

## From Selling Carpets to Starting Groupon

By Julie Halpert

When Eric Lefkofsky, '93, was a first-year student at U-M, his friend's father, who owned a carpet store, offered his son and Lefkofsky the chance to sell carpet remnants to students in dorms out of the back of a van, keeping half of the profits. By his sophomore year, Lefkofsky (who earned his undergraduate degree at U-M in 1991) and his partner,

Noah Siegel, had sold \$40,000 worth of carpet. One year later, the two took their business on the road, expanding to five universities and generating \$300,000 a year in gross sales. "I realized that I liked making money," says Lefkofsky. "I loved being an entrepreneur and figuring out how to get a business off the ground."

Since then, he has proven himself to be one of the country's most successful entrepreneurs. He's the largest shareholder in Groupon.com Inc., which provides online coupons at significant discounts. The company reportedly had revenues as high as \$760 million in 2010.

At age 42, Lefkofsky has been dubbed one of Forbes' 15 "billionaires in the making" and a "serial entrepreneur." Still, it's not the money that motivates the Southfield, Michigan, native, but the thrill of taking an idea and turning it into a hugely profitable company.

He owns 20 of them as cofounder of LightBank in Chicago, a venture fund that focuses on helping fledgling technology businesses thrive.

Lefkofsky says that he honed his business skills while at U-M: "Everything that ultimately I became as an adult was molded and touched when I was in Ann Arbor." In his junior year, he used profits from the carpet business to launch Mascot Sportswear, which provided children's clothes with college team logos for Big Ten universities. Within two years, it was generating more than \$2 million in sales. Lefkofsky ran the company and managed the staff while juggling his undergraduate classes and, later, law school at U-M. "Some people watch TV, read books, or work out. This was my hobby," he says.

After graduating, he immediately turned his hobby into a career by heading into business with Brad Keywell, '93, who became a close friend in law school. The decision was a no-brainer. "I like helping build businesses and starting companies and bringing them to life," Lefkofsky says. In brainstorming for the next big thing, he looks for concepts that "fix something that's broken." Specifically, Lefkofsky wants to harness the power of the Internet to fix that broken element. He's drawn to businesses that can take advantage of social networks, such as Twitter and Facebook. Predicting what will succeed is "more of an art than a science," he says.

Though he's had his share of dark moments—one of his companies, Brandon Apparel Group, became mired in debt, for example—it hasn't deterred him. "For me, failure is a great tool for learning. If you're going to take risks and build businesses, not everything you do can be successful."

Groupon was the brainchild of one of Lefkofsky's employees, Andrew Mason. His initial business, called The Point, used collective action, through the Internet, to help people solve social problems. But it was unsuccessful, so Mason approached Lefkofsky about changing the focus, to apply the same concept to saving money instead of solving problems. Lefkofsky loved the idea. He agreed to become the initial investor, plunking down \$1 million. The notion of the "group coupon" became Groupon in November 2008.

"Almost from its inception, the business began to take off," Lefkofsky says. "We found a way to get people together and say here are things you can experience and buy, and it gets spread virally."

*Editor's note: A version of this article first appeared on LSA Wire, the online complement to LSA Magazine at U-M. It is reprinted with permission.*



## 1959



**Wendell A. Smith** has been chosen to receive the first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the Community Associations Institute.

The award recognizes his years of leadership at the state and national levels of the Community Associations Institute. He is a partner in the Real Estate Department and member of the Community Association, Land Use, Planned Real Estate, and Redevelopment Practice Groups at Greenbaum, Rowe, Smith & Davis LLP.

## 1968

**Lawrence Glazer's** book *Wounded Warrior: The Rise and Fall of Michigan Governor John Swainson* has been awarded the Independent Publisher 2011 Gold Medal for biography. The award was announced May 23 at the start of the Book Expo America convention in New York. The book was published by Michigan State University Press. Glazer served as a Michigan Circuit Judge for 15 years, retiring in 2003.



**Edward Goldman**, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Michigan Medical School and former associate vice president and deputy

general counsel for the University of Michigan Health System, has been elected a fellow of the American Health Lawyers Association, the association's highest honor. Currently the association has more than 10,000 members, of whom only 60 are fellows.

**Douglas Graham** has been appointed vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Oil-Dri Corporation of America. Graham joins Oil-Dri from Exelon Corp., where he most recently served as assistant general counsel at its Commonwealth Edison Co. subsidiary, and focused on business counseling, governmental relations, compliance, and regulatory matters.



**Lee Hornberger's** article "Leave Provisions of the Labor Code of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam" was published in the Winter 2011 edition of the State Bar of Michigan's *Labor and Employment Lawnotes*. In addition, his article "Back in Indochina, Things Are a Bit Different" was published in the February 13, 2011, *Traverse City Record-Eagle*.

## 1969



**Robert Vercruyse**, the president, founder, director, and shareholder at the labor and employment law firm of Vercruyse Murray & Calzone P.C., recently served as moderator for a program presented by The Labor and Employment Law Committee of the Federal Bar Association, Eastern District of Michigan Chapter. Topics of the program included "Federal Summary Judgment Standard and Motions" and "Facilitating Settlement in the Federal System."

## 1971

**Paul Alexander** has joined Arnold & Porter LLP in its Silicon Valley office and will practice in the business litigation group. He is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. His practice has focused on civil trial work involving patent, trade secret, antitrust, unfair competition, and complex commercial litigation matters.



**Ed Kronk** has joined Brooks Wilkins Sharkey & Turco in Birmingham, Michigan. He focuses his practice on commercial litigation and product liability defense. He has represented automotive suppliers in state and federal courts, and in arbitrations, and is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Previously, he was a shareholder with Butzel Long.

## 1972

**H. Patrick Callahan** of Baker & Daniels LLP has been named to the national Board of Advisors of the Legal Sales and Service Organization, the only national organization focused on sales, service excellence, and process improvement in the legal profession. Callahan is a partner at Baker & Daniels, where he provides legal and business counsel to entrepreneurs, corporations, and other business and governmental entities.

