

# class notes

## ALUMNI NEWSMAKERS

### 1970s

**Mark Weinstein, JD '72**, recently retired from California Western School of Law in San Diego, Calif., after 30 years on the faculty.

**Bradley Seltzer, JD '78**, a prominent tax attorney, has joined Holland & Knight as a partner.

### 1980s

**Sheldon Klein, JD '80**, earned recognition in the *World Trademark Review's* recently released *WTR 1000: The World's Leading Trademark Professionals for 2023*. Klein serves as senior counsel at Lathrop GPM and is a former president of the American Intellectual Property Law Association.

**Seth R. Price, JD '82**, was named among *The Best in 2023 Georgia Super Lawyers, Rising Stars*. Price is a shareholder at Chamberlain Hrdlicka, where he practices construction law.

**Dennis LeVine, JD '83**, recently joined the Tampa office of Brock & Scott as a managing partner. He focuses his practice on bankruptcy litigation and creditors' rights.

**Faith L. Charles, JD '86**, was recently appointed chair of the board of directors of CNS Pharmaceuticals. A corporate transactions and securities partner at Thompson Hine since 2010, she currently leads the firm's life sciences practice and co-heads the securities practice.

**Erika Dworkin, JD '88**, wrote a chapter in the recently

published book, *The Energy Medicine Solution: Mind Blowing Results for Living an Extraordinary Life*.

**Thomas R. Stanton, JD '88**, has joined Manning Gross & Massenburg LLP as a partner in the firm's Wilmington, Del., office.

**Lisa Peller London, JD '89**, a prominent trademark attorney, has rejoined Finnegan as of counsel at the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

### 1990s

**Shelly Ewald, JD '90**, a partner at Watt Tieder, was elected to serve as president of the American College of Construction Lawyers.

**John G. Loughnane, JD '90**, has joined White & Williams LLP's Boston office as a partner. He practices in the firm's corporate and securities group, as well as the financial restructuring and bankruptcy group.

**Doris Johnson Hines, JD '91**, was named an administrative law judge at the United States International Trade Commission. Prior to taking the bench in February, she was a partner at Finnegan.

**Tod Cohen, JD '92**, recently joined Steptoe and Johnson LLP as a partner in the firm's San Francisco office.

**Jack Sperber, JD '92**, recently assumed leadership of Faegre

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# A Sweet Career

**APRIL RICHARDSON, JD '02**, HAS BEEN ABLE TO HAVE HER cake and eat it too, as the saying goes. Literally.

Richardson's spectacularly varied career in the law has included periods fighting mortgage fraud in private practice and prosecuting and investigating white collar crimes for the local and federal government. Currently, she is co-owner and president of D.C. Sweet Potato Cake, a popular commercial bakery with outlets in Washington and Baltimore.

"It was an unlikely combination, being a lawyer and baker, but what drew me to the business was the opportunity to be entrepreneurial. I grew my companies while working for the feds, and once I left, I was able to focus on growing the company and being an entrepreneur," says Richardson, who worked full-time and raised her son on her own as she managed bakery contracts with hundreds of stores. "I have bakers and staff, so I'm not mixing ingredients, but I am a hands-on owner. If I have to go deliver cupcakes, I'll do it."

“IT WAS AN UNLIKELY COMBINATION, BEING A LAWYER AND BAKER, BUT WHAT DREW ME TO THE BUSINESS WAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE ENTREPRENEURIAL.”

— April Richardson

What's impressive about her achievement is the number of projects she's juggling. Along with her bakery, she has other entrepreneurial ventures, such as creating food halls in the D.C. region, and working with business owners in her law practice. "I think I know how to turn the corner more easily and more agilely to turn bad days into better days, very quickly," she says. "I don't take on everybody in my firm, but I work with companies that I can help them hit scale."

The diversity of her work is based on the groundwork established at GW Law. "Law school is the foundation of all of this.

Drinker's eminent domain and real estate litigation team.

**David Rothenstein, JD '93**, was promoted to senior vice president and chief strategy officer of Ciena, a networking systems, services, and software company.

