



DEAN'S REPORT

JUNE 2021

TO

JULY 2022



A photograph of three young adults, two women and one man, smiling in a wood-paneled room. The woman on the left is wearing a dark blue pinstriped blazer. The woman in the center is wearing a dark blazer over a patterned scarf. The man on the right is wearing a dark blue suit and tie. In the background, there are two flags: the United States flag and the Michigan state flag. The room has dark wood paneling and a large archway in the background.

“Our vision is to become Michigan’s preeminent law school preparing a diverse population of lawyer-leaders to serve the diverse communities in Michigan and beyond!”

Linda Sheryl Greene
Dean and MSU Foundation Professor of Law

VALUES STEEPED IN INCLUSION



When I came to Michigan State University College of Law one short year ago, I joined an accomplished 131-year-old institution that, despite its age, is in a state of renewal.

In 1995, the college relocated to the Michigan State University's campus in East Lansing, Michigan, where it operated as a private law school independent of the university.

Two years ago, that changed when MSU College of Law was fully integrated as a constituent college of Michigan State University. The College of Law is now a public institution, poised to become the preeminent law school for the state of Michigan, preparing a diverse population of lawyer-leaders to serve the diverse communities in Michigan and beyond. From small rural communities in the northern-most reaches of the Upper Peninsula to the



forgotten neighborhoods of Southeast Michigan, the state covers a large geographic region with a diverse citizenry and complex needs. Our graduates will be well prepared to serve them.

In my first Dean's Report, I'd like to tell you about some of our accomplishments during my first year. These accomplishments represent the collaborative work of our amazing faculty, staff, and students. I am extremely grateful for the unwavering support of MSU's leadership, President Samuel Stanley and Provost Teresa Woodruff, who have been my leadership partners since the beginning of my transition in February 2021. I also want to thank our supportive alumni and generous donors. As you read this report, I hope you will come to share my conviction that the best is yet to come for MSU Law!



College of Law
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

WHO WE ARE: DIVERSITY IN ACTION, PHASE ONE

One of my first objectives was the adoption of the Strategic Plan focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion that would align with the June 2021 MSU Strategic Plan. In April 2022, the faculty approved Phase One of the MSU Law Strategic Plan. That plan states that MSU Law “. . . is committed to the goal of becoming a national leader in increasing diversity, promoting inclusion, ensuring equity, and eliminating disparities on the MSU campus and beyond.” This is a serious undertaking, so we divided the work into two phases.

I am proud to share that we have already acted on our commitment to diversity by recruiting and enrolling an incoming class for the 2022-2023 academic year that will be MSU Law’s most diverse in the last 23 years. Our 2022-2023 academic year Strategic Planning Committee, chaired by Professor Wenona Singel, will complete phase II of our DEI strategic planning work by identifying the specific actions that we will undertake to deliver on the promise “to prepare . . . a diverse community of students to be national and international leaders in private legal practice, business and industry, government service, and legal education.”



SPRING 2022 MSU LAW
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

WHO WE ARE: OUR FACULTY

Our faculty is comprised of leading scholars at the forefront of many of the most important teaching and scholarship about law in society.

UNCOVERING BIAS IN CRIMINAL LAW

Professors Barbara O'Brien and Catherine Grosso lead the National Registry of Exonerations (NRE), which seeks to provide comprehensive information on exonerations of innocent criminal defendants. The NRE is critical to the prevention of future false convictions by learning from past errors. Their scholarship examines the role of race in criminal investigation, trials, and the administration of capital punishment.



PROFESSORS CATHERINE GROSSO AND BARBARA O'BRIEN



PROFESSOR
VERONICA THRONSON

IMMIGRATION LAW: REPRESENTING THE FORGOTTEN

Professor Veronica Thronson leads our Immigration Law Clinic. In early 2022, she and six students won asylum for a young transgender woman from El Salvador who had been facing deportation. The pro bono work done by Professor Thronson not only gave her students invaluable courtroom experience in Detroit Immigration Court but very likely saved a life.



PROFESSOR MICHAEL SANT'AMBROGIO



PROFESSOR GLEN STASZEWSKI

IMPROVING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH RULEMAKING AND FEDERAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

Professors Michael Sant'Ambrogio and Glen Staszewski advised the federal government on best practices on public engagement in federal agency rulemaking, identifying a wide array of methods that agencies use to solicit information and views from members of the public.

Separately, Professor Sant'Ambrogio helped re-write the procedures used by the Veterans Court to provide greater relief to large classes of veterans seeking benefits for injuries and illnesses arising from their service.

