Dear Friend of Michigan Law,

The last few months have been a time unlike any other in the history of our Law School. But despite the difficulties and uncertainty of an ever-changing pandemic, our community has persevered, and I am more proud to lead Michigan Law than ever before.

We send this annual Impact Report to demonstrate the value of your support, and never has that value been more clear. None of what we do in the Quad would be possible without the generosity of our alumni and friends. Thanks to you, we have been able to meet the challenges of this moment.

As you will see in these pages, our clinical program continues to train our students and provide value to the community in equal measure. Students and faculty in our Workers’ Rights Clinic, with support from other student volunteers, came together to manage an unprecedented influx of inquiries as millions of Michiganders lost their jobs. The Civil Rights Litigation Initiative, a new practical opportunity for students, took on a ballot access case to help ensure everyone can participate in the democratic process in a manner consistent with relevant public health guidelines. These are but two examples, of many.

Needless to say, the future of our alumni community is in good hands. And, as you can see in the update from the Office of Career Planning, our current alumni are playing a crucial role in helping students navigate a legal market thrown off its axis by the COVID-19 pandemic.

When we are allowed to gather, Michigan Law remains a destination for world-renowned legal scholarship. Last fall, the Quad played host to a seminal conference on China’s legal system, an unprecedented event in the history of the study of Chinese law that brought together more than 100 scholars from around the world (and was made possible through the unprecedented support of L. Bates Lea, ’49).

It is because of you that we are able to support students through scholarships, fellowships, and other financial aid opportunities, and innovate in our curriculum to ensure Michigan Law remains at the forefront of legal education. With your support, we have been able to adapt to these changing circumstances and respond to real needs in our community.

I hope you are inspired by the stories of our community coming together in these pages, as I am. I speak on behalf of the entire Law School community when I say we are truly grateful for all that you do for Michigan Law.

Mark D. West
Dean
Nippon Life Professor of Law
Budget Update

FY19 Operational Expenses $94,132,410
FY19 Total Gifts and Endowment Income $24,402,905

SOURCES OF INCOME
- GENERAL FUND 72%
- SPONSORED RESEARCH AND OTHER FUNDING 2%
- GIFT AND ENDOWMENT INCOME 26%

USES OF GIFT AND ENDOWMENT INCOME
- PROGRAM SUPPORT 6%
- STUDENT SUPPORT 11%
- FACULTY SUPPORT 9%
- OTHER 6%
About the Class of 2022

- **Applied**: 5,629
- **Enrolled**: 318
- **Median Undergrad GPA**: 3.8
- **Median LSAT**: 169

- **54% Women**
- **45% Men**
- **1% Neither**

- **One or More Years Off After Undergrad**: 78%

- **First-Generation College Graduates**: 12%
- **Minorities**: 28%
- **LGBTQ**: 18%

- **Michigan Residents**: 26%
- **States Represented**: 42 (plus D.C.)
- **Countries Represented**: 14
As the pandemic spread across the United States and lockdown orders were broadly implemented, the market for summer internships was seriously disrupted. Students who were still looking for summer internships watched as postings for opportunities were abruptly withdrawn and pending applications were suspended indefinitely. Similarly, students who had already secured summer internships nervously faced the prospects of cancelation, scaled backed programs, and other dramatic adjustments to their summer internships.

With the normal market for summer internships in a standstill, Michigan Law’s Office of Career Planning emailed alumni seeking to identify ways to support suddenly unemployed or underemployed students. In addition to summer internships, Career Planning sought to collaborate with alumni on smaller projects that might allow students to assemble a series of meaningful experiences over the summer. Almost immediately, job leads poured in from across the country and overseas, including a poverty law fellowship in Alaska, in-house opportunities at a major social media company, and a judicial internship at the U.S. Court of International Trade, among others.

“The loss of an internship might seem trivial—particularly in comparison to the immense loss of life caused by COVID-19, but summer opportunities are crucial for law students’ professional development, so the response from alumni was extraordinary,” says Ramji Kaul, ’05, assistant dean for career planning. “We had far more people respond than we had students who were looking for opportunities or who lost opportunities. It was from every sector of the market, and this was within hours, all saying, “How can we help?”’

For a hiring market that normally follows well-established timelines and processes, another big challenge has been providing students with real-time information about the legal market.

“This is an unprecedented set of changes and there is no playbook. There will be changes in how law firms work, how business services are delivered, how government agencies are functioning, and, even with the possible funding gaps, the need for public interest lawyers has never been greater,” says Kaul. “The market for entry-level hiring is going to evolve quickly so we aren’t able to wait for industry analysis. We will need to continually crowdsource the state of things, and our alumni network is crucial in this effort.”

There is variety in how firms have adapted their hiring processes to the circumstances, and even Early Interview Week, an annual summer event in the Quad for rising 2Ls, has been postponed to January 2021. For public interest and government organizations, it remains unclear how widespread the economic fallout from the pandemic will be, and what effect it will have on hiring budgets in the coming years, but the Office of Career Planning is keeping up with things.