**Fara Damelin, JD '94**, was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as inspector general of the Federal Communications Commission.

At the time of her nomination, she was chief of staff for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General.

**Stacy Schaefer, JD '94**, is the new executive director of the Resilience Authority of Charles County, Md.

**Jennifer Barron, JD '95**, was recently appointed an Illinois Circuit Court judge.



"I'm just a girl from Baltimore," she says. "I went to law school because I understood that the law touches everything. That's why I've been able to help other entrepreneurs. I can help them find the information, follow the process, analyze the results, and draw conclusions."

Lately, she has embraced another vocation: motivational speaker. With her success, she's been asked to speak at national conferences for entrepreneurs to inspire business owners to new heights. "The last speech I gave, I told my story in poetry," says Richardson, who earned an English degree as an undergrad. "My delivery style is unique, and the audience loved it."

– Sarah Kellogg

**Brian Dutton, JD '95**, has joined Quarles & Brady LLP as senior counsel. He practices in the firm's intellectual property group.

**Joshua M. Henderson, JD '96**, has joined Jackson Lewis PC as a principal in the firm's San Francisco office.

**J. Derek Mason, JD '96**, has joined Tucker Ellis as a partner in the firm's intellectual property department.

**Phil Bauer, JD '97**, was recently promoted to senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at the Mosaic Co.

**Sasan Mehrara, JD '97**, heads the real estate practice at Simpson Thacher and serves as a member of the firm's executive committee.

**Howard Waltzman, JD '97**, is co-leader of Mayer Brown LLP's public policy, regulatory, and government affairs practice.

**Amy Fiterman, JD '98**, was recently named Faegre Drinker's product liability and mass torts practice group leader.

**Kimberly Bullock Gatling, JD '99**, a partner at Fox Rothschild, was named a Southern Trailblazer by *The American Lawyer*.

**Amish Shah, JD '99**, recently joined Holland & Knight as a tax partner.

**Paul Zeineddin, JD '99**, has joined Blank Rome as a partner and co-chair of the IP litigation group in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

## 2000s

**Aishah Tamir Ahmed, LLM '00**, recently established an NGO titled Insaaniyat (humanity) Society for mentally unwell prisoners in jails and rural areas in Pakistan.

**Joshua Auxier, JD '00**, a partner at FLB Law, was named to *Connecticut Super Lawyers* in the area of professional liability.

**Donald "Donny" E. English, Jr., JD '00**, was featured in *The Daily Record* as a Maryland business and employment law power player. He serves as the managing principal of the Baltimore office of Jackson Lewis, serves on the firm's board of directors, and is co-leader of the trials and appeals practice group.

**Kristina Gill, JD '00**, was recently named partner at Duane Morris LLP. She focuses her practice on federal and state higher education law.

**Elizabeth R. Park, JD '00**, was recently named partner at Latham & Watkins. She practices

in the firm's D.C.-based connectivity, privacy and information group, and litigation and trial department.

**Christopher Chaisson, JD '01**, has joined Whiteford Taylor & Preston LLP as counsel.

**Michael B. Eisenberg, JD '01**, has joined Stevens & Lee as a shareholder in the firm's intellectual property group.

**M. Andrew Holtman, JD '01**, has joined Foley & Lardner's intellectual property litigation practice as a partner.

**Mark D. Shaffer, JD '01**, was named shareholder at Greenberg Traurig's financial regulatory and compliance practice in New York.

**Walter Davis, JD '02**, has joined Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the firm's Washington, D.C., office, where he practices IP law.

**Leigh F. Prince, JD '02**, has joined Fox Rothschild LLP as a partner in the firm's real estate department.

**Heidi S. Wicker, JD '03**, has joined Stinson LLP as a partner in the firm's Washington, D.C., office. She practices in the firm's banking and financial services group.

**Michael Chase, JD '04**, has joined Davis Wright Tremaine LLP as of counsel. He practices on the firm's national energy industry team.

**Analia Gonzalez, LLM '04**, was named partner at BakerHostetler. She serves as the leader of the firm's Latin America arbitration and litigation team.