## 1973



**Wendy Cole Lascher** has joined Ferguson Case Orr Paterson LLP in Ventura, California, and chairs the firm's Issues and Appeals Practice Group. Lascher advises trial lawyers and handles civil and criminal motions, writs, and appeals for lawyers and clients throughout California.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1974



**Michael A. Snapper**, a partner in the Grand Rapids, Michigan office of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, has been named an “All-Star” in BTI Consulting

Group’s annual list of “Client Service All-Stars.” A member of Barnes & Thornburg’s Labor & Employment Department, Snapper represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment law for a broad client base.

## 1975

The Chicago Society of Professional Journalists named **Timothy P. O’Neill** a finalist for the Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism in the area of commentary. He has written a monthly column on criminal law issues for the *Chicago Daily Law Bulletin* since 1994. He is a professor at The John Marshall Law School in Chicago.

## 1977



**Gary W. Klotz** has been elected chairman of the board of Community Choice Credit Union, a southeast Michigan-based credit union. He is an attorney and

shareholder in Butzel Long’s Detroit office, where he has represented employers in labor and employment law matters for more than 30 years.

**James Spaanstra**, a partner at Faegre & Benson, has been elected chairman of the Board of Trustees at the Colorado School of Mines. Initially appointed a member of the board of trustees in 2008, he has worked his entire 30-year career on major projects for extractive industries.

## 1978

**Christopher A. Lewis**, a partner at Blank Rome, has been named the firm’s chief diversity and inclusion officer. He will oversee the firm’s overall diversity initiatives and maintain his role as co-chair of the firm’s diversity committee.

**Barry N. Seidel** has joined the New York office of Dickstein Shapiro LLP as a partner in the firm’s Financial Restructuring & Bankruptcy Practice. His work includes representation of key stakeholders in the General Motors and Delphi bankruptcies, as well as numerous other companies impacted both directly and indirectly by major corporate insolvencies. He was previously a partner in the New York office of Butzel Long.

## 1979

**Jonathan R. Breuning** has joined Husch Blackwell’s Omaha office as a partner in the area of labor and employment law. Breuning has more than 30 years of experience representing public and private companies. He has practiced labor and employment law, health care law, and technology law as in-house counsel and in private practice.

**Thomas Van Dusen** of Bodman’s Troy, Michigan, office, was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, which drafts standard instructions for juries in civil cases. He is a member of the Litigation & Alternative Dispute Resolution Practice Group at Bodman and has broad experience in the areas of commercial, insurance, and personal injury defense.

## 1980



**G.A. Finch**, a senior partner at Hoogendoorn & Talbot LLP in Chicago, was elected to the board of managers of the Chicago Bar Association and

the board of directors of CBA Television Productions. He also received the Ida B. Platt Award from the Cook County Bar Association.

**Teresita J. Herbosa** was appointed by President Benigno S. Aquino III of the Philippines as chairman of the country’s Securities and Exchange Commission. Herbosa, a senior partner of the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala & Cruz Law Offices, is a top litigation lawyer.

## 1982



**Clarence (“Clay”) Armbrister**, chief of staff to Philadelphia’s mayor and former executive vice president of Temple University, became senior vice president

and chief of staff of The Johns Hopkins University in July. He works closely with the university’s president, Ronald J. Daniels, in coordinating initiatives across the university and managing short- and long-term priorities. He also oversees the finances and administration of the president’s office.



**David C. Bahls** has been elected managing officer of the Minneapolis-based law firm of Gray Plant Mooty. He previously served as the firm’s vice president and

has been a member of its board of directors for 11 years. He represents businesses and individuals on their transactional tax planning and structuring needs.



**Mark T. Boonstra**, a principal in the Ann Arbor office of Miller Canfield, has been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court to the Committee on Model

Civil Jury Instructions, which drafts standard instructions for juries in civil cases. He also was appointed by Governor Rick Snyder, ’82, to the Michigan Judges Retirement Board for a term ending March 31, 2015. He represents the general public on the board, which oversees the Judges Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan. At Miller Canfield, he co-chairs the firm’s Appellate Section and serves as deputy leader of the Litigation Group. ▶▶▶

## Storytelling With a Beat

By Clarissa Sansone

When Glynn Washington, '96, received his acceptance letter to Michigan Law, he was in Japan, just out of the shower, and wearing a towel, which, in the midst of his exuberance, fell to the floor—in front of the postman who had delivered the good news.... That's the way Washington tells it, anyway, and if there's one thing he knows how to do, it's tell an engaging story.

In 2007, Washington—then the director of The Center for Young Entrepreneurs at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business—had the opportunity to put his storytelling skills to the test. Ever a fan of public radio, Washington lamented the suburbanized, sterilized direction in which he thought the medium had been heading. "I wanted to preserve my right to complain," Washington says, so, to put some substance behind his words, when he heard about the Public Radio Talent Quest, he entered. With typical dramatic tension: Washington heard about the contest the day before the submission deadline, and stayed up all night, using Garage Band software to put together a two-minute submission.

More than three years, a few elimination rounds, and one pilot later, *Snap Judgment* premiered on public radio in the summer of 2010. Additionally, Washington launched a series of *Snap Judgment* television specials.

"Storytelling with a beat" is how *Snap Judgment* defines itself. "Our show is infused with a hip-hop sensibility," says Washington. The "beat," though, doesn't only refer to the program's pervasive musical accompaniment, but to the cadence and rhythm of a tale told well. And eloquently. "The show is very fast," notes Washington; it features "upwards of nine" stories per hour. "This is the Internet generation," Washington explains. "Forget the exposition. Get me to the story quickly and stop wasting my time."

A quick retelling of Washington's own colorful story, however, only skims the surface. Born in Detroit, Washington moved with his family to the countryside when he was still young. While there, the family joined an apocalyptic cult. While not a pleasant experience—in college Washington jumped at the chance to go to Japan "to clear my head" from the effects of doomsday preachers—being a member of The Worldwide Church of God nevertheless influenced his storytelling skills. "I studied at the feet of amazing charlatans," he remarks. "It was a storytelling seminar of the highest order."

