

EXPERIENCE





100+

REASONS YOU BELONG





COMMUNITY



NITTY

Michigan has long been known as a different kind of law school, where high-achieving students treat each other with kindness. That might mean small gestures of support, as when one student made surprise cookie deliveries to random classmates and another organized regular potlucks that served as a social hub, or when, in service of vaccinations, the minority of students with cars arranged to lend them to the majority of students without. But it also means that students are quick to band together for others, whether raising funds to support the staff of a popular café at the beginning of the COVID lockdown or selling outrageous numbers of home-baked cupcakes in support of Ukrainian children. Your classmates will have your back and will inspire you to do the same.

2 STUDENTS FIRST

From its assistant dean (an alumnus and former Big Law hiring partner) to its public interest director (an alumna who previously prosecuted civil rights cases for the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York) to its 14-strong staff, the Office of Career Planning is built to help students learn about and explore the enormous variety of opportunities available to Michigan Law students and then help them get there. Ten counselors with nearly 70 years of combined legal practice experience, broad expertise, and loads of events and training means we will help you find the path that fulfills you as a lawyer and a person.

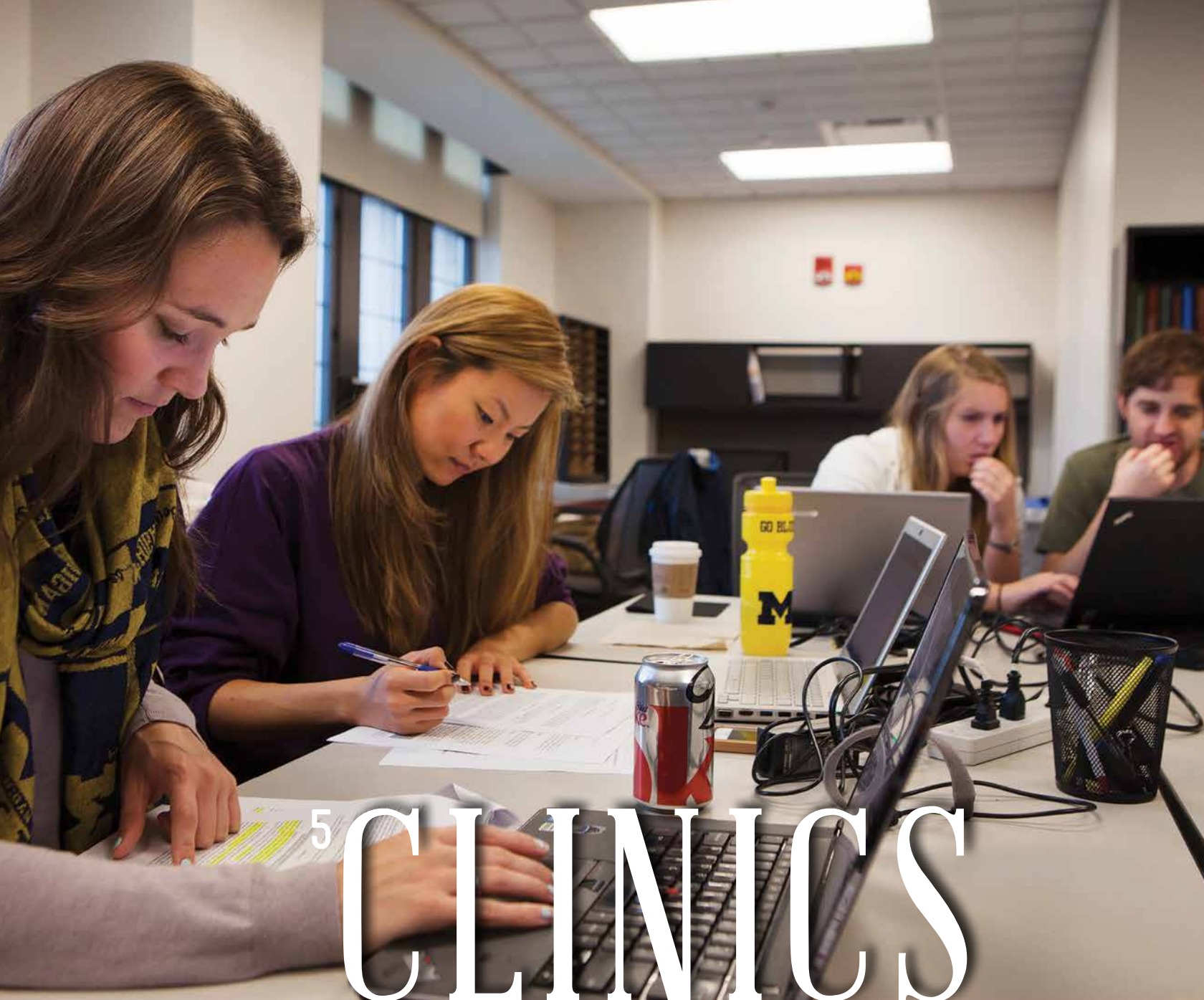
3 GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY

Our students come from every continent. We even got an Antarctic to enroll. Well, sort of. She had worked there, at any rate. And our graduating students get jobs on every continent, too. Even Antarctica. Okay, technically he works in Washington, DC, but since his work took him to Antarctica, we're counting it.

4 SERENITY. NOW!

Visit the serene landscapes of Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Walk the wooded and riverside trails at Nichols Arboretum (more commonly known as The Arb). Breathe a little easier, think a lot more clearly.





5 CLINICS

Want to help kids (#90)? Free the wrongfully convicted (#21)? Work on international business deals (#30)? Assist veterans who face legal barriers to basic needs (#59)? With 17 clinics to choose among, you can do all that and more (#46)...we guarantee it. And you can do it earlier at Michigan Law because Michigan is one of the few states that allows second-year law students to represent clients in court. The clinics even include options for 1Ls. All in all, our clinics offer a distinct advantage when it comes time to shine in your first law job.



6

GLASS COMIC STRIPS

Because everybody should go to a law school where ambulance chasing is explicitly condemned in leaded glass. Or where the concept of “mayhem” is illustrated by what appears to be a clear-cut case of roughing a U-M kicker.

7

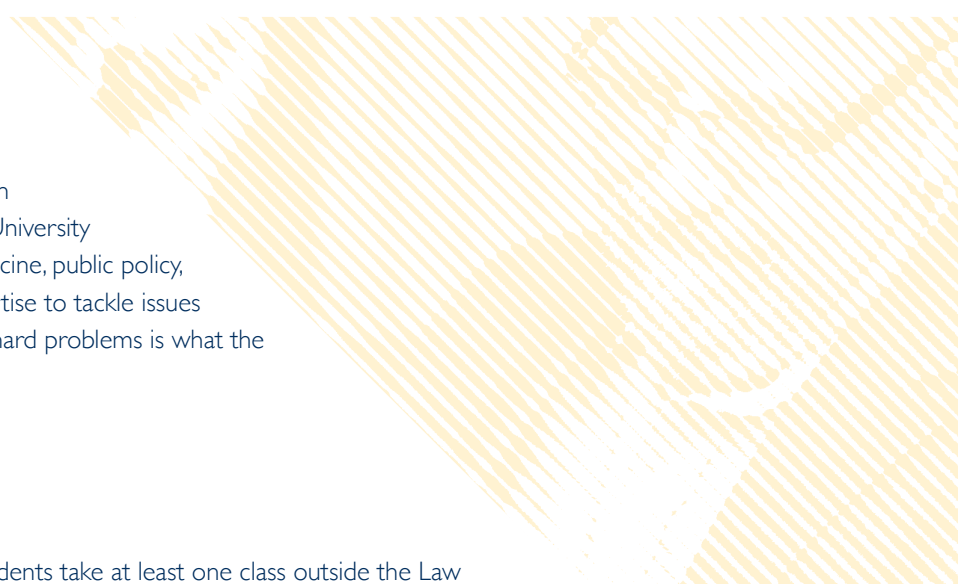
PROBLEM SOLVING INITIATIVE

You want the skills to change the world, right? That’s why five years ago we created the Problem Solving Initiative: to put our law students at the center of the thorniest problems. Through multidisciplinary, small-group classes, you will work with graduate and professional students from around the University (in the fields of business, economics, engineering, medicine, public policy, and social work, to name a few) to develop the expertise to tackle issues like climate change and targeted surveillance. Solving hard problems is what the best lawyers do.

8

PLUS FACTOR

Roughly one-quarter of law students take at least one class outside the Law School under our policy that allows up to 12 credits in outside graduate work to apply toward one’s JD. Some titles that grabbed our attention: Legal Issues in the Arts; Leading Inclusive Organizations; Race, Difference & Social Justice; Music Industry Workshop; Bargaining & Influence Skills; Ethics and Information Technology; Land Use Planning; and Venture Capital Finance. With 110 top-10 graduate programs at U-M, your interdisciplinary curricular choices are unparalleled.





9 SLAUGHTERMELON

In Prof. Len Niehoff's classes, learning is an active process—and a messy one. In his Evidence course, students learn about a murder case in which an elderly woman was killed by repeated stabs to the head with a trench knife. To show his students the power—and troublesome nature—of demonstrative exhibits, Prof. Niehoff, '84, brings a knife and a human-head-sized watermelon to class. He stabs the melon with the knife slowly and dramatically. One, two, three, four, five. Ouch.

You're never quite sure whether you're there for a coronation or a study session, but working inside the majestic Michigan Law Reading Room lends inspiration either way.



A2 B2B

Bikes are everywhere in Ann Arbor; from the Diag to the dedicated bike lanes through downtown. But if you really want to ride, pedal on outta town and enjoy the 35-mile Border to Border Trail, which traverses Washtenaw County from Ypsilanti to Waterloo State Recreation Area northwest of Chelsea.







12

A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Part of what makes Ann Arbor a certifiably great place to live (#16) are the beauty and recreational opportunities afforded by the Huron River. Rent a canoe, kayak, or tube for a leisurely paddle or float up to nearly six miles. Fancy some whitewater? Splash your way through the Argo Cascades, the perfect way to cool off after your run or bike ride on the Border to Border Trail (#11).

13 DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Two decades ago, we fought all the way to the Supreme Court to keep Michigan Law a diverse community. But we recognize that there is always work still to be done to maintain that diversity and to foster inclusion. In fall 2020, advocacy by the Black Law Students Association led to the formation of the Advisory Board on Race and Racism at Michigan Law. While the board's work is ongoing, changes have included increased funding for student organizations and increased staffing in the Office of Student Life. Additionally, we have increased our race-focused courses, and all students are able to take at least one as early as the second semester of their 1L year. Beyond the classroom, dig into racial justice problems and work toward solutions through the Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse, the Civil Rights Litigation Initiative, a slew of pro bono activities, and the *Michigan Journal of Race and Law*—or pursue interdisciplinary research through the Program in Race, Law, and History.

