaf JD '87</td>
<td>Partner</td>
<td>Sharaf &amp; Maloney PC, Brookline, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth J. Vacovec JD '75</td>
<td>Senior Partner</td>
<td>Vacovec, Mayotte, &amp; Singer, Newton, MA</td>
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### ABOUT THE DEAN'S CABINET

Dean's Cabinet members are asked to:

- Make a philanthropic commitment of at least $50,000 to support the initiatives of the Law School;
- Provide strategic advice and counsel to the Dean in pursuit of the Dean's overall programmatic and fundraising goals;
- Assist in enhancing the academic profile of the Law School by initiating strategic corporate and individual partnerships within the New England region, around the nation, and abroad;
- Identify, cultivate, and engage alumni to become involved with the Law School as well as identify possible nominees to serve in the Dean's Cabinet; and
- Serve as ambassadors of the Law School to external stakeholders, such as alumni, corporate partners, and prospective students and their parents.
1951
‘After retiring from business, I got involved in the real estate market in Florida,’ writes Al Cohen. “After a few years of rapid increases in property values, there was a slight downturn, but being retired it didn’t affect me too much. I have since changed offices to a smaller ‘boutique’ office in Tequesta, Fla., where I work at my own speed and do a comfortable amount of business.”

1960
“After almost 58 years of practicing law in the Boston (Newton-Wellesley) area, I am still working full time and truly enjoying it,” writes Mark Lichtenstein. “Carolyn, my wife of 58 years, and I still love to travel, especially to the New York City/Long Island area, to be with our daughter, Lisa, son-in-law, Scott, and our two grandsons, Jacob and Matthew (when they are home). We enjoyed the last reunion of Suffolk Law on June 2.”

1968
Charlie Williamson notes, “I am still engaged in the general civil practice of law in Portland, Ore., although semiretired and working out of my home. At the age of 73, I think of retiring, but enjoy the work and helping people. I am glad to meet with other law school grads who move here or pass through. There are more and more Suffolk alums here all the time.”

1969
L. Peter Farkas has opened a new firm, Halloran Farkas + Kittila LLP, a national corporate and litigation boutique with offices in Washington, D.C., Wilmington, Del., Palo Alto, Calif., and Jackson Hole, Wyo. Peter, who is based in Washington, D.C., writes, “I’ve had my own firm for 20 years and am ready for a new venture with a more pronounced focus on a national practice.”

The Hon. Peter Panuthos has stepped down as chief special trial judge of the U.S. Tax Court, a position he held for 25 years. He will continue to serve as a special trial judge. In 2012, Judge Panuthos received the J. Edgar Murdock Award, the Tax Court’s highest award, for his exceptional service to the court.

1971
Paul Cherecwich, Jr. writes, “I am now fully retired and spending my time skiing in the winter and golfing, gardening, and fishing in the summer. I also am involved in volunteer work, ranging from fundraising for homeless programs to providing pro bono tax advice to my city club. I was pleased to recently receive a note congratulating me for over 40 years of financial support to Suffolk Law School. I encourage everyone to try to beat my record.”

1972
Christine Newman Garvey has retired after 20 years with the Prologis REIT Board. She continues to serve on the board of directors for MUFG Union Bank, as well as HCP, a health care REIT, and Toll Brothers, a high-end residential developer. She resides with her husband in Santa Barbara, Calif.

1973
Peter Ettenberg, a founding partner in the Worcester, Mass., law firm of Gould & Ettenberg PC, received the Joseph J. Balliro Award from the Massachusetts Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

1974
John Bonee writes that his firm, Bonee Weintraub LLC in West Hartford, Conn., has celebrated its 10th anniversary. His practice focuses on civil litigation, including personal injury, and probate litigation. John has enjoyed the convenience of the firm’s move from Hartford, Conn., to his hometown because it’s now easier for him to join his wife, Jeanette, and 15-year-old son at school and athletic events.

1976
Charles A. Gelinas Sr. writes, “I continue the practice at Gelinas & Ward in Leominster, Mass., joined by my son, Justin P. Gelinas JD ’08, and daughter-in-law, Ashleigh C. Gelinas JD ’08, with the firm’s focus on commercial lending, real estate and trusts, and estates. No plans for complete retirement, but pleased to be turning the practice over to Justin and Ashleigh and the firm’s other attorneys.”

1979
William F. Kennedy, a partner at the Boston-based law firm Nutter, received the Catholic Charities 2017 Justice and Compassion Award. He was recognized for his extensive philanthropic contributions and social impact on the Greater Boston community, which he has worked tirelessly to serve for over 40 years.

Alice Peisch, state representative for Massachusetts’ 14th Norfolk District and House Chair of the Joint Committee on Education, was appointed to the National Assessment Governing Board.

Tony Pelusi writes that he recently became certified as a parenting coordinator by the Massachusetts Probate and Family Court. Combining his skills as trial attorney, mediator, and professional coach, Tony serves as a catalyst for change in dysfunctional personal and business relationships.

1980
Thomas W. Madonna was appointed chair of the Rhode Island Supreme Court’s Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee.

Carla Newton, a partner at Robinson Donovan PC, Springfield and Northampton, Mass., was included in The Best Lawyers in America in the practice area of family law.

1981
David Adelson received the 2017 pro bono award from the Norfolk County Bar Association for his volunteer work as a mediator of summary process cases at the Stoughton, Mass., District Court.

Richard Scheff was named president of the Partnership for After School Education, a child-focused organization that promotes and supports quality after-school.
vide clients a full range of services, while collaborating with ABRY Partners. Ed and Robert Griffin, a partner at Brain & Pair of Sapers & Wallack (S&W) in Newton, Mass., announced the February 2017 sale of S&W's group benefits division to The Hilb Group, a leading middle-market insurance agency headquartered in Richmond, Va., and a dedicated market firm in the areas of family law and mediation for the past several years.

1982

Kevin Fitzgerald, a partner at Nixon Peabody, was included in the 2017 edition of Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business.

Ed Wallack, one of the principals of Sapers & Wallack, was named the 2018 Rhode Island Lawyer of the Year for trust and estates litigation by Best Lawyers in America.

He oversees the firm's civil litigation practice in state courts and the federal court in Rhode Island.

