Are You Still Watching?
Two alums' experiences with Lucasfilm and Netflix.

Behind the Grammys with Jerry Juste ('94).

The Magazine of Boston University School of Law
Spring 2023

The Record
Models for Modern Law

Since 1872, BU Law has made the case and built the model for modern legal education.

The 150th
The Class of 2023 is ready to make its mark.
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Ahead of Her Time
Blanche Crozier ('33) and the battle for women's rights.
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BEING ABLE TO CONTROL REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES—having the ability to decide if and when to give birth and become a parent—is central to determining how one may build a life and future. For some, having control over their reproductive capacities could mean the difference between completing or not completing their education, taking advantage of a particular job opportunity or having to decline it, or moving or not moving to a different location. These decisions shape our economy and our society.

In the 50 years since the Supreme Court issued its ruling in Roe, an entire generation of women and people with reproductive capacities grew up with a stronger sense of their own agency and control over their own bodies. The court’s June 2022 decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization worked to change that dynamic, practically overnight.

Within 100 days of Dobbs, every clinic closed in states that had passed abortion trigger laws, leaving women and others with reproductive capacities without easily available access to healthcare that allows them to control their reproductive choices. These constraints have had immediate implications for healthcare and budgets in other states because people have had to cross state lines to access the healthcare they desire and need.

Many providers in states with new abortion restrictions have no idea how these laws will be enforced, so they are changing practices that were once routine to avoid the threat of legal charges. I have read story after story about patients experiencing ectopic pregnancies, incomplete miscarriages, and other obstetrical conditions, only to be turned away by doctors who fear being charged with facilitating an abortion. These patients face prolonged pain and suffering, and, in the worst cases, the miscarrying person could die from an infection or hemorrhaging.

All of these impacts are worse for immigrant women and women of color, who are significantly more likely to die during childbirth, regardless of education or income. Black women, for example, are five times more likely to die from pregnancy-related heart failure and blood-pressure disorders than white women. Acute or chronic health conditions that can result in complications with pregnancy are among the top factors that lead people to seek abortion care. Less access to reproductive healthcare will undoubtedly result in more deaths of Black women.

The uncertainty of this moment calls for reflection, conversation, and action, and scholars at BU Law intend to be part of this new phase in the movement for reproductive rights. “After Roe and Dobbs: Seeking Reproductive Justice in the Next Fifty Years,” a symposium organized last January by Professors AZIZA AHMED, NICOLE HUBERFEILD, and LINDA MCCCLAIR, drew scholars from across the country to explore the legacy of the landmark rulings and the future of reproductive justice in the United States.

As my friend and colleague Kim Mutcherson, reproductive justice scholar and dean of Rutgers Law School, has said, narratives matter. The protections provided by Roe were dismantled piece by piece, narrative by narrative. As Dean Mutcherson has warned, Roe was far from perfect. It focused too much on doctors and not enough on women. It arguably should have been rooted in sex equality as opposed to privacy, and it failed to address equal access to abortion care. Events like the one held in January can dispel some of the misconceptions we hold about what Roe did and did not accomplish and help us plan for a post-Dobbs future.

As we work back toward national protections for reproductive rights, we have an opportunity to create stronger narratives and stronger protections. The fight will be decades long, working state by state. Still, such mobilization is necessary.

A new generation of lawyers who are equipped to advocate for reproductive rights at the federal, state, and local levels will be critical to this work. That is why BU Law is launching a new program in reproductive justice in fall 2023. Led by three faculty who have deep expertise in this field and have developed a strong partnership with the School of Public Health, students will learn to be practitioners and leaders on one of the most pressing issues of our time. Boston is well known as a city of medical and scientific innovation, and BU Law has always been at the forefront of legal education. Our graduates have made lasting impacts on society, and it is critical that we provide our students with the foundation that allows them to remain at the forefront. Perhaps, in another 50 years, we can tell a different story—one about hope and resilience and the power of a movement to build even stronger protections than we had after Roe.
FIRST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE JUAN R. TORRUELLA (’57) was partial to BU Law graduates when selecting his law clerks. Those grateful former clerks, who cherish memories of the judge’s warmth and wisdom, are enshrining his legacy by spearheading the endowment of a scholarship in his honor.

“He always had an appreciation for those starting their legal careers and devoted much of his time to helping them be successful, so I think that helping people afford a law education would be something he would relish and appreciate,” says PETER LEVITT (’93), who clerked for Torruella in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1994–95 and is a partner at Donnelly, Conroy & Gelhaar in Boston.

Torruella, who spent 36 years on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, was the first Puerto Rican to serve on that panel and was its chief judge from 1994 to 2001. Before that, he was appointed to the US District Court for Puerto Rico. The unpretentious judge, who had homes in San Juan and Massachusetts, was a longtime supporter of his alma mater, mentoring students and holding summer barbecues that drew dozens of his former law clerks to his Duxbury home.

One of those clerks was Levitt, who spoke at Barristers Hall last fall at a ceremony unveiling watercolor portraits of three distinguished alumni, all judges on the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit: Torruella, SANDRA LYNCH (LAW’71, Hon.’12), and O. ROGERIEE THOMPSON (’76). The event was a bittersweet moment for Torruella’s clerks and family. The judge had died in October 2020, during the many occupancy restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so his mourners were unable to gather then to grieve his loss and celebrate his legacy.

A scholarship, Levitt thought, would be an ideal way to honor him. More than 30 of Torruella’s clerks, 10 of them BU Law alumni, have donated to meet the $100,000 goal. Fundraising efforts are continuing, and the first scholarship will be awarded in fall 2023.

KAREN KATZ (’89) contributed to the scholarship fund in appreciation for her 1988–90 clerkship with Torruella. She learned so much about evidentiary matters and criminal appeals that “it felt like another year of law school,” says Katz, a clinician at Advocates Community Counseling and the former deputy director of the Office of Behavioral Health in Massachusetts’ Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

“I was a young woman with no work experience and no professional background in law,” so receiving the clerkship was especially meaningful, she says. Katz fondly remembers Torruella and his wife, Judy, dancing the merengue in his office. Affable and kind, Torruella was not only a jurist and legal scholar but also an avid painter, an accomplished sailor, and the embodiment of joie de vivre.

Whatever he was doing, he was doing it with full exuberance and enthusiasm,” Levitt says. “I think that was a great lesson for his law clerks about how to live your life both professionally and personally…. He was a quintessential Renaissance person, so his legacy is multifaceted. He was a great mentor and friend to a whole generation of lawyers. He had a really broad impact, and he was very loyal to BU and thankful for his time there. That connection to BU was really important to him.”

Visit bu.edu/lawgiving to contribute to the Judge Juan R. Torruella Scholarship Fund.
“It’s not every graduating class at BU Law that can look back and recall exams interrupted by bomb threats, but at the end of our first year [in 1970] that is exactly what happened to the Class of 1972. It seems President Nixon’s excursion into Cambodia during the unpopular war in Vietnam enraged the entire BU student body on campus. In a meeting at the law school, the law students were informed that the school was the only part of BU that was still operating, and that we needed to shut down in solidarity (the medical school was not involved). There was sentiment to do it, but a George Will (Hon.’03) lookalike stood up and promised that he intended to sue a long list of BU administrators if they did. Wow! The legal process working in real time! The law school remained open and, although I had two exams interrupted by bomb threats, most of the class opted to take their exams as scheduled and not postpone them until fall, which was an option. It was quite a memorable end to my first year at BU, but I guess all is well that ends well!”

Submitted by William A. Lewis Jr. (’72)
In its long history at BU Law—dating back to at least 1875—the moot court program has undergone a series of shifts to become what it is today. By Lauren Eckenroth

WHEN ROBERT VOLK (’78), WHO SERVED AS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR of legal writing and director of the Legal Writing and Appellate Advocacy programs at BU Law from 1982 until 2022, was asked about his 1L moot court argument, he said he remembered it like it was yesterday.

