ONE LAW SCHOOL'S DEFINITION OF SERVICE.
There is an old story, possibly true, about an attorney in a hill town in Vermont who went to Boston on business. Returned home after a couple of days in the city, he told everyone who would listen that he had found in Boston an extraordinary thing: men who actually practiced law for money. This, the country lawyer invited his hearers to agree, was a kind of prodigy.

The men and women whom Loquitur recognizes in this issue would not have shared his amazement, though they might have understood it. Like the Vermont attorney, they have evidently been called to their careers by something other than the expectation of gain. But while he had his reward in dedicating himself to a venerable profession, they have theirs in a different but related dedication: service. They represent the 6,700 graduates of Vermont Law School in the 40 years since its founding, an alumni body whose members, in communities from Vermont to Montana, to Florida, to Texas, and in fields including (in this small sample) military law, immigration law, special education law, environmental law, Native American law, and public interest law, demonstrate a powerful thesis. The law is a fundamental necessity of ordered society. As such, it very properly honors and rewards its practitioners. But there is a corollary: if the people can serve the law, then, equally, the law can serve the people. We salute the VLS alumni who make that idea live.

– Castle Freeman Jr.
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BY MARYELLEN APELQUIST

ON THE COVER: PORTRAIT OF VERMONT LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI AND U.S. MARINE CAPTAIN JOHN SAUTTER JD/MSEL’08/LLM’09, CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA. FRONT AND BACK COVER PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT BENSON.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

USA Today published an article last December announcing that Vermont, for the third year in five years, led the nation in Peace Corps service. “There must be something in the maple syrup,” the writer quipped. My first thought upon reading the piece was, “Vermont Law School is part of this story.” My second, “But our service story goes beyond Peace Corps service.”

You hear a lot about service at VLS, and one could argue that we include stories about service in every issue of this magazine. That is probably true, and for good reason: Service—the act of helping someone—underscores the work and personal lives of so many of our alumni, students, faculty and staff. But this issue of Loquitur is different. It looks at the many ways we serve, from military service to Jesuit Volunteer Corps service to the one-on-one volunteering our alumni do in their local communities. It goes deeper, and it’s more personal.

Almost daily I hear a different service story, whether it’s Professor Susan Apel volunteering her time with fellow breast cancer survivors, current students mentoring South Royalton schoolchildren, Associate Dean Shirley Jefferson taking time to talk about civil rights with public school students in our region and beyond, free programs for the community sponsored by our Veteran Law Students Association, pro bono cases worked in our clinics and by our alumni, or, finally, the seemingly innumerable personal accounts about time spent in Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, Teach for America, and other service organizations.

This issue, “For the Public Good,” tells stories you haven’t heard before, including those of our military veterans, both alumni and current students. While VLS made national headlines for standing on principle and refusing to allow military recruiters on campus—for more than 25 years—until “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” was repealed, that is only one story. There are many more. We are proud of the service of our uniformed men and women—and honored to share their experiences here in Loquitur. I know many of our student veterans personally and am continually impressed by their passion, drive, and leadership.

These pages are finite. We are limited in the number of stories we can publish. We are also limited by the modesty of some of our alumni and current students who did not wish to be spotlighted individually. Thank you, all of you, for the many ways you serve. You do Vermont Law School proud.

I’ll close with the wise words of Albert Schweitzer: “I don’t know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.”

All best,

Marc Mihaly
President and Dean
1ST PLACE IN ANIMAL LAW
Two VLS Swans, Scott Lake ’15 and Sophie Guilfoyle ’15, took first place in the Appellate Moot Court Competition during the 12th annual National Animal Law Competitions (NALC), held Feb. 27-March 1 at Harvard Law School. In addition, Guilfoyle was awarded Best Oralist in the inter-law school competition, sponsored by the Center for Animal Law Studies at Lewis & Clark School of Law. "I was extremely happy for them," says Sophie Guilfoyle ’15, chair of the Animal Law Society. Their representation of Vermont Law School couldn’t possibly be prouder of them. "Their representation of Vermont Law School will be remembered for many years to come. We in the Animal Law Society couldn’t possibly be prouder of them."

TOP 3 IN ENVIRO LAW
Andrew Minikowski ’15, Allison Gabala ’15 and Katherine Hambley ’15 advanced to the final round of the 2015 Jeffrey G. Miller Pace National Environmental Law Moot Court Competition (NELMCC), one of only three teams to do so of the 62 who participated in the competition at Pace Law School in February. NELMCC is the largest inter-school moot court competition of its kind in the country and attracts hundreds of competitors and attorneys who serve as judges for three days of oral arguments. Throughout the competition, the team was uniformly quick on its feet, engaged with the judges, remarkably composed and well-spoken under pressure, and expert on the substance," says Assistant Professor Laura Murphy, associate director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic.

So what does The Drake Group propose?
A FEW HIGHLIGHTS

1. Replace the NCAA with a for-profit, publicly traded corporation

2. Provide “whistle blower protection” for employees who disclose unethical behavior

3. Require the corporation and its members to retain 5 percent of gross annual media rights fees in a trust from which they may distribute education grants to college athletes who have not completed their undergraduate degree or are unable to continue their education

4. Require all National Championship titles to be owned by the corporation

5. Require remedial educational and 1-year eligibility for select student-athletes whose average high school GPA or SAT falls more than 1.0 standard deviation below that of their entering class

Focus on the Future of College Sports
Sports Law Institute Director Brian Porto and his colleagues in The Drake Group, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank and lobbying group dedicated to defending academic integrity in higher education from the “exploitative aspects of commercialized college sports,” spoke about the “broken” governance system of the NCAA during a panel discussion at VLS this spring.

“The major problem is that the financial rewards to some universities for being successful in athletics are so great that there is a powerful temptation to professionalize college sports,” Porto says. “This creates a dismal situation when only 2 to 3 percent of college athletes become pro athletes. Most former college athletes are going to have to find some other way to earn a living. Also, because the college sports system operates in this way, players are starting to ask, ‘When do we get paid? Our coaches and athletic directors get paid well. Things need to change.’”

Kudos to our team at the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic for their hand in a settlement reached in a decade-long Jay Peak pollution case. In February, Judge Thomas Durkin of the Vermont Superior Court Environmental Division issued an order approving a settlement agreement between Jay Peak Resort and the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Division issued an order approving a settlement agreement with the Environmental Law Clinic. For more information about the prelaw programs, visit www.vermontlaw.edu/academics/undergraduate.

Landmark Jay Peak Case
Kudos to our team at the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic for their hand in a settlement reached in a decade-long Jay Peak pollution case. In February, Judge Thomas Durkin of the Vermont Superior Court Environmental Division issued an order approving a settlement agreement between Jay Peak Resort and the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC) and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation. The innovative agreement will continue to improve water quality and protect streams adjacent to the fast-growing, four-season ski resort in northern Vermont. "We are pleased to be part of an agreement with VNRC and Jay Peak Resort that will result in significant improvements to Vermont’s waters," says David Mears JD’91, commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation.
VLS UNITED NATIONS COP BLOG LOOKS TO ‘21’ IN PARIS

Want to keep up with United Nations climate change negotiations? Follow “Substantial and Sustained” (vlscop.vermontlaw.edu), a blog highlighting observations and analysis during and leading up to the UN’s annual climate change conference, Conference of Parties (COP). COP21 will be held Nov. 30-Dec. 11, 2015, in Paris, where leaders are expected to adopt a binding treaty for climate action. In 2014 during COP20 in Lima, Peru, attended by a VLS delegation, a UN ad hoc working group developed elements of the negotiating text for the treaty. And in February of this year, representatives from 194 countries met in Geneva to discuss the test. Visit vlcop.vermontlaw.edu to learn about next steps on the way to Paris, including additional formal negotiations this June in Bonn, as the United Nations moves closer to a new universal climate agreement. “I was interested in climate change issues, and so the COP was the conference to attend,” says alumna Heather Caldenwood MERL’14 of her experience with COP. “You learn what works and what needs improvement. The most valuable takeaway I had was the unique experience of meeting world leaders and inspirational people.”

Storytelling for Lawyers

Storytelling for Lawyers, a new book about the central role of narrative in litigation by VLS Professor Philip N. Meyer, is receiving high praise from critics and legal scholars, including award-winning author and death penalty lawyer David R. Dow. “Every lawyer now knows that winning depends on more than having the tightest syllogism,” writes Dow in his review, published by the Vermont Law Review (Volume 39, Book 1). “It depends on moving the audience, or the decision-maker; and accomplishing that movement is only partly a function of logic. It also includes what can be thought of as an appeal to a pre-rational instinct or emotion. We have certain beliefs just because we have them, and successful lawyers know that legal victories come from appealing to those very beliefs. So how do lawyers do that? They tell stories, of course. Philip N. Meyer’s splendid book ... is both an explanation of this phenomenon and a master class on what makes an effective story and how to construct one.” Learn more about Professor Meyer’s book at www.storytellingforlawyers.com.

VLS CONFERENCES EXPLORE ‘GLOBAL FOOD, LOCAL SOLUTIONS’ AND MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION

Vermont Law School students sponsored a variety of panels and conferences this spring, including two that were particularly well attended by VLS community members and locals, and that drew press from as far as Radio Canada. In March, the Criminal Law Society and SPEAK presented “Marijuana Legalization in Vermont: Arguments, Considerations and Perspectives,” with a wide range of voices at the table. “Vermont lawmakers face what could be a historic resolution in legalizing recreational marijuana, but the decision requires careful consideration,” says student Matt Accardi ’15 of the Criminal Law Society. “We are grateful for the chance to facilitate the discussion, and we hope the conference enhances Vermont’s decision-making process.”

Also in March, students presented “Global Food, Local Solutions,” a day-long conference that focused on three issues, “Food Safety Issues as They Affect Low-Income Communities and Communities of Color,” “Native American Food Sovereignty: Environmental Challenges to Food Security,” and “New England Food Justice.” “We wanted to highlight the challenges faced by many communities in the U.S. and internationally, and how we can work with various models of agriculture to help find solutions,” says Alona Tate ’15. “We are lucky to be surrounded by bountiful farms in Vermont. However, in many communities in the U.S. there is not adequate access to healthy food, and many people do not have the resources to purchase local and organic food. It is important that we consider all models of agriculture as an integral part of sustainable solutions.”

