Thompson Directs New Entrepreneurship Clinic

Dana Thompson, ’99, values the opportunity to make a difference in her home state of Michigan, something she believes she can do through a new clinic she is directing.

“The chance to have an impact on Detroit and the rest of the state was really important to me,” says the clinical assistant professor of law. “I think the Entrepreneurship Clinic is a great opportunity to support the economic development of our state and country.”

The new clinic, a key component in the Law School’s Zell Entrepreneurship and Law (ZEAL) Program, is the culmination of efforts at the Law School and throughout U-M to emphasize the importance of entrepreneurship and the role that the legal community can play. It was instantly popular with both students and clients: 55 students applied for the 10 slots in the clinic for the current semester, and more than 40 applications from students around campus who needed legal advice have been submitted since the beginning of the semester.

“It shows that people really need this clinic. A lot of them need help with IP matters, patents; most need to organize as an entity. Others are dealing with real-estate issues and employment concerns,” Thompson says.

The clinic—which she teaches along with Bryce Pilz, ’00, who earned an undergraduate degree in engineering from the University as well—meets twice a week, covering topics such as interviewing and counseling clients, how to finance a business model, how to pay employees, and what it means to represent an entrepreneur as opposed to other types of clients. Ethical lawyering also will be emphasized.

Students in the clinic are being paired up and assigned to clients. “It entails basically setting up a public-interest law firm,” Thompson says. Applications for the fall semester indicate the popularity of the clinics is growing rapidly: 97 students will vie to fill 16 spots.

Thompson’s career path has prepared her well for her latest duties. After law school, she did transactional work and pro bono work on affordable housing at Morrison and Foerster in San Francisco. She then went to Miller, Starr and Regalia, where she specialized in commercial real estate and corporate law, followed by the Nature Conservancy, where she represented the organization on land conservation transactions.

In 2005, she began at Michigan Law as a visiting professor in the Urban Communities Clinic (now known as the Community and Economic Development Clinic), then, in the most direct link to her new clinic directorship, she founded and directed Wayne State Law School’s Small Business Enterprises and Nonprofit Corporations Clinic.

Thompson is energized by the students and has high hopes for what the new clinic can accomplish. “Students are such an ideal group to work with on entrepreneurial projects. They really see things in an entirely different light.”—KV
The day Kimberly Thomas arrived in Jordan last year, the king fired his entire cabinet—a direct result of protests and demonstrations that were part of the Arab Spring. In a sense, that massive change served as an appropriate backdrop to Thomas’s three-month visit to the country, during which she helped, on a much smaller scale, to make changes at Jordan’s four public law schools.

For three months, she worked with the American Bar Association on a legal education project, helping the schools with interactive teaching and other legal education reforms. She also spoke with the schools about clinics and worked with them to help think about what a clinic might look like at their schools.

“They were looking for someone with experiential learning experience, and for exactly the time when I was on sabbatical,” says Thomas, clinical assistant professor of law and cofounder of the Juvenile Justice Clinic at Michigan Law. “I worked with faculty members there on teaching in an interactive way and helped them to establish clinical programs, something both the faculty and students were really excited about.”

In January, she returned to work with Yarmouk University Law School and Jordan University law faculty on implementing their clinics. Yarmouk has a new clinic using ABA seed money that deals with community education for low-wage employees, which focuses on issues such as labor and contract rights. Another clinic that Thomas helped to set the foundation for is at Jordan University, where students will present information to high-school students about constitutional and women’s rights.

“It’s really rewarding to see it come to fruition in such a short period of time,” says Thomas, who was in Jordan to teach the first class of the employee clinic.

The students and faculty seem energized by the new efforts, she says. “It’s in some ways so different, and in some ways so much the same as it is here. One thing that is the same is that students there are so excited about learning the law and practicing what they learn.” —KV
Sometimes—usually when it’s at its best—the law is about giving a voice to the voiceless. And one Michigan Law professor who understands that concept well has been honored for his work protecting the rights of disabled people while helping lead the Department of Justice.

Professor Samuel Bagenstos received the Bethesda Voices Public Policy Award for his work ensuring disabled people live and receive services in the most integrated settings possible. “It’s very flattering to receive this award,” Bagenstos said. “It helps us remember that people with disabilities are just like all the rest of us. They have the right to make choices about their lives: when to go to bed, whether to turn the lights out, when to have dinner, and with whom to have it.”

In the award citation, Bethesda said Bagenstos reinvigorated enforcement of civil rights laws for those with disabilities, while serving in the Civil Rights Division between 2009 and 2011. He was on leave from his teaching duties at Michigan at the time.