“My judge was [Professor Emerita] FRAN MILLER (’65), and the case was about municipal immunity,” he said. “It was in the small courtroom on the sixth floor, and I was nervous, like everyone else.”

While he didn’t participate in the optional 2L moot court competitions (Edward C. Stone, open floor, and I was nervous, like everyone else."

“Our 1L moot court program, McCloskey is introducing additional workshops to help students prepare and is looking into more opportunities for students to connect with the competition judges. “These competitions are meant to be skill-building opportunities, but they are also occasions for judges and alumni to come meet our students,” McCloskey says. “We are creating more programming that exposes our students to alumni, to judges, and to the skills that are so important for them to develop.”

“HOMER ALBERS (’88) assumed the role of dean in 1912, he made plans to advance the program. Albers was a notable trial attorney in Boston and professor of contracts and practice & pleading. His former student, HON. HARRY K. STONE (’16, 1918, Hon.’47), whose 1943 gift named the competition in Albers’ honor, noted in Bostonia that “feeling as he did that graduates of the law school should be good trial lawyers, he was keenly interested in the use of the moot court by students.”

Albers hired Hon. A.K. Cohen of the Municipal Court of the City of Boston to make the practice sessions operate as closely as possible to a real court. The plan worked. In a 1915–16 report, Dean Albers noted that a participating judge had remarked that the students were “better prepared than many attorneys who had argued their cases before him while he was on the bench.” The program continued under Judge Cohen’s leadership until 1932, when the Great Depression forced the school to reduce its staff.

By the 1960s, the seeds of the modern program had begun to take root. While a trial program was required in the 3L year, a voluntary appellate moot court exercise began in the second semester of the 1L year and turned competitive in the second year with the Homer Albers Competition. By 1975, the Edward C. Stone Moot Court Competition—apure learning experience,” she says. “And it allows a 2L who wants to do the skill building in Stone—but maybe is interested in a clinic or another opportunity in the spring semester—to get some experience beyond the 1L year.”

As she builds on past work to advance the program, McCloskey is introducing additional workshops to help students prepare and is looking into more opportunities for students to connect with the competition judges. “These competitions are meant to be skill-building opportunities, but they are also occasions for judges and alumni to come meet our students,” McCloskey says. “We are creating more programming that exposes our students to alumni, to judges, and to the skills that are so important for them to develop.”
SINCE ITS FOUNDING, BU LAW HAS HELPED DRIVE CHANGE AMONG LAW SCHOOLS AND IN THE FIELD OF LEGAL EDUCATION.

BY REBECCA BEYER • ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALEX JEFFRIES
IN 1829, WHEN ADMISSION TO THE bar required little more than reading the books of practicing attorneys and shadowing them in their work, a university president in Tennessee declared in a speech that it was easier to become a lawyer in that state than it was to shoe a horse.

Decades later in Massachusetts, the path may have been even less onerous. An 1870 article in the American Law Review said that Harvard Law School—the only law school in the commonwealth at the time and one of only about 30 in the country—had been “almost a disgrace.” Like most law schools at the time, it did not require entrance or final exams or any amount of undergraduate study. If students attended lectures and paid their fees, they graduated.

“A school which undertook to confer degrees without any preliminary examination whatever was doing something every year to injure the profession throughout the country,” stated the unsigned article, most likely written by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. “So long as the possession of a degree signified nothing except a residence for a certain period in Cambridge or Boston, it was without value.”

But legal education was about to change in Massachusetts—and across the United States. Some of those changes came from Harvard, where the course of study soon became more rigorous and, in 1871, Dean C.C. Langdell introduced the case method still used in classrooms today.

Other changes, however, were driven in part by a new law school that launched across the Charles River. Boston University was chartered in 1869 and the law school opened its doors in the fall of 1872, helping usher in a new era in legal education. BU School of Law—or the Boston Law School, as it was known at the time—immediately raised the bar for entrance into the legal profession. It was the first law school in the country to propose a three-year curriculum, encourage a bachelor’s degree for admission, and require exams at the end of every course. And even the exams were ahead of their time.

In 1877, a criminal law question asked: “What crime, if any, is in a mother, in object poverty, to drown her children, to save them from want and suffering, to which she is sure they will be exposed, if allowed to grow up?”

“They were remarkably modern,” says BU Law Professor DAVID J. SEIPP, a legal historian and BU Law’s unoffi- cial recordkeeper, of the exams. “They look like questions we ask today—issue spotter questions. The old style had memorization-type questions typical of the state bar exams at the time. These new questions were about thinking like a lawyer, on the spot, under pressure.”

Of course, legal education has continued to evolve—the ABA has taken steps to make entrance exams optional, for instance—and BU Law has kept pace. Over its 150-year history, the law school has been a leader and an innovator, anticipating and responding to changes in the profession and world by enhancing its experiential learning opportunities; strengthening its ties to other professions, including medicine and finance, and engaging with society’s systemic problems in its curriculum and in practice.

In its early years, BU Law’s educational motto was to teach students “what to do and how to do it,” and, over the decades, it has generally been open-minded about how to achieve those ends.

Since its founding, BU Law has identified and attempted to bridge gaps between the legal profession and broader society. For example, around the time of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal reforms, the law school began offering courses in administrative law to help acclimate students to the “increasing number of administrative boards and commissions” in the country, according to a 1930 history of the school. “In the early 20th century, administrative law wasn’t really a subject,” says Philip S. Beck Professor of Law JACK M. BEERMANN, who has written several books on the topic. “Then, when Congress started forming new government agencies in the New Deal period in the 1930s, it was impossible to ignore administrative law as a separate subject.”

In 1944, Law turned its attention to another matter of national importance: health. With a grant from the National Institutes of Health, it launched the Law-Medicine Research Institute, the first entity of its kind to engage in interdisciplinary training in law, medicine, public health, and the behavioral sciences. In its first few years, the institute explored the legal and ethical ramifications of using human subjects in clinical trials and conducted a study for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health that eventually led to the development of the commonwealth’s public health code.

Over time, the institute evolved into what is now the Institute of Health Law, Bioethics & Human Rights at the School of Public Health, which works in partnership with the law school’s well-regarded health law program.

The following year, BU Law established the Graduate Tax Program, one of the nation’s first. Future Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Justice PAUL J. LACROS (LAW’52, Hon.’96) taught one of the initial two courses in the program, which was created to help prepare lawyers for the increasingly complex field of tax law. Today, the program is consistently top-ranked and offers classes in the late afternoons and evenings to accommodate the schedules of working professionals.

In 1978, BU Law again blazed a trail, launching the Morin Center for Banking & Financial Law to train lawyers for leadership positions in both domestic and international banking and financial services industries. In the 1980s, the center developed into the Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law. Now the oldest of its kind in the United States, it remains highly relevant and offers concentrations in the business of banking, compliance management, financial services trans-
More recently, the faculty has committed to a more systemic overhaul of its required classes. In 2020, BU Law hosted a two-day symposium on bias in the 1L curriculum. Panels included faculty members from law schools across the country and BU Law students, who spoke about what they had encountered in the classroom. “Students found certain aspects of the 1L curriculum oppressive and disconnected from their realities now and from the problems they expected to address in the future,” says Dean Angela Onwuachi-Willig, who opened the symposium with remarks about her own experiences as a student of color. “Our students challenged the notion of legal doctrine as being purely neutral and objective. They understood neutrality and objectivity to be the goals, but the doctrine itself reflected the limited realities of the judges who wrote the case law. Concepts like the ‘reasonable person standard’ had raced, gendered, classed, heteronormative, and other lenses to them.”