Following college (Washington earned his bachelor's degree in 1992, in addition to his 1996 JD, at U-M), he returned to Asia and did community development work. "I went to law school," he explains, "as a tool to advance my nonprofit career. I've been running nonprofits since graduating from law school."

His legal education and his storyteller's gift both have served him professionally. "How you actually move policy is by getting people to understand the story you're telling," he says, "trying to get people to put themselves in someone else's shoes." And his

law degree is a valuable tool in his current storytelling mission. "Being a host and telling a story is the very least of what I have to do. This is a start-up," Washington says of *Snap Judgment*. He appreciates his "ability to analyze extraordinary amounts of information quickly," which he learned at Michigan Law, and considers his law degree "probably more helpful than anything else" in "making sure this organization is sound."

"One thing I took away from law school is that whoever tells the best story wins. A legal education is, in many ways, a storytelling education. You have to put your facts together in a way that is more compelling than the other guy."

As with Washington's nonprofit work, *Snap Judgment* also "tries to put somebody in someone else's shoes." And it isn't as effortless as Washington makes it sound on his quick-paced show. "Writing's hard," he says simply. "Really good stories are crafted. It's a very painful and deliberate process, but it's got to sound like you just thought it up." He adds, "I see storytelling as a type of alchemy," with its ability to transport people to places they'd never go otherwise.

He gets practice every night, though, telling stories to daughter Bahia, 7, and son Quincy, 4. "They are the hardest core audience of all. Every night, they want a brand new story. It's been tremendously helpful to my storytelling," Washington says, and "if they don't dig it, they let me know in a hurry."



CHRISTIAN POLLACK

## A Matter of Trust

By John Masson



*“Establishing that connection  
between the people and the  
government is key...”*

—Wallace Stevens,  
in a letter dated July 29, 1942



Joe Burke certainly isn't the first attorney to grind out a seemingly endless series of 14-hour days. But not many can say they grind those days out in a place like Lashkar Gah.

Burke, '89, served until recently as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State in Afghanistan. His year-long posting as the senior American civilian in the British-led Provincial Reconstruction Team for Helmand Province had him helping to lead a group of about 120 civilians and a similar number of soldiers and Marines with the overarching goal of connecting the Afghan government to the Afghan people.

It was a tall order at times, says Burke, who worked for 15 years as a commercial litigator before joining the State Department.

“There's an endemic culture here, a way of thinking that if you're in government, the government is designed to help you and your tribe,” Burke says. “The notion that you're supposed to represent all the people? There's no history, there's no culture of that here.”

But during the time Burke was in Afghanistan, the Obama administration's counterinsurgency strategy placed more emphasis on protecting the Afghan people—and, more important, empowering Afghanistan's government to protect its own people—than it did on killing the enemy. So strengthening the bonds of trust between the people and the Afghan government became more important than ever.

Burke helped facilitate that trust-building by working closely with the provincial governor. One step down the chain, he supervised State Department colleagues in District Stabilization Teams in 10 of the 12 districts that make up Helmand Province.

“It's starting to work. ... I can see the people are more connected to thinking the government can be a solution—even though they don't have a history here of trusting the government,” Burke says. “Establishing that connection between the people and the government is key, because that connection will lead the Afghan people to reject the Taliban insurgency rather than depending on foreign troops.”

The challenges were unrelenting. Much of Helmand Province is unforgiving desert—the temperature one early May day in Lashkar Gah, west of Kandahar and about 400 miles southwest of the capital, Kabul, was 105 degrees. What little fertile ground is available—a narrow greenbelt on the banks of the Helmand River—helps the province grow poppies that produce half the world's heroin.

Furthermore, Burke adds, the fates placed Afghanistan in the middle of one of the world's most fractious regions, with nearby neighbors such as Russia, Pakistan, Iran, and India all jockeying for position.

During the summer, Burke began his next assignment: working at the U.S. Mission to the European Union in Brussels as an economic officer. While Belgium stands to be considerably more temperate in both climate and politics than his previous posting, he hasn't forgotten Afghanistan, or the way he customarily kissed the photos of his wife and three small children before he strapped on his body armor and emerged into the desert heat of Lashkar Gah.

“This is not Philadelphia in 1776, not by a long shot,” Burke says. “But we're trying to plant some seeds so the government can begin to represent all the people—to give the people an opportunity to have a government that isn't perfect, but is at least trying.”

**Michael P. Coakley**, a Miller Canfield securities lawyer, recently coauthored “The New Form ADV Part 2 and the ‘Plain English’ Movement of the SEC, FINRA, and Michigan’s OFIR” in the Spring 2011 *Michigan Business Law Journal*, a publication of the State Bar of Michigan. Coakley practices commercial litigation, including securities, fraud, unfair competition, trade secrets, trademarks, trade names, commercial transactions, banks and banking, and insurance.



**Michael P. McGee**, a principal and public finance lawyer in the Detroit office of Miller Canfield, has received a 2011 Outstanding Service Award from the Michigan Municipal

League for his longtime commitment to the league and Michigan’s communities. At Miller Canfield, McGee has served as bond counsel and underwriters’ counsel for hundreds of transactions in various areas, including economic development, transit, and transportation.

**C. Daniel Motsinger**, a partner at Krieg DeVault, was elected chair of the board of directors of the American Board of Certification of Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Attorneys for 2011. His experience in creditors’ rights, bankruptcy, and commercial law spans more than 25 years, and he has been certified in business bankruptcy by the ABC since 1994.



**Daniel B. Tukel**, shareholder and chair of Butzel Long’s Labor and Employment Law Department, is a winner of the *Thomas M. Cooley Law Review* 2011

Distinguished Supreme Court Brief Award, presented in June. The award is given in recognition of the most scholarly briefs filed before the Michigan Supreme Court, as determined by a panel of jurists. The brief for which he was honored addressed the issue of the proper venue for a discrimination claim alleging violation of the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.



**George Vincent**, managing partner and chairman of the board of directors at Dinsmore & Shohl, was selected as the 2011 chair of the Cincinnati

USA Regional Chamber.