1985


Vincent Bonazzoli, founder and principal of the Family Estate Planning Law Group in Lynnfield, Mass., was named a top-rated estate planning and probate attorney by Super Lawyers magazine.

Steve Cohen is Of Counsel at Feldman, Kleidman, Coffey, Sape & Regenbaum LLP in Dutchess County, N.Y., where he manages the plaintiff's personal injury practice.

John Farina, a partner at Burns & Levinson LLP, was named to the 2017 Top 100 Trusts and Estate Lawyer by the American Society of Legal Advocates for the third consecutive year.

1986

Rachel B. Goldman is a partner at Grindle Robinson LLP in Wellesley, Mass., where she specializes in collaborative family law, mediation, conciliation, and settlement negotiation. She has been included in The Best Lawyers in America and has been named a "Super Lawyer" in the areas of family law and mediation for the past several years.

1987

Michael F. Connolly has joined the Boston office of Rubin & Rudman LLP as a partner and co-chair of the litigation department.

1988

Lynn Coffin Brendemuehl was appointed first justice of the Concord, Mass., District Court.

Denise I. Murphy was elected vice president of the Massachusetts Bar Association for 2017-18. She is a partner at Rubin & Rudman LLP in Boston, where she chairs the firm's labor and employment division.

1989

Steven A. Minicucci was named a judge for the Rhode Island Workers Compensation Court. He has worked at Calvino Law Associates since 1989, representing employees in workers' compensation matters, and also served as the probate judge for Warren, R.I.

Sheldon C. Toplitt notes that he has affiliated with Keller Williams in Westwood, Mass., as a real estate agent. He also is Of Counsel to the Law Offices of John C. Dorn in Sandwich, Mass., and principal of The Write Lawyer in Ashland, Mass., a business that writes blogs and articles for attorneys and drafts pleadings and legal documents.

1990

The Hon. Richard Sinnott is an associate justice at the Boston Municipal Court and an adjunct professor at Suffolk Law School, teaching Laws of War.

After practicing in Boston for over 25 years, Joshua S. Tracey reports that he has relocated his domestic relations and litigation practice to Wellesley Hills, Mass. Josh has had his own firm since 2006 after having had the privilege of working with some of finest attorneys in Massachusetts. He handles all aspects of domestic relations litigation. Josh lives in Wellesley with his wife and two sons.

Jennifer Wells was appointed to the Kenai Superior Court in Alaska. Since 1994, she has served in communities around Alaska and filled roles including magistrate judge, acting district court judge, and training judge.

1991

Lisa Cukier, a partner in Burns & Levinson's Private Client Group, was named to the "Divorce, Trusts & Estates Trailblazers" list by Super Lawyers.

Gary Merken reports that he has been living near Philadelphia since 2001. As a
senior attorney with the IRS Office of Chief Counsel since 2004, he advises revenue agents on issues involving large businesses and tries cases in the U.S. Tax Court. Gary also teaches graduate tax courses at Southern New Hampshire University. His son, Christopher, is a first-year law student at Villanova, so dinner table conversation focuses on various cases. Daughter Katie is a freshman at Syracuse.

1992

**Lynne F. Riley**, a partner at the Boston law firm Casner & Edwards, concentrating in bankruptcy and restructuring and litigation, was included in *The Best Lawyers in America.*

1993

**John Beals**, partner at Nixon Peabody, was included in the 2017 edition of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business.*

1994

**Jeff Carter** is the executive director of Physicians for Social Responsibility in Washington, D.C. He also was elected vice president of the Committee for Education Funding, a Washington, D.C.-based coalition of educational associations, institutions, and other organizations advocating for greater federal investments in education.

Josh Koskoff, principal of Koskoff Koskoff & Bieder, a Bridgeport, Conn.-based law firm, was named the 2017 Attorney of the Year by the *Connecticut Law Tribune.* He was recognized for his ongoing work as lead attorney representing families who lost loved ones at the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting and for his courtroom achievements in 2016.

1995

**Afzana Anwer** writes, "After law school I moved to Washington, D.C., then Munich, and now London, and practice in the area of intellectual property law. Happy to hear from anyone who remembers me or needs help with IP issues."

**Jeremy Cohen** reports that he has opened a new law practice, Boston Dog Lawyers, at the Cummings Center in Beverly, Mass. The practice focuses on legal issues surrounding canines, including pet custody cases, dog-bite lawsuits, dangerous-dog defense, wrongful pet injury, and pet product liability. Jeremy has been profiled by the *Boston Herald, Salem Daily News,* and *ABC News,* and is a recurring guest on the WBZ radio show *Night Side with Dan Rea.*

**Richard E. Gamache** is a senior patent attorney at Bainwood, Huang & Associates LLC in Westborough, Mass.

Tannaz Saponaro, a partner in the Boston office of Verrill Dana, was named a 2017 Top Women of Law honoree by *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.* She also was included in *Best Lawyers in America* for her work in the family law practice area.

1996

**Michael P. Concannon** reports that he "was recently appointed vice president of safety and compliance at LM Heavy Civil Construction in Quincy, Mass." He retired from the Massachusetts State Police as a major after 26 years of service. He and his wife, Annmarie, and their five children live in Woburn, where he serves as an alderman-at-large on the City Council.

**Terri L. Pastori** reports that she has joined with Heather Krans to launch Pastori | Krans PLLC in Concord, N.H. The firm focuses on employment law, family law, and business disputes for its clients in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Both Terri and Heather have substantial experience working at large law firms prior to starting Pastori | Krans earlier this year.

**Jeannine (McNaught) Reardon** writes, "Since my departure from SULS, I've released three mystery books, the Rebecca Tameron mystery series. I've also taught insurance law at SULS with my dad, Stephen R. McNaught, Esq., with whom I work, practicing mostly in insurance defense. I've also found myself in a few local movies in background roles, the most recent being *Central Intelligence.* The Investigation Discovery Channel's true-crime television show, *Nightmare Next Door,* reached out looking for a local attorney/author familiar with the Wakefield, Mass./southern N.H. area who could help tell the story of a double homicide. The episode, 'Death Takes a Toll,' aired on Sept. 30, 2016. The case was absolutely fascinating."