14

DEBT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Following the career of your choice shouldn't be all about the money. With Michigan Law's generous Debt Management Program, it isn't. We're proud of this program, which is unusual even among peer schools because it's not restricted to government and public interest jobs; any lower-paying legal job qualifies. And we've been committed to it for many, many years—back to 1987, in fact. Whether our students work in the public, private, or nonprofit sectors—or a little bit of all three—this multimillion-dollar program has their backs.

THE FACULTY ¹⁵

A man in silhouette is writing on a whiteboard in a classroom. He is holding a marker and a folder. The whiteboard has some handwritten text on it, including "RESULT-REASON", "Invalid", and "1668". The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from a window on the right.

They aren't all former senior White House policy advisers or former US attorneys. But those who aren't seem to have been classical philologists, taught at rural high schools in New York, or helped evacuate artists and musicians from Afghanistan. They're scary smart—but otherwise, not scary at all (#9).



16 ANN ARBOR

Ann Arbor is a tree-lined enclave full of cultural offerings that top those of many larger cities. Don't just take our word for it; magazines and websites that rank such things consistently put Ann Arbor near the top of their lists, including Best Cities to Live in America, Most Innovative Cities in the US, Best Towns for Young Singles, America's Happiest Cities, 10 Best Cities for Families, and Best Midwest Food Town. With 161 municipal parks and only slightly more people (121,000+), and with more than 1.45 million trees alongside world-class museums (#54) and music (#102) that you can enjoy with top-notch local coffee (#57) and craft beer, Ann Arbor is an eminently livable city that is a great choice for your three-year home.

17 THEY'LL BRIE RIGHT WITH YOU

Get together a couple of times a year with faculty in Aikens Commons (#35) for an informal chat, Chablis, and some Camembert. We call them wine and cheese receptions, but a beer or two has been spotted there, too.

18 BIG CITY AMENITIES WITHOUT BIG CITY COSTS

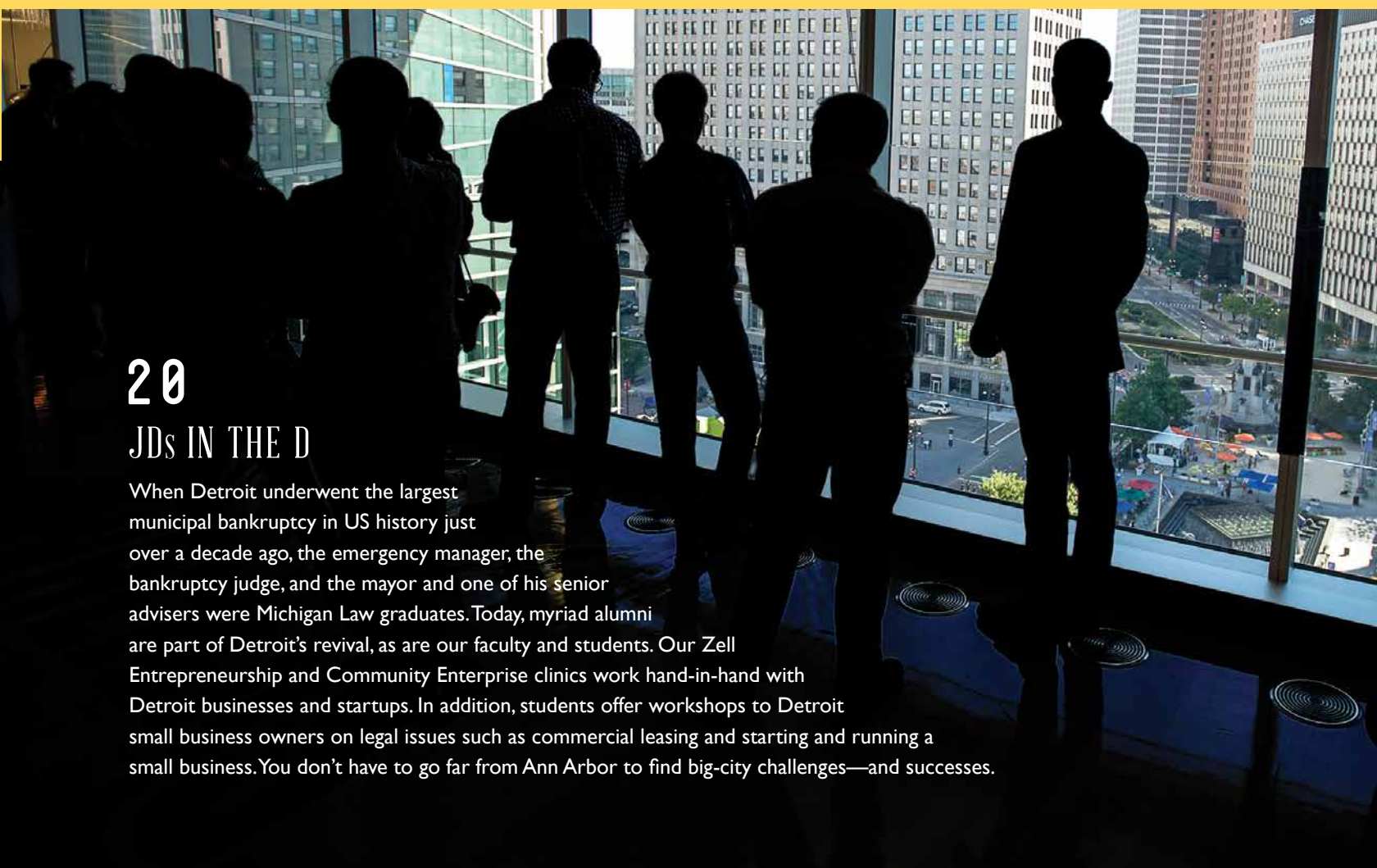
Law school is expensive, but one of the hidden costs is the expense of where you're living. Ann Arbor is eminently affordable. So while students in the Bay Area may save by not having to buy a toasty parka, our students get to save on everything else. (Speaking of value, U-M earned the No. 1 ranking in *Money* magazine's 2022 list of "Best Colleges in America.")

19 FISKE FELLOWSHIPS

Bob Fiske, '55, decided a long time ago that public service and private practice weren't mutually exclusive. Fiske ought to know—he managed a distinguished career as both senior counsel at Davis Polk & Wardwell and US attorney for the Southern District of New York, with a stint as independent counsel on the Whitewater investigation. So naturally the Michigan Law fellowships he founded 22 years ago stress public service. Each year, four graduates gain undergraduate and law-school student debt repayment assistance for three years, as well as a first-year stipend.

20 JDs IN THE D

When Detroit underwent the largest municipal bankruptcy in US history just over a decade ago, the emergency manager, the bankruptcy judge, and the mayor and one of his senior advisers were Michigan Law graduates. Today, myriad alumni are part of Detroit's revival, as are our faculty and students. Our Zell Entrepreneurship and Community Enterprise clinics work hand-in-hand with Detroit businesses and startups. In addition, students offer workshops to Detroit small business owners on legal issues such as commercial leasing and starting and running a small business. You don't have to go far from Ann Arbor to find big-city challenges—and successes.



EXPERIENCE THE HARD WORK OF FREEING THE

INNOCENT

21

Most innocence projects use DNA to drive the exoneration of people convicted of crimes they didn't commit. Well, what can we say? We prefer to do things the hard way. When Michigan Law's Innocence Clinic launched in 2009, its founders deliberately sought cases without cut-and-dried DNA evidence exonerating those they sought to help. They looked for innocent people whose convictions were undergirded by dubious or outdated science, or by tenuous witness identifications, or by recanted testimony. Since then they've freed 40 people, including Jeff Titus (pictured, second from left), who was featured on the true crime docuseries *Killer in Question* and the *Undisclosed* podcast, and Richard Phillips, who served more than 45 years—more time than any innocent person has served in a US prison before being exonerated. Altogether those freed by our Innocence Clinic served approximately 660 years behind bars for crimes they didn't commit. It's time well spent serving those who shouldn't be serving time.



2 2 TAXING MATTERS

As Benjamin Franklin once said, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." Here, you can study both: Take a seminar called Life, Death, Love, and the Law, then pick the brains of the world's foremost tax law experts, like Profs. Kyle Logue, Reuven Avi-Yonah (author of *International Tax as International Law* and *Global Perspectives on Income Taxation Law*), Ed Fox, and James Hines Jr. (a founder of academic research into corporate-focused tax havens).





23 THE LAW QUAD

Fling a Frisbee or fire a football out on the grass of this patch of pastoral peace at the heart of the University, surrounded by the buildings of what is generally accepted as the most beautiful law school in the country.



24

DESIGN YOUR LIFE

Spend a semester with Profs. Bridgette Carr, '02, and Vivek Sankaran, '01, using problem-solving skills to define the life you want after law school. In *Designing a Fulfilling Life in the Law*, you'll learn how to use design-thinking skills to tackle the vexing question of how to craft the life and vocation you seek. You'll reflect on your values about work and life, brainstorm possibilities for future paths, prototype different things you're interested in, and develop a vision for your future. You'll do all of this while also considering how your identity and privilege have affected and might affect your paths. Perhaps most importantly, you'll learn these skills and think about these questions in a community of like-minded students.

25 GAME ON!

If you need a break from legal research, hit up a different library: Through U-M's Computer and Video Game Archive, delve into an extensive collection of video games, consoles, and more, from the 1970s to today. Want to do some gaming IRL? Take a break in the game room across the hall from the Lower Commons (#35) while enjoying billiards, foosball, and board games.



26 ANN ARBOR FARMERS MARKET

27

EXTERNSHIPS

See the world—and the law—with new eyes. Earn a full semester's worth of credits by doing an externship during the winter term with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Center for International Environmental Law, the International Organization for Migration, the World Intellectual Property Organization, or a number of other intergovernmental or nongovernmental organizations in Geneva. Chocolate and fine watches not your thing? Similar opportunities are available in South Africa, India, and at London's AIRE Centre, a nonprofit specializing in helping marginalized people under European law. You also can arrange your own externship, domestically or abroad.

It's a 15-minute walk from the Law School to Kerrytown, a brick-streeted pocket of Ann Arbor that's home to the Ann Arbor Farmers Market. The gathering place for more than 100 local businesses, the producer-only market offers native plants, artisanal yogurt, cheese and baked goods, fresh-picked vegetables, slow-roasted coffee beans, fermented sauerkraut and Sriracha, cut flowers, hardwood cutting boards and planters, premier fruits and nuts, maple syrup, and so much more.