Follow “Substantial and Sustained,” a blog highlighting observations and analysis during and leading up to the UN’s annual climate change conference, Conference of Parties (COP): VLSCOP.VERMONTLAW.EDU

Follow “Substantial and Sustained” at: VLSCOP.VERMONTLAW.EDU

DISCOVERY
THE COMPLICATED, PRINCIPLED, EVOLVING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VERMONT LAW SCHOOL AND THE U.S. MILITARY

By CYNTHIA ANDERSON

USMC CAPTAIN JOHN “JACK” SAUTTER JD/ MSEL’08/LLM’09 SERVED AS INFANTRY STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE AND MILITARY PROSECUTOR BEFORE ASSUMING THE POSITION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGAL COUNSEL AT CAMP PENDLETON IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.
OB LIU JD’14 ARRIVED AT VERMONT LAW SCHOOL UNSURE WHAT HE WANT-ED TO DO WITH HIS LIFE.

He was there for a general legal education, but unlike some of his classmates, didn’t feel drawn to a particular practice area. Things began to shift partway through his 1L year, when he overheard friends discussing the Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps. Liu found himself intrigued, so during his 2L year when interviews were being scheduled with recruiters, he signed up.

Through late winter and spring of 2012 Liu, in suit and tie, would walk from his house on Fairview Terrace down the hill and across the bridge to one-on-ones with representative JAGs. He met with the Army, the Air Force, and the Navy. During the Navy interview, something clicked. Liu realized, “This is the goal. This is the dream. JAG is where I want to go.” It would not be a simple undertaking: getting into the Corps is highly competitive, with single-digit acceptance rates. At VLS, it’s taken as something of a given that graduates assume jobs at nonprofits and NGOs in disproportionate numbers, and that, in private practice, they tend to accept more pro bono work. But each year students like Liu seek a different kind of service—as JAG Corps prosecutors and defenders in military criminal courts and as in-house counsel and special advisors—career paths that have not always been so straightforward at VLS.

Indeed, the decades-long trajectory of the relationship between this progressive, idealistic place and the U.S. Military has been complicated and sometimes fraught. For the better part of a quarter-century, Vermont Law School barred military recruiters from its campus. And, as a community, VLS actively sought the repeal of the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT) policy directed toward gay and lesbian service members. “It was a sustained, community-wide effort,” says VLS Professor Jackie Gardina. “The ban and our involvement in the repeal allowed us to live our mission. I’m proud that VLS took a stance and maintained that stance. I’m even prouder of how engaged the community—students, staff, faculty and alumni—became in changing the law, and how they remained committed through to the end.”

In its early years, VLS hosted JAGs from the armed forces once or twice a year, as it did other career recruiters. Professor Peter Teachout recalls day-long Army, Navy, and Air Force visits. That changed in 1985, when the school actively sought the repeal of the Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT) policy directed toward gay and lesbian service members. “It was a sustained, community-wide effort,” says VLS Professor Jackie Gardina.

In its early years, VLS hosted JAGs from the armed forces once or twice a year, as it did other career recruiters. Professor Peter Teachout recalls day-long Army, Navy, and Air Force visits. That changed in 1985, when the school adopted an antidiscrimination policy that resulted in, among other things, a campus recruitment ban on the military because of its discrimination based on sexual orientation. In 1989, the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) began requiring all members to deny access to recruiters with discriminatory practices, which meant that for a few years the anti-bias ranks among law schools were strong.

Then, three years after the 1993 introduction of DADT, Congress adopted the Solomon Amendment, which called for the withholding of eight federal agencies’ monies from law schools and universities that barred on-campus military recruiters. In 1998, after Solomon was amended to include federal student loans and grants, the AALS rescinded its anti-discrimination requirement. The change in the law all but forced schools, including VLS, to allow military recruiters back.

Military recruitment visits that took place at the school during 1998 and 1999 occurred “amidst a variety of peaceful but forceful expressions of opposition,” according to a dean’s office memo from that time. When Congress lifted the grant/loan inclusion in 1999, VLS quickly reinstated its ban. The stance was a costly one: a loss of $300,000-$500,000 annually over the next 12 years. And VLS was largely on its own. After 2001, when Solomon was again amended to forbid funding from the eight agencies to an entire university if any part denied access, VLS was one of only two law schools in the
nation to hold the line. “It was the right thing to do,” says alumna Patricia Whalen, JD’79, a former family court magistrate who served as special counsel for environmental law at Camp Pendleton in California. Gardina says. For a couple of years, recruitment interviews were held at a school-owned building nearby and at a local bank. An administrative memo issued during that time made clear that the VLS nondiscrimination policy does not oppose the military mission or question the integrity of those who wish to serve the military mission or question the military mission. Sautter chose VLS with clear intentions, because of its values and the height of Iraq—-and during the height of the Solomon Amendment, recalls arriving on campus “at the snow-melt ground. And, in fact, I think history has proven that inclusiveness is a good thing for the military.”

Not long after the 2011 repeal of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, Professor Kevin Wroth, who served as VLS from 1996-2004, called the sacrifice in grant money “well worth the goal of nondiscrimination we were serving.” The negative effects were offset by the respect the school garnered for its position, Wroth said, by the incentive to place VLS to advocate for the repeal of DADT, and by the sense of community that resulted from the united stance. “There was something about standing on principle that brought the school together,” says Teachout. On several occasions, Gardina and other professors accompanied contingents of VLS students to Washington to lobby Congress, with bake-sale proceeds, donated travel money, and alumni-provided lodgings again able to openly pursue the opportunity to serve.” Indeed, when the ban was over, it was over. Less than a month after the September 2011 repeal, an Army recruiter showed up on campus, soon followed by others. They were warmly received. Within months, VLS was removed from the Excluded Parties list. Federal mories began to flow back into the school—and students could again meet on campus with recruiters. Last year about 30 students attended JAG Corps informational sessions and half of those sat for individual interviews. On a recent spring day at VLS, sun evaporated the snow-melt and students hurried to their classes. Inside Chase, the Native American Law Students Association was hosting a lunchtime seminar on environmental issues and presentations. At a packed conference in 2005, student Alex Manning, who’d been discharged from the military for being gay, came out publicly. “I felt the comfort of being surrounded by 500 siblings,” Manning said later of the experience. “I felt the power of a community supporting me.”

The environment on campus never soured, perhaps because even dissenters understood the school’s stance was not in opposition to the armed forces in general. “Our motivation was anti-discrimination, not anti-military,” says Wroth. “Now, having held the line and having worked for the repeal of DADT, we’re glad to see our students again able to openly pursue the opportunity to serve.” Indeed, when the ban was over, it was over. Less than a month after the September 2011 repeal of DADT, an Army recruiter showed up on campus, soon followed by others. They were warmly received. Within months, VLS was removed from the Excluded Parties list. Federal mories began to flow back into the school—and students could again meet on campus with recruiters. Last year about 30 students attended JAG Corps informational sessions and half of those sat for individual interviews. On a recent spring day at VLS, sun evaporated the snow-melt and students hurried to their classes. Inside Chase, the Native American Law Students Association was hosting a lunchtime seminar on environmental issues and presentations. At a packed conference in 2005, student Alex Manning, who’d been discharged from the military for being gay, came out publicly. “I felt the comfort of being surrounded by 500 siblings,” Manning said later of the experience. “I felt the power of a community supporting me.”
but to create an atmosphere that supports veterans,” he says. Last year the group hosted Veterans Week during November, with observances, speeches and a symposium on women in the military. Currently there are about 20 veterans and active officers on campus, “more than we’ve ever had,” says Teachout. “These are students with experience, and they add talent and a diversity of perspective.”

Given the school’s mission, perhaps it’s not surprising that, like Jack Sautter, many students who enter VLS with military backgrounds or become JAGs are service-oriented before they ever got to campus. “I’ve always needed to contribute to society,” says LLM Teachout. “To feel that I’m doing something important is extremely important to me.”

Pohanka’s career path shows she means it. She served in the Peace Corps as a nurse in the Nepalese mountains and, after commissioning in the Navy when her Peace Corps stint was up, on a hospital ship in the Persian Gulf. In 2006 she entered law school at George Washington University and, after graduation, deployed for 12 months to Afghanistan as a Navy staff attorney. Now, at VLS, Pohanka is studying environmental law at the Navy’s expense to augment her work as an expert in government and professional ethics at the Pentagon.

“Environmental law is extremely important for the military,” Pohanka says. “Every time I’ve deployed there have been environmental impacts from the activities on our ships and installations. There’s a real need for what I’m learning here.” Pohanka appreciates VLS’s progressive atmosphere—and its openness. “People are interested in my opinions,” she says. “I’ve had a lot of very positive interactions with my professors and my fellow students. There’s recognition that the military is taking a strong stand on a number of environmental issues, including climate change.”

Pohanka, Sautter, and Palomino all have used the word “welcoming” to describe the campus’s reception of them. It’s a different time, a different military from the one in Vietnam, and, after graduation, deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. “The meaning and study of law are deepened by the voices of the military on campus.”

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IN THEIR CHOICE OF CAREERS AND HOW THEY PROVIDE SERVICE, VERMONT LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES EMBRACE AND EXPAND THE MEANING OF PRO BONO PUBLICO.
As a young boy living in Charleston, South Carolina, Christopher Middleton never experienced the kind of holidays he saw on television or at the homes of his friends. No big tree or lavish decorations; no mountains of presents to rip through on Christmas morning. At the Middleton household, where his mom worked two jobs just to keep things going, budgets were tight, especially in December.

The experience stuck with Middleton through his undergraduate years at Savannah State University, through law school in Vermont, and after he returned to Savannah, where he now works as the felony division chief for the Eastern Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office. “When I came back here I wanted to give back to this community that had given me so much,” says Middleton. “I just kept thinking about my mom and how difficult it is for single parents, especially during the holidays.” He dreamed of ways he might make the holiday brighter for families in need.