1997

**Joyce Anagnos** is staff attorney to Judge Thomas J. Ososwik of the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals.

Brian Glennon BA '94 was appointed vice president, general counsel, and secretary of Cumberland Farms, Inc. He oversees the law, risk management, environmental, and government affairs departments, and is a member of the executive Leadership Committee.

**Jeffrey S. Shapiro** was appointed first deputy comptroller of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

1998

**Joseph John Reardon Jr.**, a shareholder at Cipparone & Zaccaro PC in New London, Conn., was awarded the Certified Elder Law Attorney designation by the National Elder Law Foundation, which is the only organization approved by the American Bar Association to offer certification in the area of elder law.

1999

**Christian Capizzo** has joined the Providence, R.I., office of Partridge Snow & Hahn as counsel. He chairs the firm's environmental practice.

**George T. Comeau** joined the Downtown Boston Business Improvement
District, leading its marketing and brand activation. In this capacity, George helped lead the sponsorship efforts of Sail Boston, including a spectacular parade through Downtown Crossing. He is actively supporting plans for Revolution 250, the organizational support to commemorate the anniversary of the American Revolution. In addition, George is continuing his service as Commissioner of Public Libraries in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Alyssa Nohren, a shareholder at Card Merrill in Sarasota, Fla., was named Volunteer of the Year by the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast. She is a real estate attorney.

2000

Brian Snell of the Law Office of Brian C. Snell in Reading, Mass., was inducted as president of the Reading Rotary Club, a service organization. Brian notes, "You can find me along with other Rotarians at the Friday night high school football games running the Snack Shack, where proceeds are reinvested in the community."

2001

Bethany A. Bartlett, chair of Sherin and Lodgen’s Solar Energy Practice Group and a partner in the firm’s real estate department, was elected to the Abstract Club, an association of experienced real estate lawyers, limited to 100 members, in Massachusetts.

Joseph Maraia was named to the Intellectual Property Trailblazers list by the National Law Journal. He is a partner at Burns & Levinson in Boston.

2002

Jed Enlow reports that he was named partner at the Chicago office of Leavens, Strand & Glover, where he has been Of Counsel for a number of years while also serving as a production attorney for the award-winning Steve Harvey daytime television show. He focuses his practice on entertainment and media law, most prominently on issues in television show production and broadcast.

Jonathan R. Hausner of the Construction Group at Robinson & Cole LLP was promoted to counsel. He primarily works in the firm’s Boston office.

Marc Mercier MSF ’02, BA ’98, was named director of the forensic accounting and business valuation practice at Boston’s BlumShapiro, a regional accounting firm focused on audit, tax, and advisory services.

2003

Eric Gylenborg was promoted to director at the Boston law firm of Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster. He will continue to serve clients in the firm’s business department and Finance and Workout Group.

Law Alumni Board member Sean R. Higgins and wife, Lindsey Burke Higgins ’04, are proud to announce the birth of their son, Sean R. Higgins, Jr., on October 3, 2017. Sean joins big sister Madelynn Higgins.

Jaimie A. McKean was named a partner at Schwartz Hannum PC in Andover, Mass.

Michael Siccuco has published a book, Blueprint to Business: An Entrepreneur’s Guide to Taking Action, Committing to the Grind, and Doing the Things That Most People Won’t, writing under the name Michael Alden. This is his third book and a follow-up to his previous best-selling books 5% More and Ask More Get More.

2004

Boston law firm Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster. He will continue to serve clients in the firm’s family law department.

Lisa Hawke has joined the legal technology startup Everlaw in San Francisco, Calif., as director of policy and compliance.

Suzanne Breselor Lowell has joined the real estate department of Bernstein Shur in Portland, Maine.

2005

Brian J. Coughlin has joined the business law department of the Boston law firm Davis Malm & D’Agostine PC, focusing on U.S. immigration and global workforce mobility.

Anthony Donato was elected to the Watertown Town Council.

David Friedman was promoted to director at the Boston law firm Rackemann, Sawyer & Brewster.

2006

Andrea L. Martin was elected a partner at the Boston-based law firm Burns & Levinson LLP. She is a member of the firm’s Business Litigation and Dispute Resolution Group.

Kevin Powers has opened the Law Offices of Kevin J. Powers. He represents direct clients in civil and criminal litigation, and serves as consulting litigation counsel for fellow attorneys in civil and criminal matters. Kevin provides a particular depth of focus on detailed research and writing, and is active in litigating at both the trial and appellate levels and in both state and federal courts.

Michael Rossi was promoted to partner at Conn Kavanaugh Rosensthal Peisch & Ford LLP in Boston.

Pedro Hernandez became a partner at the global firm Squire Patton Boggs in Miami, Fla., focusing his practice on public and infrastructure finance, primarily in Florida and Puerto Rico. He also was named a 2017 Rising Star by the Bond Buyer in the area of municipal finance.

Angel Kozeli Mozina of Feldman & Kozeli in Boston was named a 2017 Top Women of Law honoree by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.

Sonya (Roncovich) Murphy and James W. Murphy ’06, welcomed their third child, Caelyn Joslin Murphy, on April 19, 2017. Big brothers Aedan, 5, and Dylan, 15, are excited to have a new baby sister. In January, James started a new job as senior wealth manager and fiduciary specialist at BNY Mellon’s Boston office. Sonya continues her in-
house legal career as corporate counsel at PerkinElmer in Waltham, Mass. The Murphy family resides in Beverly, Mass.

Jonathan Trotta was elected partner at Stinson Leonard Street. He practices in the firm's Washington, D.C., office focusing extensively on energy, transportation, telecommunications, and cybersecurity policy issues.

Steven M. Veenema was elected a shareholder at Murphy & King Counsellors at Law in Boston.

Shannon Vittengl has joined the New England-based law firm Pierce Atwood LLP as counsel in the firm's Patent Group.

Christopher R. Cowles has joined Boston-based law firm Burns & Levinson as a partner in its Life Sciences and Intellectual Property Groups.

Shane O'Neil was promoted to partner at Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial in Atlanta, Ga.

Stephen W. Ranere was promoted to partner at the global law firm Latham & Watkins LLP. Ranere, who works in the firm's Boston office, focuses his practice on the representation of private and public companies in the technology, health care, and life sciences industries.

