From a pool of more than 20,000 alumni, Michigan Law has chosen three inaugural recipients of the new Distinguished Alumni Award: the Honorable Harry T. Edwards, ’65; Robert B. Fiske Jr., ’55, HLLD ’97; and Richard W. Pogue, ’53.

“We are thrilled to name these exemplary alumni as the first honorees of this prestigious new award,” says Dean Evan Caminker. “Their professional achievements are of the highest order, and their dedication to the Law School is unsurpassed.”

The dean presented the awards at a ceremony on September 16 in the new Robert B. Aikens Commons.

Edwards, of Washington, D.C., was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 1980 and served as chief judge from 1994–2001. He began his legal career with Seyfarth, Shaw, Fairweather & Geraldson in Chicago. He was a tenured member of the Michigan Law and Harvard Law faculties, and also taught at the Harvard Institute for Educational Management. Edwards has served as a member and chairman of the Board of Directors of Amtrak. In 2006, he was appointed co-chair of the Forensics Science Committee at the National Academy of Sciences, which issued a seminal report in 2009 calling for major reform. He is the coauthor of five books and author of scores of law review articles.

Fiske, of Darien, Connecticut, began his legal career at Davis Polk & Wardwell in 1955 and currently is a senior counsel in the firm’s litigation department. His extensive experience as a government prosecutor includes service as assistant U.S. attorney and U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and as independent counsel in the Whitewater investigation. He serves on the Judicial Compensation Commission established by the New York Legislature to determine the compensation of New York State judges. At Michigan Law, Fiske is the benefactor of the Fiske Fellowship Program for Government Service, now 10 years old (see story, p. 54). He serves on President Mary Sue Coleman’s Advisory Group, the Dean’s Advisory Council, and the Development and Alumni Relations Committee.

Pogue, of Shaker Heights, Ohio, became managing partner of Jones Day in 1985, guiding the firm in significant growth and entrance into international markets. He specialized in antitrust and corporate takeover defense and currently is a senior advisor at Jones Day. Pogue, a past chair of the Antitrust Law Section of the American Bar Association, also has been active in many civic leadership roles in Cleveland and Northeast Ohio. At Michigan Law, he created and taught a course in “The Business of Law” and endowed a fund to sponsor programming in this area. The inaugural chair (since 2006) of the Dean’s Advisory Council, Pogue is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Service Award from the U-M Alumni Association, its highest award.—BF

To submit a nomination for the 2012 Distinguished Alumni Award, please visit www.law.umich.edu/alumniandfriends/Pages/DistinguishedAlumniAward.aspx.

Michigan Law has rolled out an improved Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP), carefully tailored to mesh with newly revised federal guidelines, for public-service graduates and others whose legal careers provide lower salaries.

The plan is designed to help ensure that Michigan Law graduates aren’t deterred by student debt from using their top-tier legal educations to pursue their dreams.

Among the plan’s key provisions: loan repayment assistance for graduates working full time in a law-related job earning up to $88,000, with no out-of-pocket contributions toward federal loans for those earning less than $50,000; availability to students working in both the public and private sectors; and federal loan forgiveness for graduates working in the public sector after 10 years (graduates must be enrolled in the government’s income-based repayment plan in order to be considered for Michigan’s program).

Michigan’s new program was designed to enhance the federal loan program, the Income Based Repayment (IBR) Plan. Under both programs, income—not career type—is the key factor. Michigan makes the entire required IBR payment if the graduate’s salary is $50,000 or less—and continues to make payments on a decreasing basis until the graduate’s salary reaches $88,000.

Under the federal program, if the salary is low enough, the required payments don’t cover the interest on the original loan, so the principal increases. Michigan’s program is designed to avoid that problem by creating a reserve account for those who qualify. The Law School deposits money to cover unpaid interest accruing on the debt into these reserve accounts, and graduates who leave the LRAP program after two or more years can ask that the funds be applied toward the unpaid interest.