**Sara Zivian Zwickl** of Zivian & Zwickl in Bingham Farms, Michigan, along with **Robert Zivian, ’95**, was featured in an article by the State Bar of Michigan about lawyers providing pro bono assistance in a family law case.

1983



**Jose D. Padilla** has been named to the national board for the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education by United States Secretary of

Education Arne Duncan. Padilla also was named one of 100 influential Hispanics in the nation in the October 2010 issue of *Hispanic Business* magazine. He is vice president and general counsel of DePaul University in Chicago.

1984

**Kevin W. Saunders** had his most recent book, *Degradation: What the History of Obscenity Tells Us about Hate Speech*, published by New York University Press.

1985

**Emil Arca** has joined Hogan Lovells US LLP as a partner in the firm’s New York City office. He previously was a partner with Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP for 16 years. His practice is focused on international debt capital markets and structured finance transactions originating in emerging markets throughout the world.

**Robert A. Boonin**, attorney and shareholder with Butzel Long and a frequent speaker on labor and employment matters, was featured at the Society for Human Resource Management’s Annual Conference & Exposition in Las Vegas in June. He also is chair-elect of the Wage and Hour Defense Institute.



**Robert M. Heinrich** has joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP as a partner in its Trusts and Estates Department. He will be located in Honigman’s Oakland County,

Michigan, office. Heinrich will concentrate his practice on estate planning and wealth management for high-net-worth individuals.

1986

**Thomas O. Bean** has joined Verrill Dana, LLP, as a partner in the firm’s Litigation and Trial Group, based in the Boston office. He represents companies and individuals in business disputes, companies experiencing financial distress or dealing with suppliers or customers in financial distress, and commercial lenders.



**Eric Brunstad**, a partner at Dechert LLP, was awarded his LLM from the Yale Law School in June, was accepted into Yale’s JSD program, and anticipates completing his dissertation by

the spring of 2013. He has taught a variety of courses at Yale during the past 20 years, including bankruptcy, secured transactions, and federal jurisdiction, and also has taught at Harvard Law School. He is currently working on a revised course book on secured transactions with J. J. White, ’62, the Robert A. Sullivan Professor of Law.



# CLASS NOTES



**Megan P. Norris** was re-elected to serve a two-year term as managing director of Miller Canfield in Detroit. She is a principal at the firm and is leader of the

Labor and Employment Law Group. Norris is a nationally recognized expert on the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Family and Medical Leave Act.



**Kevin Tottis** has been named to the Executive Committee of the Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle's U.S. Group. He also

chairs the Copyright Law Committee of the American Intellectual Property Association. He heads a commercial and intellectual property boutique firm in Chicago.

## 1987

**Reginald Turner**, a member of Clark Hill in Detroit, has been appointed chair of the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. The commission is a partnership between corporate legal departments and law firms working together to create leadership and economic opportunities for diverse lawyers within the ABA and the legal profession.



**Bradley C. Weber**, a partner in the national law firm of Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell, has been elected chairman of the Dallas Bar Association for 2011. He works out of the firm's Dallas office.

## 1988

**Cathy Ann Bencivengo** has been nominated by President Obama to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. She is a U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of California, based in San Diego, a position in which she has served since 2005. Prior to joining the bench, she spent her entire legal career at the law firm now known as DLA Piper US, LLP, beginning as a litigation associate in 1988 (when the firm was known as Gray Cary Ames & Frye), and becoming a partner in 1996. At the law firm, her practice focused on intellectual property litigation, and she served as national co-chair of the firm's Patent Litigation Practice.

**Mark H. Brain** has been appointed a judge of the Maricopa County (Arizona) Superior Court. He previously served as a commissioner for the same court, presiding over juvenile cases. Prior to his appointment as a court commissioner, he worked for the law firm of Fennemore Craig from 1988 to 2002 and the firm of Peshkin & Kotalik from 2002 to 2006, specializing in civil matters.

**Gabriel ("Jack") Chin** has joined the faculty of the University of California at Davis School of Law after eight years on the faculty of the University of Arizona College of Law. His teaching and research interests are immigration law, criminal procedure, and race and law. He previously held faculty appointments at the University of Cincinnati College of Law and Western New England College School of Law and has been a visiting professor at New York University School of Law.

**Douglas Graham** has been appointed vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Oil-Dry Corporation of America in Chicago.



**Charlotte Johnson** was named dean of the college of Dartmouth. She was vice president and dean of the college at Colgate University, and, prior to that, director of academic

services and assistant dean of student affairs at Michigan Law.

## 1989



**Jennifer L. Sherman** has been appointed chief administrative officer of the Federal Signal Corporation, Oak Brook, Illinois. In addition to her current

duties as senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary, Sherman is responsible for the Corporate Services Department encompassing all legal, human resource, government affairs, and IT functions. She resides in Hinsdale, Illinois, with her husband, **Douglas Cherry, '89**, and their five sons.

**Paul Thompson** has joined the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney LLP as a partner in the Corporate Practice Group in the firm's Denver office. His practice focuses on U.S. and cross-border banking and credit finance matters, cross-border joint ventures and acquisitions, and U.S. securities matters. He previously was a partner at Holme Roberts & Owen LLP, where he led the International Practice Group.

## 1990

**Christine M. Castellano** has been appointed vice president, international law, and deputy general counsel of Corn Products International Inc., a global ingredient provider to the food, beverage, brewing, and pharmaceutical industries as well as numerous industrial sectors. In April, she also received the American Bar Association International Law Section's Outstanding Corporate Counsel Award.



## In Good Hands

By Lori Atherton

There's no typical workday for Michele Coleman Mayes, '74. It would be misguided to expect otherwise from the executive vice president and general counsel of Allstate Insurance Company.

"I wear multiple hats, depending on the needs of the company," she says. "It varies, and that's what makes it challenging. At the end of the day, I'm here to assist my clients to achieve their business objectives in a way that manages risks."

Mayes joined Allstate in 2007 and took the helm of one of the largest legal departments in the country, comprising nearly 600 lawyers and an equal number of professional and support staff. The size of the legal department and the complexity of the legal issues, coupled with the opportunity to work for an iconic brand and try different initiatives, was intriguing to Mayes.