Robert O. Sheridan, Of Counsel at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Boston, was named a 2017 Massachusetts Rising Star in the employment practice area by Super Lawyers magazine.

Rajat Singh writes, "After publishing my first two poetry collections, In the Brightest of Nights and Parading Past Closed Windows, I am writing my third book to be released in the winter. Residing in Brooklyn, N.Y., I also just began work on designing and creating for the new apparel and accessories brand Eterno. It has been nine years since 120 Tremont, but I still miss the good people of Boston."

2009

Lisa Cahan Rhoades and Cory Rhoades are “thrilled to have welcomed their first born, Clara Liona Rhoades (projected JD '21), in December 2016. When not busy chasing Clara, Cory continues to practice commercial real estate and corporate law at D'Ambrosio Brown LLP, where he has been employed since graduation. Lisa continues to work in the field of disability law, now an attorney adviser with the Social Security Administration."

2010

Otylia Babiak married Ryan McClanahan on May 20, 2017. She is the legal counsel for the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, which is part of the World Bank Group, in Washington, D.C. Otylia is pursuing an MBA at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School.

Charles Richard Clark is the committee legal counsel for Nebraska State Senator Laura Ebke, chair of the Judiciary Committee.

Sean Fitzmichael Devlin reports that he has served as in-house counsel to Feeney Brothers Utility Services since 2010 and was named general counsel in 2013. He lives in West Roxbury, Mass., with his wife, Betsy, and two children, 3-year-old Winnie, and Teddy, who is 6 months old.

2011

David Bonzagni writes that he married Dahlia (Habashy) in July 2013 and they welcomed a son, Benjamin Noor, in March 2016. David is a prosecutor at the Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office in Providence, R.I. Dahlia is a family law practitioner at Callahan, Barraco & Inman in Westborough, Mass.

Daniel W. Clarke has joined Boston-based law firm Burns & Levinson as a partner in its Life Sciences and Intellectual Property Groups.

2012

Richard B. Emmons has joined Boston-based law firm Burns & Levinson as a partner in its Life Sciences and Intellectual Property Groups.

John Wilusz, an associate at Pierce Davis & Perritano LLP in Boston, was named a 2016 Rising Star by Super Lawyers magazine in the area of civil litigation.

Christina Zhang has become a partner in the Boston office of McCarter & English, where she is a member of the Intellectual Property and Information Technology Group.

2014

Kevin Kahn is associate counsel at WME IMG in New York, N.Y., specializing in fashion and entertainment law. He proposed to his girlfriend of three years, Sarah Wexler, an event planner in New York City, in May 2017. The couple will marry on April 21, 2018, at Temple Emanu-el of Closter, N.J. Kevin and Sarah both attended Rutgers University as undergraduates, meeting in 2014 when Kevin returned to New Jersey post-law school. They live in Hoboken, N.J., with their rescue dog, Cash.

Andrew Stacey notes that he "is very excited to announce the beginning of a new venture in Equitas Law LLP." Joined by attorneys Andrew DiCarlo Berman and Johanna M. Griffiths, Equitas Law LLP is a general practice firm located just outside Washington Square in Brookline, Mass.

2015

Tiffany Ann Johnson writes that "after discovering a passion for education advocacy, I have joined Achievement First working as a talent partner. In this capacity, I have been recruiting instructional staff poised to take on the mighty work of delivering a quality education to America's students regardless of race or economic status."

2016

Jessica F. Gonzalez has joined the Lyndhurst, N.J.-based law firm Scarinci Hollenbeck as an associate in the firm's Public Law Practice Group.

Jeff Salomon writes, "I passed the New York and New Jersey bar and have been working as a personal injury lawyer in New Jersey at Davis, Saperstein & Salomon. Interestingly enough, my advanced torts professor at Suffolk, Professor Hicks, had my father as a student in what was then both Professor Hicks' first class as a law professor and my father's first class as a law student at Akron Law."
Alone Across the Border
Stephen P. Hall JD '10

Stephen P. Hall JD '10 is a litigation attorney at Holland & Knight in Boston. He is the immediate past president of the Massachusetts Black Lawyers Association and serves as a trustee for the Boston Bar Foundation. This year he was honored with the 40 Under 40 Award from the National Bar Association and the Boston Business Journal. He also received the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Economic Development Pro Bono Award. We asked him about his current pro bono efforts.

HALL: I'm wrapping up a case for Kids in Need of Defense. It's an organization that helps minors who cross the U.S. border unaccompanied by an adult. My client is a native of Honduras, and he arrived in the U.S. severely undernourished. His mother and brother were already here, and the brother is an American citizen. My client used a coyote (smuggler) to travel through Honduras and Mexico to try to reunite with his family and was left alone just across the border. I worked with his mother to get her custody through the probate court, and now I'm working on a petition to change his immigration status so that he can stay under the Special Immigrant Juvenile program.

Teaching That It’s OK to Take Risks
Dr. Ivana Magovcevic-Liebisch JD '99

Ivana Magovcevic-Liebisch JD '99 recently moderated Suffolk Law's Women’s Leadership Academy Alumni Panel. With a PhD in genetics from Harvard University, she serves as the Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy and Development Officer at Axcella Health, a biotechnology company focused on designing amino acid-based therapeutics for complex diseases. Her work covers intellectual property, as well as business development and strategy. Before joining Axcella, she was head of global business development at Teva Pharmaceuticals, where she executed over $5 billion in business development transactions. Magovcevic-Liebisch arrived in the U.S. in the 1980s from Serbia with just two suitcases, on a full academic scholarship. We caught up with her this fall to ask what drew her to the Women’s Leadership Academy panel.

MAGOVCEVIC-LIEBISCH: I feel that often girls aren’t taught to take risks as much as boys and that ends up impacting their ability to climb up the corporate ladder later in life. Women tend to make the safe choices, not necessarily the best choices for their long-term careers; they may not take the risks that help you secure the top positions in the board room. There are not enough female mentors out there, and that needs to change if we are going to get women into the C-suite and onto boards.

