# IN ILAW INPACT

2024





Dear Friend of Michigan Law,

It is a true honor to serve as interim dean after more than 30 years at the Law School. Throughout my time here, I've witnessed firsthand the profound ways that alumni support has shaped our community—from transforming the student and faculty experience to preserving our historic campus.

Our annual Impact Report highlights the far-reaching effects of your generosity across our institution. In these pages, you will meet exceptional students who have thrived—inside and outside the classroom—through the support of scholarship funding. You'll see the importance of private support to our budget and demonstrations of the global impact of our faculty members' innovation and research. And you'll learn how our investment in student and faculty programming fosters engagement across campus and strengthens community partnerships.

On behalf of all who benefit from your kindness, thank you for supporting the Law School. Your contributions provide crucial financial assistance and remind us of the strong connections within our community. Your unwavering support lives within the walls of Michigan Law, and for that we are grateful.

Sincerely,

**Kyle D. Logue** Interim Dean Douglas A. Kahn Collegiate Professor of Law

## Our Budget

As the figures on this page clearly show, private support plays an integral role in providing the resources Michigan Law needs to continue its tradition of academic excellence and deliver an outstanding student experience. The Law School's general fund comes from a variety of sources, which primarily includes tuition, fees, indirect cost recovery, and supplements from the University as well as funding from the State of Michigan (which comprises less than 4 percent). Generous gifts from the Michigan Law community help to supplement those funds and ensure that the Law School retains its strong fiscal foundation.

Fiscal Year 2024 Operational Expenses	\$107,892,229
Fiscal Year 2024 Total Gifts and Endowment Income	\$32,302,044



### Meet the JD Class of 2027



TOOK 1 OR MORE YEARS OFF AFTER UNDERGRAD HAVE PREVIOUSLY RECEIVED A GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE It's easy to assume societal needs are being taken care of by an organization or someone in a position of power. In my experience, this is often not the case; change begins with community action. Over the last decade, I've worked across politics, nonprofits, and tech, focusing on understanding the real-life challenges people face and how we can do better. This desire to more deeply understand our institutions ultimately led me to law school.

After arriving at Michigan Law, I learned about the critical issues being decided by the Michigan Supreme Court. I built a team of more than 30 law students, and we raised \$50,000 and sent one million texts to voters to increase awareness about the candidates and the importance of the court. This initiative was supported by Justice for All-Michigan, a political initiative set up to support justices with a demonstrated commitment to a fair and effective justice system.

Later, while clerking for the Governor's Office of Legal Counsel, I visited the Michigan Supreme Court and learned about former Chief Justice Bridget McCormack's work on court reform. She focused on lowering barriers to justice, especially for low-income Michiganders, through initiatives like the Justice for All Commission.

Inspired by this work, I organized a two-day workshop on predatory debt collection in Michigan under the guidance of Michigan Law professors and U-M Poverty Solutions. We raised \$6,000 and brought together students, faculty, and state and national groups, including the Michigan Poverty Law Program, Detroit Justice Center, Legal Services Corporation, Pew Foundation, and Aspen Institute. This workshop led to legislative advocacy efforts, legal research projects, and broader antipoverty initiatives that continue today.

At Michigan Law, I've found a community that empowers me to make a real impact. The school's supportive environment and scholarships have made it possible for me to pursue this kind of work and continue bringing groups together for meaningful change.



MALCOLM PHELAN, 3L Paul A. Leidy Scholarship Law School Dean's Scholarship



### **Engagement and Partnerships**

Michigan Law is at the center of one of the world's great research institutions, and students and faculty benefit from partnerships across campus and with other organizations working to solve complex societal issues. Collaboration across disciplines outside of the law is vital to crafting solutions that endure. Whether through the Law School's clinical program, externships and pro bono efforts, or other avenues, students and faculty and Michigan Law are making on-the-ground impact on issues that matter.

### Addressing the Debt Collection Crisis

As a 2L in spring 2024, Malcolm Phelan rallied lawyers, policymakers, students, and coders from around the country for a workshop hosted by U-M Poverty Solutions, a crossdisciplinary initiative. With help from former Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Bridget Mary McCormack, who also is an adjunct professor at Michigan Law; Matthew Andres, '02, a clinical assistant professor of law; and Poverty Solutions leaders, Phelan brought together a wide range of practitioners and students to develop approaches that could support longstanding reform efforts against predatory debt collection and its impact on Michigan's families and legal system.