Since then, individual faculty members have made a conscious effort to include conversations about race and inequality in their classes. But Onwuachi-Willig has also sought to empower students to initiate those conversations and debates themselves, in part by introducing these complex topics and ideas during orientation at the beginning of the year. “We want students to know we believe their voices and insights are important. They have much to teach us, too. They need to be thinking critically about legal doctrine and asking questions about the assumptions underlying the doctrine,” she says.

Onwuachi-Willig, who in 2021 was named the inaugural Ryan Roth Gallo Professor—the first chair devoted to critical race theory in the country—has long been a leader in efforts to create and shape programs which are responsive to a changing society and the possible need for new teaching techniques must usually do so in the hurly-burly of other activities and demands.” He compared the process to “attempting to build a raft after one has cast off from the bank and is being buffeted in mid-stream.”

“There were already working, incorporating more inclusive pedagogies in all our classes,” Onwuachi-Willig says. “We’re now working on a possible new first-year, one-credit course that meets the APA requirement precisely because we believe, as the ABA and many deans do, that all lawyers need such training to be effective practitioners.”

**EMBRACING THE FUTURE**

Current Associate Dean of Clinical & Experiential Education Karen Pita Loor says faculty members also have been revamping their syllabi in response to trainings they have received on issues of bias. “We are really leading in this area,” Loor says. “Students want to have these conversations. People want to think about the law in a different way.”

Maisel credits the faculty with embracing and welcoming many of the changes, some of which were initiated in response to faculty feedback. “The faculty really listened,” she says. “That was very productive.”

In fact, BU Law has always sought out faculty who are attuned to the needs of their students and the profession. In 1969, describing the fledgling clinical law program, BU Law Assistant Dean John F. Wilson wrote that “those attempting to create and shape programs which are responsive to a changing society and the possible need for new teaching techniques must usually do so in the hurly-burly of other activities and demands.”

Beermann says BU Law professors are up for the challenge. “We are a risk-taking, trailblazing, innovative faculty,” he says. “It’s been really remarkable to see how flexible the more traditional classroom faculty have been to adapting what we do in the law school to the current reality. That’s a real strength.”

**FIRST-YEAR FOUNDATION**

Some of BU Law’s most recent innovations have come in the first-year curriculum. Maisel was part of one overhaul in 2014, when the school began to build out what is now the Lawyering Program and implemented the Lawyering Lab, an intensive trans- actional simulation that takes place between the fall and spring semesters. says. “But they also wanted an experience other than the Socratic method that was predominant at the time.” Since the formation of those first two clinics, BU Law’s experiential learning opportunities have expanded exponentially. When Clinical Professor Peggy Beermann (753) was a student at BU Law in the early 1970s, clinical spots were awarded in a lottery. She didn’t get into either of the criminal law clinics or their civil counterpart, which began in 1969 and in which students worked on cases with the Boston Legal Assistance Project (now Greater Boston Legal Services).

“I very much wanted to, but the number of students accepted into clinics was miniscule,” she recalls. Today, BU Law guarantees JD students at least one clinical experience in their second or third year and many students do more. And there are 11 clinics from which to choose, on issues ranging from immigrants’ and employment rights to legislative drafting and civil litigation. There are also dozens of externships, semester-in-practice placements, and practicums.

Maisel increased hands-on learning opportunities at BU Law when she was hired in 2014 as the first associate dean for experiential education. She helped develop the Startup Law and Technology Program, which launched in 2020 to provide students the opportunity to advise private-sector, public-sector, and entrepreneurial activities, and the Compliance Policy Clinic, which launched in 2020 to provide students the opportunity to advise BU and MIT students on their rights to legislative drafting and in which students worked on cases of externships, semester-in-practice placements, and practicums.

Maisel increased hands-on learning opportunities at BU Law when she was hired in 2014 as the first associate dean for experiential education. She helped develop the Startup Law and Technology Program, which launched in 2020 to provide students the opportunity to advise private-sector, public-sector, and entrepreneurial activities, and the Compliance Policy Clinic, which launched in 2020 to provide students the opportunity to advise BU and MIT students on their rights to legislative drafting and in which students worked on cases, either of the criminal law clinics or their civil counterpart, which began in 1969, describing the fledgling clinical law program.
The Class of 2023 is Ready to Make Its Mark.

BY LAURA ERNDE * PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX GAGNE

The Commencement of the Class of 2023—BU Law’s 150th graduating class—makes a fitting culmination to a year of events celebrating the school’s sesquicentennial. Like tens of thousands who have gone before them, these graduates are poised to go out in the world and accomplish amazing things.

Studying and socializing together across various cultural backgrounds and experiences, they formed close bonds and learned about themselves and the law.

This group of JD students arrived from 21 countries and 35 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. They had the added challenge of beginning their studies during a pandemic. But they went the distance. They worked hard to apply themselves and find career paths that matched their interests and abilities.

Likewise, the LLM, master’s, and certificate students hailed from 40 countries and represented professionals at every career level, from age 21 to 70. Many received intensive instruction in legal English to build a strong foundation for their studies. They will use their newfound knowledge to advance their careers and improve legal systems here and abroad.

We checked in with three JD students and two LLM students during their final year to learn more about what made their time at BU Law unique and how they plan to make the most of their degrees.

ZHUOMING YUAN

Found Her Voice in a New Country

What brought you to BU Law from your home in Zhejiang Province in China?

My first visit to the USA was in 2011, when I was in middle school. I visited Boston University and loved the environment here. I majored in intellectual property in undergraduate school, and BU Law’s IP major ranked very high, so that’s the biggest reason I chose here. Also, the two-year LLM program suited me. One year is too short to experience a foreign country and get your legal degree in a foreign language. Boston is a great city for both studying and living.

What stands out about your time at BU Law?

I want to introduce this in two parts. The first is about the Legal English Certificate Program (LECP). I would describe the LECP as a small but warm family—giving me many supports and influencing me a lot. The second is academics. At BU Law was the first time I experienced the Socratic teaching method. This method is very different from my experience in China. The Socratic method forces me to think individually. I know that not every question or case has a correct answer or solution. What’s important is the process I take to develop my ideas and answers, even if the result is wrong or different from the professor’s.

How has the experience changed you as a person?

I was quite introverted and quiet back in China. But the encouragement from my professors and classmates made me much braver. I learned that it’s okay to make mistakes. What I should care about is whether I take steps to challenge myself and express myself. Thanks to their help, I can now actively participate in class. I also obtained excellent study skills. I formed habits: always be prepared and make a plan or to-do list.

What’s next after graduation?

I’m applying for JD programs in the USA. The US legal system is quite different from the Chinese. It’s the difference that appeals to me. I always want to learn something new. I want to experience more in America, too. My parents have always supported me in having a foreign education. Since I was very little, I have traveled abroad. Before I came to BU, I thought I would be an IP lawyer in a law firm and maybe work hard for years and try to become a partner one day. But based on my experience here, I learned things not the only choice. I want to try more things and then make the final decision.

What drew you to intellectual property law?

Well, I’m a book lover. I love reading novels and comic books. These and other artworks benefit from intellectual property protection like copyright and trademarks. Detective novels are why I got interested in the law in the first place. One of my favorite books is Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie. The detective in that book combined rationality and sensitivity. I started to think the law is great, and I want to learn more about that.
Julie Antonellis

Found Stability in Unprecedented Times

What are some of the highlights of your time at BU Law? The first year was a bit challenging because I was mostly remote, so it was harder to make connections. But since then, I’ve met a lot of great people and been able to make friends through classes and organizations like the BU Law Review and the Women’s Law Association. I had the chance to intern for places like the US Attorney’s Office and the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and serve as a summer associate at Choate, Hall & Stewart. My Wrongful Convictions Practicum was also interesting. I don’t know how much of it we can discuss because it’s ongoing, but we investigated the innocence of a man convicted of murder in Massachusetts.