Bagenstos had long studied the law as it affects the rights of the disabled, but the work took on extra meaning for him when his son was born with a developmental disability. The honor was given by Bethesda Lutheran Communities, an advocacy and service organization for developmentally disabled people that’s based in Wisconsin and has service locations around the country. Bagenstos earned the award during his stint as principal deputy attorney general in the Civil Rights Division. —JM

Marie Claire Magazine Honors Carr

Professor Bridgette Carr, ’02, who founded the Law School’s Human Trafficking Clinical Program in 2009, has been named one of 16 Women on Top by Marie Claire magazine.

Carr was named 2011’s Top Lawyer by the magazine in its second annual presentation of the award. The honor followed months of research by the magazine, which sought out women younger than 40 who lead in business, finance, fashion, film, science, and more. (Incidentally, two of the other honorees—Top Green Engineer, Angela Harris, and Top Military Commander, Lt. Col. Tracy Onufer—also received degrees from U-M.)

“I’m delighted to see Bridgette honored by a national magazine for her tenacious work on behalf of human trafficking victims who otherwise might never be heard,” said Michigan Law Dean Evan Caminker. “But given her track record here, I can’t say I’m surprised.”

More important to Carr than the award itself is the opportunity to grow understanding of one of the world’s most insidious problems: human trafficking. Many of the people who are trafficked become virtual prisoners, terrorized into submission and forced to work long hours in the sex, restaurant, agriculture, beauty, and landscaping industries. Slavery isn’t confined to developing nations. Every year, about 20,000 people are enslaved in the United States, Carr said. Tens of thousands more are at risk.

The Human Trafficking Clinic combats slavery by representing victims in domestic and international cases, by helping educate law enforcement and the rest of the criminal justice community about the problem, and by working with governmental and nongovernmental organizations to prevent trafficking in the first place. Carr’s affiliated Human Trafficking Law Project, the first publicly available database of U.S. human-trafficking cases, launched last year. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which recently launched its own global database on human-trafficking case law, now gets all its U.S. data from the database maintained by Carr’s students at Michigan Law.

“It’s wonderful that Marie Claire is recognizing the issue of human trafficking, which is responsible for so much suffering around the world,” Carr noted. “But what’s also important is the magazine recognizing the importance and innovation of Michigan Law, which saw how difficult the human trafficking problem is and led the way by establishing the clinic in the first place.” —JM
Krier's Blue Jeans Lecture: How to Do Law School Right

Jim Krier is not a bashful man.
So it was with some anticipation that a crowd of students filled a room in Hutchins Hall to capacity for a chance to hear Krier, the Earl Warren DeLano Professor of Law, deliver the fall Blue Jeans Lecture on “How to Do Law School Right.” Considering the informality that prevails at Blue Jeans Lectures, they figured anything might happen.

What they got—apart from delicious tamales, courtesy of the sponsor, the Law School Student Senate—was solid advice on how to make the most of their law school experience.

“I’ve given my talk a new subtitle: ‘How to Succeed in Law School Without Really Trying,’” Krier told the crowd. “It’s a more organized and fuller rendition of my rantings” from class.

First on the list, he said, is determining what really amounts to success in a law school, where virtually every member of the student body has always been in the top 10 percent of his or her class. But grades in large part measure students’ adeptness at writing exams; so instead of concentrating on class ranking, Krier urged the students to define success in a different way.

“Think about it: There’s just not that much demand for good exam-takers,” he said. “Smart people who work are going to prevail in the end, although being at the front of the line does help.”

He also laid out his program for successful study habits. In general, students should spend a little less time reading, and a lot more time thinking. After doing the reading, natural curiosity should kick in, suggesting questions. Students should take copious notes—longhand, not on a laptop—but avoid thinking about them too much until after class. That’s when notes should be reviewed quickly and clarified, then ultimately transcribed.

“Think before class, think after class, but don’t think in class,” he said. “If you make mistakes, great; you don’t learn from the things you do right, you learn from your mistakes.”

When it comes time to take exams, he had a final thought: Take a lot of the actual professor into the exam with you. “I want you to have me take your exam,” he suggested. “Because it’s me. It sparkles!” —JM

Krier Wins Property Rights Prize

James E. Krier, the Earl Warren DeLano Professor of Law, is the 2012 recipient of the Brigham-Kanner Property Rights Prize from the Property Rights Project at William & Mary Law School. He joins an illustrious list of previous recipients of the Brigham-Kanner Prize, including Margaret Jane Radin of the Michigan Law (2007) and Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor (2011).

Sankaran Named Parent Attorney of the Year

Professor Vivek Sankaran, ‘01, was named the Parent Attorney of the Year in 2011 for his leadership in improving Michigan’s child welfare system.

Sankaran, who founded and directs the Law School’s Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, received the award from the Foster Care Review Board, a third-party review system operating under the auspices of the State Court Administrator’s Office of the Michigan Supreme Court.