**Brennan Moss, JD '04**, was named the managing attorney

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## Capitol Hill Counsel

BEFORE HE FOUND THE LAW, **ADAM WEISS, JD '17**, WAS AN engineer working on prototype spacecraft for global aerospace giant Boeing, where he, among other things, helped engineer a crew capsule and a rocket booster. Pretty much a universe away from GW Law.

Shortly after arriving at Boeing however, Weiss realized that he might have taken a wrong turn. He recalls working with veteran engineers who had worked on the pioneering Space Shuttle and Apollo missions—engineers who were always contriving groundbreaking solutions to solve problems, large and small. Weiss quickly realized that his talents lie elsewhere.

"I kept coming up with what I thought were new ideas, only to discover they had already been conceived 30 years ago. Conversely though, while my colleagues were brilliant, they didn't necessarily know how to pitch those ideas to decision makers," said Weiss, who double-majored in aerospace engineering and international affairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology. "I realized in my 'aha' moment that maybe my value could be serving

“ I REALIZED IN MY 'AHA' MOMENT THAT MAYBE MY VALUE COULD BE SERVING AS A TRANSLATOR BETWEEN THE TECHNOCRATS AND THE BUREAUCRATS. ”

— Adam Weiss

as a translator between the technocrats and the bureaucrats." So, after much thought, he decided to try law, potentially looking to enter patent law.

Weiss was drawn to public service after clerking at the U.S. Attorney's Office and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Capitol Hill was his destination after graduating from GW Law, but it wasn't easy to find an opening. He was overqualified for most entry-level jobs, and he didn't have any Hill experience to qualify him for the higher-level positions which required a knowledge of Congress. Ultimately, he was hired by U.S.

Rep. Katherine Clark, D-Mass., as a legislative fellow to handle more administrative chores, but it opened the door to Congress and a new learning experience for Weiss.

Six years later, Weiss today serves as Democratic Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Aviation. When he joined the subcommittee, it was deep into the Boeing 737 MAX investigation, an inquiry prompted by two accidents overseas that killed 346 people and led to the global grounding of the aircraft. His degree was a plus for that analysis, but the subcommittee and Weiss were soon thrust into far different territory with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Ironically, my degree actually came in handy since we were analyzing the air circulation and the impact of the virus on airplanes and their passengers," said Weiss. "But then, within a week, I also had to become an expert on the 2001 and 2008 financial bailouts. Congress needed to ensure that the airlines didn't go bankrupt so the employees could keep their jobs and certifications, without which the industry would have collapsed without chance of recovery."

Being engaged in the business of lawmaking hasn't been enough for Weiss. He currently serves on the GW Law Alumni Association (GWLAA) board of directors, recently received a diploma from the Naval War College, and separately was commissioned as an officer in the United States Navy Reserve this past February.

"I think my goal is to be useful," said Weiss. "I can't save the world, but I can at least try to usher in certain laws that I think should help. In the realm where I have influence, I hope I can make our country a little better."

— Sarah Kellogg



of Armstrong Teasdale's Salt Lake City office. He was one of two partners who opened the office in 2020.

**Henry Van Dyck, JD '04**, was named co-chair of Faegre Drinker's white collar defense and investigations team.

**Keith E. Cassidy, JD '05**, was appointed deputy director of the Division of Examinations at the U.S. Securities and

Exchange Commission. He also is a major in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and will serve as the next executive officer of the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion.

**James W. Cobb, JD '05**, is the co-founder of Caplan Cobb. His firm was honored this year by the Southern Center for Human Rights, receiving the 2023 Luminary Award in recognition of its extraordinary contributions to justice and fairness.

**Heather Davis, JD '05**, was appointed chief executive officer of Portland Timbers & Thorns LLC. One of five women in Major League Soccer to currently oversee club business operations as CEO, she becomes the first woman in club history to hold that position and is one of the highest-ranking female sports executives in Oregon sports history.

**Matthew Kulkin, JD '05**, was recently named partner at WilmerHale. He practices in the firm's securities and financial services group.

**A. Valerie Mirko, JD '05**, has joined Armstrong Teasdale as a partner and co-leader of the firm's securities regulation and litigation practice.