What are your plans after law school? I tried both litigation and transactional work, but I realized I’m much more interested in the topics that litigation covers. There are a lot of opportunities for writing and analyzing laws. I like that aspect. Formulating arguments or drafting motions—those things are right up my alley. I enjoy doing that, and I like that I get to use my critical thinking skills. It seemed like everyone except me knew I would go into litigation, but I figured it out.

Did you have a favorite class? The two classes that stand out most for me are reproductive rights and sex crimes. In the sex crimes course, I wrote a final paper on sex work comparing different jurisdictions’ approaches to regulating sex work. The reproductive rights class was also fascinating, especially post-Dobbs (the Supreme Court decision that overturned federal abortion rights). It feels like a more challenging time to be a law student, with the Supreme Court throwing out precedents. It seems like there’s a lot of instability and unpredictability in the direction of the law. So, it’s an interesting time to be a law student, but it’s also frustrating because you lack predictability.

What activities do you enjoy in your downtime? I’ve been able to explore the city of Boston, trying out new restaurants, and that’s been fun. I’ve gotten into the craft of cross-stitch, so that’s been a nice distraction from screens. I just finished a cross-stitch of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and now I’m working on one of Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

What advice do you give incoming students facing uncertainty, looking at these falling precedents? Make sure you maintain your hobbies and have a life outside law school. Many of us feel disappointed, but that doesn’t mean it will remain the way it is now, or that we’ll continue to see precedents tossed out that we thought were solid law.

Ibrahim Ahmed Ijaz

Advocated for Religious Freedom

What will you remember most about your time at BU Law? The professors are so knowledgeable and willing to meet you where you are. My classmates will remember me on Zoom during our first semester of 1L, constantly pushing the “raise hand” button. I remember asking my contracts professor how to navigate the Uniform Commercial Code. She said if you’re a religious studies student, you wouldn’t look at a religious scripture as a start-to-finish story and find answers by reading it from start to finish. Instead, there are pieces of knowledge everywhere, and it’s your job to pick those out and put them together and tell the relevant story. I had just worked as an editor on my grandfather’s commentary on the Holy Qur’an. It felt like this professor knew exactly what I needed to hear. It was astounding.

Your time in law school included summer study with the district court in Montgomery County, Maryland. Did that time impact your plans after graduation? Being in the courtroom and Judge Zubair Bakari Williams’ chambers put me on the track of wanting to be a law clerk. I’m excited about my federal clerkship with United States Bankruptcy Judge Marilyn Isgur, Southern District of Texas, in Houston. After my clerkship, I will work with Jones Day and learn about different practice areas. I’m the first person in my family to go to law school and become a lawyer, so it means a lot to have all these learning experiences.

How did you manage without family members to guide you? Something special about BU, along with the affinity groups, is the ability to connect with people and students who share a background with you. It’s one less barrier to asking for help. Our Muslim Law Students Association is new, although Muslim students have been at the school for decades. I hope that the legacy I can leave at the school, and the legacy the school continues to build on, is that of uplifting students, meeting them where they are and helping to make the school a home for everyone.

Why did you pursue a legal career? I grew up in the United States, advocating for my fellow Ahmadiyya Muslims abroad on Capitol Hill. Internationally, we’re a revivalist movement within Islam, but we face opposition from some Muslim countries. In Pakistan, we are not allowed to practice our faith. It’s a crime punishable by fine, imprisonment, or death. When I got to undergrad, I wrote to His Holiness Mirza Masroor Ahmad. He is the Khalifa, or worldwide head, of our community. He wrote that I should study the law and pray that it becomes a source of benefit not only for our community but for everyone. Religious freedom is extremely important to me. Helping people is a cornerstone of my faith.
How have you explored the intersection of the law, business, and climate?
I spent my first summer working at the BU/MIT Startup Law Clinic, helping student entrepreneurs make some of their earliest legal decisions and prepare for investment. It was cool to see the impact I could have as a lawyer, helping these businesses—which included a clean energy startup and a sustainable agriculture software venture—get ready to make a real difference in the world. I also completed an externship with a venture capital firm in Boston, RA Capital, so I got to see the next stages of the business life cycle.

With such a busy schedule, have you also had time to make friends and pursue outside activities?
Definitely. All these activities have a social element, and BU is filled with inspiring people from all walks of life. Outside of law school, life has been going well, too. I adopted a rescue puppy a year ago and got married to the love of my life last summer. I’ve picked up running and cycling for exercise and have gone on many awesome trips—most recently eating and hiking my way through the Scottish Highlands. My beautiful wife, dog, and I live in Cambridge, close to family and friends.

Congratulations! What do you plan to do after graduation?
Last summer, I worked in the Boston office of a large international law firm—Ropes & Gray. I happily accepted an offer to return. I hope to carve out a niche focusing on global aspects of investment funds, particularly on funds doing social or environmental good. I’m optimistic. Private capital will play an increasingly big role in transitioning the global economy to clean energy.

What advice do you have for incoming students who, like you, have so many varied interests?
Just go for it. You’re only going to be in law school for three years, so you need to pack it in. Take moments along the way to reflect and make sure there’s a nexus between the things you’re doing—but mostly, just go for it.

What kind of law do you plan to do with your LLM degree?
The LLM opened many opportunities for me. I could work in a financial company, I could work at a bank, I could work at any corporate job, and it gives me insights. You know how the banking system works, how corporate works, and all about the financial and capital markets, so you understand your client better. One of my professors in Saudi Arabia reached out, saying there is a legal job at a bank in Riyadh. That opportunity made me more interested in the financial sector. I will take everything I’ve learned here and try to improve the financial and legal system back home.

You and your partner, Mohanad, became parents during the first year of your LLM program. How did you juggle those responsibilities?
Every time I look at my son, Talal, I remember the support that BU gave me through my pregnancy and maternity leave. Instructor [Rebecca] Pendleton and Instructor [Brooke] Arlington took care of me. They arranged weekly meetings, so I didn’t feel left behind. I watched recorded classes. The students also helped me. They set up study groups to keep me engaged. That helped a lot. I finished the LECP with a high GPA of 3.92. Whenever I felt overwhelmed, I would reach out to Professor Pendleton, and she would make sure that I was feeling okay. Sometimes, she would take an hour or more to explain what happened last week.

What will you remember about your time at BU Law?
I will remember how the school had us engage with people from different backgrounds. And how I made friends from other countries and how I felt accepted. We are one community, and we look out for one another—my colleagues, professors, and all the faculty. I thought I would feel homesick when I came to the US. And I didn’t feel that. I felt like I belonged here.

Questions and answers have been condensed and edited.

**SAM BANKER**

**Navigated Motherhood and Banking Law**

**What will you remember most about your time at BU Law?**
It’s been a dream come true. I was able to get involved in all sorts of different things, cover a lot of intellectual ground, and have a lot of academic variety. I spent my first summer working at the BU/MIT Startup Law Clinic, helping student entrepreneurs make some of their earliest legal decisions and prepare for investment. It was cool to see the impact I could have as a lawyer, helping these businesses—which included a clean energy startup and a sustainable agriculture software venture—get ready to make a real difference in the world. I also completed an externship with a venture capital firm in Boston, RA Capital, so I got to see the next stages of the business life cycle.

**What advice do you have for incoming students who, like you, have so many varied interests?**
Just go for it. You’re only going to be in law school for three years, so you need to pack it in. Take moments along the way to reflect and make sure there’s a nexus between the things you’re doing—but mostly, just go for it.

**What kind of law do you plan to do with your LLM degree?**
The LLM opened many opportunities for me. I could work in a financial company, I could work at a bank, I could work at any corporate job, and it gives me insights. You know how the banking system works, how corporate works, and all about the financial and capital markets, so you understand your client better. One of my professors in Saudi Arabia reached out, saying there is a legal job at a bank in Riyadh. That opportunity made me more interested in the financial sector. I will take everything I’ve learned here and try to improve the financial and legal system back home.