“Students are understandably unsettled about the legal market and their prospects for post-grad employment, but I try to encourage our students to remember that uncertainty is also filled with opportunity,” says Kaul. “I remember what it was like as a young lawyer during the Great Recession, so that’s not to ignore the real challenges that are ahead. But if you can perform well in this type of environment, you’ll set yourself up for a lot of success.”
CLASS OF 2019 WHO WERE EMPLOYED OR CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION 10 MONTHS AFTER GRADUATION

- LAW FIRMS: 66%
- JUDICIAL CLERKSHIPS: 18%
- PUBLIC INTEREST: 8%
- BUSINESS: 1%
- GOVERNMENT: 7%
- ACADEMIC: <1%

98%


- NEW YORK: 25%
- ILLINOIS: 12%
- MICHIGAN: 12%
- CALIFORNIA: 12%
- WASHINGTON, D.C.: 10%

26 GRADUATES RECEIVED Equal Justice Works and Skadden post-graduate fellowships since 2013

100 FIRMS ON THE AM LAW 100 list employed MLaw grads in 2019

500+ OFFICES ATTENDED Early Interview Week in 2019

4,700+ INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED

13 of 13 All U.S. courts of appeals had at least one MLaw clerk in the last three years

7 CONSECUTIVE YEARS with more than 100 clerkships secured
Ongoing maintenance to Michigan Law's iconic Law Quad is made possible in large part by generous donations from alumni and friends. Last fall, the second phase of a Legal Research window restoration was completed, involving the Reading Room’s original window panels and interior and exterior stone restoration. The windows were removed by a carefully-selected artisanal contractor and repaired and reinstalled to prevent water infiltration, maintain structural integrity, and to repair any broken or cracked windows. The original lead caming was also replaced by zinc.
For almost fifty years, Michigan Law’s clinical and experiential education programs have given students the opportunity to work on real-world legal issues, preparing them for practice while making a difference across the state of Michigan. The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the impact clinical work can have on communities, as they adapt to serve clients remotely and take on additional work related to the pandemic. Despite the unprecedented disruption to life and learning in the Quad, the students and faculty of Michigan Law have risen to the challenge.

76% of the Class of 2019 took a clinic during law school compared to 54% in 2010.

18 clinics and initiatives encompassing litigation and transactional matters across a variety of sectors.

74,655 hours of free legal services provided by student attorneys in the clinics during the 2019–2020 academic year.
Expanding Ballot Access

Professor from Practice Michael Steinberg joined Michigan Law last fall to lead the Civil Rights Litigation Initiative (CRLI), a new practical opportunity for students focused on civil rights cases. When the Initiative’s first term was interrupted by COVID-19, it wasn’t long before a new voting rights case presented itself, as aspiring public servants found themselves unable to canvass for the signatures required to get on the ballot. After a congressional candidate for U.S. Congress in Oakland County, Michigan, filed a lawsuit asking for modifications to the ballot requirements, the CRLI filed an amicus brief on behalf of the ACLU that argued it was unconstitutional to require candidates to submit a specified number of signatures when stay-at-home orders made it illegal to circulate petitions in person.

“When we set out to work on this at the beginning of the pandemic, I knew this case was something that would help a lot of people, not only in Michigan, but in other states as well. People should not be forced to choose between their lives and participating in the democratic process,” says Katie Chan, ’20, recipient of the Paul A. Leidy Scholarship, whose primary contribution to the brief was compiling a declaration from a member of the Ann Arbor City Council running for reelection. “The council member was going to pretty extreme lengths trying to protect the health of her constituents while still getting the signatures she needed to continue to serve them. It was meaningful to help her tell that story and contribute her experience to the brief, which we attached as a declaration.”

The CRLI’s brief was cited as “compelling and thorough” during oral argument as the judge repeatedly referred to the brief, its legal arguments, and the attached declaration. The judge’s ruling reduced the number of signatures needed by half, required the state to implement a user-friendly method to sign petitions electronically, and extended the deadline to submit signatures.

“It was really exciting to see the judge track our argument very closely, and to see many of the examples we cited in our brief dropped in as footnotes in his opinion. It reinforced the fact that we had pursued the correct legal strategy, and it was a great learning opportunity for us,” says 3L Diane Kee, recipient of the David and Carolyn Patterson Darrow Scholarship Fund, who worked on the argument section of the brief with 3L Brian Remlinger, recipient of the Robert B. Willemin Law Scholarship.

“When we received the opinion striking down the signature requirement and instituting modifications to allow people to exercise their right to run for office, it was exhilarating for the students, and for me,” says Steinberg. “The opportunity to ensure that our democracy functions in the midst of a pandemic was empowering for our students.”
An Historic Unemployment Crisis

In the course of a typical week, the Workers’ Rights Clinic (WRC), fields 10–15 inquiries from potential clients looking for information or representation related to unemployment insurance claims, a figure that rose to more than 500 in a single day as COVID-19 shut down the state and millions of Michiganders were suddenly out of work. Staff and students—the majority of whom are 1Ls—immediately overhauled the intake process to manage the unprecedented volume, and put together a FAQ document that ultimately grew to almost 60 pages, collecting relevant information and summarizing resources such as the Michigan governor’s executive orders and the CARES Act.