**Jason Stone, JD '06**, was sworn in as a Superior Court

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# The Power of Serendipity

FROM A DISTANCE, **CYNTHIA PATTON'S** NOTEWORTHY LEGAL career may look like a well-planned journey that built from one notable position in the law to another, bringing her today to serve as general counsel and secretary for Tessera Therapeutics, a pioneering biotechnology company.

Instead, Patton, JD '86, says her accomplishments have often been built through providence and a well-earned "accidental success" as she traversed a variety of paths to realize her career ambitions. She has distinguished herself in the biotech sector and worked in law firms, large and small, focusing on health care, corporate, and securities law. She even had brief career detours at Sony Pictures and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

"My goal was to be a successful lawyer in whatever mode that took," she said. "I was really open to serendipity. In the beginning of my career, one might say, I was a little too open to serendipity. I was curious and moved around a lot as new

“ GW HAS SO MANY CLINICS AND PROGRAMS, AS WELL AS PROFESSORS, SPEAKERS AND ALUMNI WHO ARE LUMINARIES IN THEIR FIELDS. ”

— Cynthia Patton

things presented themselves, but I was very cognizant of adding skills, or as one of my former bosses said, 'adding things to my toolbox.'"

That toolbox is impressively appointed today. Before Tessera, she served as general counsel and secretary at Verily Life Sciences, a subsidiary of Alphabet, Google's parent company, with responsibility for the legal, compliance, privacy, and government affairs functions. Previously, she was senior vice president

and chief compliance officer with Amgen, among other roles there, and general counsel of SCAN Health Plan, a California Medicare advantage plan.

Even while she has enjoyed a diversity of roles, a key through line has been her interest in health care. During undergrad at Vassar College, she was intent on becoming a doctor, but she soon realized she didn't have the constitution for blood or illness. She pivoted, as she has done many times in her career.

"I tried to figure out what this thing called practicing law was, and how I could align it with my interests and ethical barometer," she said. "I really wanted to use my law degree as a means of making a difference. And I think, as with most women and minorities, I was drawn to roles that could be characterized as supporting the helpers."

At GW Law, Patton explored many areas of the law through her clinic work, internships, and summer jobs. "I decided to take advantage of everything that is available to you as a law student in D.C.," said Patton. "GW has so many clinics and programs, as well as professors, speakers and alumni who are luminaries in their fields. I believed that not taking advantage of all those wonderful opportunities would have been a waste and would have limited me, so I did everything I could fit in. Ultimately, this mindset is what helped shape my legal career."

Patton's commitment to paying it forward and curiosity has translated into board membership for numerous organizations. Along with being a member of the GW Law Dean's Advisory Council, Patton is a board member of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Hospital in Los Angeles, Vassar College, and Organon, Inc., a global women's health care company.

— Sarah Kellogg



judge in Riverside County, Calif., in January.

**David R. Eastlake, JD '07**, has rejoined Greenberg Traurig as a shareholder in the firm's international restructuring and bankruptcy practice.

**Jay Balfour, LLM '07**, has joined Connections Health Solutions as senior vice president and general counsel.

**Kyle G. Hepner, JD '08**, has joined Robinson & Cole's new Washington, D.C., office as IP counsel.

**David M. Kramer, JD '08**, was named shareholder at Buchanan Ingersoll's D.C. office.

**John M. Nading, LLM '08**, was named shareholder at Buchanan Ingersoll's D.C. office.

**Srividhya Ragavan, SJD '08**, was appointed vice-chancellor of the newly launched India International University of Legal Education & Research at Goa.

**Kara Ward, JD '08**, has joined Falcon Capital Advisors as general counsel and managing director.

**David Williams, JD '08**, was appointed deputy practice group leader of

Faegre Drinker's investment management practice.

**Todd G. Betor, JD '09**, has rejoined Eversheds as partner in the firm's New York-based tax group.

**Georgios "George" Leris, JD '09**, has joined Wilkinson, Barker & Knauer LLP as a partner. He focuses his practice on complex communications regulatory issues.