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**SHAIMAA ALTHUBAITI**

**Explored the Intersection of Law, Business, and Climate**

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1933 B.A. Graduate Blanche Crozier wrote a ground-breaking article about sex discrimination in the Boston University Law School. This article was later published in 1986 in the New England Law Review. Paul Krasband, Professor of Law and later a Supreme Court Justice, achieved his B.A. in 1935.

By Rebecca Bayer
In 1935, two years after she graduated cum laude from BU Law, Blanche Crozier (*33) published an article called “Constitutionality of Discrimination Based on Sex” in the Boston University Law Review, where she had served as an editor when she was a student.

“There is no large and general question in law which has been left in a more nebulous state than the question of how far to what extent the Federal Constitution applies to women,” she wrote in the article’s opening lines, adding a bit later that “although to the outlook of 1789 common law was the ideal and basis of liberty, this was an exclusively masculine liberty.”

Crozier went on to argue that the exclusion of women from the Constitution’s protections—excepting the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women’s right to vote in 1920—was as discriminatory as the exclusion of Black people prior to the passage of the 13th and 14th amendments.

“Race and sex are in every way comparable classes; and if exclusion in one case is a discrimination implying inferiority, it would seem that it must be in the other also,” she wrote. Although the still unfinished effort to pass and ratify the Equal Rights Amendment was already underway, the argument that “it had been recognized for race that treating people as inferior was a terrible constitutional problem,” she wrote, “is still alive.”

Yet the piece—one of five Crozier wrote for the Boston University Law Review in her relatively brief foray into the law—seems to have done nothing to advance Crozier’s stature or career—or even the women’s rights movement she had gone to BU Law to join. Crozier never worked as a lawyer; she didn’t work full time at all after law school until 1944, when she took a job teaching at a school that trained women to be secretaries.

Decades would pass before her ideas would resurface, although, when they did, they found very fruitful ground. In 1965, the civil rights lawyer and activist Pauli Murray, who worked to include the word “sex” in the 1964 Civil Rights Act, cited Crozier’s 1935 article; in 1979, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, then a practicing attorney, followed suit.

Murray and Ginsburg were operating in an era that was much more conducive to women’s equality. They were also already well known in the field and related social justice movements. Murray was a close friend of Eleanor Roosevelt and had helped develop the argument that led to the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Ginsburg, of course, argued landmark gender discrimination cases before and later sat on the US Supreme Court. By comparison, Crozier was all but invisible during her life and even in death.

In December 1965, Murray wrote admirably to a fellow women’s rights advocate about the “incisive thinking” in Crozier’s 1935 piece. “Is she still alive?” Murray asked.

Her correspondent answered that Crozier had died “some years ago.” In fact, Crozier had passed away from congestive heart failure earlier that same year. Her name was misspelled on her death certificate.

PATH TO THE LAW

By the time Crozier enrolled at BU Law in 1930, she was a published novelist and mother of two daughters. What she wasn’t, however, was a doctor, which is what she set out to be when she attended Radcliffe College from 1911 to 1915.

Born Maude Benjamin in 1891, the Vermont native was a stand-out student in Cambridge, ranking first in her class all four years, earning several merit and need-based scholarships, and being elected as a junior to the college’s founding chapter of the academic honor society Phi Beta Kappa.

After her sophomore year, Crozier worked as a researcher at the Bermuda Biological Station for Research on Agar’s Island, which Harvard had cofounded. According to work by Boston College Professor Jenna Tonn, Crozier made progress there toward her goal of becoming a physician, eventually publishing an article based on her investigation into Bermudian sponges in the Annals and Magazine of Natural History: She also met her future husband, Harvard PhD student William J. Crozier.

His notebooks, which Tonn reviewed, describe their courtship: “[B]owed home with B...Much fun,” W.J. Crozier wrote at one point, adding at another, “B & I walked back slowly, got lost twice!”

Crozier seems to have been smitten as well—her Radcliffe senior picture is accompanied by the quote “ambition is no cure for love”—and, on June 25, 1915, two days after she graduated, the couple were married at the home of Radcliffe Dean Bertha M. Boody.

But, if ambition was no cure for love, in Crozier’s case, the emotion was no substitute for professional drive, either. In a submission to Radcliffe’s alumni office in 1928, Crozier wrote, in response to the question of whether a married woman and mother can have a successful career, “I think she must in order to get much satisfaction out of life; and what must be doneigg done.”

Two years later, Crozier enrolled at BU Law. According to an interview with her grandson, Bill Gann, Crozier went to law school to learn about women’s rights. If so, then she must have learned a great deal. All of her articles for the Boston University Law Review dealt with the law’s—and society’s—treatment of women: a 1935 piece (her student note) critiquing a US Supreme Court case that upheld limits on the number of hours women could work, a 1934 piece exploring laws governing women’s nationality, a 1935 piece on marital support, and a 1937 piece on the domicile of women and children being dependent on a husband’s location.

It is possible that Crozier was merely aligning herself with a movement that by then had gathered some momentum. But she may also have been personally motivated to explore the subject of equality. Before she enrolled at BU Law, Crozier had already learned about discrimination the hard way.

CAREER AND PERSONAL SETBACKS

After their wedding in 1915, Crozier and her husband went back to Bermuda to work, but, according to Tonn’s research, only W.J. Crozier was compensated. He received a $1,000 fellowship. In contrast, when Radcliffe Dean Boody found out that Crozier would not be paid, she rallied the college’s alumni, and several women wrote checks to provide a salary of $300.

Officially, Crozier was the research station’s librarian and recorder, but, in W.J. Crozier’s scientific notes from that period, Tonn says she identified Crozier’s handwriting along with her husband’s.

Despite being sidelined, Crozier didn’t give up on her own dream of a career in the sciences—at least, not right away. She took a semester of graduate-level courses in biology at Radcliffe in fall 1916, but she couldn’t continue her studies. That October, her mother died in a fire (Crozier’s father had died when she was three). Then, in June 1917, her first daughter, Priscilla, was born. Over the next several years, the Crozier family moved often as W.J. Crozier accepted teaching positions at the University of Illinois Medical School, University of Chicago (daughter Ruth was born in that city in 1920), and Rutgers University in New Jersey.

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1925, they landed back in Massachusetts when W.J. Crozier joined the faculty at Boston University. In her personal life, Crozier was facing roadblocks as well. Although she listed her status as “married” on her 1928 alumni submission, at least in her husband’s view, the marriage may have already been over. In a petition for divorce filed with the Middlesex County Probate Court on September 20, 1933—just a few months after Crozier’s 1932 law—W.J. Crozier wrote that starting on April 17, 1927, Crozier had subjected him to “cruel and abusive treatment.”

According to a front-page Boston Globe article published at the time of the couple’s divorce trial in November 1933, W.J. Crozier testified that Crozier “negated him constantly” and had “formed the practice of typing at 5 o’clock in the morning…a practice which made him very nervous and agitated.”

It is unclear what happened on April 17, 1927, but, in March of that year, Crozier received notice from Little, Brown that her novel, Smiley’s Flower, would be published with an advance payment of $250. The novel is about a woman on a tropical island who assumes financial responsibility for her family when her husband proves incapable of doing so. And, of course, in 1933, W.J. Crozier filed for divorce due in part to Crozier’s typing, some of what she had been typing being picked up by the BU Law Review. The collection of these two events is further underscored by the 1927 genuis notice, “Regulations of Conditions of Employment of Women.”

In that piece, which examined the Supreme Court’s 1908 Muller v. Oregon decision, Crozier sidestepped the question of whether regulating hours or work conditions was legal or socially desirable. Instead, she focused on whether the law should do so specifically for one sex.