As women are mapping their careers, I want them to know that it’s OK to take a job that feels like a stretch—where you don’t feel that comfortable with all of the elements of the job description. I’ve taken some positions that don’t track exactly to my JD, or my science background, jobs that focus on the business side, strategy and operations, and that’s OK. Go outside your comfort zone.
Giving a Fighter a Fighting Chance
Alumnus launches scholarship for disabled, economically needy

Frank Buckley JD '73 contracted polio as a young boy, which resulted in the loss of the use of his legs and shaped his entire life. This past summer, he decided to help Suffolk Law students facing similar challenges, funding a new scholarship at $50,000 to assist a student with a disability and economic need.

Buckley focused on his education as a young man, he said, because he could not follow his brothers and father into physical labor working for the City of Brookline, Mass. He was the first in his family to attend college. In 2011, after a 40-year career, Buckley retired from his position as a federal attorney in the Office of the Solicitor, Division of Employment and Training Legal Services in Washington, D.C. An avid Red Sox fan, he moved from Virginia to Estero, Fla., in 2013 to follow the Red Sox at spring training.

He credited his ability to fund the newly created scholarship and to leave Suffolk Law “a substantial amount” in his will to sound investments and a relatively frugal life.
Bar Pass Rates: An Interview with Dean Perlman

Q: Suffolk Law's first-time bar pass rate dropped this year. What is the Law School doing to turn it around?

A lot. Since I became dean in 2015, the Law School has taken a number of steps to improve our bar pass results. For example, we have become more selective in admissions, strengthened our bar-related requirements for students who are having academic difficulty, and invested significant new resources into our bar prep efforts.

The new resources include a new faculty Director of Bar Programs, Professor of Legal Writing Sabrina De-Fabritiis, who directs and supplements the work of our existing full-time senior bar prep specialist, Jim Janda. Sabrina and Jim work closely with students in one-on-one settings, both before and after graduation, to prepare them for the bar exam. We have strengthened our curriculum to include for-credit bar preparation courses designed to introduce our students to the rigors of the bar exam before they graduate. We’ve also hired more tutors so that we can provide even more individualized attention. And we’ve entered into a collaboration with bar prep leader Barbri to make their cutting-edge post-graduation program more affordable.

That’s just a small sampling of what we’re doing.

Q: You mentioned admissions policies. Are the credentials of entering students improving?

Yes. This fall’s entering class had the strongest academic profile in five years, and we’ve seen improved LSAT scores, particularly at the lower end of the range, for each of the last three years. Of course, students with many different academic backgrounds can pass the bar, but LSAT scores are a pre-admission predictor of bar passage.

Q: What does Suffolk Law do for students who do not pass on the first attempt?

Last year, we expanded efforts to help graduates who do not pass on the first try, including hiring an additional tutor to work with them and giving those graduates access to our other bar prep resources. We also work with these graduates one-on-one and in small group workshops to support their studies as they prepare to retake the bar exam. Our efforts are paying off. Last year, a majority of graduates who failed the bar the first time passed it the second time.

Q: What are the prospects for increased bar passage rates going forward?

I’m optimistic that, with all of the changes to policies and resources, we’re going to see better bar pass rates for future graduating classes. This is a high priority for us, and we won’t be satisfied until we see significant improvement.
Suffolk Graduate’s TV Show Watched by Millions
Judge Frank Caprio’s proceedings go viral

It was a human and compassionate courtroom moment, captured on camera, that captivated millions on the Internet. A judge asked a 5-year-old boy to help him sentence the boy’s father for parking illegally.

Judge Frank Caprio, chief municipal court judge in Providence, R.I., and a 1965 graduate of Suffolk University Law School, invited the boy, Jacob, to come up to the bench to help him decide on Jacob’s father’s punishment. He gave the boy three options: the full fine of $90, a reduced fine of $30, or no penalty at all. Jacob chose the $30 fine as the fairest option, to the laughter of the crowd sitting in the gallery.

Caprio praised the boy for taking the middle road but ultimately came to an agreement that if his father, a cook, took Jacob to breakfast, he would waive the fine entirely. Jacob agreed because, as he told the judge, “I love bacon.”

A video of the case has been viewed nearly 37 million times.

Humor & forgiveness
Caprio’s courtroom sessions are filmed live for a reality show airing on WLNE-TV, a Rhode Island-area ABC affiliate. The show, Caught in Providence, captures the judge’s humor, clear logic, and, often, his willingness to forgive underdogs who are honest about their mistakes. The cases include traffic and parking violations as well as arraignments for criminal offenses.

Broadcasts of Caprio’s court proceedings have gone viral, with more than 1 billion views, according to the Boston Globe, and coverage in USA Today, Huffington Post, Inside Edition, and Britain’s Mirror newspaper, as well as social media posts by stars from Ashton Kutcher to Steve Harvey.

In one episode featured on Inside Edition, a woman had received a ticket for parking at 9:59 a.m., just one minute before the legal time to park. After showing the woman the massive black book of city regulations, the judge laughs and points out that the actual time of the violation was 9:59 and 58 seconds. And then a philosophical question for the woman: “What made you take the wrong path in life?” Case dismissed. That video had more than 1 million views, according to Fox News.

In another video watched by thousands, Caprio questions an unidentified woman about an illegal right-hand turn after showing footage of the infraction. The woman, a Guatemalan immigrant, clearly frightened about being in court and upset about the ticket, explains in halting English that she hadn’t seen the sign. When she adds that she was rushing to an English class so that she could get a job and help her children, the judge congratulates her for taking on that challenge. “You keep taking lessons in English and I’ll dismiss the case,” Caprio says.

Asked why Caught in Providence has become so popular, Caprio, the son of an immigrant father who worked as a fruit peddler, says he thinks the show resonates because many people around the world feel that institutions of government don’t represent them fairly. “They feel that they are talked down to and scorned. In the 100,000 or so comments I have gotten from viewers around the world, the most common words are compassion, understanding, and fairness. I think we have given them a sense of hope through the decisions I make,” he says.

“The rule of common sense”
As for how he decides when to be lenient in his rulings, Caprio says he refers to “the rule of common sense,” trying to
avoid verdicts that will only make matters worse for the individual and the city. “Let’s say you’ve got a single mom, parking fines totaling $800. Not her fault—really the situation she found herself in—and she doesn’t have enough money to feed her children.