At the weekend-long workshop, teams developed more than 20 new approaches for reining in predatory debt collection, lessening the barrage of filings on local court systems, and providing information and resources to low-income Michiganders facing debt-related lawsuits, among other issues.



The out-of-the-box thinking the workshop encouraged yielded innovative ideas for products and policies that could be game changers for Michiganders facing the harsh consequences of debt.

MATTHEW ANDRES, '02, a clinical assistant professor of law and the director of the Veterans Legal Clinic. He is pictured (above, center) at the debt collection workshop.

### **Transactional Law in Africa**

Since 2008, the International Transactions Clinic (ITC) has worked with a long list of for-profit and nonprofit organizations that span the globe. In February 2024, a team of student-attorneys traveled to Rwanda to meet in person with management of BioMassters Limited, a client with whom they had been working all year. The trip—funded through donor support—was the first of its kind for either faculty or students of the clinic.

Shortly after, two other ITC student-attorneys traveled to Nairobi, Kenya, with nine Michigan Ross MBA students from the International Investment Fund (IIF). There, they learned about the legal, regulatory, and business landscape as well as how to navigate differences in communication and social norms. The IIF is a student-led fund that invests in early-stage startups in emerging economies outside the US, and it's one of the ITC's clients. The student-attorneys researched the regulatory landscape in Kenya and assisted the IIF in performing due diligence on a Nairobi-based online cosmetic sales startup.



We had the amazing opportunity to expand our education beyond the law. We absorbed so much information as the business school students were constantly discussing concepts such as revenue, profitability, market size, returns, growth, exits, risk, customer profiles, and synergies. This trip will help us become better corporate lawyers.

RYAN PHAM, '24, traveled to Kenya with the ITC and students from U-M's MBA program. He is pictured (right) with LUIS FIALLOS, '24.

### **Making Communities Safer**

In 2024, the Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic (CCLC) worked with the group Everytown for Gun Safety on a lawsuit filed against the seller of a "ghost gun" that seriously injured a Michigan teenager. The lawsuit seeks to hold JSD Supply, the company that sold the gun-building kit, and the shooter, who was also a teenager, accountable. The gun-building kit was sold to the minor without JSP Supply performing any background check or age verification.

#### ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND AROUND THE WORLD

students participated in full- or part-time externships during the 2023–2024 academic year

students engaged in either remote or in-person domestic placements based out of 10 locations (AK, CA, FL, IL, MA, MI, MN, NE, NM, and DC)

21 students engaged in international placements, including in Lahore, Pakistan; Mexico City; and multiple placements through the Geneva International Fellows Program and South Africa Externship Program



Gun violence has affected my generation in an unimaginable way, and I am proud to have a small role in working toward a safer future.

CHRIS BOHÓRQUEZ, '24, one of the CCLC student-attorneys who worked on the case. Bohórquez is pictured (seated, at far right) during a press conference announcing the lawsuit in Jeffries Hall.

#### STUDENTS IN SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

71,120

hours of free legal services provided by student-attorneys in the Law School's clinics during the 2023–2024 academic year

hours of free services provided each academic year by students in the Pro Bono Program (average 2010–2023)

🦻 23,904

hours of pro bono services performed by students in Michigan Law's externship program during the 2023–2024 academic year



I worked as a nursing assistant at Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in suburban Detroit in 2020. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, I witnessed significant inequities in patient care, and staff were experiencing high levels of burnout. I voiced these concerns to the hospital executives, ultimately advocating for and securing a \$15 minimum wage across all Henry Ford health systems. It became clear that my passion lies in advocacy work, so I looked into applying to law school.

Michigan Law was my top choice, and I attended the Butch Carpenter Gala in 2023, which only reinforced my interest. During my 1L year, I became a student representative for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), and this year, I'm the treasurer. BLSA has offered me a community and allowed me to see how race interacts with the law and understand the inequities that exist within it.