There had been women’s rights advocates on both sides of this question from the 1890s through the 1930s. But Crozier forcefully objected to the successful argument in the case, which held that California’s regulation of the hours and work conditions of women was legal. To remedy this, she proposed an Equal Rights Amendment, which was that she was a woman.”

Bill Garn only met once, on a visit to the nursing home where Crozier spent her last years after he was about eight years old. By then, Crozier couldn’t speak. But she had already made an impression on her grandson. “She was always sort of a legend to me,” he says. “Studying Greek, going to Radcliffe, writing a book, going to law school.”

Crozier’s influence on her daughters is harder to judge, but, in some ways, Priscilla and Ruth seem to have set out to fulfill the two distinct dreams their mother tried unsuccessfully to combine—love and ambition. Priscilla was a talented painter and raised two children, but she did not work outside the home. She remained married to her anthropologist husband Edward Price in 2007; and she died a few months later in January 2008. Ruth Crozier, who died in 2004, never married. She was a scientist. Early in her career, she worked with Gregory Pincus, who helped develop the birth control pill. Later, she moved to the National Institutes of Health, where she worked until she retired in 1983. One of her most important efforts there was to oversee a massive, decade-long study of 10,000 men who had undergone vasectomies, which showed conclusively that the procedure had no long-term health risks and helped shift some of the burden of contraception to men.

Bill Garn says his Aunt Ruth told him once that she always had “two battles to fight” in her career. They have both sounded very familiar to her mother. “One was that she didn’t have a PhD,” he says. “The other was that she was a woman.”

A version of this story was previously published in the digital edition of The Record.

LEGACY OUTSIDE THE LAW

Crozier was 73 years old when she died on April 22, 1965. Crozier is perhaps best known for her work on gender discrimination with the help of Tess Oatley (’24). “That’s significant,” says Seipp, who has been researching Crozier’s life and work with the help of Tess Oatley (’24). “That’s significant.”

In her final year at that institution, the senior class dedicated her 73 years old when she died on April 22, 1965. Crozier is perhaps best known for her work on gender discrimination with the help of Tess Oatley (’24). “That’s significant,” says Seipp, who has been researching Crozier’s life and work with the help of Tess Oatley (’24). “That’s significant.”

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Students gathered in the Butler Atrium to learn more about the many student organizations available at BU Law. LibraryFest 2022 gave the community an opportunity to learn about library and law school resources in a fun and festive atmosphere. Attendees even got to hang out with Mini-Ron (director of the Fineman & Pappas Law Libraries)! In addition to the 150th anniversary gala, Alumni Weekend featured a portrait unveiling of distinguished alumni who have served on the US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit: Judge Sandra Lynch (LAW ’71, Hon.’12), Judge O. Rogeriee Thompson (’76), and the late Judge Juan R. Torruella (’57) by the artist Timothy Clark.

Throughout the 150th-anniversary year, BU Law held celebrations and symposia that brought the community together. We hope to connect soon at one of our lectures, dinners, or networking events held at the law school or across the country.

Find upcoming BU Law events at bu.edu/law/calendar.

A YEAR OF FESTIVITIES

PHOTO BY WEI-HAN CHEN

PHOTO BY JOHN GILLOOLY

PHOTO BY WEI-HAN CHEN

PHOTO BY KIM MIRAGLIOLO
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1950s

HON. AL KRAMER (LLB’87) authored his first novel, Competing Harms: A Political Legal Thriller, at age 89.

1960s

MARTIN LOBEL (JD’63) closed Lobel, Novins & Lamont on October 16, 2022, 50 years to the day after opening it in Washington, D.C. The firm had represented hundreds of journalists in contract negotiations and defamation defense, recovered billions of dollars in oil overcharges for 28 states, helped the state of California recover hundreds of millions of dollars in oil royalty payments, and helped win unanimous decisions in their first four Supreme Court cases. Lobel is also a part of a BU Law family. He graduated in 1965, his father, I. Alan Lobel, graduated in 1931, and his daughter, Devra S. Lobel, graduated in 2009. In his father’s memory, Lobel has funded the I. Alan Lobel Public Interest Fund at the law school.

ARTHUR GREENE (LLB’67) retired in December 2021 after a 55-year career as a lawyer, law firm managing partner, and, more recently, business consultant to law firms. During that time, he was active in the American Bar Association and authored several books on the business aspects of running a law firm. He now looks forward to spending his retirement years with his wife, Ellen, splitting their time between Bedford, New Hampshire, and Scottsdale, Arizona, where their daughter lives with her family, including two grandchildren.

1970s

SCOTT N. KIN (JD’72), LLM’77 joined the residential real estate team of Ligna + Associates.

LYLE NYBERG (JD’73) published Ditching the Marshes: A History and Bibliography.

MICHAEL R. MCERLOY (JD’76), managing partner at McEnery & Donaldson and president of the Rhode Island Bar Foundation, was honored with the Rhode Island Bar Association’s 2022 Ralph P. Simonoff Award for Professionalism, which recognizes a member of the Rhode Island Bar who has demonstrated the highest degree of professionalism with distinction in their career.

WARREN BROWN (JD’77) was honored with the inaugural Hall of Fame Award by the Monticello City Bar Association of Maryland. The award celebrates those who have practiced law for more than 25 years and made significant impacts in the realm of social justice and commitment to the legal profession.

NANCY S. SHIELDSY (JD’77) was recognized by Massachusetts Super Lawyers and in the 2022 edition of Chambers USA.

THOMAS P. GORMAN (JD’78) was recognized by Massachusetts Super Lawyers.

SCOTT A. LAZAR (JD’78) joined Morison MaHONE LLP as a partner.

BRUCE T. BLOCK (JD’79), of Reinhardt Boerner Van Deuren, was named a 2023 “Lawyer of the Year” in the areas of land use & zoning law and real estate law by Best Lawyers in America.

PATRICK BOATMAN (JD’79) received the 2022 Career Achievement Award from the Connecticut Bar Association’s commercial law & bankruptcy section.

1980s

SAMUEL B. MOSKOWITZ (JD’80) was recognized by Massachusetts Super Lawyers 2022.

RUSSELL POLLOCK (JD’80) retired from practice at the beginning of 2020 after 40 years of private practice as a commercial transaction lawyer in San Francisco—just in time for the pandemic to throw a wrench into plans for travel and leisure. Staying close to home, he filled his days with plenty of practice on the guitar and mandolin. He also continues to serve on the board for Freight & Salvage, a nonprofit community arts venue in Berkeley, California, that hosts bluegrass, Americana, and other traditional music. While he enjoyed the life of a lawyer (mostly), this new chapter is a lot more fun.

LILIAN MOY (JD’81) retired from her role as executive director of the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York.

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MARTHA ANNE TOLL (JD’83), who spent 26 years as CEO of the Butler Family Fund, a social justice advocacy organization, has published her debut novel, Three Muses, which won the Petrichor Prize for Finely Crafted Fiction. Toll is also a book critic for the Washington Post, NPR, The Millions, and elsewhere.

JO-ANN MARZULLO (JD’84), of Ligna+Associates, was named a 2022 “Top Women of Law” by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.

MARK SULLIVAN (LLM’84) joined the board of trustees of Suffolk University.

HON. DEAN B. PINELES (LLB’68) retired in 1980 to pursue writing and is the author of the Novel-in-Verse, Late Night at the Piano Bar, and the poetry collections, ’31, 2022. He was named to the Continental Who’s Who in 1990.

HERBERT S. WASHER (JD’91) was among the team of Cahill Gordon & Reindel attorneys who cleared Credit Suisse of liability in a foreign currency exchange price-fixing conspiracy in which 15 other big banks settled for $3.2 billion.

DEBORAH M. AUTOR (JD’92) was appointed to the board of directors at Amneal Pharmaceuticals.