"I like challenges, and this is an industry I knew little about," she recalls. "The joke was, I didn't even own a car, because I lived in New York City for years and didn't need one."

Mayes began her career with the U.S. Department of Justice, serving as assistant U.S. attorney in Detroit and Brooklyn. She transitioned into the corporate sector six years later, working first at the Burroughs Corporation (later Unisys), then Colgate-Palmolive Company and Pitney Bowes before joining Allstate.

Becoming a general counsel, Mayes says, "was not my idea." A former Burroughs officer planted the seed by asking if Mayes had considered the role. "She piqued my interest, and from that discussion, I started to think about it more reflectively."

She made her aspirations known to her then-boss, who, according to Mayes, said she wasn't ready for the role. He promised to help prepare her, and when he moved from Unisys to Colgate-Palmolive in 1991, he asked Mayes to join him. For the next 11 years, she held various positions that afforded her the legal and business experience needed to become general counsel.

"What I really enjoy is dealing with people and all the relationships I must have in order to perform this role well," says Mayes, a



CHRIS LAKE

member of Allstate's senior leadership team. "I really get a charge from being the leader of the department. I work with many in-house lawyers who are trying to manage their careers, and I like helping them to develop the risk appetite and courage to do what they can do instead of just what they are doing."

Mayes shares her insights in the forthcoming book *Courageous Counsel: Conversations with Women General Counsel in the Fortune 500*, of which she is coauthor with Kara Baysinger, a partner at SNR Denton. The book includes profiles of about 40 women, including Mayes, whose reason for participating "is to inspire people and change expectations. There are currently 94 or 95 (female) GCs in Fortune 500 companies. That shouldn't be the pinnacle."

Mayes—who earned her undergraduate degree at U-M in 1971—says of her time at Michigan Law: "It was a very rigorous experience that prepared me well for both life's uncertainties and also all of its positives. You can never underestimate honing the skill of critical thinking. Really being able to dissect what's being told to you to see if it stands up to scrutiny—that's the training you receive from institutions such as Michigan."



**Gregory T. Everts**, a partner with Quarles & Brady's Commercial Litigation Group based in Madison, Wisconsin, received a Pro Bono Award from the Seventh Circuit Bar

Association. He is a business and intellectual property litigator with extensive experience in trials, hearings, arbitrations, settlement negotiations, and defense of federal and state regulatory enforcement actions.

**James R. Marsh** has been honored by Legal Services of the Hudson Valley (New York) with its first Child Advocacy Award. Marsh is the founder and former executive director of Children's Law Center in Washington, D.C. A managing partner of The Marsh Law Firm PLLC, he is a commentator and author on legal issues affecting children.

**David Meyer** has been named the dean and Mitchell Franklin Professor of Law at Tulane University School of Law. Previously he was associate dean for academic affairs and law professor at the University of Illinois College of Law. A leading scholar of constitutional and family law, Meyer represented the United States as the national reporter on family law at the past three congresses of the International Academy of Comparative Law and has lectured and published extensively on family law.

**Ron Wheeler's** recent paper, "Does WestlawNext Really Change Everything: The Implications of WestlawNext on Legal Research," made the Weekly Top 5 Papers on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) for the week of March 11, 2011, and was published in the summer 2011 issue of *Law Library Journal*. The article can be found at [ssrnblog.com/2011/03/11/weekly-top-5-papers-march-11-2011/](http://ssrnblog.com/2011/03/11/weekly-top-5-papers-march-11-2011/). Wheeler is an associate professor of law and director of the law library at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

## 1991

**Stephen L. Scharf** was hired by Brooks Kushman as a senior attorney based at the firm's Southfield, Michigan, headquarters. Scharf will further expand the firm's trademark practice with his more than 20 years of IP law experience and specialized focus on domestic and international trademark matters, including trademark registration, enforcement, protection, and dispute resolution.

**Christopher A. White** has been named managing director and head of investment banking at Janney Capital Markets in Philadelphia. He has extensive Wall Street experience and has been involved in all aspects of business operations, including investment banking, sales and trading, research, and general management. He joins Janney from Cowen Group Inc., where he held a number of senior management positions, including chief of staff and chief operating officer.



## Daughter of the Killing Fields

After the country's ruling regime held her captive, killed her parents, and executed people in front of her and other imprisoned children, one might assume that Theary Seng, '00, would want to stay far from Cambodia.

Yet she has chosen the country of her birth as her permanent home, and is the founder of the Cambodian Center for Justice & Reconciliation and the founding president of CIVICUS: Center for Cambodian Civic Education. Her goal with the two organizations is to pursue justice for people who were victimized by the Khmer Rouge or whose family members were buried in the regime's "killing fields." Seng also hopes to see a revitalization of her homeland.

"Cambodia has been known for its killing fields and only for the killing fields. But within the past several years it is also known for its beauty, for its history, its temples, for tourism."

The southeast Asian country also is known for the Khmer Rouge Tribunal (also called the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, or ECCC). The court tries serious crimes perpetrated during the 1975–79 Khmer Rouge regime, which was responsible for the genocide of an estimated 1.7 million people.

"Yes, we are trying crimes that were perpetrated against Cambodians," says Seng, who moved with surviving family members to Grand Rapids when she was nine and to southern California after that. "But they were really crimes against humanity, against human dignity."

Seng—author of the memoir *Daughter of the Killing Fields* (Fusion Press London, 2005), which will be available for the first time in North America in an updated version to be published by Seven Stories Press (NYC) later this year—became the first victim of the Khmer Rouge to apply and be accepted as an ECCC-recognized civil party. In 2008, she testified against the most senior surviving Khmer Rouge leader, Nuon Chea, also known as Brother Number Two because he was second in command to Khmer Rouge leader



ROLAND NEVEU

Pol Pot. Seng testified at the pretrial hearing of Chea, whose UN trial for crimes against humanity began during the summer.

"Under the reign of Mr. Nuon Chea," Seng said in her testimony, "when I was seven years old—my brother Daravuth [who also was imprisoned] even younger at four years old—I was put in prison where there was no due process. Arbitrary arrest, no charges made or given, arbitrary detention, inhumane conditions, shackles. The graves were my playground."