28

YOUR COMMUNITY

WANTS

YOU TO SUCCEED

To whomever gets this room next,

Hello! If you're a 2L who just chose this room for some reason, ignore this—you know the deal. If you're an incoming 2L, welcome! This will be the best, most challenging academic experience of your life. Here are some things I wish I'd known.

- 1) Maintain perspective — you're at Michigan Law School, everything is going to be okay.
- 2) Take time for yourself — studying is inefficient if your mind isn't rested enough to process information.
- 3) Don't screw over other people to get ahead; connections are just as important, if not more, than grades.
- 4) Don't underestimate the value in commiseration.
- 5) Go to office hours! Some of my best moments of lightbulb-esque understanding were from office hours.
- 6) Be confident in yourself; you belong here. Don't reason & make mistakes.

I hope this is marginally helpful and/or comforting. Embrace your time here, learn to accept uncertainty, and learn lots. In the end, you be glad you did.

All the best,
A rising 2L who loved this room & loves this place. —JCI

A few years ago, our cleaning crew found a handwritten note in the desk of a room in the Lawyers Club. It was encouragement and advice from the graduating occupant of the room to whoever would occupy it next. Two of our favorites: "Don't screw over other people to get ahead; connections are just as important, if not more important, than grades" and "Maintain perspective. You're at Michigan Law. Everything is going to be okay."



29

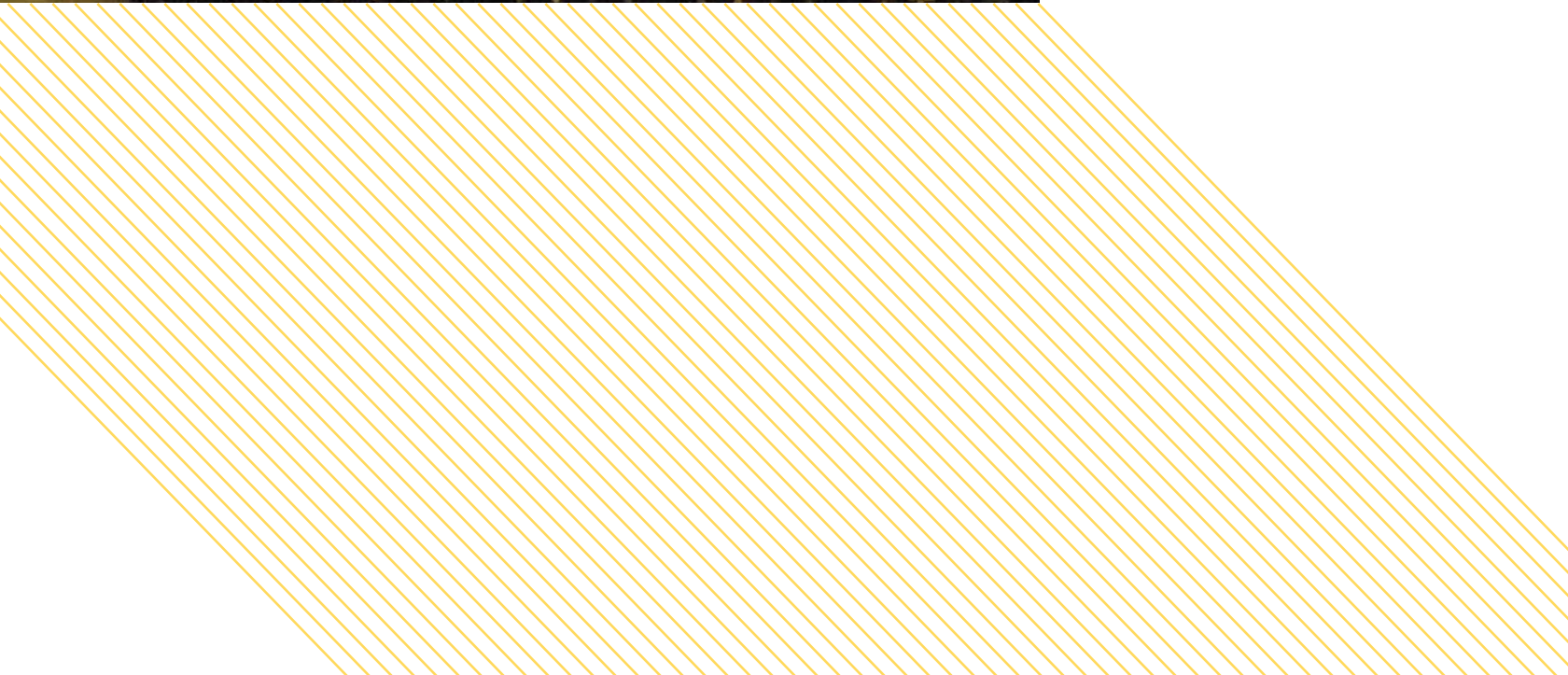
EMPIRICAL EXPERTISE

Looking for faculty who are driven by data and good with numbers? Look no further than J.J. Prescott, Ed Fox, Roseanna Sommers, Jim Hines, Vic Khanna, Margo Schlanger, and Adam Pritchard. Their latest groundbreaking research ranges from the effects of taxation on marriage to making the case for expunging criminal records.

30

CORPORATE CLOUT

With more than 60 classes, our corporate and finance law offerings are comprehensive, and we will help you hone your skills in classes such as Enterprise Organization, Mergers & Acquisitions, and Startup Law and Business. Classroom learning is complemented by transactional practice in our Zell Entrepreneurship (#46), Community Enterprise, and International Transactions clinics, where you can represent businesses large and small.



31

FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

The Law School's Pro Bono Pledge is a voluntary program that encourages all students to donate 50 hours of free legal work during their three years here. During the 2022–2023 academic year, more than 250 students logged hours toward the pledge, and on average, students generate approximately 8,000 hours of free legal work annually, benefiting people who need the legal help but otherwise wouldn't have been able to afford it. That's a lot of pro bono publico.

32

LUNCH TALKS

Knowledge, with a savory twist. Lunch talks may be one of the most underrated aspects of a Michigan Law education. Whether you want to hear from a prominent judge, an environmental law advocate, a hiring partner, or any number of widely known experts in other areas of the law, lunch talks are the way to do it. (Oh, and those lunches? There's almost always something to eat for free from A2's many amazing eateries, like #61 and #91.)

M FOR ALL



33

We revel in the thought of powerhouse professors Barb McQuade, '91, (left) and Eve Brensike Primus, '01, squaring off in the courtroom, but here at Michigan Law they work together to teach students to represent all people. Prof. Brensike Primus, a former public defender, created MDefenders to support students who are interested in doing public defender work. Student-facilitated talks focus on race in the criminal justice system, how to handle crushing caseloads, advocacy training, and more. The complement to MDefenders, M for the People, is an organization for students who hope to become prosecutors or government litigators. It's advised by Prof. McQuade, the former US attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan.

34 THERE'S EVEN A CLOISTER

You don't have to live like a monk to get an inkling of what it feels like to live in a monastery. Well, minus the vows of silence and the hair shirts. Our Law Quad is universally acknowledged as one of the most beautiful law campuses in the world, but students who live in the Lawyers Club have a different phrase for it. They call it "the backyard" (#23).





M
LAW

WELCOME



35

AIKENS COMMONS

Well, this is no place for Midwestern modesty. When Michigan Law decided to bring a little of the outdoors inside several years ago, it aimed to turn a disused courtyard into the crossroads of the Law School. The Commons is simply magnificent, from its dramatic, arched glass roof to its sculpted, tree-like supporting beams. Students and faculty stop in for a cup of coffee or a quick breakfast sammie at the Kirkland & Ellis Café—try the bagel, egg, and cheese!—while passing between the equally magnificent Reading Room (#10) and the classrooms in Hutchins Hall. Walk downstairs and crack a book in one of the comfy, semiprivate study cubbies—dubbed “couch-icles” by wordsmithing students—or pop into the elegant, glassed-in media room to see who Jim Harbaugh’s Wolverines are beating up on this week. Whether you’re looking to bump into someone for a chat or to cram for class, we have just what you need.



37 OUTLAWS

We're not talking Billy the Kid. Michigan Law's LGBTQ+ student group turned 42 recently and shows no signs of slowing down. Group members plan educational programs, host social events, and organize unique pro bono opportunities. And don't miss the annual Kevin E. Kennedy Fellowship Gala (a.k.a. "Gayla"), where students reconnect with alumni members and come together in support of the Outlaws' Public Service Fellowship. Gayla joins Alt Prom, once described by Outlaws organizers as "an inclusive dance party celebrating our organization, the Law School, and America," in the Outlaws party pantheon. Hats off for helping to keep Michigan Law a welcoming place for everyone.

36 WELLNESS MATTERS

We take that seriously. Mental health concerns are pervasive in the legal profession, and maintaining a healthy and balanced lifestyle is important. We've joined the American Bar Association's Well-Being Pledge and Campaign, and we offer wellness programming (think in-person meditation and yoga as well as free access to the online resources Headspace and Ginger) throughout the academic year. We also have an embedded professional psychologist who offers individual counseling for a wide range of personal and interpersonal concerns as well as for problem-solving and referral to other campus organizations.



38 GETTING HITCHED



Finding your perfect match in life seems to have some similarities to finding the perfect match for law school. So it's no wonder admissions dean Sarah Zearfoss, '92, an acknowledged expert in the latter, has also been known to dabble in the former, as in the case when classmates who wouldn't have met without her asked her to marry them in the inner courtyard (#61). She has since married four more couples: three more pairs of alumni and a couple who met through Michigan Law connections. So while nobody's sure exactly which denomination granted it, Dean Z, among her many other powers, also has the authority to marry.

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39

Michigan has been an environmental law leader since the 1960s, when a groundbreaking Michigan Law professor, Joseph L. Sax, helped create the field. Today, our Environmental Law and Policy Program (ELPP) is one of the most extensive in the country. Its faculty include Prof. David Uhlmann, President Biden's pick to serve as assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance assurance at the EPA. Beyond the special career panels, lectures, conferences, and symposia hosted by the ELPP and the *Michigan Journal of Environmental and Administrative Law*, there's also a busy Environmental Law Society. Its members will happily act as guides on your pathway to becoming an environmental lawyer—or, alternatively, they'll act as literal guides as they help you enjoy the spectacular beauty of the Great Lakes State on one of their camping, hiking, or sledding trips.



GREEN



40 THE LAW LIBRARY

You haven't seen this much green carpet since the last time you went to the Big House® (#75). But trust us, the overall effect is pastoral—or as pastoral as can be expected in one of the world's greatest collections of legal research materials. And thanks to the natural light and all that green, you hardly even know that you're underground, in one of the most architecturally innovative libraries ever.