THE CITING SLAVERY PROJECT: RECKONING WITH THE LAW OF SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACY

Professor Justin Simard studies and tracks the continuing influence of the law of slavery on modern American law. This work recognizes the legal profession's history of legitimizing slavery through commercial practice. His groundbreaking scholarship led to a rare between-editions change in *The Bluebook: A Uniform System of Citation* (rule 10.7.1) in 2021. He and his student researchers will introduce their work to a suburban Detroit high school in fall 2022 in a pilot program designed to develop high school history and social studies curriculum based on The Citing Slavery Project.

The Washington Post recognized Professor Simard for "fighting bias with an unlikely weapon, footnotes."

Earlier this year, I was pleased to introduce Professor Simard at one of our Faculty Speaker Series events. He presented *The Citing Slavery Project: Reckoning with the Law of Slavery and Its Legacy* on YouTube, which was open to the public.



PROFESSOR JUSTIN SIMARD

INDIGENOUS LAW AND POLICY

Every serious conversation about Native American law in this country involves our faculty, students and/ or alumni. MSU Law's Indigenous Law and Policy Center is a nationally recognized center of excellence and one of few Indigenous law certificate programs in the United States.

The elite American Law Institute (ALI) selected two MSU professors, Matthew Fletcher and Wenona Singel, to write a study of the Law of the American Indian. The nine-year project resulted in a Restatement of the Law of American Indians , approved in 2021 by the ALI.

Meanwhile, Professor Kathryn Fort leads our Indian Law Clinic, which defends tribal interests in cases in which the state removes Indian children from their families into foster care. Professor Fort is co-representing four tribal nations in a case that is planned to go before the U.S. Supreme Court in the fall of 2022.

I would also like to acknowledge one of our alumnus, Bryan Newland, who is currently serving as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior. Assistant Secretary Newland was the first Native American student to enroll in our Indigenous Law and Policy Center.



PROFESSOR WENONA SINGEL



KATHRYN FORT, '05
DIRECTOR, MSU LAW CLINIC
AND INDIAN LAW CLINIC



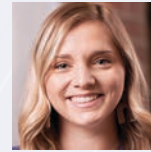
BRYAN NEWLAND

WHO WE ARE: OUR STUDENTS

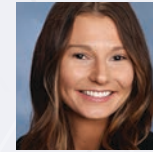
Our students continue to demonstrate their excellence. They are award winning competitors in moot and trial competitions, recipients of public service fellowships, and leaders of diverse student organizations. They also provide important pro bono service to Michigan communities. Here are a few examples of their accomplishments..

COMPETING TO WIN

They excel in many regional and national competitions. In 2019-2020 the University of Houston Law Center's Blakely Advocacy ranked MSU Law the top-ranked law school moot court program in the United States. This past year, three students - Makenzie Sipes, Lauren Legnar, and Haley Regan - took home the top prize at the Billings Exum Frye Constitutional Law Competition. In another contest, Kelsey Harrington, Nikolas Spilson, and Haley Regan won first place in the Seigenthaler-Sutherland Cup First Amendment Moot Court Competition. And MSU Law hosted the inaugural Gender & Sexuality Moot Court Competition. Our team members reached the semi-final round.



MAKENZIE
SIPES, '22



LAUREN
LEGNAR, '22



(L TO R): FIRST AMENDMENT MOOT
COURT COMPETITION: NIKOLAS
(NIKO) SPILSON, '23, KELSEY
HARRINGTON, '22, AND
BRIEFWRITER HALEY REGAN, '22



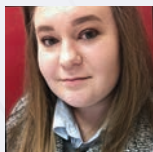
LAW
STUDENT
ORGANIZATION
FAIR WAS HELD IN
SEPTEMBER 2021

LAW IN ACTION

They also compete successfully for important public service opportunities. Equal Justice Works selected Anna Henson and Ashley Wilkie as two of 40 law students in the country to participate in the Rural Summer Legal Corps during summer of 2022. They worked to provide access-to-justice for people living in rural areas, which aligns with MSU Law's commitment to serving diverse populations in the state of Michigan. The Udall Foundation selected Noah Wahquahboshkuk as a 2022 Native American Congressional Intern.



ANNA
HENSON, '23



ASHLEY
WILKIE, '24



NOAH
WAHQVAHBOSHKUK, '23

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

I am also excited that our students have formed groups that focus on and acknowledge their diverse affinities and their common concerns. Our students do this with the 40 student organizations they have formed around shared interests. Participation in student organizations that focus on social, cultural, religious, philosophical, philanthropic, and educational interests lead to personal and educational growth.



(L TO R): DAVID YANAGI, '17, PROFESSOR MICHAEL SANT'AMBROGIO,
ASHLEY BECK, '19, AND DEBANI GORDON LEHMAN, '19

PRO BONO SERVICE

Our students embrace the many opportunities to provide pro bono service. Each academic year our clinical students and faculty help clients who cannot afford legal representation. Their advocacy supports not only immigrants and Native people, but children, victims of domestic abuse, student journalists, low-income taxpayers, and people with mental health issues. Last year, our students volunteered approximately 25,000 hours of service in our acclaimed Clinical Programs, serving more than 1,200 clients in need. MSU Law students also volunteer to work under practicing lawyers at a number of community service providers. They help resolve issues related to housing, taxes, child welfare, family disputes, civil rights and more.