In 2009 he gave the community a Christmas present: the Holiday Make-Over Project. Each December, Middleton leads a team of volunteers in renovating a living room or a kitchen for a large single-parent family up against financial hardship and living in a home that suffers the residue of neglect or possibly fire damage. The family is put up at a local hotel for three days while Middleton’s crew gets to work. Walls are painted, floors refinished, new furniture installed, and of course, a Christmas tree is set up, brimming with presents.

“People come back to their homes and they’re spiritually uplifted,” says Middleton. “Everyone is in the holiday spirit. For a moment they don’t have to worry about the next bill or whether or not they can afford to buy presents for the kids. When that burden is alleviated it’s a game changer.”

It’s just a snippet of Middleton’s year-round passion for giving back. He chairs All Walks of Life, an organization that helps kids express themselves through art and technology. Through the “I Wish I Knew” initiative he educates at-risk teens in understanding the collateral consequences of criminal behavior, while his work with a local citizen advocacy group helps disabled residents establish mentor relationships with area professionals. The list of gifts is long. It’s why in 2015 Middleton won Georgia’s Justice Robert Benham Community Service Award, which honors members of the bar who are exceptionally civic-minded.

But it’s the Holiday Make-Over project that carries particular resonance for Middleton. Because it’s personal. Because he knows the struggles single families face. Because, like the little boys and girls he’s trying to honor, he knows all about Christmas dreams.

— Ian Aldrich
Leaving an abusive relationship is complicated for anyone. When you are poor, living miles from any town without a car of your own, the logistical challenges alone seem insurmountable.

That is why Wynona Ward ’98, herself a survivor of rural domestic violence, founded the nonprofit “Have Justice — Will Travel” soon after graduating. The organization now has three offices and helps victims in every county in Vermont, providing free transportation, life skills and job mentoring, and referrals, as well as legal services. Over the last 16 years, the group's unique philosophy of wraparound support has attracted dozens of Vermont Law School interns and fellows. Many later joined Ward as staff attorneys.

Two current colleagues, John Lamson ’06 and Hannah Elle Meyers ’13, first heard Ward's inspiring life story when she visited a VLS class as guest speaker, something she still does several times a year.

"When she left the room," Meyers says, "I remember thinking, That is what I should be doing."

Ward drove a big rig with her husband cross-country for 15 years, earning her undergraduate degree on the road. "She entered law school at age 45, finally determined to make a difference for women like her mother, who felt trapped in a marriage with a violent man." "Traditionally, lawyers don't see themselves as social workers," says Alexander Banks JD ’87, VLS assistant professor and staff attorney at the school’s South Royalton Legal Clinic, which served as an early home and organizational model for “Have Justice.”

"Ward was different from the beginning. She understands how victims can be isolated and what the barriers are to getting the victim to a safe place," Banks says.

"This seemed really unique, an opportunity to do dirty, to do 'boots on the ground' type of work," he says, still enthused after 10 years with the group. "Have Justice" also benefits from the energy of Amy Phillippo ’98, Ward’s first attorney hire and a current member of the organization’s board. Other VLS alumni presently on staff are Kathryn Kennedy ’02, also a 10-year veteran, Jessica Smith ’01, and Mary Claassen ’01.

Ward has no doubt that VLS will continue to be fertile ground for finding committed attorneys to extend and carry on her work. "In every graduate that we have hired," she says, "the legacy of service is there." — Kristen Fountain

Derek Kline’s day job, and sometimes his night job and weekend job, too, is to serve an entire community of underserved, at-risk clients: the Blackfeet of northwestern Montana. He works as general counsel for the 17,000 members of the tribe, which suffers from the same high rates of unemployment, drug and alcohol addiction, and infant and chronic health issues that are prevalent on many Native American reservations across the country. Recently, Kline has spent many of those hours trying to break a local municipality’s stranglehold on water rights and unfair charging practices. He’s helped reduce the tribal members’ water bills while increasing tribal sovereignty over a resource whose source is on its own land. As part of his daily work, Kline has confronted two challenges for which Vermont Law School didn’t fully prepare him. Racism is an inherent part of rural Montana’s social and legal culture, he says. And the Environmental Protection Agency, normally an ally of environmental regulation and fairness, has been one of the biggest obstacles facing the tribe. Kline has argued in court that the agency has failed to follow its own Indian Policy, and is actively violating this policy through its support of the Town of Browning, a local government that was incorporated on the reservation in 1919, five years before Native Americans had the right to vote. It’s been one of many frustrations in Kline’s work.

"But you know," Kline says, "I look forward to going to work every morning. Despite being disadvantaged, the people I get to work with are funny, outgoing, optimistic. They’re just great. They inspire me."
On a recent March morning at the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington, Stephen Reynes stepped to the bedside of a 90-year-old Rutland man, who only hours before had received a pair of emergency stents to save a failing heart. As hospital chaplain, Reynes is often called to navigate emotional situations. Counseling a dying patient. Serving as legal counsel for the Vermont-based energy company NG Advantage, Pfenning’s “unpaid part-time job” is reuniting adopted Korean-Americans with their culture and their birth families through the nonprofit Me & Korea. In addition to legal assistance, Pfenning is helping the fledging organization with its communications, fundraising, and strategic planning. But closest to her heart, perhaps, is her help organizing the “family reunion” trips to South Korea, where adoptees return to places of their origin and connect with members of their birth families. “A big part of what I do is to help identify adoptees who haven’t been exposed to Korean culture in their own lives. A lot of them come from rural areas, like I did,” says Pfenning, who was raised in Vermont. Pfenning personally knows how powerful the reconnection can be. She had returned to Korea in search of members of her own birth family, with very little information to go on. Though she was unsuccessful, she was able to meet the policeman who had found her and had initiated the process of her adoption. She’s committed to helping the organization evolve and expand its work over the long term. Because it’s meaningful. Because, she says, it’s important work and it’s not being done by anyone else.

Giving the Room to Dream

STEFAN NATHANSON JD’91

The thought came to Stefan Nathanson when a family member was in the hospital, and he noticed how weary and demoralized his own kids seemed after being confined for hours in a hospital waiting room. What must it be like for a kid who is chronically ill, stuck in a room all the time, for days or months or even years?

A senior attorney specializing in real estate in the law firm of Ligris + Associates in Newton, Massachusetts, Nathanson was already active in several Boston-area charitable and community organizations. Drawing on his nonprofit experience and his network of connections, he created the Room to Dream Foundation, which raises money and assembles teams of volunteers and professionals to transform kids’ bedrooms into special, healing spaces. Through its whimsical, playful, and cheerful makeovers, the foundation has brightened scores of bedrooms and hospital rooms—and brightened kids’ lives in the process. For his work with the Room to Dream Foundation, the Boston Celtics awarded Nathanson with its Heroes Among Us Award in 2007.
Voice for the Disabled

MARILYN BARTLETT JD’91

Three years after graduation, Marilyn Bartlett ’91 brought a federal case that ultimately changed the legal landscape for disabled students across the country. It was every idealistic law student’s dream—except she was the plaintiff, not the attorney.

Bartlett’s lawsuit lasted seven years, traveling from district court to the U.S. Supreme Court and back again. Through it all, she was fueled by the self-confidence and persistence that helped her earn two graduate degrees despite a severe learning disability. “Perseverance is my middle name,” Bartlett says. “That is the gift my parents gave me.”

Bartlett had finished Vermont Law School expecting to practice special education law. She wanted to help parents and schools understand the new Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and was uniquely suited for the job. She had already earned a Ph.D. in administration and worked for a dozen years as a classroom teacher, an assistant superintendent and a professor. But she couldn’t pass the bar exam.

Bartlett is dyslexic and struggles to recognize the shapes of letters. She has to read individual paragraphs several times, first to decode the words, then to string the words into sentences, and then again to find meaning in the sentences. Yet the New York State Board of Law Examiners refused her request for extra time, larger type, and other aids for her bar exam. “They said to me that anyone with a Ph.D and a JD could not be LD (learning disabled),” Bartlett says. Her past academic success proved she was not handicapped, the board argued, even though in graduate and law school she was allowed extra time on exams and had the help of others reading aloud to her.

In 2001, then Appellate Court Judge Sonia Sotomayor wrote the final decision in Bartlett’s favor. A person has a disability, and is protected by the ADA, based on a holistic evaluation by experts, Sotomayor ruled. The protection continues even if that person has developed a strategy, or uses a device, or takes medication that allows him or her to compensate for the disability.

By that time, however, the Supreme Court had issued several decisions that muddied that result. The ADA’s Amended Acts of 2008, approved by Congress and signed by George W. Bush, included language explicitly based on Bartlett’s case. Now the result is law, protecting the right of students with handicaps to accommodations in college, trade and professional schools, and beyond.

Today, Bartlett, at 56, is careful to say she is not a licensed attorney. But she uses her law school training in myriad ways. She teaches special education law to future school leaders at Texas A&M University in Kingsville. She lectures university administrators through the Association on Higher Education and Disability. And she spends a lot of time advising parents of students with disabilities on how to advocate for what they need from their school districts. One outlet is the William & Mary Law Institute for Special Education Advocacy, a summer institute where she is on faculty. But she also spends dozens of hours each week with clients, many of them pro bono, through email, Skype and phone calls.

Today she has her sights set on aspects of another law, the Individuals with Disabilities Act, which governs pre-K-12 public schools. Currently, districts aren’t required by law to help students with postgraduate planning until they turn 16, far too late for students capable of attending college.

Bartlett worries about the many students today who end up in community college only because they haven’t taken the appropriate classes for college admission. At minimum, planning should begin at age 12, she says. For now, the requirement is doing what Bartlett thinks no law should do, limiting the potential of disabled students.

As she says, “That’s bad law.”