41

THE WRITE KIND OF RIGHTING

Where does the legal writing stop and the actual writing begin? We argue that there's no difference. Good legal writing is good writing, and we'll help you master this crucial skill with the help of targeted coursework—notably our Legal Practice Program, which boasts 10 professors who ensure that one of the first things 1Ls learn in law school is how to research, analyze, and especially write about legal matters. They also avail themselves of peer tutoring and programming, much of it available online. As a 2L and 3L, you can take Prof. Patrick Barry's Good with Words courses, where this lawyer with a PhD in English will guide you through finding your voice as a writer on topics ranging from telling your own story to advocating for systemic change. You may not be Faulkner when you walk out of Michigan Law, but on the other hand, you won't be Faulkner.

42

LUIS C. DEBACA, '93

Your study of human rights law will be led by faculty who have been at the forefront of this important work. Prof. Luis C. deBaca, '93, is one such heavy-hitter. Not only is he credited with developing the global standard for investigating human trafficking cases, he is one of the most decorated federal prosecutors in US history. He received the Attorney General's John Marshall Award from Attorney General Janet Reno and the Distinguished Service Award from Attorney General John Ashcroft.

43

BUTCH CARPENTER SCHOLARSHIP

Alden J. "Butch" Carpenter was well known to U-M before he enrolled in law school here. After an injury prevented this football captain from becoming a professional athlete, the Flint, Michigan, native decided on a law career in order to give back to his community. He died suddenly in 1978, before completing his legal studies. The Butch Carpenter Memorial Scholarship Fund awards scholarships annually to three promising 1L members of the Black Law Students Association.



44 THE NINE

Michigan Law's ties to the US Supreme Court are varied and deep. Six justices have visited the Law School in the past 15 years, finding time to give a talk, participate in a panel discussion with faculty, or sit for a Q&A with law students. But that's just on the surface. Michigan Law professors argue routinely before the Court, and their work is frequently cited in the Court's decisions and dissents. Fifteen current faculty members spent a year at the Supreme Court themselves, clerking for one of the justices. (One, Prof. Sam Erman, '07, clerked for two justices as well as the now-Attorney General.) And many a Michigan Law student has followed in those footsteps—24 of our graduates have clerked in the last 20 years; the 25th will join Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson this fall.

45 IL ORAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION

Lawyers aim to present a client's case with a compelling argument while thinking fast on their feet, and we believe it's never too soon to take the plunge and give it a try. So we give 1Ls an opportunity to hone their oral appellate advocacy skills in a supportive environment. Each spring, nearly 80 percent of our community comes together to do just that. While 1Ls compete, upperclass students serve as judges in the early rounds, and professors and practicing attorneys—many of whom are alumni—participate in the later rounds. The competition also includes networking and skills-training events, including advocacy advice from some of the best law firms and public interest organizations in the country.

46

HELP OTHERS MIND THEIR OWN BUSINESS

Private entrepreneurial investor Sam Zell, '66, knew a good investment when he saw one. So he seeded the Zell Entrepreneurship Clinic at his alma mater to train law students to think not just like lawyers but also like entrepreneurs. Through the clinic, students feed off a University-wide entrepreneurial ethos by representing student startups from across the campus and also enter—and frequently win—entrepreneurship idea competitions on their own.

47

ROAD (AND YOUTUBE) SHOW

Sure, they're busy reading and making decisions on thousands of applications each year, but what our Admissions Office most loves to do is counsel prospective applicants by hosting on-campus visits and attending events around the country. When the pandemic shut down in-person meet and greets, Dean Z took to YouTube from her basement—creating A2Z, a video series that demystifies the admissions process. Although face-to-face events have resumed, Dean Z continues to record A2Z episodes that help you put your best application forward at the law school where you are most likely to thrive (yes, even if you ultimately decide that law school isn't Michigan.)

48 DOWN ON MAIN STREET

Take a short walk west from the Law School and find out what Ann Arborites knew long before *Travel + Leisure* named this collection of excellent restaurants and funky shops among America's best. It's an ideal spot for people-watching from an outdoor café along the street's broad sidewalks, catching a show at The Ark (the seminal acoustic and folk music venue that's been around in various Ann Arbor locations since 1965), and grabbing a meal at one of several restaurants, including The Chop House, Real Seafood Co., and Palio, to mention just a few.



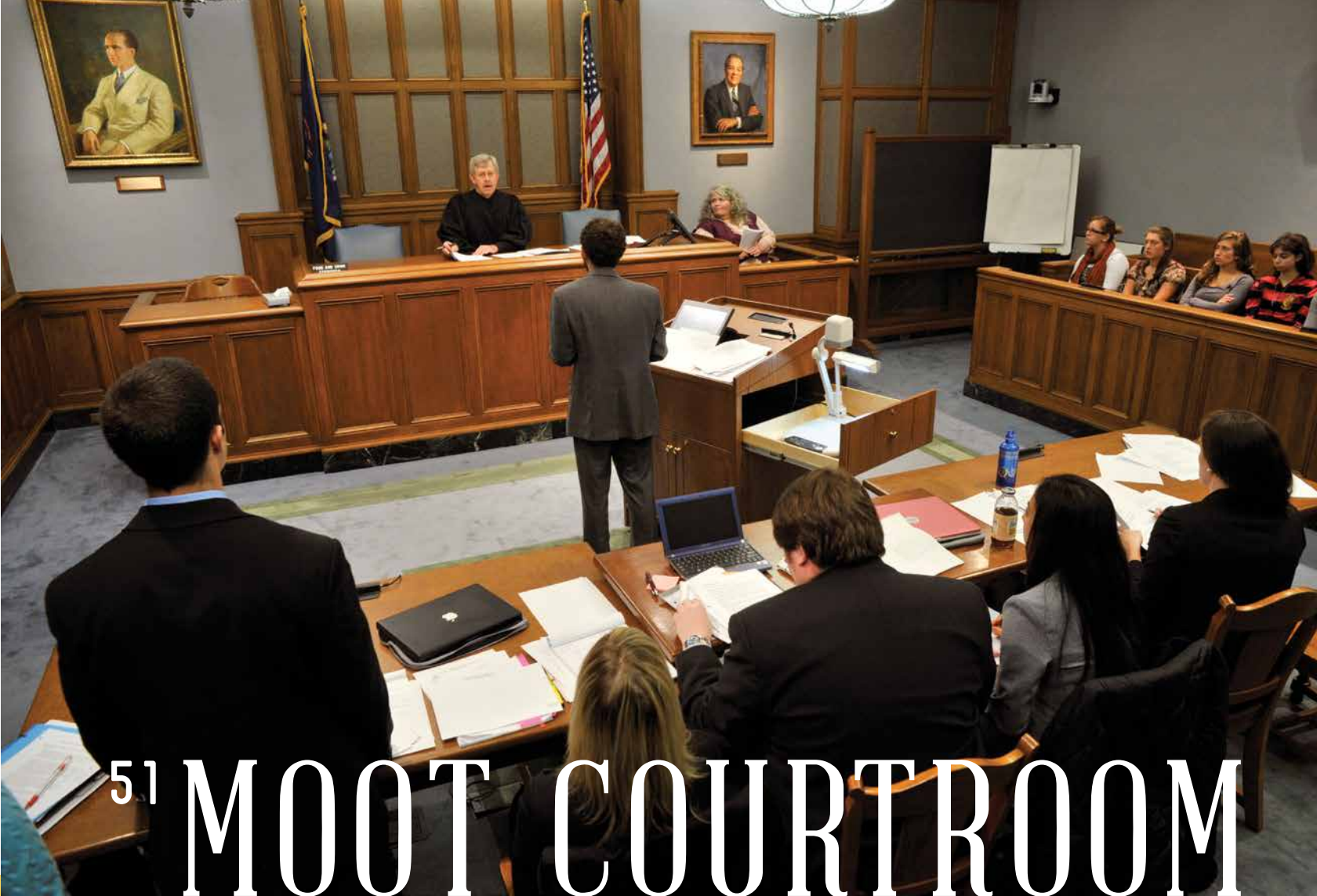
49 EMPLOYERS LOVE RECRUITING HERE



And why wouldn't they, when they're doing so from a swanky club high above the field at the nation's largest football stadium (#75)? Honestly, though, recruiters have always looked forward to coming to Michigan Law—even before we started holding events at the fabulous Jack Roth Stadium Club. As one hiring partner from a prominent firm put it: "We want people who we're going to enjoy spending time with when we're working long hours together on an important matter. That's what we get from Michigan Law graduates, and that's why we love recruiting in Ann Arbor."

50 T.J. HOOPER AND THE LEARNED HANDS

Never have a pair of barges lost in a storm been indirectly responsible for so much entertainment. The origins of the Law School's house band—built from a rotating cast of law students and encompassing, well, whatever instruments they happen to play—are lost to the mists of antiquity, but we still know exactly where it got its name. We cite *The T.J. Hooper*, 60 F.2d 737: The T.J. Hooper was a tugboat towing two coal barges through a storm. The barges went down; the coal was lost; the barge owners sued. The estimable Judge Learned Hand signed the appellate decision. Presto. Best. Band name. Ever.