As COVID-19 spread across Michigan, students in the WRC quickly established a training program for legal aid offices across the state as well as for students in other Michigan Law clinics. The Pediatric Advocacy Clinic (PAC) found their cases on pause as in-person hearings were cancelled and courts began the long process of establishing new coronavirus protocols, so the PAC shifted their efforts to support the WRC’s ongoing work and ultimately took two cases to virtual hearing, winning both. The student-led trainings created an “army of highly motivated students,” according to Associate Dean for Experiential Education Debra Chopp, a clinical professor of law and director of the PAC. “The training was professional quality, and they were so passionate, representing so many clients and creating resources for the entire community.” The training sessions were organized by Bella Book and Marie Sheehan, both 3Ls.

“After COVID I became much more involved at the front end of the clinic, helping to answer and return phone calls from unemployment insurance claimants, and giving general filing advice or referring those who had already been denied benefits to our intake team. This was in addition to the policy writing related to disability status and unemployment insurance we were working on before the pandemic,” says Sheehan, recipient of the P. Valentine Strehlow III Scholarship Fund. “This is a critical moment for many people who have lost their job because they are especially in need of financial support. We were entrusted with a significant responsibility. But in the clinic we have a lot of guidance, and Professors Kohl and Van Hoven encourage us to figure it out and take ownership, and with their support and guidance we have been able to do meaningful work.”

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the clinic has helped over 3,000 people and taken on more than 200 new clients. In the summer of 2020 alone, the clinic’s financial impact surpassed $1.3 million in unemployment benefits to the community. Typically, the clinic’s financial impact for the entire academic year is about $1 million, but the economic upheaval from the pandemic has made the clinic’s services more needed than ever.
WORKERS’ RIGHTS CLINIC, 2019–2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

37
BRIEFS SUBMITTED
to the Michigan Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Circuit Courts, including applications for leave, briefs on the merits, reply briefs, and amicus briefs

114
HEARINGS,
including more than 35 conducted remotely in the winter term, with a 93% win rate

34
BRIEFS SUBMITTED TO MICHIGAN ADMINISTRATIVE COURTS

$1,143,500+
IN BENEFITS BACK TO THE COMMUNITY, through the reversal of fraud charges and case wins for individuals initially denied benefits for 141 clients and their families

PRO BONO AND EXTERNSHIPS

7,105
HOURS LOGGED in the 2019–2020 academic year by students in Michigan Law’s Pro Bono Program

76
STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN EXTERNSHIPS in the 2019–2020 academic year. They worked in 70 different locations, including 27 sites abroad (Geneva, South Africa, Mexico City, Tanzania, Ghana, and Ethiopia).
Michigan Law welcomed more than 100 scholars from around the globe to the largest academic conference on Chinese Law ever held. The event, which took place last October, was imagined and funded by L. Bates Lea, ’49, who passed away shortly before the conference was convened. Happily, Bates’ son-in-law and grandson, a professor of Chinese history, were able to attend the proceedings. Hosted jointly by the Lieberthal Rogel Center for Chinese Studies at the University of Michigan, the event was a once-in-a-generation gathering of the world’s leading scholars of the Chinese political legal system, and brought to the Quad specialists in law, political science, sociology, history, anthropology, and economics, as well as Chinese world judges, lawyers and legal activists, for three days of unprecedented and intensive dialogue about the post-1978 People’s Republic of China legal system, and the law in other parts of the Chinese world such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore.
“Without the vision, prodding, and unprecedented material support of Bates Lea extending over three years, this meeting simply would not have occurred. The conference confirmed Michigan’s long-standing position as the center for Chinese studies in the United States, as well as the Law School’s unique strength in the study of the Chinese world’s legal tradition and the reality of its contemporary governance model. It also stands as a specific realization of the project inaugurated by Bates Lea several decades ago—his desire to bring the globe’s most accomplished scholars in a particular discipline to the Law School for scholarly exchange, and to allow them a first-hand view of just how special our Law School is.”
—NICO HOWSON, Pao Li Tsiang Professor of Law

Other Happenings in the Quad

The 2019 Transnational Law Conference, led by Bruno Simma Collegiate Professor of Law Steven Ratner and U-M’s Donia Human Rights Center, explored how legal arguments persuade and affect audiences outside courtrooms. The 13 participants included senior officials from the United Nations and the African Union, with papers and discussion on the topics of international humanitarian law and non-state actors, cybersecurity, human rights, and non-proliferation, among others.

Congressman Ted Deutch, ’90, and former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, both visited the Quad to participate in the Environmental Law and Policy Program’s Lecture Series.

The 2020 Pogue Panel, hosted by Professor Bob Hirshon, ’73, and attended by Richard W. Pogue, ’53, invited three alumni back to the Quad to connect with students and share strategies for early-career success. It was held on the last day before COVID-19 disrupted the winter term.