

PRACTICE GREATNESS DEFINED



PennState Dickinson Law

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

January 2021

DUSTY ELIAS KIRK '79 ADDS ESTATE COMMITMENT TO DUSTY ELIAS KIRK '79 AND WILLIAM R. CAROSELLI '66 SCHOLARSHIP



Dusty Elias Kirk '79 recently made a \$250,000 estate commitment to her existing scholarship to show her appreciation for Dickinson Law's impact on her career. "I do not think I would have had the career that I do now if I had not attended Dickinson Law," said Kirk. As Dickinson Law's volunteer campaign chair, she has helped lead a campaign that has raised more than \$11.4 million toward a \$16.4 million goal.

[Full story](#)

LAW SCHOOL MOURNS THE PASSING OF LONGTIME SUPPORTER J. RODMAN STEELE, JR. '66



The Dickinson Law community is mourning the passing of dear friend and colleague J. Rodman "Rod" Steele Jr. '66, who died Wednesday, January 13, 2021. Steele's service and philanthropy to Dickinson Law were driven by his affection for the Law School and his desire to make a difference in the world around him. He helped lead the Law School through several of its most defining moments, never losing sight of what was in the best interests for his beloved alma mater. Steele's vision for the recently established Steele Family Leadership Program in Gender and Racial Equity will serve as yet another example of his generosity and passion for others, and it will be Dickinson Law's honor to carry out a piece of his legacy through the work of this program. "Rod's professional and personal achievements were many, but I learned very quickly that nothing mattered more to him than his family," said Dean Conway. [View obituary](#)

DICKINSON LAW ADMINISTRATORS AND FACULTY STEP INTO LEADERSHIP ROLES IN THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS



Dean and Donald J. Farage Professor of Law Danielle M. Conway will serve a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Association of American Law Schools following the approval of her nomination by the House of Representatives of the AALS. "I am determined to bring the experiences from my service on the AALS Membership Review Committee and the Deans Forum

Steering Committee to the Executive Committee," said Conway. "The AALS has invested in developing me as a leader and, therefore, I look forward to supporting the vision and the mission of the association."

In recognition of the work that Associate Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Bekah Saidman-Krauss '12 has done for the legal academy, she was nominated and approved to serve as chair of the Standing Nomination Committee of the AALS Section on PreLegal Education and Admission to Law School's 2021-22 Executive Committee. "I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Executive Committee to further the Section's mission—especially as it relates to increasing access to law school and diversifying the legal profession," said Saidman-Krauss.

Assistant Professor Mohamed Rali Badissy was elected to serve as chair-elect of the AALS Section on Islamic Law. As one of the AALS interest groups, the Islamic Law Section offers relevant programming and recommendations to the association at large at the AALS annual meeting each January and throughout the year. "What I most appreciate about this Section is the diversity of issues that can be viewed through the lens offered by Islamic jurisprudence," said Badissy.

PROFESSOR MEDHA D. MAKHLOUF NAMED FACULTY OF THE YEAR



For her unique contributions to the core values of community, teaching, research, and scholarship at Dickinson Law, Assistant Professor of Law and Founding Director of the Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic Medha D. Makhlof was named the first recipient of the Dickinson Law Faculty of the Year Award. "Professor Makhlof brings a sophisticated research agenda and line of inquiry to the Law School in her field of health law," said Dean Conway. "She is also an extraordinary teacher and mentor, having invested in teaching and learning best practices for the benefit of students and colleagues alike." [Full story](#)

BELOVED ALUM AND DISTINGUISHED ATTORNEY H. LADDIE MONTAGUE JR. '63 RETIRES AFTER 56-YEAR LEGAL CAREER



Berger Montague chair emeritus, managing shareholder, and firm namesake H. Laddie Montague Jr. '63 is retiring after a 56-year legal career, including 13 years as Berger Montague Chairman. Montague is also one of Dickinson Law's most ardent advocates and generous donors. The H. Laddie Montague Jr. Law Library is named in his honor. He has held many leadership positions at the Law School, and he played an instrumental role in discussions to ensure the long-term success of the Law School with separate accreditation. Montague will continue his role at the firm as chair emeritus and will assume a new Of Counsel position. [Full story](#)

DAVID BRESCHI '90 FEATURED AS ENTREPRENEUR OF THE MONTH



While 2020 changed the landscape for businesses across America, some businesses were more than ready to meet the challenges of this new and confusing economic environment. First-year law student Matts Batryn '23 had the opportunity to connect with Breschi—attorney, founder, president, and CEO of Madison Settlement Services, a real estate title insurance business with headquarters in central Pennsylvania—to learn how his company met the challenges of 2020 head-on and is now poised to enter 2021 stronger than ever. [Full story](#)

SAMANTHA JACQUES '21 RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP FROM CORPORATE COUNSEL WOMEN OF COLOR



Third-year Dickinson Law student Samantha Jacques '21 was recently awarded the Corporate Counsel Women of Color (CCWC) "My Life as a Lawyer" national scholarship. The award is given to law students who strive to foster diversity within the legal profession. Jacques credits her mentors for giving her the courage to continue working hard to become a practicing attorney. "Like my mentors, I plan to change the narrative of being the 'only one' in a legal department or practice group," said Jacques. [Full story](#)

FREE CLE ON MARCH 4 TO FEATURE ALUMNI MODERATOR AND PANELIST



Alumni and friends are invited to join the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network, Inc. (PLAN, Inc.) and the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) on Thursday, March 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a virtual panel discussion on Richard Rothstein's book *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. This 90-minute session will be moderated by Donald F. Smith, Jr. '78, Professor of Clinical Law and Community Law Clinic Director Megan Riesmeyer '03 will serve as a panelist. Attendees will receive 1 Ethics CLE credit. [Details and registration](#)



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