—Kristen Fountain

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

FOR THE BASIC RIGHT OF HOUSING

BRENT BOHAN JD’10

Most Wednesday evenings after his day’s work with downtown Seattle’s Engle Law Group, you can find attorney Brent Bohan dispensing free legal advice at the King County Neighborhood Legal Clinic. He never knows what will get low-income residents’ legal issues range from domestic abuse to bankruptcy, from child support to serious criminal matters. But once a month, every month, he knows he’ll be working to help solve problems of housing.

Volunteering for the county’s Housing Justice Project, Bohan helps low-income residents address cases of wrongful evictions, predatory landlords, and unfair landlord-tenant practices. Housing is such a basic right, he notes. It’s a place where he can make a fundamental difference in people’s lives.

“I’ve been so lucky. The work outside of my job,” he says, “keeps things in perspective for me. It’s a reminder of why I started down this path to law school.”

FOR THE BASIC RIGHT OF HOUSING

BRENT BOHAN WALKS A CASE AT THE KING COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL CLINIC

WASHINGTON.
When Sanduk Ruit, a pioneering eye surgeon from Nepal, and his American colleague Dr. Geoff Tabin discovered that their simple, low-cost, sight-restoring method of cataract surgery could be brought successfully to thousands of citizens living in the most inaccessible mountain villages of the Himalaya, they realized they had a chance to change the lives of millions of people—overnight—throughout the entire developing world. A tiny incision, a five- or ten-minute procedure, no sutures or long recovery, and people who had no sight and no hope for a productive life suddenly could make plans for a future. All the doctors needed was an organization behind them that could raise the funding and build the infrastructure to train hundreds of local eye surgeons, mass-produce cheap intraocular lenses, and transport a radical new model of service delivery across impoverished continents. They hired Job Heintz to help build the organization.

Heintz had already been immersed in the work of making change happen in Nepal. As an idealistic second-year law student at VLS, Heintz had helped a small group of Nepalese lawyers develop into the country’s first public interest law group. More than a decade later, the group, called Pro Public, is one of the most respected legal firms in the country.

As CEO of the Himalayan Cataract Project, headquartered in Waterbury, Vermont, Heintz has overseen the scaling up that surgeons Ruit and Tabin had dreamed of. Since 2010, HCP has directly supported short and long-term training for 150 ophthalmic personnel from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Myanmar, China (Tibet), Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, and the United States. Over the past 10 years, HCP and its partners across Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa have conducted 365,000 surgeries and provided care to more than 4 million patients.

In the days following the tragic April earthquake in Nepal, Heintz and the Himalayan Cataract Project pivoted. They raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and threw their contacts and hub-and-spoke network into a massive relief effort, delivering tons of food, water, and temporary shelter to remote villages that were desperately in need. “We’re just doing what we can,” he says.

Heintz had chosen Vermont Law School thinking it was the place to go to make a difference. “The law school is full of public-minded professors who can show students what ‘doing anything you want’ really means: idealism there is not only encouraged, it’s modeled. It was the environment that I was most interested in, then,” he says. “It’s people mean. But I’ve learned it’s the same stuff that matters at the core.”

In 1994, thousands of Cubans grabbed anything that floated and threw themselves into the sea, hoping to reach the U.S. Coast Guard ships whose officers, they believed, would be obliged to rescue them and bring them to the United States. They were called “balseros,” named after the rafts (“balsas”) that the island citizens had used for decades to flee Communist Cuba. Fearing a repeat of the 1980 crisis, when 125,000 Cuban and Haitian nationals made their way from the Port of Mariel, Cuba, and overwhelmed South Florida communities, the U.S. intercepted the balseros and placed them in refugee camps in Guantanamo and Panama. Yolanda Coto, who had begun her legal career working for a nonprofit dedicated to immigration and nationality law, volunteered for a five-day mission and visited both refugee camps as part of a team assessing the immigrants’ living conditions. The trip provided Coto an opportunity to ensure that the detainees were being treated humanely. It cemented the direction of the career she’d chosen.

Eventually, the U.S. government allowed most of the balseros to re-enter the United States—and Yolanda Cota eventually became Senior Attorney with Florida’s Department of Children and Families, Refugee Services Program. No longer involved in individual casework, Cota oversees a variety of legal, policy, and contractual matters for an organization that helps resettle refugees from more than 80 different countries, the largest refugee program in the nation.
LONG before she came to Vermont Law School to teach, before she had even finished law school, before she met said nun, (now Professor) Cimini had grown somewhat disenchanted with the law and its seeming lack of connection to real-world problems. It was the late 80s/early 90s, the height of the AIDS epidemic—when life expectancy was nowhere near what it is today—and she was fed up: “There was a huge sense of community urgency,” she recalls. “People were angry. They wanted change. ‘It’s us against the world,’ we said. And the government was ignoring the crisis. I became disillusioned with law school. And because I was interested in public service, I volunteered with the AIDS Project of Hartford (Conn.).”

It was a friend with HIV/AIDS who would change Cimini’s mind about giving up on the law. As part of her service, she had dinner with her AIDS Project “buddy” once a week. They grew close, confided in each other, and one day she told him that she wasn’t sure about a legal career. Her new friend reminded her to, “Use your place of privilege to help people like me.”

So she did. At the end of her third year of law school, Cimini was offered a post at a firm “with a lot of money” and turned it down. Instead, she looked for someone to fund her in public interest law. She found the Jesuit Volunteers Corps and, along with it, Sister Sue Ann Shay, a veteran legal aid worker who sponsored volunteers to work with HIV/AIDS clients. Sister Shay “was a tireless fighter for social justice who never stopped working for people and equal opportunity for all,” wrote a Hartford Courant reporter in 2009, shortly after Shay’s death. Before joining the JVC, she worked for the New York Legal Aid Society, where she contributed to the landmark case Goldberg v. Kelly, in which the United States Supreme Court ruled that financial aid recipients’ benefits could not be terminated without a pre-termination hearing; then the New Haven Legal Assistance Program; and finally the Hartford Neighborhood Legal Services Program. Cimini remembers Sister Shay as, “an incredible mentor. She believed in me when I was not such a confident lawyer. She said, ‘You can do this.’”

Her first day of work as a JVC volunteer, Cimini faced an intimidating pile of 30 case files. In those files were issues related to social security and disability, housing discrimination, children of mothers with HIV/AIDS, and estate planning. She’d work those cases, and more, and later she’d partner with the American Civil Liberties Union to protect the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS in Connecticut during a “time of hysteria.”

Cimini visited clients at their homes, and in their hospital rooms. “I felt like it was my job to fix it all. I realized I was powerless over their health, but at the same time I could make a difference in their lives. I worked with indigent women and gay men of color, who were ostracized from their families and friends and had no one left. For them, there were no more barriers—in reason to have any. I saw them at their most vulnerable and honest moments.”

In some ways, her work life became her personal life. She found it challenging to define boundaries in this “era of orphans”—when children of AIDS victims were left behind—and even considered adopting a client’s child. She ultimately decided she wasn’t ready for parenthood, and an HIV/AIDS doctor who had become a friend adopted the child instead.

Cimini lived in the Frog Hollow neighborhood of Hartford, immersed in the community she served. She “saw people and got to know people” and established trust with her clients. At home with her six roommates, all JVC volunteers, she lived off a monthly $80 stipend. She took the bus to work, to her Albany Avenue office where she was the “newbie,” surrounded by “old-time legal aid folks,” and shared lunches of Jamaican patties and salted cod from the neighborhood. When the year was up, she didn’t want it to end. She researched her options, then applied for and received a Cover Fellowship at Yale Law School—making her one of the first clinical teaching fellows at the school—where she could continue her HIV/AIDS advocacy work and set on a path toward clinical teaching. There she met another mentor, Steve.
PAYING IT FORWARD

Twenty years later, Professor Christine Cimini is the director of the Semester in Practice (SIP) and JD externship programs at Vermont Law School. She mentors students—and connects them with other mentors who help them learn the law in a practical setting. She also encourages students to evaluate their priorities, professionally and personally, as they consider their futures in the law.

Here, Cimini mentored Jonathan Hernandez ’13 during his 2L and 3L years.

“She guided his placement with Bread for the City, a nonprofit that provides medical care, legal and social services to vulnerable residents of Washington, D.C., where Hernandez says, he “felt connected with clients and could make a real difference in their lives.” It’s why he went to law school to begin with, to serve marginalized communities.”

Later, she sought Cimini’s counsel on whether to come after law school. “She shared with me her experience with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, and I thought it would be a good springboard for the rest of my career.”

The JVC accepted Hernandez into the program, and in May 2013, he learned he’d be living and working in Detroit, portrayed in the media as America’s most dangerous city. “The city went from one of the country’s most productive, to somewhat economically depressed and plagued by serious social issues” — and Hernandez says he learned a lot about himself that year, about how he would approach the work of helping relatively healthy people get their stuff together and get their lives back on track.

“Being thrown in the fire, you learn a lot about working to prevent a single mom with five children from getting evicted from public housing, when a bailiff is about to put her stuff out on the street,” he says. “You drop everything when a client walks through the door.”

It’s working with students like Hernandez—seeing them make a difference—that motivates Cimini. “I don’t think I’d be a clinician today if I didn’t think it’s possible to make a difference—that motivates Cimini, who says. “My service work fundamentally altered my life. Those were some of the best learning opportunities I’ve ever had. And now, in clinical teaching, I think I have the best of both worlds: teaching and clinical practice.”

Since 1996, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps has placed more than 10,000 volunteers in service in low-income communities. For more information about the JVC, visit www.jesuitvolunteers.org.
NOTES FROM THE DC REGIONAL ALUMNI GROUP

The D.C. Vermont Law School Alumni Association (DCVLSAA) has started off 2015 with a bang! Already we have held our 4th annual ski trip to Liberty Mountain, hosted Supreme Court Bar inductees, and hosted a happy hour at Side Car, a local bar in DC.

DCVLSAA has a number of activities planned for this spring and summer. We are coordinating and hosting “Swan Talks,” TED-style talks by alumni who are speaking about their work. Our first one will focus on climate change issues. We are also coordinating happy hours while faculty are in town, bowling nights, and White House West Wing tours. We will also continue our mentoring program for current students in D.C.

We always enjoy connecting current students with D.C. alumni.