**Ethan Lucarelli, JD '09**, was recently appointed the Federal Communications Commission's first chief of the Office of International Affairs.

**Michael Rhoads, JD '09**, was appointed to serve as a California Circuit Court judge.

**Christa Sanchez, JD '09**, was named counsel at Ropes & Gray. Her practice focuses on employment law, executive compensation, and employee benefits.

## 2010s

**Brian Johnson, JD '10**, has joined Axinn Veltrop & Harkrider LLP as a partner in the firm's intellectual property group in Washington, D.C.

**Nicholas C. Stewart, JD '10**, has joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner in the firm's corporate practice group in Baltimore.

**Theresa Bowman, JD '11**, was named partner at Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP's D.C. office. She practices in both the litigation and IP groups.

**Denise M. Hunter, JD '11**, was appointed an immigration judge. Prior to taking the bench in October 2022, she was the LGBTQ+ program legal director at California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc., in Modesto, Calif.

**Eve Lieberman, JD '11**, was appointed to serve as executive director of the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade. She previously served as Colorado Gov. Jared Polis' chief policy advisor and legislative counsel.

**Alexa Miller, JD '11**, was promoted to partner at Faegre Drinker. She practices in the firm's labor and employment group.

**Sandeep Nandivada, JD '13**, was named partner at Morrison

Foerster. He practices in the firm's litigation department and government contracts and public procurement group in Washington, D.C.

**Eric Sidler, JD '11**, was recognized in the *World Trademark Review*® as one of the world's leading trademark professionals for 2023.

**Gutman Skrande, JD '11**, was named partner at Duane Morris LLP. He focuses his practice in probate, trust, and guardianship administration and litigation across South Florida.

**Tracy Snow, JD '11**, was named partner in Lowenstein Sandler's trusts and estates group.

**Ya Wang, LLM '11**, is a new associate at Faegre Drinker's Philadelphia office, practicing in the firm's investment management group.

**Shireen Y. Wetmore, JD '11**, has joined Duane Morris LLP as a partner in the firm's San Francisco office. She practices in the firm's employment, labor, benefits, and immigration group.

**Charles C. Calloway, Jr., JD '12**, has joined the board of trustees of the American College of Investment Counsel. He is a partner at Chapman and Cutler LLP, where he practices in the firm's corporate finance department and sports finance group.

**Alexis Cohen, JD '12**, was promoted to partner at WilmerHale, where she practices in the IP group.

**Maria Doucettperry, LLM '12**, has joined Sound Transit as chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer. She previously served as director of Equal

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# Making An Impact

**JEFFREY J. HESSEKIEL, JD '96**, HAS A PASSION FOR BEING involved in big projects aimed at reducing human suffering. That passion saw its first light delivering refugee and humanitarian aid in the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990's and eventually found its home in a career working in biotech, where he helps bring new medicines to market for patients enduring diseases such as HIV and cancer.

"I knew I wanted to pursue a career that would involve me in bigger things than myself and simply earning a salary," said Hessekiel. "Advancing a career and supporting one's family are admirable, satisfying and essential goals, but I have also always sought out projects that have a larger human impact."

Since 2014, Hessekiel has served as executive vice president, general counsel, and secretary at Exelixis, a California oncology-focused biotech company, which is working at the forefront of efforts to discover and develop innovative new therapies that will shape the future of cancer care. In his role,

“ I WAS ABLE TO MAINTAIN SOME CONTINUITY WITH ISSUES I CARED SO MUCH ABOUT WHILE PREPARING FOR A NEW CAREER AS A PRACTICING ATTORNEY. ”

— Jeffrey Hessekiel

he leads teams of lawyers, compliance and quality professionals, and lobbyists who help colleagues navigate the complex legal and regulatory landscape of drug research, manufacturing, and marketing.

In the early 1990s, after earning his BA at Duke University, Hessekiel worked overseas for two years with the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Determined to transfer that service to dedication to the law and new avenues for helping others, he enrolled at GW Law. "I volunteered with the IRC in Washington, D.C., through most of law school, advocating in Congress and the Clinton administration on behalf of refugees and gaining critical government affairs experience in the process," he said. "I was able to maintain some continuity with issues I cared so much about while preparing for a new career as a practicing attorney."