ELIZABETH GREENE (JD’92) was selected to the Massachusetts Super Lawyers 2022 and Best Lawyers in America 2023 lists. Greene is a partner and member of Mirick O’Connell’s litigation and health law groups. She focuses her practice on advising and advocating for healthcare clinicians, care delivery systems, and digital health companies. She also defends healthcare clients in medical malpractice cases and represents providers before their professional licensure boards.

If you would like to submit an update for The Record, please visit BU.EDU/LAW/CLASS-NOTES.
HON. MARGARET GOMMAZ (JD’92) was confirmed to serve on the US District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Nominated by President Biden in July 2022, she is the first Hispanic judge appointed to that court.

JOHN SIMONIAN (JD’92) received the 2022 Volunteer Lawyer Program Pro Bono Publico Award from the Rhode Island Bar Association. Established in 1987, this award recognizes the outstanding efforts of attorneys who have provided equal access to justice to the needy in Rhode Island through the Volunteer Lawyer Program and/or Pro Bono Program for the Elderly.

TRACY CRAIG (JD’93), a partner in the trusts and estates group at Mirick O’Connell, was selected to the Massachusetts Super Lawyers 2022 and Best Lawyers in America 2023 lists. Craig focuses her practice on estate planning, trust administration, prenuptial agreements, tax-exempt organizations, guardianships and conservatorships, and probate.

JOHN HALPER (JD’93) is owner and CEO of Top Ten Liquors, one of the fastest-growing alcohol retail chains in Minnesota.

ERIC KAPLAN, (JD’93), executive vice president of Operation HOPE—a national nonprofit dedicated to financial empowerment for underserved communities—is president of Financial Literacy for All, an initiative run by Operation HOPE.

HON. JODI (WOLFMAN) ROSENBERG (JD’92) was named among the Top 25 Women Leaders in Biotechnology, was recognized among the Top 25 lawyers from across the US to be included in the National Law Journal Weekly list of Real Estate/Construction Law Trailblazers, recognizing “professionals who have moved the needle in the legal industry.”

BRANDY KARL (JD’04) is now an assistant general counsel at the US Copyright Office. She and TOM O’GRADY (JD’04) have relocated to northern Virginia with their four children.

CHRISTOPHER PARBION (JD’04) joined Morgan Lewis as a partner in its Washington, D.C., office.

JEFF SCHENK (JD’04), a federal prosecutor and chief of the San Jose branch of the US Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California, recently obtained convictions in two high-profile criminal trials, U.S.v. Elizabeth Holmes and U.S. v. Hames “Sunny” Balwani.

JAY S. RUDERMAN (JD’93) has been elected to join the Brandeis University board of trustees.

JANE STEINMETZ (JD’93, LL.M’01) has joined the board of directors of the Boston Foundation.

DEBORAH TELMAN (JD’93) joined Gilead Sciences as executive vice president, corporate affairs and general counsel, on August 1, 2022. She assumed overall responsibility for public affairs, government affairs, and policy, legal & compliance functions.

JOSH RESNIK (JD’96, LL.M’03) joined FiscalNote, as chief operating officer of FiscalNote and has been with the company since its early stages in 2018. With offices in six countries, FiscalNote is a leader in providing AI and human-powered geopolitical and market intelligence to more than 5,000 clients around the world. In addition to his role at FiscalNote, Resnik has been twice named to the Washingtonian magazine’s “Tech Titans” list.

NAMITA SHAH (JD’96), partner and chair of the private equity and finance group at SKG, was honored with the 2022 Cornerstone Award in recognition of her contributions to the South Asian Bar Association (SABA) and the South Asian legal community by SABA North America.

JENNIFER TOMENY STACCHINI (JD’96) joined Farrell Fritz in its Utica office as corporate counsel. Prior to joining Farrell Fritz, she was counsel at the law offices of Anthony S. Cannatella in Marietta, New York.

Ivy relative to ancient cities. This legal and political question also involves a complex of interests, including economic ones, in addition to the need for reasons. The question of whether ancient cities were independent states or subject to a higher authority would be examined in a broader context. The relationship between ancient cities and their “king” or “principal” would be explored, particularly in cases where there was a conflict between the interests of the city and those of the king or principal. The legal and political issues involved in such cases would be analyzed, and the implications of the findings would be discussed in the context of modern cities and states. The role of ancient cities in the development of modern statehood would also be considered.

KARYN POLAK (JD’94), following three decades of uninterrupted legal practice, is now focusing on identifying a role that applies her general counsel and financial services skills and expertise to areas that align with her passion for advancing prosperity, regenerative, inclusive, and equitable development. Polak excels at connecting dots across people and issues and facilitating dialogue and action—led by the communities these efforts seek to benefit—among diverse stakeholders, including investment and wealth managers, philanthropic entities, educational institutions, and others.

DEILDA COSTIN (JD’95) joined Group Black, a collective of Black-owned media and diverse creators, as chief legal officer and general counsel.

BENJAMIN KIM (JD’95) worked on a case that was featured on an episode of A&E’s Accused: Guilty or Innocent?

PETER ROSENTHAL (JD’95) began a new role as executive vice president & global head of legal and business affairs at Warner Chappell Music, the music publishing division of Warner Music Group.

ROB DIADAMO (JD’96) joined WSP USA, an engineering and professional services consultancy, as senior director of the enterprise management and strategy team.

LYNETTE HERSCHA (JD’96), chief operating officer at Immunitas Therapeutics, was recognized among the Top 25 Women Leaders in Botany of 2022 by the Healthcare Technology Report.

MARK BELOBORODOV (JD’00) joined Bond, Schoenewerk & King’s intellectual property practice in its Boston office as a member. Beloborodov is a seasoned IP attorney with an extensive background in representing technology companies from early-stage ventures to multinational conglomerates in IP matters, and supporting innovation in the healthcare, information technology, lighting, consumer goods, and electronics sectors.

ANDREA M. FERRARI (JD’00) joined Jones Walker as a partner on the healthcare industry team in its Miami office.

MARK BELOBORODOV (JD’00) joined Bond, Schoenewerk & King’s intellectual property practice in its Boston office as a member. Beloborodov is a seasoned IP attorney with an extensive background in representing technology companies from early-stage ventures to multinational conglomerates in IP matters, and supporting innovation in the healthcare, information technology, lighting, consumer goods, and electronics sectors.

ROB MCPEAK (JD’03) was one of 25 lawyers from across the US to be included in the National Law Journal’s list of Real Estate/Construction Law Trailblazers, recognizing “professionals who have moved the needle in the legal industry.”

BRANDY KARL (JD’04) is now an assistant general counsel at the US Copyright Office. She and TOM O’GRADY (JD’04) have relocated to northern Virginia with their four children.

CHRISTOPHER PARBION (JD’04) joined Morgan Lewis as a partner in its Washington, D.C., office.

JEFF SCHENK (JD’04), a federal prosecutor and chief of the San Jose branch of the US Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of California, recently obtained convictions in two high-profile criminal trials, U.S.v. Elizabeth Holmes and U.S. v. Hames “Sunny” Balwani.

SHERLEY CRUZ (JD’03) received the University of Tennessee’s 2022 Angie Warren Perkins Chancellor’s Award, presented by the university’s commission to celebrate the teaching and scholarship of women faculty members. Cruz’s work focuses on justice, dignity, and safety for low-wage workers.

STEPHANIE J. BLUMSTEIN (JD’03) joined ATY Strauss as a partner in the firm’s Rosseland, New Jersey, office.
Class notes reflect submissions received between June 1 and November 30, 2022.

**2010s**

**HON. MARISSA CAYLOR (JD ’10, LLM ’11)** was appointed by the secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with the approval of the President of the United States, as a veterans law judge on the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

**COURTNEY E. HUNTER (JD ’10),** an affordable housing attorney based in the Washington, D.C., office of Ballard Spahr, has been elected to serve on the governing committee of the Forum on Affordable Housing and Community Development Law within the American Bar Association.