I encourage each of you to find the time and an avenue to serve one of your communities. I am sure you will find all sorts of unexpected pleasures through that service. I hope you will share those stories with your fellow VLS alumni.

On another note, this will be my last “alumni notes” piece as I am wrapping up my tenure as President of the VLSAA. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve my fellow alumni, and I intend to find other ways to continue to work on your behalf.

Sincerely,
Karis L. North JD’95
President, Vermont Law School Alumni Association
knorth@mhtl.com
connect.vermontlaw.edu/vlsaa

NOTES FROM THE VERMONT LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

“Service” has different meanings for different people but it is a common bond—and thread—between the diverse alumni of Vermont Law School. The definition of service is as wide-ranging as the places and ways in which VLS alumni have served. To me, however, the most relevant definition entails making a contribution for the benefit of others. I’ll add to that definition, “without expectation of any return on that contribution.”

What makes service meaningful is that it comes from the heart, and is intended to benefit someone else.

Regardless of the intent to contribute and do good in the world without any expectation of return, service almost always pays back in meaningful ways that are profound and unexpected, as I’ve learned from my own experience.

I do pro bono work representing battered women in divorce and custody proceedings. One of my current cases is, in a word, difficult. The client is difficult. The husband is difficult. The court is overburdened, and the judge is exacting. I admit, I’ve said several times, “this is it, I’m not doing it again.” But then the unexpected happens and I change my mind, as was the case this last time. I had pushed a mother to enroll her teenager, a high school drop-out struggling with a learning disability, to enroll in GED classes for mostly strategic reasons. I never expected that outcome, and the pleasure for both the mother and the child made the frustrations worthwhile.

I encourage each of you to find the time and an avenue to serve one of your communities. I am sure you will find all sorts of unexpected pleasures through that service. I hope you will share those stories with your fellow VLS alumni.

On another note, this will be my last “alumni notes” piece as I am wrapping up my tenure as President of the VLSAA. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve my fellow alumni, and I intend to find other ways to continue to work on your behalf.

Sincerely,
Karis L. North JD’95
President, Vermont Law School Alumni Association
knorth@mhtl.com
connect.vermontlaw.edu/vlsaa
On October 27, 2014 Harold “Duke” Eaton was sworn in as an Associate Justice of the Vermont Supreme Court—the first VLS graduate to have that honor.

A native Vermonter, Duke was born in Windsor and raised in Woodstock. He received a B.S. in Education from the University of Vermont in 1977 and a J.D., from Vermont Law School in 1980.

His 35-year career spans public service in the State’s Attorney’s Office in Burlington, in private practice in Rutland and as founder of Eaton & Hayes in Woodstock. He received a B.S. in Education from the University of Vermont in 1977 and a J.D., from Vermont Law School in 1980.

HIS 35-YEAR CAREER SPANS PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE STATE’S ATTORNEY’S OFFICE IN BURLINGTON, IN PRIVATE PRACTICE IN RUTLAND AND AS FOUNDER OF EATON & HAYES IN WOODSTOCK. HE RECEIVED A B.S. IN EDUCATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT IN 1977 AND A J.D., FROM VERMONT LAW SCHOOL IN 1980.

He served on the American Board of Trial Advocates, on the State Police Advisory Commission and as a member of the Defense Research Institute.

Governor Jim Douglas appointed Duke to the Superior Court bench in April 2004, where he served on—to name a few—the Judicial Conduct Board, Civil Division Oversight Committee, Family Division Oversight Committee (Chair) and the Judiciary Advisory Council. He was elected to the American Law Institute in 2014.

He was appointed to the Vermont State Senate in November, 2014. He serves as vice-chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sits on the Senate Government Operations Committee, and was elected Senate Minority Leader for the second time. He spoke at the well-attended February VLS reception hosted by the Vermont statehouse, describing that, “it’s hard to walk through the statehouse during the legislative session and not run into several VLS graduates every day.” Joseph was a panelist in March at the VLS conference on whether Vermont should legalize the use of marijuana, along with two of his Senate Colleagues: “I had a great time showing them the law school,” he wrote, “heading over to Worthy Burger for a beer afterwards with Professor Robert Sands and several students that had attended the conference. It was fun being back in SoRo as a veteran law student!”

and is in negotiations with Hollywood about a made for TV mini-series."

Please email alumni@vermontlaw.edu if you are interested in serving as class secretary.

HAROLD E. EATON JD’80

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

CLASS NOTES
1987

Mark Ouellette
mouellette01@gmail.com

David Hasbrook JD’87 gives a big shout out to all those from VLS who ever “cleared up for the Ultimate Justice frisbee squad.” He has been coaching youth ultimate in the Seattle area the past five years. He asks, “is there still an ultimate team at VLS? Don’t hear much about it lately. Is the Ultimate Justice study room still in the library? Those of us from the 80s, led by Larry Kelly, raised the dough to get that room in the library. Keep our dream alive, kids!”

Scott Mapes PE, Esq. JD’87 has been a member of the Burlington Conservation Board (BCB) since 2000. Both the Vermont Planners Association and the Northern New England Chapter of the American Planning Association recognized him with the 2009 Citizen Planner of the Year award for his work on the City of Burlington Stormwater Task Force and its rewrite of Chapter 26. The EPA recognized the City of Burlington with a National Environmental Achievement Award in 2009 for their Stormwater Ordinance Chapter 26. In 2010, Scott was the recipient of the Preservation Burlington 2010 Ray O’Connor Award for his significant contribution to the betterment of community life through his efforts on the BCB. Scott and wife Stephanie Mapes JD’88 live in Burlington with their soon-to-be-10-year-old son, Lennox.

Charlie Soltan JD’87 is pleased to announce James W. Bass has joined his practice in Augusta, ME, the firm changing its name to Soltan Bass, LLC. James served as Judge Advocate in the JAG Corps for nearly 6 years and continues in that role as a Major in the Maine National Guard. A Maine native, James graduated from Bowdoin College and the Maine School of Law. He will practice in the administrative/regulatory and legislative advocacy practice of the firm that earned Charlie recognition as Lawyer of the Year in Augusta for Administrative Law by Best Lawyers in America® for 2016-17.

Saundra Swift JD’87 has retired and is enjoying an early spring in Tallahassee, FL, with her husband Henry (also retired) and two cats. Please email her at sswift@netally.com.

1988

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

1988

alumni@vermontlaw.edu

1989

Randy Abate JD/MSEL’89 published his latest book in January 2023, Climate Change Impacts on Oceans and Coastal Law: U.S. and International Perspectives (Oxford University Press.) The book identifies contexts in which climate change impacts are adversely affecting marine and coastal environments and explores possible legal responses to this international problem. Two of the contributing authors in the book are Susan Parady JD’94 and Stephanie Showalter Otts JD/MSEL’01.

Michael Williams JD’87 and Lauren Larrea JD’87, who met at VLS, celebrated their 27th wedding anniversary this past September. They have 2 children—Jared (25) graduated from the Naval Academy in 2021 and is a Marine lieutenant in Special Forces training at Camp Lejeune, NC; Caitlin (22) is graduating this May from the University of Maryland with a marketing/supply chain management double major, and will be joining Macy’s Baltimore office as a manager. Lauren practiced real estate law. Mike has worked with the NJ Attorney General’s Office since 1988, and is now an assistant attorney general, overseeing the Division of Criminal Justice’s Appellate and Prosecutors Supervision & Training Bureaus, and managing the Division’s attorney hiring.

JIM GRATTON JD’90

Working at the South Royalton Legal Clinic in the fall of 1989, Jim Gratton leaped at the chance to represent a child trapped in the middle of a custody battle. Jim credits Clinic director Jim May with this opportunity: “He probably did more than anyone else to set me on a course of public service.” Jim continues to decorate his office with the handmade welcome sign—a gift from the child in the custody case—and a symbol of his future career.

From 1990-2013 Jim worked as a public defender and district attorney in Pennsylvania. With his trial team partner, Jim represented a number of defendants in death penalty homicides, some of which made national news (such as the case of 19-year-old David Ludwig who, in 2006, was sentenced to life in prison without parole for killing the parents of his 14-year-old girlfriend.) By the time he moved to Vermont in 2013, Jim was a death penalty qualified senior assistant public defender with the Lancaster Public Defender’s Office, having tried 100 or more trials.

Jim is now the Addison County Public Defender based in Middlebury, Vermont. Describing his career transition, Jim said, “I sometimes miss the quantity of more serious cases,” but, “I really love the fact that I can be much more ‘hands on’ on a case by case basis here, and devote more time to each client.” He now lives closer to his parents, and works on his 65-acre farm, “cutting wood, collecting sap, hunting and just enjoying the great outdoors.”
CLASS NOTES

1990
Mario Galluci
mgalluci@hnglaw.com

Ruth D’Errico JD’55’90 and Anthony D’Errico JD’89 celebrate 24 years of marriage this May, and 26 years since they met in Professor Dyer’s Water Law class in the Map Room. Their daughter is a first-year student at Macalester College and sons Anthony and Matthew are in the seventh and seventh grades. Ruth writes, “thanks, VLS!”

CAPTAIN CARLOS DE LA ROCHA JD’90 and his wife Lisa are celebrating his US Marine Corps Birthday Ball in November 2014. In the US Embassy Sofia, Bulgaria.

Carlos de la Rocha JD’90 served on Active Duty as a U.S. Marine Corps Officer for seven years after graduating from VLS, and still serves in the Marine Corps Reserve. He has been deployed overseas twice, the second time for a combat deployment. Andy finished his last deployment. He is married with children, has worked for three at-

torney generals in his 15 years in the New York Attorney General’s office, currently working for Eric Schneiderman (D). Michael has helped establish New York state as a leader in environmental justice issues. He spearheaded a multistate litigation challenging EPA standards for fine particles, and argued at the D.C. Circuit in support of EPA’s greenhouse gas regulations. In 2013, the American Bar Association named Myers the government environmental lawyer of the year.