Hessekiel's enthusiasm for health care endeavors comes from a natural place. His father was an obstetrician-gynecologist in New York and was "very dedicated to his patients and the

Opportunity & Title IX at the University of Nevada, Reno.

**Nicole Josko, JD '12**, was promoted to counsel at Faegre Drinker. She practices in the firm's government and regulatory affairs group.

**Chris Kiple, JD '12**, was recently named CEO of SOLIUS, a company that develops medical light therapy solutions including UVB light therapy technology for treatment of patients with low levels of Vitamin D.



community he served." He was struck with pancreatic cancer during Hessekiel's time at GW Law and passed away very soon after he graduated.

As an associate, first at Heller Ehrman and then at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich and Rosati, Hessekiel started in litigation and then switched to corporate law. "I assembled a toolkit of legal skills that might put me in a position to jump to a company where I could make a difference—and that's just what I did," said Hessekiel. "Attorneys help others traverse our evermore complex society. And that's essential for work in the highly-regulated biopharmaceutical industry."

Hessekiel got his first chance to use those new skills at Gilead Sciences, a U.S. biopharmaceutical company. His decade at Gilead saw the company's exponential growth and his growing responsibilities in its legal and compliance efforts. He eventually served as vice president, commercial legal affairs and litigation, and later chief compliance and quality officer, where he was responsible for the creation and management of Gilead's Corporate Compliance and Quality Department.

Hessekiel believes the moral of his career experience is that your professional life should not be on autopilot. "I would advise students to think strategically about their careers, devise an ambitious, long-term goal, and then drive toward it, always remaining open to adjustments along the way," Hessekiel said. "Be bold, be positive, reach for your dreams, and plot a path to get there."

— Sarah Kellogg

**Tal Machnes, JD '12**, was promoted to counsel at Arnold Porter, where he practices in the firm's New York-based white collar practice group.

**Mary P. Moore, JD '12**, was elected member (partner) of

Bond, Schoeneck & King. An accomplished business advisor, she has more than a decade of corporate transactional and commercial litigation experience.

**Joshua I. Rudawitz, JD '12**, an IP associate at Greenberg

Traurig's Boston office, was selected to participate in the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Boston Future Leaders Program.

**Matthew Shapiro, JD '12**, an IP trial lawyer, was named counsel at Ropes & Gray.

**Sarah Fehm Stewart, JD '12**, was named partner at Duane Morris LLP.

**Reggie Babin, JD '13**, has joined Akin Gump as senior counsel. He practices in the firm's public law and policy group in Washington, D.C.

**Garrett Bishop, JD '13**, was named partner at Foley & Lardner LLP, where he practices in the firm's transactions group.

**Michael Canavan, JD '13**, has joined Greenberg Traurig as counsel in the firm's environmental practice.

**Zachary A. Higbee, JD '13**, was named partner in Alston Bird's intellectual property group in Charlotte, N.C.

**Caitlin M. Jones (Clarke), JD '13**, was promoted to shareholder/partner at Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin in San Diego. She is an experienced trial and litigation attorney who focuses her practice on professional liability and complex business and commercial litigation.

**Paul Piccigallo, JD '13**, was named shareholder at Littler's New York office, where he practices labor and employment law.

**Patrick Reidy, JD '13**, was promoted to partner in Arnold Porter's intellectual property group in Chicago.

**Sonia Tabriz, JD '13**, was promoted to partner in Arnold

Porter's government contracts and national security practice group in Washington, D.C.

**David Dewhirst, JD '14**, was appointed chief deputy attorney general of Idaho. Dewhirst previously served as solicitor general for the state of Montana.

**Christopher C. Johns, JD '14**, was elected partner at Finnegan's Washington, D.C., office. A co-author of *Patent Subject Matter Eligibility: A Global Guide*, he focuses his practice on patent prosecution and litigation.