Seng's training as a lawyer has given her a keener insight into the tribunal process in Cambodia, as well as a platform for speaking to broad audiences. Her memoir and her testimony have made Seng one of the most visible Cambodians to speak on behalf of the Khmer Rouge's victims. She speaks frequently at international conferences and in the media, including CNN, the BBC, and many documentary films.

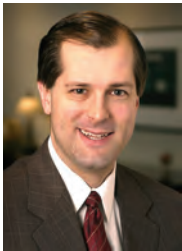
"When I was at Michigan Law School," she recalls, "I knew I wanted to be back in Cambodia. Part of wanting to be a lawyer was wanting to give voice to the entanglements back in Cambodia."—KV

## 1992



**Greg Gulia**, a partner at Duane Morris and head of the firm's international trademark practice, entertained the crowd at the firm's International

Trademark Association reception held at the Grand Hyatt in San Francisco in May. A professional musician, Gulia sang and played harmonica for the more than 600 trademark lawyers and others in attendance.



**Charles K. Maier** has been elected vice president of operations for the Minneapolis-based law firm of Gray Plant Mooty. His wide-ranging legal practice includes

complex business litigation, disputes involving closely held and family-owned businesses, and product liability cases, among others.

**Daniel D. Quick**, a member at Dickinson Wright PLLC, was named chair of the Civil Procedure and Courts Committee of the State Bar of Michigan for 2011–2012. He also was elected to a three-year term on the Oakland County Bar Association Board of Directors. He specializes in commercial and intellectual property litigation.

## 1993



**Jeffrey D. Moss** has joined Dawda Mann PLC in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, as a member, practicing in the areas of tax law, business and medical transactions, estate

planning, and tax-exempt nonprofit matters.

**Chris Nicastro** was named vice president, general counsel, and secretary for Bridgestone Americas Inc. in Nashville, Tennessee. He and his wife, **Linda Popovich Nicastro**, '93, live in Brentwood, Tennessee, with their three sons.

**Kathryn R. L. Rand** became dean of the University of North Dakota School of Law on July 1, after serving as interim dean for the past two years. She is the 16th dean and the first woman to serve in that capacity in the law school's 112-year history. She is a leading scholar in the area of Indian gaming law and is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

## 1994

**Jeannette E. Albo** has joined the Miami office of Jackson Lewis LLP as of counsel. She will continue to represent management exclusively in the area of employment litigation.



**Otto Beatty III**, co-owner of Columbus, Ohio-based E.E. Ward Moving & Storage Co. LLC, an agent of North American Van Lines Inc., and Specialized Transportation Inc.,

has been selected to join the National Minority Supplier Development Council Inc. Centers of Excellence (COE). The COE program enhances successful business relationships between corporations and Minority Business Enterprises by strengthening corporate minority supplier development processes. The COE provides corporations with access to exemplary Minority Business Enterprises, thereby aligning corporate desires to better serve their diverse markets and customers.



**Nate Kowalski** was named a shareholder of Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, a 135-attorney firm based in Cerritos, California. Focusing his practice on labor

and employment law, he primarily represents retailers, media and entertainment companies, municipalities, and superior courts. He has developed a unique expertise concerning the application of California's wage and hour laws to public agencies.



**Christopher P. Mazzoli** of Bodman PLC's Troy, Michigan, office presented two sessions on "Social Media in the Workplace": one as part of the human

resources track and one as part of the regulatory and risk updates track at the Michigan Banking Association BEST (Bankers Education Summit & Trade Show) Conference.

## 1995

**John Babala** has joined the international law firm of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP as a partner in the firm's corporate practice in its Los Angeles office. He serves as outside corporate counsel to companies operating in a broad array of industries, and works on mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, and capital markets and securities, as well as general business matters.

**Stephen Penner**, a deputy prosecuting attorney with the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office in Tacoma, Washington, in May obtained a four-count murder conviction against the getaway driver for the man who murdered four Lakewood Police officers in November 2009. In addition, the fourth title in his children's book series, *Professor Barrister's Dinosaur Mysteries*, was released by Ann Arbor publisher Nimble Books LLC.



# CLASS NOTES

**Robert Zivian** of Zivian & Neilson in Bingham Farms, Michigan, along with **Sara Zivian Zwickl**, '82, was featured in an article by the State Bar of Michigan about lawyers providing pro bono assistance in a family law case.

## 1996



**Nathaniel (Nate) Cade Jr.** has joined the Milwaukee office of Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan LLP as a partner in the firm's Litigation Practice Group. He handles products and professional liability cases, as well as complex commercial litigation, construction law, and insurance defense matters. He also serves as the firm's general counsel because of his ethics and risk-management experience.



**Amy J. Durant** of Bodman PLC's Ann Arbor office participated in a panel discussion on "Hot Topics" as part of the retail lending track at the Michigan Banking Association BEST (Bankers Education Summit & Trade Show) Conference.

**Rafael R. Lagos** has been appointed as an associate justice of the Sandiganbayan, an anti-corruption court, by the president of the Philippines.

**Michael J. Thomas** has authored an article, "Bar Admission Reform Through Selective Litigation: My Michigan Example," which appeared in a July 2011 issue of the weekly New Mexico lawyers' publication the *Bar Bulletin*. The article summarizes his efforts, which led the Michigan Supreme Court to amend the bar admission rules to allow a resigned State Bar of Michigan member to gain admission on motion on equal terms with others having sufficient practice experience. Thomas is a senior attorney at the

Carrillo Law Firm, P.C., in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Read more in an alumni profile about Thomas in the March 2011 issue of *Amicus*, the Law School's online newsletter.

## 1997

**Clayton Marsh** has been named deputy dean of the college at Princeton University after serving as university counsel since 2002. Marsh will direct a number of academic programs and initiatives, and advise undergraduates interested in pursuing independent concentrations.



**Matthew Miner** was named partner at White & Case in Washington, D.C., in May. He focuses his practice on white-collar enforcement and compliance matters, as well as congressional inquiries and committee investigations. Previously, he was Republican staff director for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee.