1991
Peg Smith
margaretostal@gmail.com

Frank Ramaziez JD’55’90 and LLM’92 Syracuse University retired from teaching International Tax Law in 2005, and thought his “life of globetrotting was finished.” He became the Department of State’s rule of law senior advisor for the U.S. Ambassador in Baghdad, Iraq, 2005-2008. During 2009 and 2010, he represented U.S. interests in Kabul, providing legal support for the Afghan Supreme Court, prosecutors, and the defense bar. In the fall of 2014, Frank supported the U.S. Consulate’s peace efforts in Jerusalem. He recently received a Peer nomination for a third Fulbright Scholar award for teaching law at the Kyrgyz National University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Currently, he’s a visiting scholar with the World Engagement Institute of Chicago. He lives with his wife Loesje near Tampa, Florida, though they spend as much time as they can in Amsterdam, Netherlands. They also enjoy time with their toddler grandchildren. In March, Frank was the officiant at their daughter Eden’s wedding in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

1992
Margaret Think
mz@brighton.com

Dave Celone JD’92 and his wife Lissa own a small art studio and artisan craft shop three doors away from their house in Lyme, NH. “Surprisingly, we’ve found ourselves right smack in the epicenter of a worldwide artist colony here in the VT/NH Upper Valley region. We’re having a ball with art openings, wine tastings, and shows of various mediums of fine art and craft made by local artists all from within about a 50 mile radius of Lyme.” If anyone is traveling in the area, Long River Studios & Gallery is only about 45 miles from South Royalton and VLS, “please give a holler and we’ll roll out the red carpet for you!” djce-lone@gmail.com"

1993
Lainey Schwartz
goswarta@hotmail.com

Michael Myers JD’93, who lives in Albany with his wife and two children, has worked for three at-
sible animal guardianship. Merry lives with her husband Bill in Albuquerque where she also provides pro bono consultations to animal lovers.

1995

Karen Moore
kj.moore@judicial.state.co.us
Kristen Ulrich Sherman JD/ MSEL’95 left her position last June as a partner in the environmental practice at Adler Pollock & Sheehan in Providence, RI to join UTC Aero-space Systems (UTAS) in Windsor Locks, CT. She is now the Assistant General Counsel, responsible for EH&ES and real estate issues. Kristen and husband Mike have recently relocated with their two sons, Jack (age 11) and Brett (age 5), to Avon, CT. Kristen writes that she “would love to connect with alumni in the Hartford area!”

Heather Toulinn MSEL’95 recently completed a trauma certificate and is expanding her therapy practice. She continues to collabo-rate with the Criminal justice system and VLS South Royaltan Legal Clinic for women and children’s welfare. Her son Seth recently entered kindergarten. She writes that she and her family “had a fantastic stay with her family “had a fantastic stay with family ‘had a fantastic stay with family ‘had a fantastic stay with family ‘had a fantastic stay with family ‘had a fantastic stay with family “had a fantastic stay with her family “had a fantastic stay with her family “had a fantastic stay with her family “had a fantastic stay with her family “had a fantastic stay with her family.”

2015

Karen Moore
kj.moore@judicial.state.co.us
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1997

Cheryl Deshairs
deshears@comcast.net
After “working for The Man and whining about it for 16 years,” David Carpenter JD/ MSEL’97 opened The Carpenter Law Firm, PLLC in September 2013. His main office is in Middletown, VT, with a satellite in Orwell and meeting/conference space in Rutland. Dave handles a variety of general matters (civil litigation, family law, divorce, parental rights, property division and other related matters. Cheryl writes, “the work is both difficult and rewarding, and all of our services are pro bono.” She took a year off to write a book of legal fiction (“which was a lot of fun. It’s in the rewrite stage now — stay tuned!”) She lives on the coast of Maine with Bob Rubin (husband of eleven years) and their two cats.

1999

Jay Kamar-Nast
j.kamar@icloud.com
Christian Pederson JD’99 extends a sincere “thank you” to everyone who attended the Homecoming celebration last September, “as well as to those who gave generously toward our class gift.” Christian continues, “the final numbers are in and we raised an eye-popping $1,066. We go to Class of ’99!” She gives a special thanks as well to his reunion co-chairs Kenneth “Mac” Webster JD’00 and Kollene Kicks JD/ MSEL’99. “They motivated me to keep working the phones in the weeks leading up to Homecoming and, most importantly, suffered through all my nostalgic stories about the Slater House, Barry’s Pizza, and my self-described ‘legendary run’ on the VLS softball team. You see all in 2019 (but hopefully sooner).”

Since March 2008, Rod Vieira

1998

alumni@vermontlaw.edu
Cheryl Ayer JD’98 has worked for the past eight years as Legal Services Director at New Hampshire Legal Services for Women, a domestic violence agency serving four counties in coastal Maine. Cheryl represents victims of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking at protection order hearings and in their ensuing family matters — divorce, parental rights, property division and other related matters. Cheryl writes, “the work is both difficult and rewarding, and all of our services are pro bono.” She took a year off to write a book of legal fiction (“which was a lot of fun. It’s in the rewrite stage now — stay tuned!”) She lives on the coast of Maine with Bob Rubin (husband of eleven years) and their two cats.

2000

alumni@vermontlaw.edu
Matthew Mortier JD/ MSEL’00 works for the Colorado Division of Insurance, Department of Regulatory Agencies on the regulatory implementation of the Affordable Care Act and interfacing with the Colorado General Assembly on legislation that impacts health insurance and the cost of health care. Matt and his wife Tiffany Mortier JD’01—who just celebrated her 10 years as a permanent law clerk with the Colorado Court of Appeals—still live just outside of Denver, with their amazing 7 year old daughter Molly. Sarah North JD’00 writes that after taking sailing lessons five years ago, she and husband Barrie bought an old sailboat, took a year off and sailed around the Caribbean with their three boys. They left Lake Champlain in September 2014 and arrived in the British Virgin Islands in November. The family island-hopped as far south as Dominica, and as of February, are currently in Antigua, heading back north. Sarah writes, “I’m plotting and traveling on a small old boat and homeschooling three active boys is one of the most challenging things we have ever done. Follow our adventure on sailingwithkids.net or on Facebook (Sailing with Kids).”

2001

alumni@vermontlaw.edu
Daniel McManus JD’01 writes that he opened the McManus Law Office last November in historic Manchester Center, Vermont. He is enjoying being his own boss and the freedom of running his own practice. He and his wife, Susan McManus JD’01, welcomed their daughter Quinn. Mary McManus to their family. “Baby Quinn enjoys all the attention she is getting from her parents and older sister and brother, Aislinn and Braeden.”

Miriam Rodrigues-Uyeda, Esq. JD/ MSEL’00 has been working as an Associate Attorney for the Riggs, Ay- ney Law Firm in Denver, CO, working in general civil litigation, as well as several environmental law cases.

Kathleen Dawson Spitzer JD’00 is pleased to announce the release of The Happy Hypochondriac: Sur- vives World Travel, the second book in The Happy hypochondriac series. She is also the author of the humor blog of the same name at happyhy- pochondriac.com.

2015

SPRING 2015
2002
Paige Bush-Songs
paigesongs@comcast.net

Scott Hubert JD’02 and Kate MacKenzie Hubert, focused with their son Rowan to Boise, Idaho in August 2014. Scott is an attorney with the Office of the Solicitor, Department of Interior. Kate is still the Wilderness Society serving as their Director of Wildlands Communications.

2003
Shannon Baliga
vibrater@yahoo.com

Scott Clausen JD’03 has accepted a Research and Policy Associate position with the American Council On Renewable Energy in Washington, D.C.

After nearly nine years of working with the Conservation Law Foundation to protect New England’s environment and build healthy communities, Anthony Iarrasso JD’03 became the Campaign Director for the Alliance for a Healthier Vermont, a coalition of health care providers advocating for an excise tax on sugary drinks. Anthony would love to make healthier beverage alternatives more accessible and affordable, we feel like an exciting new step. Even better, I get to stay in the San Luis Valley with my family."

2004
Spencer Barnes
spencer.barnes@dk-energy.com

Colin Carroll JD/MSEL’04 and Nancy Clark JD/MSEL’04 were married on September 6, 2014 at the Pitcher Inn in Warren, VT. Fellow VLS classmates in attendance included: Emily Lamond JD/MSEL’04, Shannon Sloney JD/MSEL’04, Andrea Brown JD’04, Margaret Ament JD’04, Jacob Setzer JD’04, Jordana Levine JD’04, and Ann Freeman JD/MSEL’04.

Kelleigh Domaingue Murphy JD’04 and Aidan August (2). Kelleigh who joins siblings Alexandra Tenley (4) and Aidan August (2). Kelleigh divides her time between staying home with her children and acting as CEO of My Social Sports Network, running sports and social clubs in three New England states. She and her husband also own and operate Murphy’s Taproom and Murphy’s Diner in Manchester, NH. Additionally, she serves as a board member of the New Hampshire Charity Bag Buddies, dedicated to raising awareness of Crohn’s and colostomy bags. She is a local director for the Miss New Hampshire Scholarship Competition and a Town Councilor in Bedford, NH.

2005
Jeannette Paull JD/MSEL’05, Richard Hidetsugu JD’05, and Mendosa JD’05/MSEL’05. Jennifer Morgan ’07, John Weir JD’06, Erika Smart-Weir JD’06, Jonathan Rose JD’06, Lindsay Browning JD/MSEL’05, Susan Baker Senning JD/MSEL’05, Heidi Murphy Moreau JD’09, and Melanie Fenzel JD’09.

David is an Associate Attorney with Stittel, Page & Fletcher, P.C. in Burlington, VT, practicing real estate, environmental, and zoning law. David is proud that three other VLS graduates are partners at Phillips Lytle: Kevin Hogan JD’94, Adam Walters JD’94 (both practicing environmental law), and Rowland Richards JD’96. Thomas recently obtained a special use permit for a telecommunications project from a Planning Board represented by Jeffrey Meyer JD/MSEL’04 (‘a tough regulator!’). In February, while travelling to present at a CLE on environmental review of wireless telecommunications facilities in California, he visited with brokers-in-law and VLS classmate Josh Nicosia JD/MSEL’04, and family in the San Francisco area. Thomas writes, “Josh is now Director of Legal Affairs at Jamba Juice and is an authority on franchise law.”