**Nicole R. Lares, JD '14**, was promoted to special counsel, asset management, in Fried Frank's D.C. office.

**David W. Leibovitch, JD '14**, was named IP counsel at Robinson & Cole's new Washington, D.C., office.

**Alexander T. Marriott, JD '14**, has joined the aviation practice of Baker Donelson in the firm's Washington, D.C., office as of counsel.

**Eric Mogel, JD '14**, was promoted to counsel at Hunton Andrews Kurth, where he focuses his practice on structured finance.

**Anthony Raglani, JD '14**, was promoted to counsel in Arnold Porter's financial services practice group in D.C.

**Laura Sheldon, JD '14**, was promoted to partner in Bracewell's infrastructure development practice. She concentrates on U.S. and cross-border transactions in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

**Vicki (Morris) Tankle, JD '14**, was promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the firm's

## ALUMNI PROFILE

## ESPN Strategist

**LAURIE CURNES, JD '13**, TOOK A WILDLY CIRCUITOUS PATH from litigating antitrust cases to her current position as senior director of corporate strategy at ESPN, yet every single day she employs the skills she learned at GW Law.

"Career paths are rarely linear and mine certainly was not," says Curnes, who has been in three key roles with ESPN since 2017. "None of what I did was part of a master plan, but then I'd argue maybe a master plan isn't necessary or even practical."

After GW Law, Curnes joined Winston & Strawn LLP in Washington, D.C., and eventually moved to its Chicago headquarters to be closer to the action. As a litigation associate, she was challenged by her work, focusing on intellectual property and antitrust cases. "Winston had a great culture. I learned a ton, and I met a lot of great people. It was where I cut my teeth," she says, "but I knew fairly early on that litigation was not in my bones over the long term."

Then Curnes did something that people rarely do: She took six months off to figure out where to take her career next.

“BUSINESS AFFAIRS IS AN ENTERTAINMENT-SPECIFIC ROLE THAT IS HEAVILY TRAFFICKED BY FORMER LAWYERS.”

— Laurie Curnes

"I decided I needed to rebalance my life and figure out what I wanted," she says. "I always had a personal passion for the entertainment world, so I moved to New York and enrolled in a full-time acting conservatory for six months."

At the same time, she engaged her GW alumni network to find a legal or legal-adjacent position in the entertainment industry. Through a long-time connection, a GW Law alum, she was able to find a quasi-legal position at Disney, ESPN's parent company. "I do a lot of mentoring of law students, and I always tell that story to them so they'll realize how important your alumni network can be," says Curnes. "It is a testament to the GW alumni community that I got my foot in the door at Disney."

Once she was in the Disney ecosystem, she had a feast of opportunities. She started in affiliate distribution, working on the



contractual strategy behind television carriage deals with cable providers, and then moved to the ESPN business affairs department. Business affairs is responsible for the structuring, negotiating, and strategy behind deals required to bring ESPN's original content to life—including development, production, acquisition, and distribution agreements.

"Business affairs is an entertainment-specific role that is heavily trafficked by former lawyers," she says, noting she leaned heavily on her law degree there.

Curnes loved the job, but she realized she wasn't part of the decision-making about content. Instead, the key choices had been made before reaching her desk. She wanted to be further upstream, shaping what was driving ESPN's broader strategy.

"I now work in corporate strategy, which is probably the farthest I've been from the law," says Curnes. "A lot of my colleagues have MBAs and financial backgrounds. But I found myself here based on following my interests."

"If I've learned anything through my non-traditional career path," she reflects, "it's that you really don't know where the next opportunity will come from or where it will lead you, but as long as you are following your interests, you can't go wrong."

— Sarah Kellogg

Philadelphia office. She is a member of the life sciences and health industry group, practicing in the area of health care regulatory law.

**Melanie Taylor, JD '14**, was promoted to shareholder at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. She practices in the firm's real estate department in Denver.

**Matthew D. Zapadka, JD '14**, was named partner at Arnall Golden Gregory. He practices in the firm's IP group and also is a member of the litigation and dispute resolution practice.

**Jared M. Hartzman, JD '15**, was named principal at Fish and Richardson's Washington, D.C., office. He has broad patent litigation experience

and also engages in pro bono work.