## 1999

**Benjamin A. Zainea** was elected to the management committee of Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones. He specializes in general business law, real estate law, estate planning, banking law, securities and finance, mergers and acquisitions, franchise law, tax law, and sports and entertainment law in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

## 2001

**Khalilah V. Spencer** has been named partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP and practices in the litigation department in the firm's Detroit office. She advises and represents corporate clients in a wide range of commercial litigation matters, including automotive supplier contract disputes and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) arbitrations and class actions.

## 2002

**Joshua B. Dobrowitsky** has been elected principal of Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C., a national intellectual property law firm. His practice in Troy, Michigan, involves preparing and prosecuting patent application in various technical arts, including wing and control surface design, aerodynamic testing, automotive design, biomedical systems, internal combustion engines, home improvement items, and electro-mechanical systems.

**Benjamin Mizer** has been appointed senior counsel in the Office of Legal Counsel at the U.S. Department of Justice.

## 2003

**David Blanchard** has been promoted to a principal of Nacht, Roumel, Salvatore, Blanchard & Walker. He focuses his practice on federal and state court litigation and appeals in employment, civil rights, government fraud and abuse, police misconduct, and criminal defense matters. He is president of the Michigan Employment Lawyers Association and president of the Washtenaw Association for Justice.

**Spencer P. Goodson** has been hired by Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, the largest health care focused law firm in the country, in its Indianapolis office. Goodson's practice focuses on the areas of business transactions and services, as well as health information systems. He often advises clients on issues pertaining to technology and intellectual property.

## 2004



**Diego Bernal** won a June election to become a member of the San Antonio, Texas, City Council. He has been the staff attorney at the Mexican American

Legal Defense and Educational Fund in San Antonio for the past six years, previously worked as a social worker, and has released two well-received hip-hop albums.

**Manu Bhardwaj** accepted a position as senior advisor in the U.S. Department of State, focusing on international communications and information policy. Prior to this assignment, he was also a political appointee in the U.S. Department of Commerce.



**Rebecca Chavez** has been promoted at The Kitch Firm in Detroit. She is an associate principal and concentrates her practice on corporate transactions.

**Seth A. Drucker** has been named partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP. He practices in the Commercial Law, Bankruptcy and Reorganization Department in the firm's Detroit office. His practice focuses on representing secured and unsecured creditors, debtors, and landlords in commercial bankruptcies, and advising clients regarding industry-specific bankruptcy issues.

**Daniel W. Linna Jr.**, a partner with Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn LLP, recently participated in a webinar entitled "Joint Defense Agreements: Benefits, Pitfalls and Best Practices." The webinar was presented by the Commercial Litigation Committee, Business Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan. He represents clients in a variety of commercial disputes in state and federal courts, including bankruptcy courts.

**Natalia Medley** has been promoted to a counsel in the firm of Crowell & Moring LLP, based in the firm's Washington, D.C., office, where she specializes in the Torts and Product Risk Management groups. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Noel Anketell Kramer in the District of Columbia Superior Court and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.



## Serving Those Who Served the Country

*By Sandra Svoboda*

Most of Brian Pandya's appearances in federal court involve biotechnology or computer software. Sometimes, though, he deals with very different issues: military injuries dating as far back as the Second World War.

Pandya, '04, is an associate with Wiley Rein law firm in Washington, D.C., where he specializes in patent work. He also volunteers with a Federal Court Bar Association program to screen cases for veterans who want to challenge the denials of their medical claims from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). If the cases have sufficient merit, a volunteer from the Federal Circuit Bar Association then represents the injured servicemen and women in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

"It's a good way to get experience working before the Federal Circuit, and it's all the better because you can help people that served in the armed forces," Pandya explains. "They served the country and a lot of them need help afterward getting the benefits they are owed by the government."

His pro bono clients are veterans of conflicts as early as World War II and up to the recent Afghanistan and Iraq deployments who have had their disability benefits denied by the CAVC.

"The big challenge is trying to establish a connection between the injury they may have suffered when they were in the military and their condition today," Pandya says. "That's what makes these cases interesting."

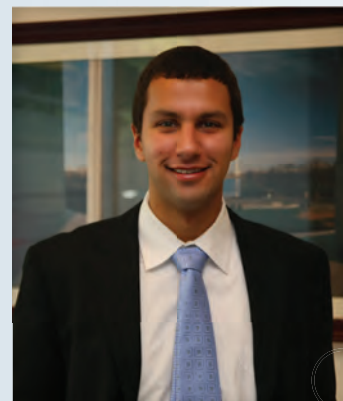
In screening the cases, Pandya must find a procedural error in the court's decision for the appeal to proceed since the appellate court doesn't determine errors of fact.

"You hate to see a case where the veteran has a meritorious claim and you think the CAVC made a mistake denying the benefits but there is no legal issue to raise to get the case up to the Federal Circuit," he says.

While some of the cases end with heartbreaking denials, Pandya is encouraged by what he calls a growing awareness and changing mindset in the military of the long-term effects of service-related injuries.

"A lot of what you see is somebody who suffered an injury while they were serving, not a battlefield injury but maybe they jumped out of a helicopter, injured their back, and had more pressing things to think about when they were on the battlefield," he says. "When they were discharged, they never got the condition treated, and now, 30, 40 years later, they have debilitating arthritis. I think, from what I've seen, people are now more conscious of such injuries."

Pandya, a mechanical engineering major at Penn State University, grew up in western Pennsylvania. While at Michigan Law, he met his wife, Julie, and they now live in Arlington, Virginia, with their son. His volunteer work recently was recognized by the Federal Circuit Bar Association with his 2011 Pro Bono Advocacy Award.



**Angela Walker** has been promoted to a principal of Nacht, Roumel, Salvatore, Blanchard & Walker. She litigates employment discrimination cases in state and federal court and devotes a significant portion of her practice to counseling employees and job seekers about disability accommodations, medical leave issues, and discrimination issues. She is the president of the Washtenaw County branch of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan.