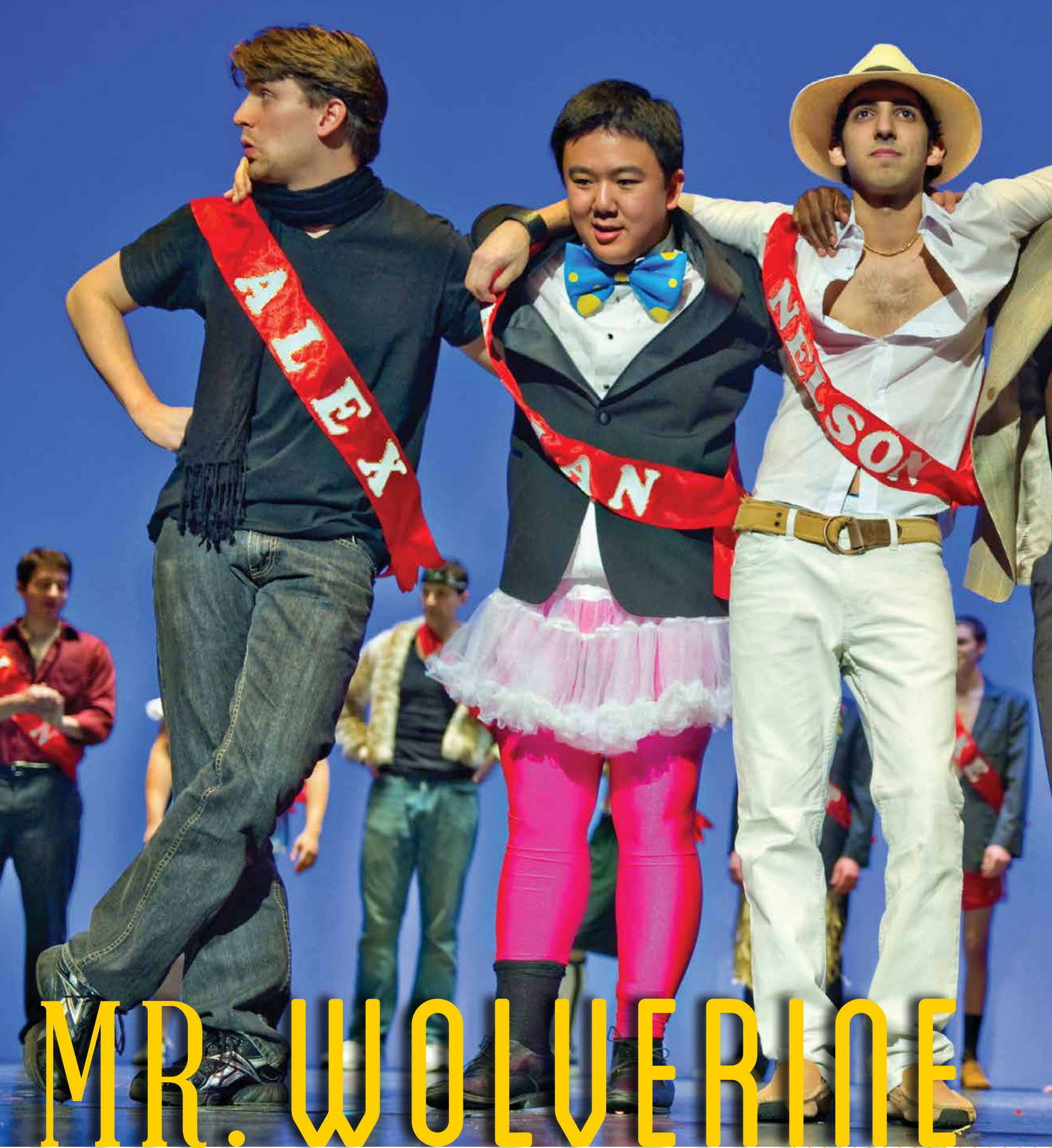


51 MOOT COURTROOM

If there's anything cooler than a miniature, wood-paneled courtroom—complete with judge's bench, jury box, and gallery—it's a miniature wood-paneled courtroom with an enormous television screen that rises out of the furniture through the magic of robotics. If that's not enough, there's sufficient additional computing power to launch and land a space rocket, all designed to help students review and improve their courtroom performances.

52 GIVING A HOOT

Michigan Law's organization of OWLS—Older, Wiser Law Students—supports students who enter Michigan Law with a few more miles on their personal odometers. Here you'll find fellow students and their partners and children: people who understand the extra responsibilities that come with attending school with more experience under your belt. The OWLS also do things like barbecues and pumpkin carving on the Quad for your kids. Swoop on in and join them.



MR. WOLVERINE

53 Our ironic male-beauty contest (or should that be “ironic-male beauty contest”?) includes faculty mockery, male law students with bare torsos (some six-packs, some half-barrels), and a chance to ridicule several generations of patriarchal pageants. Organized by the Latinx Law Students Association (#86), the contest raises funds for the Comunidad Fellowship for aspiring public interest students who have demonstrated an interest in working in Latinx communities.



54

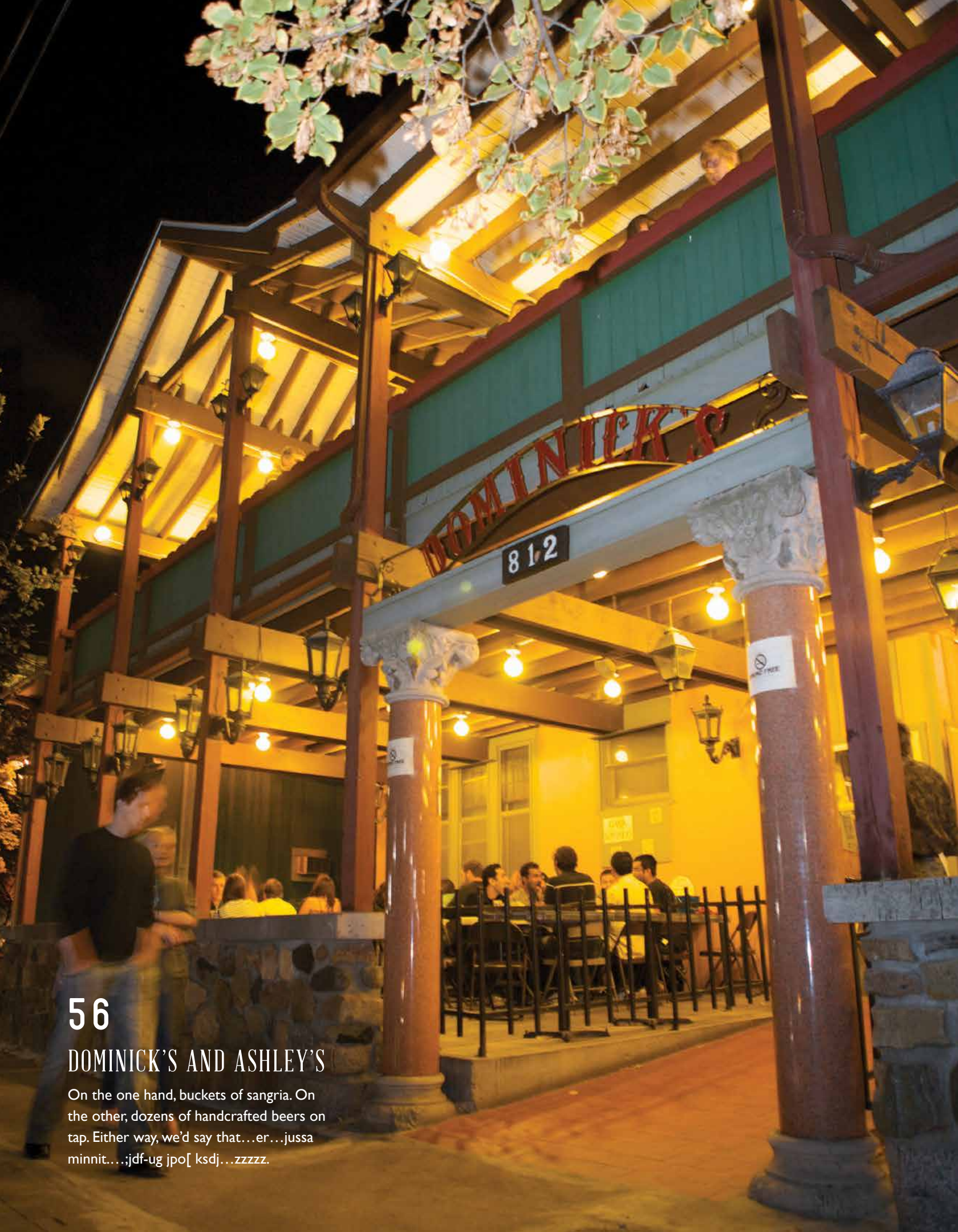
MUSEUM MANIA

From the Picassan to the Paleolithic, get your fill of art and history without venturing more than a few hundred yards from the Law Quad. The University of Michigan Museum of Art, directly across the street, houses Monet, Whistler, Gris, Oldenburg, and Haring. The Kelsey Museum of Archaeology, a half block away, boasts Roman and Greek sculptures and pottery, as well as a beautifully ornate Egyptian mummy coffin. Or for mastodons and a planetarium, stroll a few blocks to the recently relocated and revamped Museum of Natural History. Best museum not currently open to the public? It's got to be Ann Arbor's Museum of Failed Products, containing thousands of consumer products that never took off, housed together as a research facility and cautionary tale for marketing industry insiders. It includes gems like Clairol's A Touch of Yoghurt shampoo and Pepsi's AM Breakfast Cola.

55

CLERKSHIPS

Want to clerk for a state court, a federal district court or court of appeals, or even the US Supreme Court (#44)? Or how about a prominent international court, including the International Court of Justice? Michigan Law has produced more than 100 clerks a year for more than a decade, and we perennially are among the top law schools for sending graduates to clerkships.



56

DOMINICK'S AND ASHLEY'S

On the one hand, buckets of sangria. On the other, dozens of handcrafted beers on tap. Either way, we'd say that...er...jussa minnit...;jdf-ug jpo[ksdj...zzzzz.

57

WAKE UP!

Suffering the after-effects of a visit to one of the establishments in #56, or just need to recharge? Ann Arbor's burgeoning local coffee scene means a quick reboot—often with locally roasted java—is only a few steps away. Bring your own mug to the Kirkland & Ellis Café in the Aikens Commons (#35), and fill 'er up. Or venture out a few steps and enjoy premium brews from local shops like Comet Coffee, Lab Cafe, and RoosRoast, whose Lobster Butter Love lives up to the rich expectations of its name (all without any lobsters or butter).

58

LIVING-ROOM LAW

Our always-popular in-home mini-seminars help small groups of students learn and think more deeply about subjects that may be a little off the traditional law school path. Even better, they help connect students and faculty because they're held right in the professors' homes. Recent seminars have included How and Why to Run for Office, Superheroes and the Law, and Ancient Greek Literature/Modern American Lawyers. Our favorite? Reading Banned Books for Credit.



59 SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED

Did you serve in the armed forces? If so, thank you—and may we suggest that you'll want to check out our Veterans Society of Michigan Law? It's a student group focused on veterans, their families, and people who want to support those who served. Or work with our Veterans Legal Clinic (championed by ABC News correspondent Bob Woodruff, '87, and his Woodruff Foundation).



60

INNER COURTYARD

One benefit of Hutchins Hall's medieval design plan: a secret courtyard off one of the main passages. Hide away from the boisterous crowd to study, or grab a sandwich at the Kirkland & Ellis Café in the Aikens Commons (#35) for an impromptu picnic.



6 1

ZINGERMAN'S DELI

"The center of my gastro-deli universe." That's what one celebrity chef said about Zingerman's, a culinary destination that offers otherworldly pastrami, brisket, and corned beef sandwiches—not to mention a great selection of unconventional vegetarian options (try Lila and Izzie's Skokie Skidoo). The Zingerman's Industrial Complex also includes a creamery, candy manufactory, bakehouse, coffee shop, and Zingerman's Roadhouse, a sit-down restaurant with no fewer than six types of mac and cheese, including one with pimento and bacon and another with three-peppercorn goat cheese. You may now commence drooling.