Sankaran was nominated for the award by Elizabeth Warner, an attorney in Jackson, Michigan, and by Jodi Latuszek, a management analyst with the State Court Administrative Office. The honor recognizes his dogged work to keep families together by making sure kids with loving families stay out of the foster-care system.

One method of accomplishing that is the Detroit Center for Family Advocacy, which is designed to help parents and extended families care for their own children, to shorten the stays of children who end up in public foster care, and to keep some children out of foster care entirely.

It uses a unique team approach by combining the talents of an attorney, a social worker, and a parent advocate. While the lawyer can help with restraining orders, powers of attorney, and other legal needs, the social worker can assess parents’ strengths and weaknesses and formulate a plan to deal with them. Meanwhile, the parent advocate—someone who has experienced the child welfare system first-hand—can use that unique perspective to help the client navigate the system. —JM
Clark, Croley Appointed to Named Professorships

Professor Sherman Clark has been appointed the Kirkland & Ellis Professor of Law, and Professor Steven Croley has been named the Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professor of Law, both for five-year, renewable terms.

Clark, who teaches Torts, Evidence, and Sports Law, was an associate at Kirkland & Ellis in Washington, D.C., before joining the Michigan Law faculty in 1995. His scholarship focuses on the relation of law to democracy, identity, and community. His work has appeared in publications such as the *Michigan Law Review, Harvard Law Review,* and the *Journal of Contemporary Legal Issues.* His current research examines the ways in which certain legal rules and institutions can serve as fora for the construction and articulation of community meaning and identity. Another line of his research focuses on the nature and normative status of persuasive legal argument.

The Kirkland & Ellis Professorship was established in 1993 through a gift from the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, as well as private gifts from Michigan Law alumni who were partners with the firm.

Croley currently is on leave from the Law School as he serves as special assistant to the president and senior counsel to the president in the Office of White House Counsel. Previously, he was special assistant to the president for justice and regulatory policy with the Obama Administration’s Domestic Policy Council. He joined the Michigan Law faculty in 1993 and was associate dean from 2003 to 2006. He also has clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and served as a special assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan. He has been widely published and teaches in the areas of administrative law, civil procedure, torts, and related subjects.

The Harry Burns Hutchins Collegiate Professorship was established at the Law School in 1985 through a bequest from Joseph H. Parsons, ’27, a prominent Detroit attorney. It honors Harry Hutchins, former faculty member and dean of the Law Department from 1895–1910, who also served as president of U-M from 1909 to 1920.

New Cook Global Professor Named

John G.H. Hudson, a professor of legal history and head of the School of History at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, has been appointed a William W. Cook Global Law Professor at Michigan Law. Previously a visiting professor at the Law School, he is teaching *The Formation of the Common Law* this semester.

Hudson has an MA and DPhil from Oxford and an MA from the University of Toronto. His teaching and research focus on ninth- to 13th-century England and France, particularly the fields of law, lordship, and literature, as well as historical writing and the late 19th-century study of medieval England.

Emeritus Professor Roy Proffitt Dies at Age 93

For several generations of Michigan Law students and alumni, the kindly face of Roy F. Proffitt was also the face of the Law School itself. So it was with great sadness that members of the Law School family learned of his Oct. 2 death at age 93.

Professor Emeritus Proffitt, JD ’48, LLM ’56, joined Michigan’s law faculty in 1956 and served in that role for more than 30 years. In addition to teaching admiralty and criminal law, he also served as assistant and associate dean. Additionally, he helped lead the Law School Fund, now in its 51st year, to make it easier for alumni to give back to the Law School.

“Roy Proffitt’s warm and friendly demeanor helped define Michigan Law for thousands of students over the years. Alumni remember him with affection and gratitude,” said Law School Dean Evan Caminker. “It’s no wonder he was able to build such a strong alumni network, and to help foster Michigan Law’s culture of giving back to the community.”

Professor Proffitt was born in Hastings, Nebraska, the son of Harry and Vera Proffitt. He earned a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of Nebraska in 1940, then, with World War II looming, joined the United States Naval Reserve. He began active service as a seaman apprentice, survived Pearl Harbor, then went on to serve in the Naval Reserve for decades after the war. He retired from the Navy as a commander.

After his wartime duty he came to Michigan Law. He practiced for a time in Greeley, Colorado, then accepted faculty appointments at the University of Nebraska and the University of Missouri before returning to Michigan for the remainder of his career.

Perhaps that wide breadth of experience gave Professor Proffitt his legendary empathy, said Professor Emeritus Theodore J. St. Antoine, ’54, who was dean of the Law School during some of Professor Proffitt’s career.