## 2005

**Erin L. Dickinson**, an attorney in the Akron, Ohio, office of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, was selected to participate in the Ohio State Bar Association's Leadership Academy.



**Christina A. Doyle** was promoted at The Kitch Firm in Detroit. She is an associate principal with the firm and focuses her work on the defense of hospitals and health care providers in professional malpractice litigation, primarily in the areas of obstetrics, gynecology, and neonatology.

**Leah Goodman** has been elected to the City Council in Warrenville, Illinois. Her four-year term began May 2, after she won the April election for the seat. Alderman Goodman is also a cofounder, along with **Sue Wang, '05**, of Clarity Law Group LLC, a law firm representing small businesses and startups at flat rates, which was profiled by *The Washington Post* last year.

**Fadi Shaheen**, LL.M., S.J.D., is a new faculty member at Rutgers School of Law–Newark. He has been an associate in the Tax Group at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. His scholarship and teaching interests are international taxation, U.S. taxation, tax policy, and tax and economics. His most recent publication is "International Tax Neutrality: Revisited," published in *Tax Law Review* (2011).

## 2006

**Chad Doobay**, an associate in Katten Muchin Rosenman's Public Finance Department in Chicago, has been honored with the firm's Pro Bono Service award in recognition of his pro bono representation of asylum seekers, including individuals from Chad, Kazakhstan, and Zimbabwe, among other countries. He is also a member of the Leadership Council of the National Immigrant Justice Center, a Chicago-based organization that advocates for immigrants and refugees.

## 2008



**Lyzzette M. Bullock**, an attorney in Quarles & Brady's Phoenix office, has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the Maricopa County Bar Association. She is a member of the Commercial Litigation Group and her practice focuses on general litigation, including contract disputes and criminal defense.

## 2009



**Jason Miller**, an associate in the litigation practice of Sherman & Howard in Denver, has been named to the seven-member Board of Appeals in the City of Lakewood, Colorado.

## 2010



**Pat Mobley**, who served as a 2010 summer law student in Legal Services of Eastern Missouri's Children's Legal Alliance, has re-joined the nonprofit organization as a Skadden Fellow. As part of this unit, he will provide educational advocacy services for children with special needs.



**Matthew J. Neale** has joined Miller Canfield as an associate in the Kalamazoo, Michigan, office. He focuses his practice on corporate law, specifically startups, mergers and acquisitions, corporate restructuring, and venture capital.



**Elizabeth J. Sanders** has joined Miller Canfield, representing the Ann Arbor and Chicago offices as an associate in the Corporate Group. Her practice focuses on a full range of business services for various business enterprises, including multinational corporations, publicly held companies, and joint ventures. 

# I N M E M O R I A M

## 1930s

William J. Heyns, '37	4/2/11
Lewis G. Kearns, '37	9/10/10
Robert F. Rouse, '37	10/25/10
Edward H. Dembowski, '38	7/18/11

## 1940s

Clayton Jay Burrell, '40	4/7/11
Eugene Gressman, '40	1/21/10
Hon. John Feikens, '41	4/15/11
Prentiss Godfrey, '41	3/16/11
Alfred M. Swiren, '41	6/16/11
Richard H. Wills Jr., '41	4/2/11
Edward Branchfield, '42	4/11/11
BenZion Gotlib, '42	2/24/11
Eric Stein, '42	7/25/11
Quentin A. Ewert, '46	3/19/11
J. Leonard Hyman, '46	7/18/11
Robert G. Bayley, '47	6/25/11
Thomas L. Dalrymple, '47	4/4/11
A. Ney Eldred, '47	6/30/11
George B. Woodman, '47	2/28/11
Warren E. Carbary, '48	7/5/11
Robert B. Duncan, '48	4/29/11
Bernard E. Longo, '48	4/5/11
James M. Wiener, '48	4/17/11
Gilbert A. Deibel, '49	7/20/11
Robert F. Ellsworth, '49	5/9/11
William F. Snyder, '49	6/6/11
Henry Arthur Supplee, '49	6/11/11

## 1950s

Hon. James T. Corden, '50	7/3/11
Albert J. Greffenius, '50	6/3/11
Max B. Kogen, '50	6/10/11
Ernest A. Mika, '50	6/3/11
John R. Carpenter, '51	4/27/11
Hon. Jon Jitsuzo Chinen, '51, LLM '52	4/14/11
John Lambert, '51	5/4/11
Angus S. McSwain Jr., LLM '51	5/29/11
Richard J. Bahls, '52	5/9/11
Richard J. Darger, '52	4/17/11
Harry Tomio Tamura, '52	7/28/10
F. Stuart Wilkins, '52	3/29/11
Gordon Harry Smith Jr., '53	5/3/11
Frank L. Zagelmeyer III, '53	6/5/11
Larry J. Burke, '54	6/23/11
James T. Frost, '54	12/7/10
Rinaldo L. Bianchi, '55	12/27/10
Ronald V. DeBona, '55	12/23/10
Hon. William H. McCready, '57	3/23/11
John M. Webb, '57	4/26/11
Harrison P. Dilworth III, '58	6/21/11
William W. Stodghill, '58	4/18/11
Gerald D. Tupper, '58	6/30/11
Edwin S. Bean, '59	5/15/11
Joel K. Bohmart, '59	6/17/11

## 1960s

Robert S. Bolton, '61	6/9/11
Hon. Charles H. Stark, '61	6/27/11
Don Albert Davis, '62	3/16/11
James M. Wilsman, '64	4/15/11
Gerald J. Laba, '65	7/4/11
George J. Glendening, '66	7/5/11
John K. VanLoon, '66	7/22/11
Richard S. Barker, '67	5/18/11
Frederick Ethan Fischer, '68	6/17/11
Robert Kenneth Keim, '68	5/17/11

## 1970s

William B. Raymer, '73	5/14/11
Michael R. Flaherty, '76	3/19/11

## 1980s

Philip Grant Meyers, '81	9/16/10
Lynda L. Lowry, '89	11/24/10
J. Douglas Toma, '89	5/4/11

## 1990s

Kevin M. Pimentel, '99	6/25/10
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