Outside my studies, I work as a disinformation investigations analyst at Google, focusing on crossborder negotiations and political disinformation. I was initially hired as a content moderator for YouTube, focusing on political disinformation related to the 2020 US election—and removing those campaigns from the platform. When I entered Michigan Law, I was interested in constitutional law, civil rights, and health law. Through my work at Google, I can add voting rights to that list.

I want to work in corporate law after graduation, but I'd also like to be involved in government policy and advocacy work at some point in my career. I couldn't afford to be here without the scholarship I received; the financial support has allowed me to succeed in ways that I didn't think I would be able to, and I feel more freedom to pursue the roles I'm interested in.

TIFFANY BANKHEAD, 2L Law School Dean's Competing Scholarship

### **Innovation and Research**

Michigan Law faculty influence the future of the law, and legal education, through their scholarship and their deep commitment to their students. Through classroom teaching, in-office discussions, and casual hallway conversations, they provide a rich understanding of the foundational principles and the emerging trends in every area of law. The research they produce helps maintain Michigan Law's reputation as one of the very best law schools in the world and drives positive change in the law and society.

### **Connecting Law and Mobility**

When the Law School's Law and Mobility Program launched in 2018, it was largely focused on autonomous vehicles and how they would reshape roads—and legal statutes. While the program continues to be invested in autonomous vehicles, its scope has widened in recent years.



"There are so many cool things going on in the transportation field, not just autonomous cars, but anything related to moving people and goods. That includes urban planning, aviation, and even commercial space travel," says Tifani Sadek, the director of the program since 2022.

"This semester, we're looking at a lot of environmental law. What are the environmental impacts of the technological changes that we're seeing in transportation? Are they going to serve everyone? Are they going to make life worse for a certain group of people?"

The program is also collaborating with University's aerospace engineering department on the challenges posed by spaceports—hubs for commercial space activity that will be akin to airports. The project is among several interdisciplinary initiatives that leverage the expertise of other U-M students and faculty.

"The broad spectrum of topics that we can cover within the umbrella of law and mobility is very appealing," says Matt Blaszczyk, the Law and Mobility Program's current research fellow, who specializes in Al regulation, copyright, and antitrust. "I can bring my research interests and apply them to something truly tangible."



When you are a public defender, there's an individual whose very life and liberty are in your hands. That is a huge responsibility. Graduates of the MDefenders program leave the Law Quad with an understanding of the weight and responsibility of the work—and with a zeal and desire to do it, and to do it right.

EVE BRENSIKE PRIMUS, '01, the Yale Kamisar Collegiate Professor of Law.

### **Representing the Neediest**

The MDefenders program at Michigan Law, founded in 2014 by Professor Eve Brensike Primus, '01, is a one-of-a-kind network of courses, programming, and resources that support students who want to spend their career working in public defense. The program includes the Public Defender Training Institute (PDTI), a yearlong course that immerses 2L and 3L students in the world of indigent defense; career support such as help with applications and interview preparations; a passionate alumni network of public defenders; and other resources.

In fall 2023, the program launched Data for Defenders with a number of partners, including defender offices and organizations around the country. The database collects briefs, motions, and transcripts focused on social science research and data that public defenders could find useful, including the science of eyewitness memory; problems with racism and bias in the criminal legal system; and the use of unreliable, seemingly scientific evidence. Primus says the database promotes creative evidence-based advocacy, with the goal of elevating the level of defense practice to make the system more fair and more just.

**DEFENDERS ACROSS THE US** 

PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES

from the first PDTI class who continue to practice indigent defense 30+

Michigan Law alumni are working in public defense



I have seen firsthand the anguish caused to people, including those under occupation and facing atrocities, by attacks on their most precious cultural heritage and the erasure of their histories. This represents the destruction of the resources they most need to draw strength from in their darkest hour. The international community must respond effectively.

> KARIMA BENNOUNE, '94, the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law. She is pictured with activists Malala Yousafzai (center) and Metra Mehran (left) in Nelson Mandela's office.

### **Global Leaders in Human Rights**

Karima Bennoune, '94, joined the Law School in 2022 as the Lewis M. Simes Professor of Law and is a globally recognized voice in international human rights law. Her 2023 paper in the *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* argued that conditions for women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule constitute a form of apartheid. Bennoune was invited to address the United Nations Security Council on the topic, and joined Nobel Prize-winning activist Malala Yousafzai for a conversation about women's rights at an event hosted by the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg (pictured).