“Roy embodied the human face of the Law School,” St. Antoine said. “Formally or informally, he was dean of students, principal fundraiser, placement advisor, and dispenser of financial aid. In the latter capacity, to the everlasting gratitude of a legion of graduates, the funds often came out of Roy’s own pocket.”

Professor Proffitt is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jean Humphrey Proffitt. Memorials in memory of Roy Proffitt may be made to the Carolina Meadows Residents Remembrance and Gift Fund, 100 Carolina Meadows Dr., Chapel Hill, N.C., 27517, or to the Roy F. and Jean Humphrey Proffitt Professorship, University of Michigan Law School, 625 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Mich., 48109.—JM
Howson, Kim, Pritchard: Strengthening Michigan Law’s Connections in Seoul

An October conference in Seoul organized by Hwa-Jin Kim—William W. Cook Global Law Professor at Michigan Law, professor of law and business at Seoul National University School of Law, and an expert in global investment banking and international corporate governance—featured two of his colleagues from Ann Arbor. Professor Nicholas C. Howson, an expert on Chinese law, and Adam Pritchard, the Frances and George Skestos Professor of Law and an expert on securities law, spoke at “A New Era of Business and Finance in East Asia,” sponsored by The Bell, a Korean financial periodical. The Pan-Asian conference with scholars also from Tokyo, Beijing, Singapore, and Oxford, focused on Asian corporate and financial matters.

Howson and Pritchard also met with Ewha Womans University Provost Professor SooGeun Oh, MCL ’85; Dukgeun Ahn, ’99, professor at Seoul National University; and Yong Seok Ahn, LLM ’95, managing partner of Lee & Ko, the second-largest law firm in Korea. They toured the Constitutional Court of Korea and met with Justice Young-Joon Mok and Secretary General Chul-Yong Ha, a Michigan Law visiting scholar from 1993 to 1994, and with Seoul National University Law School students. They met with other alumni and former research scholars, including Joan Jung Won Lee, ’10, an associate at Kim & Chang; Soo Jung Choi, ’08, a senior researcher at the Korea Legal Research Institute; and Soo Hyun Ahn, once a Michigan Law research scholar who now is a professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. They all shared Dean Evan Caminker’s video message on the current state of Michigan Law.

In the News

MARCH

Richard Primus is quoted in a variety of publications about the Supreme Court’s hearings on the Affordable Care Act.

Steve Ratner coauthors a New York Times op-ed about the Sri Lankan civil war.

USA Today cites Nicholas Bagley in its story on Super PAC spending and Medicare panels.

Samuel Bagenstos appears in an NPR All Things Considered story about the Justice Department’s investigation of the killing of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin.

“Even in the Middle Ages they were aware that gluttony just isn’t overeating; it’s about overdoing sensations. ... A prissy foodie-type nowadays would qualify as a glutton in the Middle Ages because [they’re] just excessively concerned with what goes into their mouths.”

—William I. Miller on the CBC in December.
“As Europe’s leaders gather this week to tackle its economic woes, it is useful to take a step back and remember how and why Europe got here.”

—Michael Barr and Daniel Halberstam in a December CNBC guest blog.

**FEBRUARY**

David Uhlmann is quoted in major national and international media outlets about a postponement of the BP oil spill trial.

Jill Horwitz assesses a proposed health-care system in Maryland in *The Washington Post*.

A study coauthored by Sonja Starr about a racial disparity in federal criminal charging is cited by the *Huffington Post*.

Steve Sanders is quoted in a widely published Associated Press article about a ruling that the California ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

**DECEMBER**

Sam Gross is cited in a *Mother Jones* article about wrongful convictions.

Don Herzog is quoted in a *Boston Globe* story about the First Amendment and possible evictions of an Occupy group.

Poverty is an inadequate reason to take children from families, Vivek Sankaran writes in a *Detroit Free Press* op-ed.

**NOVEMBER**

Catharine MacKinnon coauthors a *New York Times* op-ed explaining the insights into then-presidential candidate Herman Cain’s leadership potential in light of sexual harassment accusations against him.

Adam Pritchard is quoted in media outlets around the country about a rejected SEC-Citigroup deal.

Richard Friedman is quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* about Justice Antonin Scalia’s originalism.

“Lots of people would rather stick burning needles in their eyes than be sued by the NFL.”

—Jessica Litman, on the use of NFL trademarks, in *The Detroit News* in January.

**JANUARY**

Jim Hines discusses profits at Ford in a *New York Times* article.

Bridgette Carr, ’02, is quoted in a *USA Today* story about human trafficking.

John Pottow is quoted in a *USA Today* story about bankruptcy, calling Chapter 11 “the darling of the international business world.”

“You can be fired for being unattractive. … An employer can fire an employee because they just don’t think they’re handsome enough or pretty enough to be in their establishment.”

—Theodore St. Antoine, ’54, on CBS Detroit in March.