2006
Carolina T. Curbele JD’05

Carolina T. Curbele and Mariniñash L. Beitel recently announced the formation of Beitel & Curbele, LLC—a unique all female law firm in Bergenfield, NJ. Devoted to providing legal services in immigration law and to representing clients in special education law matters for access to an appropriate education, the firm represents the passion each woman brings to the partnership.

The two met while clerking for the Superior Court of New Jersey. Mariniñash (who clerked for Hon. Isabel Stark, J.S.C. and Hon. Bonnie J. Miedel, J.S.C.) a tutor for 20 years, has focused much of her time on subject tutoring and standardized test preparation. Her reputation throughout northern New Jersey grew, garnering a large clientele—many of whom contend with processing issues, learning difficulties, and emotional and/or psychological issues. Over the years, she has gained considerable experience assisting children, adults, and families in procuring the best education. As a result, Mariniñash’s professional practice has focused on special education law.

Carolina, who clerked for Hon. Joseph S. Conte, J.S.C. and worked for a major international law firm on securities litigation and antitrust matters, embarked on pro bono representation of Kids in Need of Defense and Sanctuary for Families. The daughter of Cuban refugees and bilingual in Spanish and English, she has been a passionate and effective immigrant and human rights advocate, pressing on issues such as the release of several Cuban political dissidents imprisoned in Cuba during the Black Spring Movement of 2003. With additional experience in law firm business development and employment and labor dispute mediation, Carolina brings a wealth of passion, wisdom and skill to this new, dynamic team.
Lee Knight Caffery JD/MSEL’05 writes that after over nine years together, one commitment ceremony, two children and one lawsuit against the State of North Carolina challenging its ban on same-sex marriage, she and now wife Dana were finally able to legally marry on November 1st, 2014. They are now in the process of a step-parent adoption so that Dana can be the legal parent to her own children and, “we can be fully recognized as the family we have always been.”

Ida Manzelli JD/MSEL’07 and her husband, Chad Turmelle, welcomed their second child, Ida Manzelli Turmelle, on February 21, 2015. All are well.

Molly Kimmer JD/MSEL’05 and Rodolfo Tello married in October 2014 in Seattle, WA. Their outdoor wedding was followed by receptions for family and friends in Seattle and Washington, DC. The DC event was attended by Rowan Seidel JD’05, Olivia Campbell Andersen MSEL’05, and Rachel Steinberg. Molly and Rodolfo have moved back from Peru to the DC area, where Molly started her new job as Chief of Overseas Contracting at the Peace Corps.

Amy Manzelli JD/MSEL’07 and her husband, Chad Turmelle, welcomed their second child, Ida Manzelli Turmelle, on February 21, 2015. All are well.

Molly Kimmer JD/MSEL’05 and Rodolfo Tello married in October 2014 in Seattle, WA. Their outdoor wedding was followed by receptions for family and friends in Seattle and Washington, DC. The DC event was attended by Rowan Seidel JD’05, Olivia Campbell Andersen MSEL’05, and Rachel Steinberg. Molly and Rodolfo have moved back from Peru to the DC area, where Molly started her new job as Chief of Overseas Contracting at the Peace Corps.

On January 1, 2016, Elisabeth R. Wehl JD’06 became a director at Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC where she practices health law.

Ashley Cottingham
ashleybrey@gmail.com

Greg Dorrington
gregdorrington@gmail.com

Liz Lucente
lucente@gmail.com

Margaret Stubbs Doran JD/MSEL’07 and husband Jon Doran JD’08 welcomed baby Sylvia on November 25, 2014. Sylvia “was also welcomed by her ‘fur-brother’ Sampson who already keeps her parents on their toes!”

Christopher Miller JD/MSEL’07 and wife Sarah welcomed their son, Caleb Robert, into the world on October 29, 2014. Chris is now a partner at Maratoni Falcon, LLP, a small law firm in Short Hills, NJ, which focuses on environmental, land use and local government law. They live in Brooklyn, NY.
environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, socio-political sustainability, and cultural sustainability as they apply to both Global North and South urban areas. Holt authored the chapter, “Do You Know What It Means to Rebuild New Orleans? Cultural Sustainability after Disaster.”

Victoria Lloyd JD’09 launched Athens Fiduciary Services, LLC with Paula McCann JD’95 in January. They have spent years fighting for financial and property thefts from vulnerable adults by people in positions of power. Victoria writes, “Vermont lacks affordable, quality, independent professionals to serve as fiduciaries, and Athens makes high-quality fiduciary services accessible and affordable to those in need of a neutral, trustworthy fiduciary.”

2010

Cara Cookson
cookson@bankrock.com

Patrick Munson JD/MELP’10 and Louise Yanes JD/MELP’10 welcomed daughter Adelaide Josephine Munson on November 15, 2014.

2011

Amelia George-Wheaton
amila.georgewheaton@yahoo.com

Christina Ashe JD’11 is now working at Disability Rights New York (DRNY) as the Assistive Technology Staff Attorney. DRNY is New York’s Protection and Advocacy provider, offering pro-bono legal services to all individuals with disabilities. Chris helps individuals with disabilities access assistive technology to maintain independent living, employment, and/or education.

Natalie Rossman Naron
MELP’11 married James Welch Nar- non JD’12 on May 25, 2013. In their home state of North Carolina. The couple resides in the Boston area. Jessica L. Weiss JD/MELP’10 and husband Anthony moved back to their hometown of Indianapolis, IN. Anthony is a Dealer Services Representative at SRAM—one of the largest bicycle component manufacturers in the world—and Jessica is an attorney with the Office of Legal Counsel at the Indiana Department of Environmental Management focusing on air quality. Their dog Lucy, “is still living the good life as our only child.” Submitted by Peter Vaters JD’11 and James Abraham JD/MELP’11.

2012

Lauren Miller
Lauren.miller.e@gmail.com

Kendra Brown JD’12 was recently on the Policy Director of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, DC. She will lead the policy development, strategic planning and initiatives of the Caucus. The Caucus, created in 1971, serves as a voice for people of color and vulnerable communities in Congress to ensure that everyone in the United States has an opportunity to achieve their version of the American Dream.

Kellie Furr MELP’11 passed the bar in New Hampshire and recently took a job with a consulting firm based in Arkansas and Washington, D.C., working as a Federal Contro- lor at the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C. She is a FOIA At- torney analyst, handling along with her colleagues all FOIA requests for the DOE. She moved into “an amazing apartment in Dupont Circle this year and am living being back in a city with late-night food delivery! I see Sarah Hardman JD’11 once in a while, who is living the high life in New York City, and had a drink with Maximilian Merrill JD’12 last week. Max lives down the street from me.”

2013

LOQUITUR

2008

Samantha Santiago Besualo
samantha.c.besualo@gmail.com

Jamie Williams
willjamie@gmail.com

In January, Kathleen Killoy JD’08 joined the Boston office of the firm Eckart Seaman Cherin & Mellott, LLC as an associate. She focuses on general litigation matters including complex product liability, mass tort litigation, insurance defense and commercial litigation. Captain John Sautt, USMC JD’09 lives in San Diego, CA, and is the Special Counsel for Environmental Law at the Western Area Counsel Office at Camp Pendleton, CA, where he practices environmental law for the Marine Corps’ Western Region. He writes, “Antonia and I are doing great. Our daughter Katherine is now 2 years old.”

2009

John Miller
johnmiller.ken@gmail.com

Professor Jack Tubeliski and Guy Alsentzer JD/MELP’09 discussed the finer points of public land Wil- derness Act management (“we had to walk instead of snowmobile”) before a 10,500 foot ski descent of Woody Ridge in Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming.

2010

Cara Cookson
cookson@bankrock.com

Patrick Munson JD/MELP’10 and Louise Yanes JD/MELP’10 turned up the cute factor to 11 in their house. Adelaide Josephine Munson, born November 15, 2014, “is now almost four months old and learn-
emissions for e-commerce. “Let’s connect if you’re excited about it and have any input! My email address is dlawson.revan@versaticapital.com.”

Erin Wyatt JD’12 married Alexander Synchov, a software engineer from Kiev, Ukraine on December 15, 2012.

2013

Duran Durkin
durkin@vermontlaw.edu

Jennifer Schaper Slatten JD’/ MELP’15 and Andrew Slatten JD’15 got married on July 5, 2016 in Oppenheim, Germany. They now reside in Silver Spring, MD, and plan to move to Seattle, WA, in December 2014.

Stacy Tatman JD’13 has been elected to the Ten Thousand Villages, National Capital Area Board of Directors. She writes, “I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to help promote this important mission. Here is some info about Ten Thousand Villages: tenvillages.com/about-us.”

2014

Whitney Standerler
whitney.standerler@vms律.edu

Cristina Masfield
masfieldc@vms律.edu

After graduating, Elizabeth Kahn MELP’14 enrolled in the Master’s of Urban and Regional Planning program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota where she is also minoring in Public Policy. She is currently using skills obtained in law school for her current internship, working for a non-profit organized called Association for Metropolitan School Districts. Her main duties are conducting research and writing memos and position papers on different education policy issues. By attending the Humphrey School and continuing her quest of learning and knowledge, she hopes to one day hopes “become a change agent in the world.”

Judith Needham LLM’14 will complete an Animal Law LLM at Lewis & Clark Law School, the second component of a self-styled dual LLM program. She writes, “[t]he experience enabled me to build upon the great environmental law foundation provided at VLS. Stay tuned for exciting future endeavors!”

Albert Shpyth MELP’14 is President of the Saskatchewan Environmental Industry and Managers Association (SEIMA), and took the lead on organizing SEIMA’s inaugural conference on Sustainable Development technologies-SustainTech 2015—in the western Canadian province of Saskatchewan, March 19, 2015.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

LARA MAIERHOFER JD’14

Lara Maierhofer had just graduated from Vermont Law School and was awaiting bar exam results when she agreed to a summer job on a food truck; undeniably, that was the first step towards becoming the executive director of the first nonprofit food truck in Seattle.