“My choices are to suspend her license or try to do something that makes sense given her financial condition. I’m not going to suspend her license, because if I do, she will end up driving without a license. She’ll end up back in traffic court or, for a repeat offense, in criminal court. That’s what I mean by having some compassion for people who are underprivileged. So, I have placed a face of fairness and compassion on the judiciary.”

Suffolk Law opened doors

Caprio says that he wouldn’t have been able to afford law school if it hadn’t been for Suffolk Law. He attended the school’s evening program while working during the day.

“I am forever grateful for the opportunity that was afforded to me by the Law School,” he says. “Suffolk provided me with the tools to change my life, allowed me to become an attorney, and to subsequently become appointed to the bench. If not for that, I would not have fulfilled my parents’ dream or my own dream. I have been able to provide an education for all five of my children, two of whom [Frank T. Caprio JD ’89 and David Caprio JD ’92] graduated from Suffolk Law School.”

The judge says that for most people, especially children, the courtroom is an intimidating place: “They see an oak-paneled courtroom, a judge with a robe, court officers with guns, and all of the pomp and circumstance that goes with a courtroom setting. I try to make the court less intimidating, try to inject some humor.

“Sometimes,” he adds, “I bring the children up to the bench to help me decide the case. Those experiences with young children will stay with them the rest of their lives, and I think will help them have a favorable impression of the institutions of government.”
When Brian Kuhn JD ’07 turned on his TV to watch the game show Jeopardy one cold night in February 2011, he had no idea it would change his life.

As Kuhn watched in amazement, an IBM “supercomputer” called Watson gave split-second answers to question after question, beating out its two human competitors and taking first place with a $1 million win.

“I was shocked, absolutely shocked,” Kuhn says, recalling that night. “Watson was learning on the fly and understood what was being said. The ability of a machine to make that leap in judgment was astonishing.”

It was also a watershed event for the man who would become one of the world’s leading authorities on artificial intelligence (AI) as applied to legal services and the co-founder and global co-leader of IBM’s Cognitive Legal business. The solutions developed by Cognitive Legal have leveraged IBM’s Watson technology to offer a cognitive intelligence platform that reads like a human super-genius, across multiple fields—law, IP, medicine, and insurance, for example.

Ultimately, Kuhn says, Watson technology can help determine the contextually best legal strategy to win a case and even figure out why a specific lawyer might be the best one to hire. It’s the kind of intelligence that parses massive amounts of information, identifies nonobvious correlations, and suggests probabilities that help attorneys decide, among other things, when and whether to settle and whether it’s worth filing a summary judgment. That knowledge has the potential to save its users millions of dollars, says Kuhn.

Kuhn’s route into the world of artificial intelligence was a circuitous one. His passion for science developed as a child growing up in Concord, MA, where he lost himself in the world of science fiction. He began dabbling in the digital world at the age of 8 when his father, a technology executive, brought home a computer. It was his dad who encouraged Kuhn’s curiosity, often telling him “interested is interesting” to prompt his son to look beyond simple explanations.

As a college student, Kuhn’s dreams took on a creative bent: He wanted to become a scriptwriter and watch his words turn into movies. In a bid to follow that dream, he enrolled in Emerson College, where in 2003 he earned a degree in management communications. But before he could gain a foothold in Hollywood, Kuhn had an epiphany.

“Most screenplays that are written are never produced,” he says of the day he realized the slim odds of ever seeing his script made into a movie.

Instead, he turned to law at Suffolk University.

“The law interested me because it’s the structure of society,” he says. “I was interested in what the law means in itself. What is the source of these standards? I found that philosophically fascinating. It seemed to represent a synthesis of what I was interested in.”

In retrospect, that synthesis of logic and creativity would come in handy many times in Kuhn’s life. And not only in the courtroom. In fact, his first and only job as a lawyer—a stint with a law firm that specialized in insurance cases—got him plenty of time in the courtroom but didn’t satisfy his creative urge.

So he went to work selling legal technology to some of the largest law firms in the world. The job turned him into a technical product expert and set him on a path that led directly to IBM’s door.

Eight years after graduating from Suffolk, Kuhn co-created IBM’s Watson Legal (now known as Cognitive Legal). In establishing the business, Kuhn and co-leader Shawnna Hoffman worked with a team to develop one of their first tools, Outside Counsel Insights (OCI). OCI reads narrative task descriptions contained within outside counsel invoices as well as the actual, corresponding document that outside counsel billed for, which many companies preserve. By reading invoices, as well as pleadings, emails, deposition testimony, and other relevant material, OCI helps reduce outside counsel spend and identifies the contextually best legal strategies for companies facing high-volume litigation, Kuhn says.

“We’ll be able to understand things in a way we never have before,” Kuhn says of an AI-enhanced future.

If that all sounds too science fiction, take heart.

The good news, says Kuhn, is that Cognitive Legal and similar systems won’t be replacing lawyers or judges—at least for a while. Rather, they will be aiding legal professionals’ decision-making processes.

AI tools may even improve the quality and accessibility of legal advice, says Gabriel Teninbaum, director...
That's because artificial intelligence like Cognitive Legal will give lawyers quicker access to better information and free up more of their time to help clients.

"We're at the precipice of a new age where information is sorted differently, in ways that humans can't do," says Teninbaum. The future of that new age in cognitive technology really isn't that far off, he says.

Kuhn already foresees a convergence of AI with blockchain, a technology that decentralizes data storage and undergirded the creation of the digital currency bitcoin. Among new product ideas are "cartridges" that can be trained to think like a human, using data gathered around the world to solve complex problems. That concept is already under study, Kuhn says.

Despite his success in helping to create a cutting-edge business for IBM, Kuhn remains modest.

"Had I not gone to Suffolk, I certainly wouldn't have had the life I have now," he reflects. "It's a busy, busy life, but that's okay when you love what you do."
SHARING CAN GET COMPLICATED

Prof. John Infranca’s handbook on the platform economy / BY CHRIS CAESAR

For 20-somethings, it’s pretty hard to remember life before the sharing or platform economy.

Services like Airbnb, Lyft, Uber, Etsy, TaskRabbit, Handy, ZipCar, LendingClub, and more have revolutionized the way consumers spend money, both online and offline. And the implications for our society, politics, and economy are still just beginning to reveal themselves, according to Suffolk Law Associate Professor John Infranca.