6 2

SHEROES OF THE LAW

While all of our faculty are rock stars in their own right, Michigan Law's female faculty have debunked the myth of the "gentler sex" when it comes to media notoriety, intellectual firepower, and all-around bad-assery. Prof. Catharine MacKinnon more or less single-handedly convinced the US Supreme Court that sexual harassment is sex discrimination under the law. Susanne Baer, LLM '93, was a justice on Germany's Federal Constitutional Court. Ellen Katz's legal scholarship related to voting rights is widely cited, including by the Supreme Court—so is scholarship by Eve Brensike Primus, '01, related to criminal justice reform. Barb McQuade, '91, is a frequent commentator on many media outlets, including MSNBC. And a voice that might sound familiar on your Spotify is Leah Litman, '10: She is a co-host and creator of *Strict Scrutiny*, a podcast about the US Supreme Court.



63 INSTA-WORTHIEST

If you're a photographer at Michigan Law, well, let's put it this way: You're in a target-rich environment. Small wonder we have an epic Instagram account. Check it out @umichlaw.





64 GROTESQUES

It seems a little unfair to call them grotesques when they're so darned cute. We guess you could call them gargoyles, but the architects wouldn't like it. So around here we call them Atlas figures, in part because they seem to be holding up Hutchins Hall. Among the squashed-looking, individually carved stone figures are some University presidents, a frolicking tennis player, and a sturdy footballer. Check them out in the archways and other out-of-the-way places around the Law Quad.

65

MICHIGAN INDIAN TUITION WAIVER

We acknowledge that the University of Michigan resides on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary lands of the Anishinaabeg—The Three Fire Confederacy of the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi Nations, as well as the Wyandot Nation. The Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver program eliminates the tuition costs for eligible Native Americans in the state's public community colleges and universities, including the University of Michigan.

66

MAGNUM “OPIS”

The Organization of Public Interest Students. It's a healthy sign when more than 600 students—nearly two-thirds of the student body—are part of a group dedicated to making Michigan Law grads better able to do good in the world.

CAMPBELL MOOT COURT

67

The reason “moot” rhymes with “woot.” Picture a panel of three federal judges, a room full of attentive faculty members, and students who have been preparing for the moment for months. It's the dictionary definition of “courtroom drama,” except the finalists tend to hug each other afterward. And the faculty adviser? The Hon. Joan Larsen, a federal appellate judge and former faculty member.





GLOBAL

68

ROOTS

The 1837 statute that guided creation of the University of Michigan provided that the “Law Department” should include a professor of international law. Give us an inch, and we’ll take a mile—a mindset that helps explain why such a stellar collection of international scholars has gathered in the center of the North American continent. The momentum that began nearly two centuries ago means that today, our dean, Mark West, is an authority on the Japanese legal system. Prof. Nicholas Howson is one of America’s foremost experts on Chinese law. Prof. Christine Chinkin is a leading expert in public international law and international human rights. Prof. Reuven Avi-Yonah brings world-renowned expertise on international tax law. Prof. Vikramaditya Khanna is widely consulted on Indian law. Prof. Daniel Halberstam is internationally recognized as an authority on the European Union. Prof. Adam Pritchard advises on corporate law and South Korea. Prof. Susan Page was the first US ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan and served as assistant secretary-general of the United Nations in Haiti. Prof. Steven Ratner currently is one of three members—the only from the US—serving on a UN-sponsored International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia. Complex times call for complex thinking, and Michigan Law’s international scholars share their expertise with students (and the rest of the world) every day.

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69

VAUDEVILLE AND DECO

Ann Arbor boasts two historic theaters within a block of each other. The Michigan Theater, which opened in 1928 as a movie palace and vaudeville venue, was restored to its original grandeur in the 1980s; it continues to be a popular concert venue, and moviegoers still enjoy tunes played on a Barton Theatre Pipe Organ that sinks into the floor, organist and all, as the show is set to begin. The State Theatre, built in 1942, shows both mainstream and indie films, seasoned with cult classics from its vaults for Saturday midnight showings. It received extensive renovations and an expansion, designed to reinforce its Art Deco roots, in 2016.



70

THE RIGHTS STUFF

THE S
PLEASE G

When public school students are facing disciplinary actions, they and their families are often on their own. But thanks to the Student Rights Project, which is overseen by faculty adviser Debra Chopp, law and social work students are trained to advocate alongside community members for public school students in suspension and expulsion hearings. It's a great way to work on your interviewing, oral advocacy, and collaboration skills—not to mention helping vulnerable kids at a key moment in their development.



21 A BENEFICENT BASH



Since 1977, Michigan Law students have been supporting classmates who want to do public service work by holding the annual Student Funded Fellowships Auction (read: huge blowout where various deans debase themselves in a shocking variety of ways) to raise money for public service scholarships. Your philanthropy can mean Zingerman's baking classes with Profs. Prifogle and Litman or singing karaoke with Profs. Pottow and Carroll or spilling the tea over hand-crafted cocktails with Dean Z. Doing good while having fun? That's the Michigan spirit.



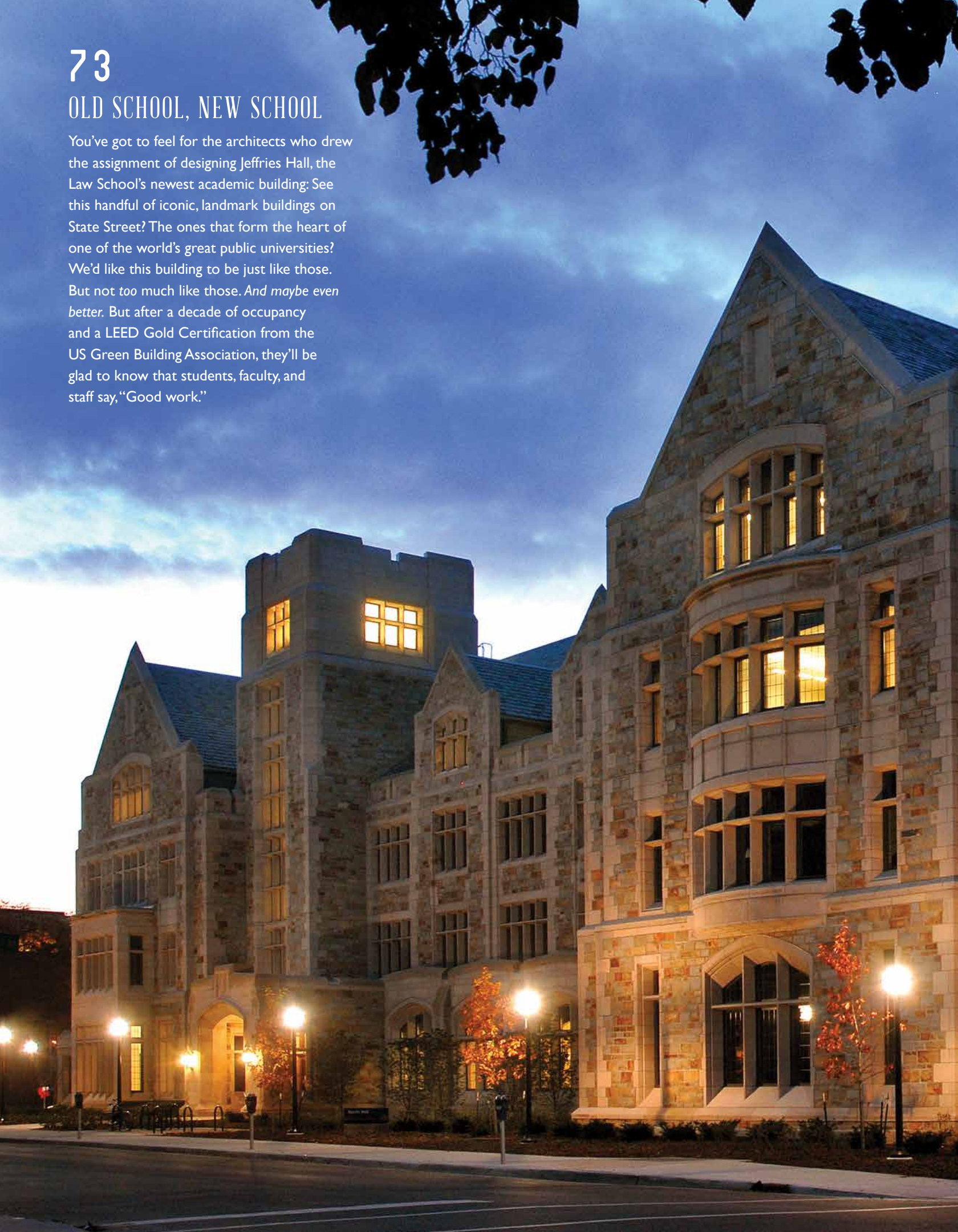
Senior White House officials such as Valerie Jarrett and Broderick Johnson. Titans of business, including Sam Zell and Chris Jeffries. Cabinet secretaries, senators, federal judges, governors, mayors, state judges. Media figures such as Bob Woodruff (#59); entrepreneurs, including Groupon founders Brad Keywell and Eric Lefkowsky. Trailblazing general counsels like Michele Coleman Mayes. They are some of the 22,000 alumni around the world connected by their time at Michigan Law. It's an exclusive club, but it's also a friendly and welcoming one (#1).

72

ALUMNI

OLD SCHOOL, NEW SCHOOL

You've got to feel for the architects who drew the assignment of designing Jeffries Hall, the Law School's newest academic building: See this handful of iconic, landmark buildings on State Street? The ones that form the heart of one of the world's great public universities? We'd like this building to be just like those. But not *too* much like those. *And maybe even better.* But after a decade of occupancy and a LEED Gold Certification from the US Green Building Association, they'll be glad to know that students, faculty, and staff say, "Good work."





74 STUDENT JOURNALS

With a total of eight student-led journals, students can take a deep dive into just about anything, from race and gender to technology to international law. The range of opportunity means that more than half of our student body participates on at least one journal.



75

FOOTBALL

Michigan Stadium, a.k.a. the Big House®—the largest football stadium in the nation—must be seen from inside to be believed. Don't like football? The city's streets are deserted as soon as the first quarter starts—it's a great time for getting your errands done.



76

UNIVERSITY CRESTS

Whether you went to Harvard or the North Wales Training College, look for your college seal among the 182 immortalized in stained glass inside the Reading Room.

77

SUN SALUTATION

Imagine 1,800 yogis of all abilities in tree pose gathered at the Big House® (#75). This happens, too. Namaste.