When she first started working on the Cheese Wizards food truck, Lara had already worked for several nonprofits, and had owned and operated a small business in Denver, CO. A particularly moving event at the Ronald McDonald House that was catered by Cheese Wizards catalyzed Lara to combine her business skills with her legal knowledge and present a business proposal to the truck owners.

Comfort Food Charities (a hybridized nonprofit LLC) serves hot and hearty food to deserving people in the Puget Sound area while educating the greater community about peoples’ battles with serious illnesses and health-related issues. Their first project, the “Cheese Wiches” food truck, will cater meals for children suffering from serious illnesses, injured veterans, AIDS patients, and the elderly. Operating primarily as a regular food truck for the first year, proceeds will fund the community meals. “I’m so passionate about the impact I hope it will make on peoples’ lives and their ability to heal,” writes Lara, “and I’m thrilled about its potential effect on the community as a whole.

LARA MAIERHOFER JD’14

In February 2015, Vermont Law School’s Board of Trustees elected Chris Dutton to the position of Board Chair. Chris joined the Board in 2006, bringing decades of leadership experience and a deeply held commitment to public and community service.

After graduating from Vanderbilt Law School, Chris joined the Air Force, serving for four years as a captain in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps—a position that he believes provided him with advocacy and organizational leadership skills that have served him well his entire career. After six years of private practice as a partner in a large law firm in Ohio, Chris moved to Vermont, accepting the job of General Counsel of Green Mountain Power (GMP). Chris spent the bulk of his career at GMP, retiring as CEO in 2008 after 11 years of service. He successfully shepherded GMP through financial hardships it encountered during the first months of his tenure, and through its acquisition by Montreal’s Gaz Metro, in 2007. Recruited out of retirement in 2010, Chris took the reins at Vermont Electric Power Company, serving as CEO until his second—and he hopes, last—retirement in February 2014. Chris feels strongly that those who enjoy success have a moral responsibility to give back to the communities and people who helped them achieve it. His former employer, GMP, is consistently recognized for its leadership in corporate responsibility, and has been voted one of the “Best Places to Work in Vermont.” The employees at GMP are dedicated to community service—an ethic that helps GMP thrive in Vermont. Throughout his career, Chris embodied this ethic, serving as a member and chair of school boards, on the United Way board of directors, and as chair of what is now the University of Vermont Medical Center.

VLS’s mission, “law for the community and the world,” is a value that Chris holds personally. As he describes, “Our mission resonates with me deeply. I can’t think of two organizations that epitomize the concept of community service, both locally and in a broader sense, more than VLS and the University of Vermont Medical Center. To be able to serve as chair of the board of trustees of these two marvelous institutions is a distinct privilege.”

“At VLS, whether in our environmental advocacy and leadership around the world, or through the tremendous work of the South Royalton Legal Clinic in Vermont, we make a difference and that is personally gratifying to me,” says Chris. “We must ensure that our mission is fulfilled notwithstanding the challenges we face in a law school marketplace that has changed dramatically in the last few years.”
in MEMORIAM

J. William Noel JD’77 of Culver City, CA, died on September 2, 2014, after a brief illness. No other information is available at this time.

Jesse M. Corum IV, Exp. JD’77, 65, of Beattlevile, VT, died peacefully at home amidst family on June 27, 2014 after a six-month battle with pancreatic cancer. Jesse grew up in New York, Europe and Vermont. He graduated from Guilford College, NC in 1973, and then spent a year working in a New York Law School. He began practicing in 1977 as a Deputy State’s Attorney in Vermont. Jesse and his wife, Sarah, have two children, and he is survived by his brother Vance and wife Kristin, sister Lauren and husband Bruce Hawley; Scott, mother Joy; sister Laura and husband James; and his fiancé Joshua McCannel.

Richard I. Damalouji JD’88, 52, of Davidson, NC, most notably for his defense and arguments for a national political arena. He began his legal career in 1979, he began his law career with the firm of Costello and Webster in Rutland, later becoming a full partner. In later years, he formed the firm of Webster, Chapman and Kupferer. He was known for his compassion and kindness to all his clients. He was active in the VT Bar Association, serving as president of the association from 2007 to 2008. He was also a practicing lawyer for the MA State and Federal Courts. He was a member of the Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, serving as deacon and chair of the church council for several years. Mr. Chapman was also a member of the Evergreen Cemetery board, a member of the Loyal Order of Moose and served on the Rutland Town School Board for 21 years, several as president. He was survived by his wife, daughters Kristen Chapman and her fiancé Joshua McConnell, and 13 nieces and nephews and a grand-niece.

Jefferson T. Dorsey JD’79, 59, of Whitehouse, TN, died on March 8, 2014 after a short illness. Jefferson lived in South Africa, accompanying see more Americans in federal prison. Jefferson had a well-established reputation as a musician, drumming with the Something Quick Band, Cheetah Palmaira and Jane Rose and the Deadend Boys. Combining passions for justice and music, Jefferson organized events opposing the death penalty, including the 1999 Journey of Hope concert in Nashville, featuring the Indigo Girls, Steve Earle, Emmylou Harris and Jackson Browne, as well as a speech by Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking. As a photographer, he contributed images to album covers, posters, and publications, documenting carefully and thoughtfully, recording the essence of his subject matter. Jefferson was a mentor and inspiration to many and ardent and tireless fighter for the rights of those disenfranchised in American society, he will be deeply missed. He is survived by wife Anastasiya, daughter Jasmine, and brother Francis.

Christopher B. Wren JD’99, 44, of Princeton, NJ, passed away surrounded by his family on October 10, 2014, due to complications of cancer and fatal brain aneurysm. After traveling the world as a child with his father, Christopher S. Wren, a foreign correspondent for The New York Times, mother Jaqueline Wren, and his sister Celia, Chris became a Vanderbilt at 14. His family bought a house in Faites for their holidays during home leaves while they were living in China. Chris became a volunteer for the New Hampshire-based Student Conservation Association so that his passion for nature preservation would be transferred to the adjacent Pomona College, CA, and graduated from Lake Forest College, IL. During his break in studies, he lived in South Africa, accompany-
Sustained in an auto accident in February 12, 2015 from injuries sister, Celia Wren. 

Elea (10), Alexandra (7); and his survived by his wife, Lisa Paye addition to his parents, Chris is more time with his daughters. In Princeton, New Jersey to spend moved his family to a suburb of spontaneous wit charmed even his last August. His easy-going spon- 

tion, handling complex disputes tion, handling complex disputes at Bristol Myers-Squibb in New deportation. He was then hired Hartson (now Hogan Lovells.) His Washington law firm Hogan and went to work as a litigator for the his bar exam in New York, Chris 

rope, and uncovered a pattern of Bosnia for the Organization for hikers, chasing speeders and 

firefighter—rescuing stranded 

of his photos were published in The New York Times. Chris worked as a law enforcement ranger, emer- 

gency medical technician and firefighter—rescuing stranded bikers, chasing speeders and bringing in fugitives hiding in the parks. Chris enrolled in Ver- 

mont Law School because of its national environmental reputa- tion. As a law student, he was selected to monitor elections in Bosnia for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Eu- rope, and uncovered a pattern of fraudulent voting. After passing his bar exam in New York, Chris went to work as a litigator for the Washington law firm Hogan and Hartson. (now Hogan Lovells.) His pro bono service focused on sav- 

ing political asylum seekers from deportation. He was then hired by the pharmaceutical manufac- 

urer Bristol Myers-Squibb in New Jersey and rose to become its as- 

sistant general counsel for litiga- tion, handling complex disputes as far away as Shanghai, China last August. His easy-going spon- 

taneous wit charmed even his legal opponents. In 2005, Chris moved his family to a suburb of Princeton, New Jersey to spend more time with his daughters. In addition to his parents, Chris is survived by his wife, Lisa Poye Wren, and his daughters, Mad- 

eleine (10), Alexandra (7); and his 

sister, Celia Wren. 

Allison W. Smith MSEL’07, 31, of Portsmouth, NH, died on February 12, 2015 from injuries sustained in an auto accident in Milton, NH. Born in Harrisonville, MO, Allison graduated from Pem- 

brook Hill School in Kansas City. She earned a BA in environmental policy at Dartmouth, where she was on the varsity cross country and track teams and an enthusi- 

astic member of the Dartmouth Outing Club. She earned her MS in environmental law at Vermont Law School and would soon have completed an MBA at Babson Col- 

lege. Deeply concerned about the long term climate implications of the nation’s energy choices, Allison had a unique ability to help people understand compli- 

ated subjects. Before joining New England States Committee on Electricity (NESCOE) as an analyst, she worked at Synapse Energy Economics and Anbaric Transmission. At NESCOE, which represents the collective interests of the six New England states, Al- 

lison focused on forward-looking clean energy issues like solar power. In addition to being an accomplished marathoner and triathlete, Allison was also an avid hiker, biker and swimmer. She completed the Boston Mara- 

thon in 2011, qualifying for the New York Marathon. She was a devoted friend who lit up the lives of others with her warmth, caring and infectious energy. Allison is survived by her wife Lucy Pollard, two brothers, Garry and 

her parents, Gary and 

Susan Lewis, two brothers, Garry 

survived by her parents, Gary and 

her parents, Gary and 

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Your Memories. Your VLS.

HOMECOMING 2015, JUNE 26-28

C
ome home to Vermont Law School for Homecoming 2015. Whether it's your reunion year ('0 and '5)—or not—all are welcome to participate in this fun-filled, memorable VLS weekend this summer. We will celebrate in style at the Killington Grand Resort Hotel, and we'll share memories on campus—catching up with old friends, connecting with your favorite professors, and revisiting the place you once called home.

To reserve a room at Killington's Grand Hotel at the special VLS rate, call 800-282-9955, and mention "Vermont Law School Alumni Reunion."

REGISTER NOW AT connect.vermontlaw.edu/homecoming2015
ONE LAW SCHOOL'S DEFINITION OF SERVICE.