Infranca is one of the editors of a new anthology, The Cambridge Handbook on the Law of the Sharing Economy, which explores how a number of disciplines are grappling with innovations. Infranca’s background in property law, land use, and local government all intersected to drive his interest in exploring the topic in depth.

“I’m interested in the transformative effect the sharing economy has on cities on a very fundamental level: how people live, work, eat, and travel in cities,” he explains. Millennials are increasingly forgoing car ownership, as well as other kinds of ownership, he says; instead accessing those goods via the sharing economy as a way to reduce costs.

Infranca and his co-editors were first approached to write a book on the topic but decided instead to compile a multi-disciplinary anthology.

“We found there was a lot of interesting literature on the sharing economy from a number of different disciplines: state and local government law, employment law, tax law, anti-discrimination law, privacy law—we wanted to publish a book that would pull all those conversations together,” he says.

Disruption cuts both ways

“A lot of the sharing economy is predicated on exploiting inefficiencies in urban markets—many of which are due to regulations,” Infranca says. “Uber thrived in part because most cities had an undersupply of taxis, with fixed prices—but they were able to avoid regulation by not defining themselves as a taxi service.”

That regulatory sidestepping can both help and hurt consumers. For example, Airbnb may provide you a cheaper rate than a hotel and a nice source of additional income for the person renting out the space, but it can also increase housing and rental costs in your neighborhood.

It’s not an easy balance to strike, and policy makers have historically struggled to keep up with the pace of change, Infranca says.

Ensuring equal access

The book includes chapters that explore efforts to curtail discriminatory practices in the sharing economy, which has been a serious problem on some platforms, Infranca says.

“There have been various studies on both the homesharing [e.g., Airbnb] and also ridesharing platforms that show it’s fairly rampant—you have people being discriminated against based, for example, on their last name,” he says. The platforms have been reluctant to take too much responsibility for addressing discrimination, Infranca says, and the law is struggling to catch up.

Although companies have taken on initiatives to address these concerns, those efforts often fall short, says Infranca. “Part of this comes down to enforcement capabilities. There’s a complication raised by the nature of the communication on these platforms, as well as the small scale of the transactions,” he explains. “It can make it fairly hard to enforce discrimination laws in the way that you might be able to against a large hotel chain.”

The future of sharing

Infranca acknowledges it’s difficult to forecast the future, but he does have two major predictions for the sharing economy over the next 10 years.

The first is increased tensions between local and state governments. Infranca points to Austin, Texas, where city councilors passed a regulation requiring fingerprint checks
for all drivers contracting with online ride-share platforms. The move, decried by Uber as intrusive, prompted the company to pull its services from the city.

But the company didn’t stop there. It pushed for a popular referendum at the city level to overturn the regulation; when that failed, it lobbied state legislators to enact a statewide law to negate the regulation. Uber ultimately succeeded.

Local governments will continue to argue that sharing platforms create distinctly local challenges that they should have the power to respond to. Uber and Lyft, for example, contribute to traffic by pulling riders away from transit systems—which are already chronically underfunded and need those riders, Infranca says. As more data is collected, local governments will be in a better position to empirically address both the effect of homesharing on rental prices and the degree of congestion caused by ridesharing services. Infranca’s second prediction relates to automation. He says that may not be as far off as you think.

“I expect local transportation to become radically altered as carpool-style rideshare services become more prevalent, but especially as we move in the direction of autonomous vehicles,” he says.

“Public transportation in the city will be transformed—perhaps for the worse—but I think patterns of living in cities are going to change radically in the coming years.”

Honoring Richie Clayman—From Chelsea
Scholarship fund to help students in need pay it forward

Family and friends of Richard I. (Richie) Clayman JD '72 have been searching for a way to honor the Chelsea, Mass.-based and Chelsea-loving attorney who passed away in 2013 at age 65. Finally, they came up with an idea that fit the man perfectly, said his daughter Kate Clayman JD '09—a perpetual scholarship in his name, to be funded by a community of family and friends, and earmarked for Suffolk Law students from Chelsea. The scholarship is aimed at “students who need the money to reach a personal and lifelong dream of becoming an attorney,” she said, as well as students likely to become a certain kind of lawyer—a community lawyer for whom it’s natural to give back. “Someone,” she said, “who feels that’s what they were meant to do.” Someone who will carry on the legacy of Richie Clayman.

When Clayman, a well-known trial attorney in the state, introduced himself to people, he always said, “I’m Richie Clayman, from Chelsea,” said his daughter. “He wanted people to know where his roots were and that he was proud of where he came from.”

People turned to Clayman for help for decades, she said. “He’d say, ‘I got it. I’ll take care of it.’ It didn’t matter who you were or what your profession was. He mentored so many people, helped so many people get out of trouble, find jobs. Some he helped get into substance abuse programs, and if they couldn’t pay legal fees he’d represent them for free. Recently I had a man tell me that there were three generations of people in his family that my father had helped. That’s who he was.”

Clayman’s funeral at Chelsea’s Temple Emmanuel drew an overflow crowd, the Boston Globe reported; hundreds showed up to pay respects to a man whom they knew as a helper and a friend.

As of publication time, the Richard I. Clayman Memorial Scholarship Fund has raised more than $90,000 and provided its first tuition disbursement to Takhmina Rakhmatova, a Suffolk Law evening student from Chelsea who arrived in the U.S. with no family or support system here. At an event at the Law School honoring Clayman’s legacy, Rakhmatova explained to the audience that she has been putting herself through law school by working full-time.

The Clayman Scholarship has allowed her to focus on her academics and earn a spot in the top 5% of her class, as well as carve out time to serve in the Law School’s IP and Entrepreneurship Clinic. “Chelsea has been my home for more than a year, and my goal is to eventually work and contribute to the community that so readily accepted me,” she said.

Clayman handled many high-profile cases in his career, including prosecuting the men who assaulted Theodore Landsmark, an African-American businessman attacked by white anti-busing protesters in Boston in 1976. The attack was captured in an iconic photo moments before a protester struck Landsmark with a flagpole. Clayman went into private practice with Richard Voke and later founded the Chelsea firm Clayman and Dodge.