78

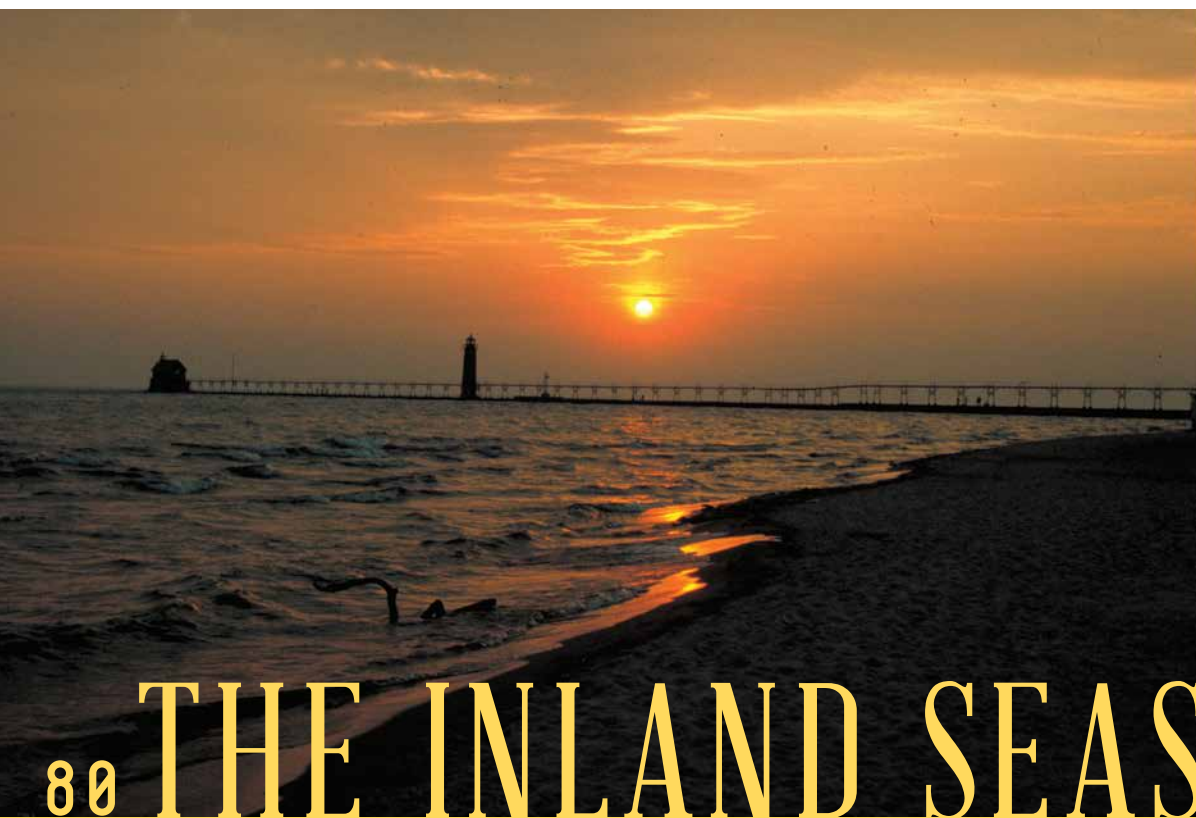
PHID PHUN

When it comes time to enter a howling Halloween costume contest, Phi Delta Phi—a.k.a. Phid, the 150-year-old, co-ed legal “fraternity”—runs the one you want. Similarly, if it’s time for an epic, themed Law School party, the 25 denizens of Phid House take their role as social enablers seriously. Why else would they host such shamelessly named gatherings as “We Didn’t Start the Phire” or “Animal Pharm”? Phortunately, we’re phine with that.

79

STUDY ‘ROUND THE WORLD— WITH A BATES OVERSEAS FELLOWSHIP

Learn how the rest of the world does law with the help of a Bates Overseas Fellowship, one of several Michigan Law programs (#27) that can help you study just about anywhere on the planet. The fellowships help grads or students with two years of legal study to travel abroad to learn about legal or political institutions. Pursue internships with international or government agencies or NGOs, teach, or pursue an independent research project. Recent Bates Fellows have worked to end the death penalty worldwide and to protect the basic legal rights of individuals in developing countries.



80 THE INLAND SEAS

Here in Michigan, our sandy shores are kissed by four of the five Great Lakes, more than any other state or Canadian province—accounting for the fact that, next to Alaska, Michigan’s coastline is the longest of any state. But really, “lakes” is a misnomer. When the weather goes to work on these powerful inland seas, it’s easy to see why Michigan also has more lighthouses than any other state. And more shipwrecks than the Bermuda Triangle. With natural resources like this, no wonder we’re environmental law leaders (#39).



81

GREAT ESCAPES

Hey! Do you like the outdoors? We do, too (#4, #11, #12). From hiking, biking, running, and kayaking to bird-watching, Michigan's tremendous wealth of natural resources really is unmatched. Seriously. Come see for yourself.



VAL-O-GRAMS

They're signed, sealed, delivered. They're yours. (And because they're also law students, they double-checked all those signatures.) Whether it's Stevie Wonder or Justin Timberlake, the Law School's singing Headnotes have all the legal niceties covered for Valentine's Day—and several other concerts every year, as well. If you hear singing in Hutchins Hall, chances are it's them. Although it may just be Profs. Pottow and Carroll (#71).



83

CONQU'RING HEROES

There's a chant that goes, "It's great to be a Michigan Wolverine," and because Michigan prides itself on being an inclusive place, that cheer spans all our athletic endeavors. During the 2022–2023 academic year, U-M sports teams earned eight conference championships, and three Wolverines earned individual national championships. In 2021, the women's gymnastics team stuck the landing by winning the national championship. And Michigan is one of only six teams (and the only Big Ten team) to appear in two men's basketball national championship games in the past decade. Leaders and best, indeed.

84

FROM A LONG WAY AWAY

Almost since the school's founding in 1859, Michigan Law has been a magnet for international students. Our first Japanese students graduated in 1878—several years before legal barriers to immigration from Asia were dropped. Since then, thousands of international students from every continent (#3) have graduated from Michigan Law, and many have gone on to distinguished careers both in the United States and in their home countries. Today, one of the most rewarding aspects of a Michigan Law education is the opportunity to study alongside JD and LLM students who come, quite literally, from all over the world.



85 MEDIEVAL MEALS. BUT IN A GOOD WAY.

We promised ourselves we wouldn't make Hogwarts comparisons. And yet here we are. Have lunch in the Lawyers Club Dining Room, and you'll see why we couldn't resist: It's just like the Great Hall, but with soft-serve. Well, except for the ghosts. There are no ghosts. As far as we know. There are owls, though (#52).

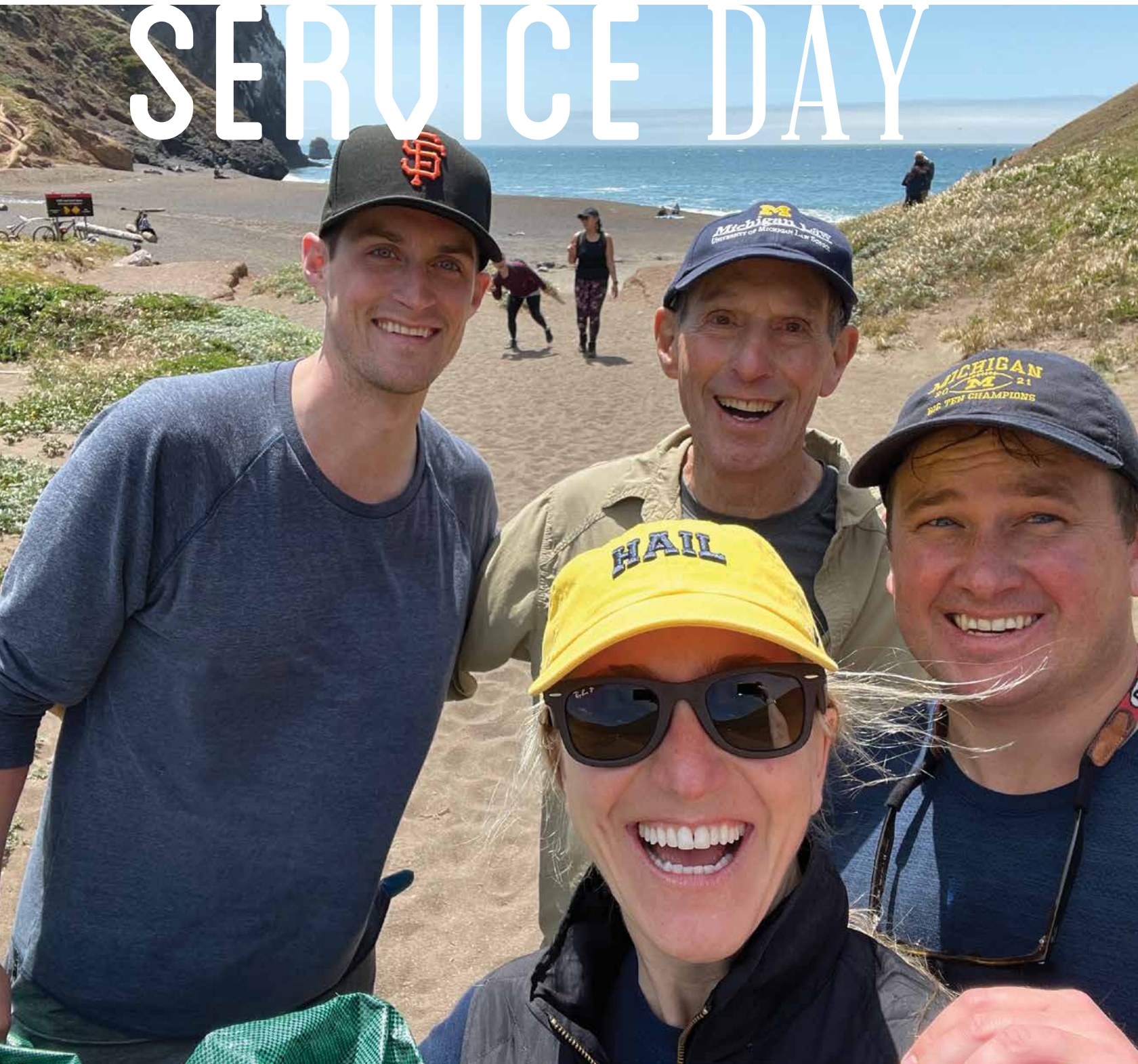
86 JUAN LUIS TIENDA

Law student Juan Tienda was a force in the legal and Latinx communities: He headed La Raza Law Students Association (now, Latinx Law Students Association), advocated for migrant workers, and volunteered with prison inmates. In 1976, before his final year of law school, a car accident ended his life. He is remembered through a scholarship in his name, which honors Latinx law students who demonstrate a commitment to working with underserved Latinx populations.

87

Our sense of community doesn't end when diplomas are in hand. It informs the way we view the world beyond the Quad. And, as a public institution, we have an obligation to do our part to make the world a better place. Each spring, our students—past, present, and future—convene in cities throughout the United States (the farthest away from Ann Arbor is Anchorage!) to engage in the tradition of service for which Michigan Law is known.