More recently, she testified before Congress on the subject of the Russian Federation's ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine and its efforts to erase Ukrainian culture and identity. Bennoune, whose passion for international human rights stems from her family's suffering during the Algerian war for independence, says that the driving force of her career is to seek global solutions so others do not have similar experiences.



Even if the rule is ultimately overturned in court, the conversation and the rule itself may still change behavior. Employees are more likely to be aware of noncompetes and their effects. The FTC's defense of the rule...might make some companies rethink how they approach postemployment covenants. Or companies may think they are at great risk in the years ahead from their state banning noncompetes even if the federal government doesn't succeed in its defense of a national ban.

J.J. PRESCOTT, the Henry King Ransom Professor of Law.

### **Protecting Workers**

In April, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) announced a new rule prohibiting companies from requiring noncompete agreements from employees. It stems largely from research by J.J. Prescott, the Henry King Ransom Professor of Law and the co-director of Michigan's Empirical Legal Studies Center and the Program in Law and Economics. The agreements—in which the employees agree not to go to work for a competitor or start their own business if they leave their employer—have become commonplace in recent years. The FTC, relying substantially on research by Prescott and his co-authors, estimates that around 20 percent of US workers are subject to one.

The researchers found that noncompetes are common in many fields of employment. Although they are most prevalent in higher-paying jobs with access to confidential information, their study found less variation between types of jobs than most people would have predicted. In a different study, Prescott and his colleagues found that very few people negotiate over noncompetes, likely because they do not believe that refusing to agree is a realistic option and they worry that negotiating over a noncompete sends a negative message to their new employer that might harm their career.

#### **NONCOMPETES IN THE WORKFORCE**

18%

OF LABOR FORCE PARTICIPANTS ARE BOUND BY NONCOMPETES

38%

HAVE AGREED TO AT LEAST ONE NONCOMPETE IN THE PAST

According to survey data cited in "Noncompete Agreements in the U.S. Labor Force," co-authored by J.J. Prescott and published in the *Journal of Law and Economics*. Growing up in foster care, and later becoming a foster parent with my wife, are both experiences that have led me to law school. I was adopted by my grandparents in Texas, and my wife worked in orphanages during her teenage years in South America. We both knew that we wanted to build our family by adopting children through foster care; thus far, we have fostered 16 children, from newborns to 13 year olds, while simultaneously pursuing our undergraduate degrees. Today, we have adopted three children and are committed to continuing to foster in the future.

Michigan Law was an obvious choice for law school, thanks to a contingent of Michigan transplants in Texas who attended my church. Through them, I learned of the Law School's uniquely collegial culture and the many opportunities available to students. Serving as a legal representative in the Child Advocacy Clinic, I was able to help a mother reunite with her two children who had been in foster care. For the first time, I was advocating for the parents' rights as opposed to thinking only of the child's best interest. Being on the other side of that equation was challenging and offered me a new perspective.

In addition to my clinical work, I have found community and support through the Christian Legal Society and the Federalist Society. Many of the friends I have made are in the same season of life as me, and we lean on each other personally and professionally.

In my time at Michigan Law, I have realized my interest in litigation work, specifically trial advocacy. The scholarship I received has alleviated my financial burden, and I have the freedom to pursue a career that fulfills me, which is a tremendous relief to my family and me.



JEREMY "J.J." MARSHALL, 3L Law School Dean's Scholarship







As the University of Michigan and the Law School launched the Look to Michigan campaign in fall 2024, be proud that your generosity has laid a solid foundation for our success. Together, we are stronger, and it is your commitment that keeps Michigan Law at the forefront of legal education, attracting the brightest minds of tomorrow.

The Law School's goal in the Look to Michigan campaign is \$225 million. Our fundraising priorities reflect the enduring values we cherish.

- Enhancing the Student Experience
- Supporting Innovation and Research
- Fostering Engagement and Partnerships
- Building Our Campus
- Strengthening the Law School Fund

In a world that demands innovation and adaptability, we are dedicated to meeting our students where they are while upholding Michigan Law's enduring legacy of excellence, from which you and so many others have benefitted.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

### for what's next > Look to Michigan

michigan.law.umich.edu/support