**ASHLEIGH LYNN (JD ’15)** was named among “Leading Women Under 40” by the Maryland Daily Record.

**MATTHEW REDDY (JD ’10)** joined Glennon as a partner in the firm’s Chicago office.

**SARAH WELLINGS (LLM ’10)** has joined Sullivan & Worcester as counsel in the firm’s tax law group.

**BENJAMIN BRIGGS (JD ’11)** joined the law firm of Adams and Reese in March 2022 with 15 of his colleagues from his previous law firm, Cotter Attorneys & Consultants. The merger created one of the largest construction law practices in the country. He was recognized by the Florida Bar Association as a board-certified labor and employment lawyer, which identifies lawyers with special knowledge, skills, and proficiency, as well as a reputation for professionalism and ethics.

**BETH A. GOLSTEIN (JD ’11)** was elected to serve on the Massachusetts Super Lawyers 2023 list.

**ALEX KHALARIAN (JD ’07)** joined Verrill as a partner in its Portland, Maine, office.

**NINA POMPONIO (JD ’07)** was named a partner at the law firm Bennett Spahr, has been elected to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court’s Publico Award for his extensive pro bono work in the field of international human rights.

**CHRIS CREECH (JD ’22)** received the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court’s Pro Bono Excellence Award for his extensive pro bono work in the field of international human rights.

**NICHOLAS MEIKSLL (JD ’22)** joined the Bronx District Attorney’s Office as a district attorney assistant.

**SARA PERKINS (JD ’22)** joined Ashbitt as vice president of business affairs.

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**If you would like to submit an update for The Record, please visit SU.LAW/CLASS-NOTES.**

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**DA N A R. BU C I N (JD ’03)** was named chair of Murtha Cullina’s diversity, equity, and inclusion committee.

**BE N KUSMIN (JD ’06)** was named special counsel at Wendels Marc. His practice focuses on complex business litigation in state and federal courts. He has represented both plaintiffs and defendants, in cases involving complex frauds, licensing disputes, and breach of contract and breach of fiduciary duty claims.

**AMORY MCA N D R E W (JD ’06)** was promoted to partner at Hogan Newm Regal & Konney.

**EL D. R OISMAN (JD ’06),** former commissioner and acting chairman of the Securities & Exchange Commission, has been appointed general counsel of the American Bar Association.

**ALEX KHALARIAN (JD ’07)** joined Withers as a partner in its newly established life sciences and technology team in Boston.

**ROSS LINZER (JD ’07)** joined King & Spalding in Madrid as a partner in the firm’s trial and global disputes practice.

**L A U R E N OTTAWAY JOHNSON (JD ’11),** chair of Crowe & Dunley’s private wealth & closely held business practice group, was recognized in Chamber’s High Net Worth Guide.

**KEVIN LEWIS (LLM ’11)** joined Alvarez & Marsal Taxand as managing director.

**M A R I T E P O T R O (L M ’11),** a managing director at L&W, was recognized by the Massachusetts Bar Association with their 13th Annual Emerging Leaders Award.

**N E L D I N (LLM ’12)** was promoted to partner at Perkins Coie.

**A R I A N G A L A V I S (JD ’13, LLM ’14)** was appointed to serve on the Bronx Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

**B R I A N H A YES (JD ’19)** joined Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath.

**M A T T H E W H ILO W I T Z (JD ’17, LLM ’17)** started working in the investment management and real estate capital market practice at DLA Piper in Chicago.

**T H E M A T T H W OLF II (L L M ’17)** joined Einhorn, Barbaro, Frost & Botwinick as an associate in the firm’s wills, trusts & estates tax and business dispute practice group.

**C H R I S C R E E C H (JD ’22)** received the Muscogee County State Bar Association’s 2019 “Attorney Under 40” list.

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**THE RECORD** | Spring 2023
REMEMBERING ROBERT VOLK

By Lauren Eckenroth

ROBERT VOLK ('78), who taught legal writing and led the Lawyering & Advocacy Programs for more than 40 years, passed away this winter following a short but difficult treatment for cancer. A steadfast teacher and mentor, his guidance helped countless BU Law students develop the research, writing, and advocacy skills that are foundational to the practice of law. Perhaps more importantly, as a first-generation high school graduate and a gay man, he showed law students that there is a place for everyone in the law.

“Robert loved teaching and loved being an integral part of every first-year student’s experience,” says JENNIFER TAYLOR MCCLOSKEY ('05), director of advocacy programs, who began working with Professor Volk in 2008. “It was important to him that his role could provide some measure of assurance to first-year students that it is okay to be who you are and be a lawyer.”

Volk served the Boston University community with dedication and his signature sense of humor. As director of Lawyering & Advocacy Programs, formerly the First-Year Writing Program, Volk oversaw its development from a team of 25 to 30 adjunct faculty who taught legal writing once a week to a robust Lawyering Program, launched in fall 2017, with seven full-time faculty members with more course time to teach legal research and writing, client interviewing, oral advocacy, and more.

“Robert was funny, quick-witted, frank, and never minced words,” says MAUREEN O’ROURKE, associate provost for faculty affairs and dean emerita of BU Law. “He’s one of the best administrators I’ve ever met and was so generous with his time, both to the law school and the University. He was part of the heart and soul of BU Law. It’s hard to imagine the school without him.”

In addition to teaching courses on legal writing and LGBTQIA+ rights, he was the longtime chair of the Faculty Admissions Committee and faculty advisor to OutLaw, the school’s LGBTQIA+ student group. He served as the School of Law’s representative to the University-wide Faculty Council for more than 20 years; more recently, he served on the University’s LGBTQIA+ Task Force and played a central role in the creation and development of the new LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty & Staff.

“Robert’s love for BU Law and BU was extraordinary, as was his commitment to the University and its excellence and thriving,” says Dean ANGEA ONWUACHIO-WILLIO. “With his passing, we mourn the loss of not only a beloved professor and colleague but also a cherished friend to many. As a community, we miss him dearly.”

Last year, Paul Robinson ('92) established the Robert Volk (’78) Lawyering Program Fund to honor Professor Volk’s many years of service to the school.

To make a gift to the fund, please visit bu.edu/law/volk-fund.
WIN GUSTIN ('24) worked for a law firm in the South for a year after completing his undergraduate degree, and even though many of the lawyers he worked with jokingly advised him against it, he still decided to attend law school.

Even with that exposure to the industry, he hadn’t really considered a judicial internship. “A big part of what convinced me to apply was that my professors talked about how valuable the experience was for them when they were in law school,” he says. “And I think the responsibility that is given to judicial interns appealed to me, too. You’re in your 1L summer and you get to work directly with a judge and are asked to do pretty substantial tasks for the court.”

As a judicial intern with Judge Terry Moorer at the US District Court for the Southern District of Alabama, Gustin had the opportunity to sit in on court proceedings, research issues related to a wide range of cases and areas of the law, and even draft some opinions for the court.

“I learned so much over the summer,” Gustin says. “Judge Moorer took the time to sit with me and give me feedback on my writing. It was so valuable to get that kind of one-on-one time with someone who has been doing this work for decades. It gave me such a great sense of what makes good judicial writing.”

That kind of experience would not have been possible without the stipend—supported by alumni gifts—that Gustin received from BU Law. “It made it possible for me to pursue that path. I was able to do the internship and still help support my partner and myself over the summer.”

Support judicial interns like Win at bu.edu/lawgiving.
“WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY, AND WE LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER...I THOUGHT I WOULD FEEL HOMESICK WHEN I CAME TO THE US. AND I DIDN’T FEEL THAT. I FELT LIKE I BELONGED HERE.”

—SHAAMAA ALTHUBAITI, LLM CLASS OF 2023.