WHO WE ARE: LEADING THE CONVERSATION

DEAN'S SPEAKERS SERIES: 2021 – 2022 RACE, LAW, AND SOCIETY

During my first year at MSU Law, I was pleased to launch a Dean's Speaker Series, a program featuring preeminent scholars and leaders offered to our MSU Law and alumni community as well as to the entire MSU community. The inaugural series focused on Race, Law and Society and featured several of the most influential scholars in the United States.

The first of our guest speakers, Patricia Williams, a MacArthur Foundation Fellow and Professor of Law and Humanities at Northeastern University, spoke on "Race and Technology".

Thomas Mitchell, a MacArthur Foundation Fellow, Professor of Law at Texas A and M, and Co-Director of its Real Estate, Housing and Community Development Program, spoke about his award-winning research on "Race, Property and Justice."

Devon Carbado, the Honorable Harry Pregerson Professor of Law at UCLA Law School and winner of the prestigious Fletcher Foundation Fellowship discussed "Black Lives and the Constitution". He explained how past and contemporary Supreme Court's interpretations of the Constitution have marginalized and jeopardized Black lives.



PROFESSOR
PATRICIA
WILLIAMS



PROFESSOR
THOMAS W.
MITCHELL



PROFESSOR
DEVON
CARBADO

I. India Thusi, Professor of Law and Senior Scientist at Indiana University Maurer School of Law and Kinsey Institute, focused on "Policing Bodies," a facet of her scholarship that explores racial, gender, and sexual hierarchies that manifest in policing.



PROFESSOR I. INDIA THUSI

I also hosted a public program on the historic nomination and confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson as Associate Justice to the United States Supreme Court. In addition to exploring the recent inclusion of Black females in the federal judiciary, I interviewed two Black women federal judges who told their stories and encouraged our students to prepare to serve as federal judges and magistrates. My guests for this important segment were The Hon. Bernice Donald, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit; and the Hon. Denise Hood, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

DEAN'S SPEAKER SERIES: 2022-2023 ETHICS, LAW, AND SOCIETY

In the second year, our Dean's Speaker Series will focus on ethics as a demonstration of our commitment to theoretical foundations and applications of ethics in the context of law. Our inaugural speaker on September 29, 2022, will be Professor Anita L. Allen, Ph.D., the Henry R. Silverman Professor of Law of the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School and 2021 Winner of the Quinn Prize in Philosophy. Dr. Allen is an internationally renowned expert on philosophical dimensions of privacy and data protection law, ethics, bioethics, legal philosophy, women's rights, and diversity in higher education. Her topic will be "Reimagining Ethics in Legal Education."

LOOKING FORWARD: ADVANCING A NEW ERA IN LEGAL EDUCATION

Professor Bernadette Atuahene, a property law scholar, is the James E. Jones Jr Professor of Law at the University of Wisconsin Law School. On November 14, 2022, Professor Atuahene will discuss “Predatory Governments” in which she will explore the ethical and legal issues that arise when governments engage in predatory behavior towards their most vulnerable citizens.

ETHICS AT MSU

I am proud to serve alongside my colleagues Sanjay Gupta, Dean of the Eli Broad College of Business; and Christopher P. Long, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters and the Honors College, to champion the development of the MSU Ethics Institute. The Institute will advance research and thought leadership in ethical theory with the goal of preparing students to be leaders in ethical decision making.

I am committed to graduating students in law who are well prepared to address ethical challenges for their times. To set the tone for this project, our 2022-23 academic year will be thematically dedicated to exploring emerging ethical issues through the new and ongoing courses and programs I mentioned previously. As my first anniversary at MSU Law approached, I reflected on exciting additions to our faculty, our academic leadership team, and our staff.

NEW FACULTY AT MSU COLLEGE OF LAW

Four new faculty members will join us for the 2022-2023 academic year, with each bringing a new and important area of scholarship to our students.

Professor Anne Choike will direct our Equitable Entrepreneurship & Innovation Law Clinic. Her research and teaching focus on how underserved entrepreneurs and community development are affected by the business regulations. A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Law, she also studied and researched at Uniwersytet Jagielloński in Kraków, Poland, as a Tomaszkiwicz-Florio Scholar.



PROFESSOR
ANNE CHOIKE

Professor Nicole Godfrey will direct our Housing Justice Clinic. She will supervise students as they represent low-income clients facing issues related to safe, decent, and affordable housing. Her students will work on a range of matters, including eviction defense and challenges to discriminatory housing practices.