**April Park, JD '15**, a skilled patent litigator, was recently named principal at Fish and Richardson's Washington, D.C., office.

**Aaron Herreras Szot, JD '15**, was promoted to partner at Kalijarvi, Chuzi, Newman & Fitch

in Washington, D.C., where she focuses her practice on employment law.

**Alessandra C. Whipple, JD '15**, was recently promoted to partner at CDF Labor Law LLP.

**Chris McAndrew, JD '16**, was elected to partnership at Wilson Sonsini. Based in Boston, McAndrew advises early-stage

life sciences companies on IP issues.

**Catherine Jungmin Kim, JD '18**, recently joined the Queen's (N.Y.) District Attorney's office as a prosecutor.

**Nicolas Sabet, JD '18**, has joined Greenberg Traurig as an associate in the firm's Washington, D.C., office, where he focuses his practice on private equity M&A and venture capital.

**Michael T. Maroni, JD '19**, has joined Greenberg Traurig as an associate in the firm's Boston office. He focuses his practice on public and private mergers and acquisitions.

## 2020s

**Audrey N. Carroll, JD '21**, has joined Stinson LLP as an associate in the firm's Washington, D.C., office.

**Evan Monod, JD '21**, has joined Brown, Goldstein & Levy as the firm's disability rights fellow.

**Brianna Pickhardt, JD '21**, has joined Tydings & Rosenberg as an associate in the firm's

litigation, bankruptcy/creditors' rights, and business departments.

**Mallory Broberg, JD '22**, recently joined Ain & Bank PC as an associate.

**Luca DiFronzo, JD '22**, was named an assistant corporate counsel in the New York City Law Department's special federal litigation department.

**Emily C. Friedman, JD '22**, has joined the corporate and commercial litigation group at Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP.

**Anne Grae Martin, JD '22**, has joined the trusts and estates group at Morris, Nichols, Arsht & Tunnell LLP.

**John Peloquin, JD '22**, is a new associate at Banner Witcoff's D.C. office. He specializes in the preparation and prosecution of patent applications.

**Emilee Schipske, JD '22**, has joined Faegre Drinker as an associate in the firm's D.C. office, where she practices in the product liability and mass torts group.

## in memoriam

**Murray Stein, JD '49**  
April 12, 2023

**Gerald "Gerry" H. Lessuk, JD '51**  
February 24, 2023

**Clarence T. Kipps, Jr., JD '53**  
November 2, 2022

**John Cole, Jr., LLB '56**  
October 13, 2022

**George A. Koutras, LLB '60**  
February 3, 2023

**Vale P. Myles, LLB '60**  
March 15, 2023

**Kent Larsen, LLB '63**  
December 12, 2022

**William Wildhack, Jr., JD '63**  
January 9, 2023

**Howard Silverstein, JD '65**  
March 3, 2023

**Gerald Richard Walsh II, JD '66**  
February 20, 2023

**Stephen Darley, JD '67**  
October 13, 2022

**Aaron Levine, JD '68**  
January 3, 2023

**Kenneth Jesse Tuggle, JD '68**  
December 23, 2022

**The Hon. Marybeth Peters, JD '71**  
September 29, 2022

**Frederic "Rick" Lewis Conway III, JD '72**  
December 12, 2022

**Aubin Barthold, JD '73**  
February 28, 2023

**Daniel J. Dykstra Jr., LLM '77**  
January 4, 2023

**Lt. Col. Michael I. Mark, JD '77, LLM '88**  
September 27, 2022

**Janet Brenner, JD '78**  
September 1, 2022

**Petersen Jaegerman, JD '81**  
January 24, 2023

**Michael Yablonski, JD '97**  
January 1, 2023

**Lory Marie Kuykendall, JD '02**  
December 24, 2022

## ALUMNI NEWSMAKERS

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## FACULTY

**The Hon. Thomas Buergenthal**  
*Lobingier Professor of Comparative Law and Jurisprudence Emeritus*  
May 29, 2023

**Professor Dmitry Karshtedt**  
October 30, 2022