SERVICE DAY





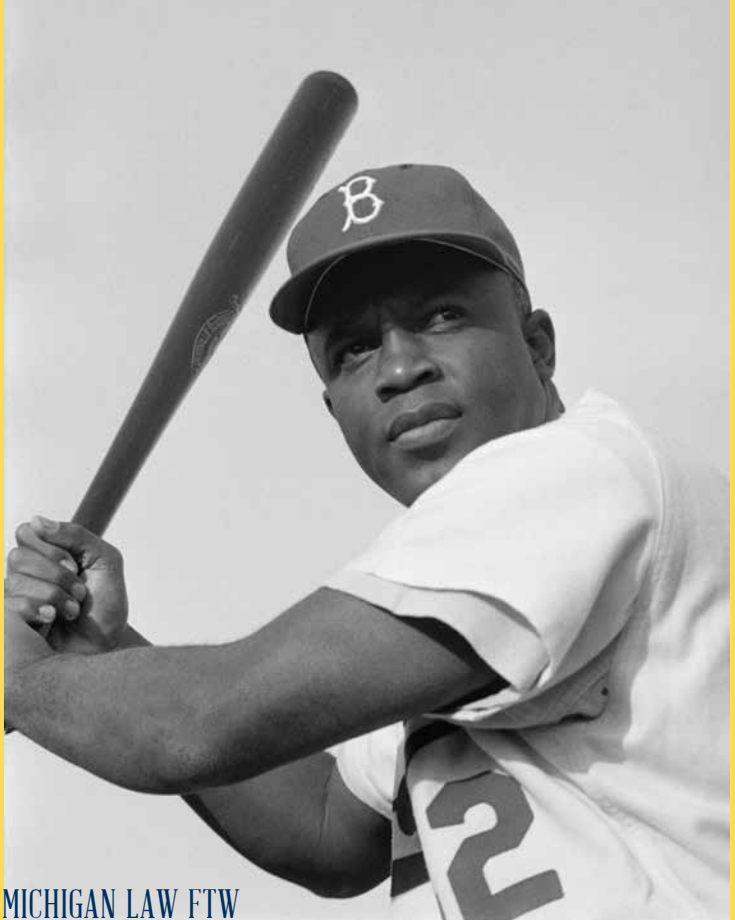
88

STUDY SPACES

If you like to study in a grand room with sound-absorbing cork floors, head to the Reading Room. Need a space where you can collaborate with your classmates? Check out the lower level of Aikens Commons. In search of a cozy spot during the winter? Take your books and laptop to the Lounge on the first floor of Jeffries Hall and snuggle up near the fireplace. No matter your studying style, we've got you covered.



STAIRS FOR KIDS



89

MICHIGAN LAW FTW

In August 1944, 2nd Lt. Jack R. Robinson—the future famed Brooklyn Dodger and first Black Major League Baseball player—faced a court-martial at Camp Hood, Texas, related to two charges of insubordination of a superior officer following an incident on a bus in which he refused to obey Jim Crow-era laws. Who, you ask, was the unheralded defense attorney who was instrumental in Jackie Robinson's acquittal? Capt. Robert H. Johnson, a Michigan Law graduate. Branch Rickey, Class of 1911, went on to hire Robinson for the Dodgers in 1947, thereby breaking the big-league color barrier: Michigan Law for the win.

90

The Law School launched the Child Advocacy Law Clinic in 1976, the first clinical law program in America to specialize in problems of child abuse and neglect and children in foster care. Since then, Michigan Law has developed one of the most respected and influential child-law programs in the country.

FOR KIDS

Here are just a few of the diverse dishes you can order at restaurants around town: chicken tikka masala at Cardamom. Dolsot bibimbop from Rich J.C. Japanese-style sablefish from Pacific Rim. Hippie hash (made with free-range hippies!) at the Fleetwood Diner. Zilzil wat at the Blue Nile. Street style tteokbokki from Miss Kim. Bò kho from Dalat. Falafel and vegetarian grape leaves at Jerusalem Garden. Gluten-free enchiladas calabaza from Seva. Charcuteria at Aventura. The Inspired Cuban from Frita Batidos. Even a trout Reuben at Avalon Café and Kitchen. Hungry yet? If not, see #61.

91 YUM



92

STICKY FLOORS AND SHARKBOWLS

Rick's? Rick's.

Sure, it's inelegant, but for a taste of the true Big Ten undergrad experience, there's no place like it. Remember, as a law student at Rick's American Cafe, you're a tourist—not a resident. You WILL be allowed to leave. Seating? Nah. Your feet adhere to the floor anyway. And is that an aquarium in your hand, or are you enjoying a sharkbowl?



WHAT THE ELM?

93 When it came time to build the new Aikens Commons (#35) in an unused courtyard adjacent to Hutchins Hall, there was one not-so-tiny problem: a giant elm tree was already living there. Much angst was suffered over what to do about the tree until an arborist discovered that it was dying, which made solving the problem somewhat easier. But, as befits a creature that's been around Michigan Law nearly as long as our omnipresent squirrels, the elm lives on at the Law School as latticework incorporated right into seating areas inside Aikens Commons.

94

A MAP TO THE FUTURE

The Michigan Access Program (a.k.a. MAP) aims to build a community of Law School social justice leaders that crosses racial, ethnic, and cultural lines. Interested students participate in a series of facilitated sessions on such issues as intersectionality and classroom dynamics, then take part in workshops and discussions during the academic year. The goal? Effective conflict resolution and intergroup communication skills that last a lifetime, and cross-cultural abilities that help participants explore their own history and beliefs regarding social identity and social justice.



95

ICE ICE, BABY

Just a few blocks from the Law Quad, U-M's ice arena may be the best place on earth to see a college hockey game. Even if the only printable crowd chant seems to be "IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!" which breaks out every time the Wolverines score on a hapless opposition goalie. Plus, Michigan Law's very own hockey team plays there, and free skating nights are offered for students.



96

THE POETRY OF PLACE

The dew is in the grass, a silver moon is rising, and golden light spills from arched stained glass to kiss majestic elms. Heaven, or an evening outside the Reading Room?



97

We talk a lot about collegiality. That's because it's real. And you'll know it by how eager you are to return to Ann Arbor for your first milestone reunion five years after graduation—and keep returning every five years thereafter, in addition to having informal meetups with classmates around the world.



98

“DEFENDER OF THE DAMNED”

Famous in the early 20th century for taking on cases that appealed to his sense of justice, Clarence Darrow studied at Michigan Law before becoming a leading voice for civil liberties. Among his celebrated cases was the defense of John Scopes, the Tennessee teacher prosecuted in 1925 for teaching about the theory of evolution. Darrow also was among the first to be called a “labor lawyer,” and a legendary one at that, in part due to his high-profile defense of American Railway Union President Eugene V. Debs. Darrow proved through one career, you can do it all.

THE OLD SCHOOL THE







TAKE THIS THING FOR A

SPIN.....

There's something oddly satisfying in giving a shove to a 15-foot-high metal cube that appears to be rooted in concrete, then watching the whole giant thing spin silently around. So it is with the sculpture most Wolverines call "the Cube" (formal name: "Endover"), located on a plaza outside the student union. It's so satisfying, in fact, that school legend says U-M's president gives it a push each day to make sure the University gets going in the morning.

100

...OR LET THIS THING TAKE YOU FOR A SPIN

Being near the hometown of the American auto industry means enjoying a front-row seat to the next automotive metamorphosis: automated and autonomous vehicles. For Michigan Law students, that means helping shape that metamorphosis through groundbreaking scholarship on the myriad legal ramifications of driverless vehicles. The University is home to Mcity—a simulated cityscape used for testing automated vehicles—and to the first driverless shuttle project in the United States focusing on user behavior research. The Law School is home to the *Journal of Law and Mobility*, as well as Profs. Dan Crane, Kyle Logue, and others at the forefront of legal thinking about those vehicles. And that puts our students in the driver's seat.

101

DOGS

Followers of Admissions Cat on @umichlawadmissions might be shocked to know that of all the wellness programming we offer (#36), the most popular might be the semiannual visits from therapy dogs during finals study days. We always make time to paws for that.



102 FOLK, HIP-HOP, AND CLASSICAL

Need some music to give your brain a break from memorizing the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure? At Ann Arbor's landmark music venue, The Ark, you can hear up-and-coming folk and roots artists (including, on occasion, a law student) as well as established singers. Events at Hill Auditorium and the Michigan Theater recently drew the likes of Trevor Noah, 10,000 Maniacs, Tori Amos, and Amos Lee, while the Ann Arbor Summer Festival and Sonic Lunch featured Milky Chance, G Love, and Jason Isbell. The Blind Pig is home to a much more raucous sound: rock, hip-hop, and electronic music. If you prefer the likes of Itzhak Perlman, Audra McDonald, and Wynton Marsalis, the University Musical Society highlights an array of music, dance, and theater, while the Kerrytown Concert House is an intimate venue that offers classical and experimental music.



103 YOU BELONG

Means and medians are all well and good, but you're not going to become BFFs with one of your classmates because of her LSAT score. So even though Michigan Law is an exceptionally selective place by any objective measure, you'll join a student body that is engaging and interesting in nonmeasurable ways, too (#3). We've admitted a police officer and an FBI staff operations specialist; a White House speechwriter and a USAID program analyst; a minor league baseball player, a junior Olympic weightlifter, one of Twitch's top 100 video gamers, and a pro volleyball player in Finland; loads of musicians, including the brand manager for Jason Isbell; ranch hands, farmers, a sommelier, and a train dispatcher—and that's just one recent class. You think they were interesting people when they arrived? Just wait until they've graduated.



BY THE NUMBERS

“Academic Life” and “Law School Community” are just about tied for lead dog in our index, and we figure that’s exactly as it should be. Michigan Law is first and foremost an exercise in both, surrounded by things like “Ann Arbor,” “Campus,” and “Your Future,” the way a supporting cast surrounds an Academy Award-winning actor.

ACADEMIC LIFE

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Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office (ECRT), 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1432, 734-763-0235, TTY 734-647-1388.

Campus Safety Statement

Each year, the University of Michigan prepares the "Annual Security and Fire Safety Report." The report, issued each October 1, contains detailed information on campus safety and security policies, procedures and programs, meeting the requirements set by the Department of Education under the Clery Act and Title IX. The report also includes statistics concerning crimes on campus. If you would like to receive a complete copy, visit the U-M Division of Public Safety and Security website or call (734) 763-3063.

Regents of the University

Jordan B. Acker, Huntington Woods

Michael J. Behm, Grand Blanc

Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor

Paul W. Brown, Ann Arbor

Sarah Hubbard, Okemos

Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms

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2023-2024