PROFESSOR
NICOLE GODFREY

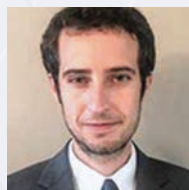
Professor Godfrey is a graduate of the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor at Sturm in the Civil Rights Clinic.

Assistant Professor Charles Delmotte will teach Basic Income Tax, and Trusts and Estates. He comes to MSU Law from NYU School of Law where he was a Postdoctoral Fellow, researching the ethics and economics of tax law. He received his J.D. and Ph.D. from Ghent University in Belgium.



ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR
CHARLES
DELMOTTE

Assistant Professor Daniel Rosenbaum, a Harvard Law graduate, is an expert in property law, land use, local government, and trusts and estates. He is the former Executive Director and General Counsel of the Wayne County Land Bank and was previously a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law.

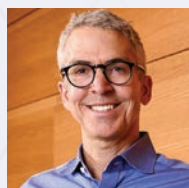


ASSISTANT
PROFESSOR
DANIEL
ROSENBAUM

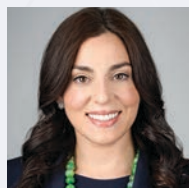
NEW ACADEMIC LEADERS AT MSU COLLEGE OF LAW

I am excited to include in my leadership team this year several of our talented faculty members. Professor Michael Sant'Ambrogio, who had been serving as Associate Dean for Faculty Research, commenced his service as Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Academic Affairs on March 1. Academic Specialist Veronica McNally became Senior Assistant Dean for Student Experience Excellence on May 1. And Professor David Thronson, the Alan S. Zekelman Professor of International Human Rights Law and Director of the Talsky Center for Human Rights of Women and Children, agreed to serve as Associate Dean for Experiential Education effective June 8.

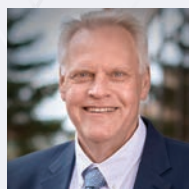
I am grateful for their willingness to serve during such an exciting time in MSU Law's history.



PROFESSOR MICHAEL
SANT'AMBROGIO



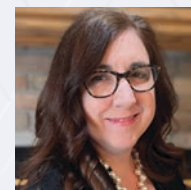
PROFESSOR
VERONICA MCNALLY



PROFESSOR DAVID
THONSON

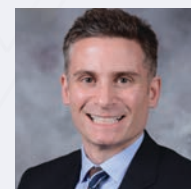
NEW STAFF LEADERS AT MSU COLLEGE OF LAW

I am also pleased to note three important additions to our staff leadership. Tammy Deppong, since January 3 had been serving as both a Faculty Secretary and Interim Executive Staff Assistant to the Dean. On May 9, she agreed to serve as permanent Executive Staff Assistant to the Dean.



TAMMY DEPPONG

Frank Aiello, an accomplished lawyer, law teacher, and administrator, will serve as my Chief of Staff. Frank will be responsible for the coordination of my internal and external activities; and personnel initiatives related to staff diversity, well-being, professional development, and retention. He also will have budgetary and finance responsibilities related to long-term planning; and he will help to advance our academic curriculum and learning resources of technology and innovation.



FRANK AIELLO

As important, Frank will provide administrative support for the work of the academic year 2022-2023 faculty-appointed broad-based strategic planning committee. This committee is led by Professor Wenona Singel and will develop Phase Two of our Strategic Plan that will chart the next decade of the College of Law's work.



PROFESSOR
WENONA SINGEL

Anne Marie Gattari joined us as Interim Director of Marketing and Communications on June 27. She directs internal and external communications at MSU Law while developing an overarching Communications Strategy that aligns with our vision. Anne Marie comes to MSU Law with an extensive background in newspaper journalism and corporate public relations.



ANNE MARIE
GATTARI

IN SUMMARY

I'm sure you can appreciate why I say the best is yet to come for MSU Law. We have had many accomplishments during the last 13 months. We have led nationally important conversations, we have co-led an MSU-wide ethics initiative, and our students continue to excel. We have added new faculty and staff to the College of Law, and we will welcome an excellent new cohort of students in August. We completed Phase One of our Strategic Plan which clarified our DEI values, and during the coming year, we will write Phase Two of our Strategic Plan that will sharpen our DEI goals and metrics.

As important, we will write a comprehensive strategic plan that will chart the course of MSU Law for the next ten years. We will make specific the actions we must take to realize our vision: to become Michigan's preeminent law school preparing a diverse population of lawyer-leaders to serve the diverse communities in Michigan and beyond. There is no doubt in my mind that the best is yet to come for Michigan State University College of Law.

Warmly,



LINDA SHERYL GREENE
Dean and MSU Foundation Professor of Law

THE BEST IS
YET TO COME
FOR **MSU
LAW**





MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LAW