The founders of the Clayman Scholarship are: Kate Clayman, Joshua Huggard, Amy L. Nechtem JD ’85, John L. Dodge ’89, Steven G. Clayman, Nancy Clayman, Amanda Clayman, Thomas O. Levenberg, Alyse Clayman Bulfer, and Andrew Bulfer III.
Online Certificate Program in Legal Innovation Launches

Teachers include Liberty Mutual and Microsoft counsel

With industry leaders serving as teachers, including in-house lawyers from Liberty Mutual and Microsoft, the Law School has launched a first-of-its-kind online certificate program in legal innovation and technology. The online program will train lawyers, paralegals, law librarians, and other legal professionals to innovate the delivery of legal services.

One of the instructors, Lucy Bassli, assistant general counsel at Microsoft, will teach Legal Operations, drawing on her experience re-envisioning legal operations for one of the world’s largest companies.

The full course list of the Legal Innovation and Technology Certificate Program covers areas such as legal operations, design thinking, process improvement, and legal project management, and will benefit professionals in a range of settings, including law firms, corporate legal departments, government agencies, courts, and legal aid offices.

“I genuinely believe that the legal industry is at a great inflection point,” said Bassli. “Our jobs will not look the same 10 years from now. Technology advancements for legal services are ripe, and attorneys need to pay attention.”

Bassli contends that the legal field is going through a great “ unbundling” — an approach that calls on legal providers to explain exactly how they are pricing each individual service they are offering, making it simpler for clients to shop around for quicker, cheaper solutions. “I want to empower my colleagues with some fundamentals of what legal operations can mean for the delivery of legal services,” she said.

Other courses include Legal Project Management and Process Improvement, Design Thinking for Legal Professionals, 21st-Century Legal Profession, Legal Technology Toolkit, and The Business of Delivering Legal Services.

Professor Gabriel Teninbaum, director of both the certificate program and Suffolk’s Institute on Legal Innovation and Technology, says adoption of new legal methods and technologies has become a necessity for legal professionals who want to remain competitive.

“We’re one of the very few law schools teaching our current students about the methods and tools that will allow them to succeed in the coming decades,” he said. “But for the million lawyers and million or so other legal professionals working now, the question becomes: Where do they go to learn these things? We think this certificate program is the answer to that question.”

Teninbaum said that a software program like TurboTax offers a good example of the kind of disruptive impact an expert system can have and the kind of method—simplifying a complex matter using technology—that Suffolk will teach. “Before TurboTax, it was much harder for people who weren’t CPAs to do their own taxes, and now it’s a completely normal occurrence. You still need your accountant to provide expert opinions, but some of the work you can do on your own. That’s an approach that the legal field is starting to embrace.”

The timing is right for the certificate program, said Suffolk Law Dean Andrew Perlman. “In my regular conversations with legal leaders, whether they’re coming from law firms, corporate legal departments, courts, or legal aid offices, they tell me they need professionals who can rethink legal processes, see those processes with fresh eyes, and find new efficiencies.”

—Dean Andrew Perlman

Each course will run for 10 to 12 weeks and require about two to five hours of student time per week. Participants may take all six courses to earn a certificate or take individual courses.

Learn more at legaltechcertificate.com.
ALUMNI EVENTS

Clinical Programs 50th Anniversary Dinner

Thursday, November 2, 2017
Omni Parker House, 20 School Street, Boston

Over 250 alumni, students, faculty, and friends celebrated the 50th anniversary of the nationally ranked Suffolk Law Clinical Programs at the Omni Parker House on Thursday, November 2, 2017.

Suffolk Clinical alumni celebrate with Clinical Professor Diane Juliar

Current Suffolk Law Clinical Programs students celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Clinical Programs.

Keynote speaker and Clinical Programs alumnus Associate Justice Frank Gaziano JD '89 addresses alumni, student, faculty, and guests

Clinical Adjunct Professor Christina Miller, Trustee Daniel Conley JD '83, Associate Dean and Clinical Professor Kim McLaurin, and Aneisha Worrel-Byrd JD '17

(left to right) Clinical Fellow Lisa Brown, Clinical Fellow Jenifer Cedar JD '17, Associate Director and Clinical Professor Sarah Boonin

Elsa Lopez JD '17, Clinical Professor Ragini Shah, Sandya Sehgal JD '17, Mary Kate Condon JD '17, Lily Connolly JD '17, and Summer Xiayun Zhou JD '17

Acting President Marisa Kelly, Gregory Murphy JD '06, Kathleen O'Toole JD '11, Dean Andrew Perlman, and Alan Sharaf JD '87
On June 2, Suffolk alumni from the class of 1967 came back on campus to celebrate their 50th reunion.
On June 2, over 100 alumni gathered at Fenway Park to celebrate their reunion.
Over 200 alumni, students, faculty, and staff gathered for the Suffolk Law Review's 50th Anniversary Dinner Celebration held at the Omni Parker House Hotel.

Patrick McDonough JD '12, Kristen McDonough JD '13, David Soutter JD '13, Hilary Detmold JD '13, and Dan Ryan

Stephani Hildebrandt JD '00 and David Holland JD '15

William Bloomer BS '85, JD '88, Hon. Suzanne Gorman JD '88, and Daniel Less JD '88

Michael Ortwein JD '02 and Professor Bernard Ortwein JD '72

Stephanie Merabet JD '13 and Michele Beatty JD '13
Save the Date!
Suffolk University Law School
Reunion Dinner and Awards Ceremony
Saturday, June 9, 2018
6:00 p.m.
If your degree year ends in “3” or “8” and you are interested in becoming a class volunteer, contact Annamaria Mueller at amueller@suffolk.edu
MAKE A GIFT TODAY

Your support for Suffolk Law helps prepare graduates for professional success by enabling them to receive a first-class legal education. A gift of $1,000 or more enrolls you in the Summa Society.

Make your gift online at www.law.suffolk.edu/giving.

Questions? Please call 617-573-8445.
JOIN THE FROST SOCIETY

"Where there's a will, there's a way"

Questions about including Suffolk in your estate plans?
Please contact Randy Stabile at 617-573-8029 or stabile@suffolk.edu