For more information, visit www.law.umich.edu/LRAP or contact the Financial Aid Office at lawfinaid@umich.edu or 734.764.5289.—JM
Dean Evan Caminker says a recent U.S.-China law deans’ summit in Beijing and a lecture at one of China’s strongest law schools helped to reinforce ties between Michigan Law and the world’s most populous country.

“This is a vital time for Michigan Law—and all U.S. law schools—to focus on global issues. China is particularly important right now because of its influence on the world stage, and because of its rapidly changing legal landscape,” Caminker says. “Michigan Law has had strong ties with China for more than a century, and I am pleased that we are continuing to build on that relationship.”

Participants in the Sino-U.S. Deans’ Summit, in addition to Dean Caminker, included the deans of Berkeley, Chicago, Georgetown, Penn, Stanford, Virginia, and Yale, and the major Chinese law schools, including Peking University, China People’s University, China University of Politics and Law, and Tsinghua Law School, all in Beijing, and national powerhouses like East China University of Politics and Law in Shanghai, Southwest University of Politics and Law in Chongqing, and Xiamen University in the Fujian Province. At the end of the Summit, the Chinese and U.S. law deans issued a joint statement in which they outlined shared principles. Those included recognition of and support for the rule of law, and the objective of establishing ongoing two-way collaboration between top U.S. and Chinese law schools. Dean Caminker was joined at the summit by Professor of Law Nicholas C. Howson, a specialist in Chinese law, and Virginia Gordan, assistant dean for international affairs at Michigan Law, who has been involved with China-U.S. legal exchange for more than two decades.

At the conclusion of the summit, Caminker visited China People’s University and its law school to give a lecture to a large group of Chinese scholars and students. Entitled “Behind the Burgundy Curtain: How the Supreme Court Really Works,” the lecture detailed the dean’s behind-the-scenes insights on how the U.S. Supreme Court operates.

During the visit, Caminker, Howson, and Gordan met with the dean and leadership of the China People’s University Law School—ranked as the number-one law school in the PRC—to continue discussions on increased cooperation and exchange between the two schools. After returning to Ann Arbor, Howson commented, “The Deans’ Summit was very useful—an unprecedented opportunity to get many of the most prominent U.S. and Chinese law deans in one room, talking about shared problems in the most concrete and honest way possible. The follow-up visit to Renda Law School, formerly led by Dean Wang Liming (a research scholar at Michigan Law in 1989–90), made even stronger the ties between Michigan Law School and China’s most impressive law teaching institution.”

Top: Dean Caminker addresses the law deans’ summit in Beijing. Middle: Dean Han Dayuan of China People’s University Law School, Dean Caminker, Assistant Dean for International Affairs Virginia Gordan, and Professor Nicholas C. Howson. Bottom: Dean Caminker gives a lecture about the Supreme Court of the United States at the China People’s University.
Designed for Success: New Office of Career Planning

A beefed-up and retooled Office of Career Planning debuted this summer with the aim of helping Michigan Law grads become even more marketable to employers than they already are—which, based on the office’s existing strengths, is no easy task.

The most dramatic change in the new office—which will be known formally as the Office of Career Planning for the Public, Private, and Nonprofit Sectors—is the merging of the Office of Public Service and Office of Career Services. The new entity is led by Assistant Dean Susan Guindi, ’90, who began her career at the Law School in 1995 as the first associate director in the Office of Public Service, before being selected to lead the Office of Career Services in 1998. Her own path, which includes two clerkships and private practice at a large D.C. firm, equips her well for carrying out one of the missions of the new office: allowing students to explore opportunities in a variety of practice areas more seamlessly.

But the key motive for reorganizing the office, Guindi said, was the actual course of most students’ and graduates’ professional lives.

“In studying the careers of our students and alumni, we’ve learned that most enjoy a combination of opportunities across public, private, and nonprofit sectors,” Guindi says. “It makes sense to structure the office to mirror that fact.”

The reorganization brings with it additional counseling staff, more programming for career planning and networking, post-graduate and summer funding opportunities to allow students to explore different practice options, and more outreach to employers outside the school’s traditional network. It will help Michigan Law continue developing the strong, well-rounded academic and clinical programs for which it is recognized globally.

Alyson Robbins joined the office as the new public interest director. Previously, she was a staff attorney at the Family Law Project. In addition, the office has hired Gary McGinnis from Sidley Austin as an attorney counselor. Finally, two part-time employees also joined the staff: Erin Dougherty, ’08, will help students with the Skadden Fellowship application process, and Sarah DeYoung, ’01, will help students who are interested in exploring criminal prosecution or criminal defense positions.

“We are committed to beginning the career counseling relationship with our students, literally, before they’re even students,” says Sarah Zearfoss, ’92, senior assistant dean for admissions, financial aid, and career planning. “And we continue long after they graduate and leave Ann Arbor. These organizational improvements will allow us not merely to continue helping them find top-tier opportunities, but to improve our efforts—whether the opportunities they seek are in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors, or some combination of all.”—JM
DIRECTORS’ COLLEGE FOR
GLOBAL BUSINESS & LAW
University of Michigan Law School

MLaw Launching Bold New Directors’ College

First step for invitation-only education opportunity for corporate directors and officers: India and China

Michigan Law’s inaugural Directors’ College for Global Business and Law, featuring experts from academia, think tanks, and international business and practice, is being designed with business in India and China in mind.

The inaugural College is an exclusive, invitation-only gathering for corporate directors and senior business leaders and will be held April 18–20, 2012, at the Ritz-Carlton in Washington, D.C. The gathering will feature sophisticated analysis and advice regarding issues that face directors and officers of leading international companies engaging with business and finance around the globe, especially in Asia.

Foremost on the list of topics at the event, said Directors’ College organizer Professor Vikramaditya Khanna, is directors’ and officers’ exposure to liability in China and India, and corporate liability for U.S. multinationals investing in those Asian powerhouse economies. Other key topics will include: corporate law and governance in Asia, domestic and cross-border capital markets, specific issues arising on investment (e.g., environmental, labor, land acquisition), specific issues on selling products and services in India and China, the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; and political, economic, and legal and regulatory risk evaluation and amelioration.

“There is a tremendous amount of growth in markets outside the United States, especially in China and India,” said Khanna, who is an expert on corporate and securities laws, the law in India, corporate crime, corporate governance in emerging markets, and law and economics. “With Michigan Law School’s unique and long-standing strength in international corporate law and cross-border securities regulation, we are in a strong position to help senior corporate officials maximize their companies’ potential globally, and address challenges which can determine the success or failure of their global business.”

The discussion won’t be limited to business in India and China. Corporate governance, insider trading, corporate executive liability, Dodd-Frank, and recent enforcement activities within the United States also will be covered.

“A shrinking world calls for business leaders and lawyers who are accustomed to working across national borders,” said Dean Evan Caminker. “Our rich international law tradition stretches back to our founding, and our history of producing some of the top minds in business goes back just as far. The Directors’ College is a natural outgrowth of our history, and we’re eager to greet the business leaders of today and tomorrow this April.”

A few of the leading Michigan Law academics participating in the College along with Khanna include Professor Nicholas C. Howson, who is an expert in Chinese law and legal institutions, corporate law, and securities regulation; Professor Michael Barr, who recently returned from a stint as assistant Treasury secretary for financial institutions, who is an expert on international finance, transnational law, and financial institutions; Professor and Associate Dean Mark West, an expert on Japan; Professor Dan Crane, an expert on both domestic and international antitrust; Professor David Uhlmann, the Justice Department’s former top environmental crimes prosecutor; and Professor Alicia Davis, a mergers and acquisitions expert.

Experts from private practice and the corporate world will include global business leaders, renowned judges and jurists, former and current enforcement officials, and many more. The list of invited and confirmed speakers who will present at the inaugural Directors’ College is available at the Directors’ College for Global Business and Law website: www.law.umich.edu/directorscollege.—JM