

# THE RECORD

## The Entrepreneur's Attorney

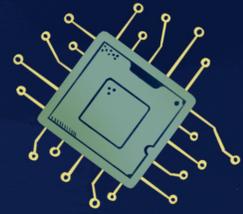
Brent Britton ('94) pursues dual passions—technology innovation and law.

P. 16

## From 1L to Founder

A solid BU Law foundation helped two alums build their businesses.

P. 20



## EMBRACING THE ENTREPRENEUR WITHIN

HOW BU LAW ALUMNI ARE STEERING START-UPS AND DRIVING ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORWARD. P. 10



# COMMENTS

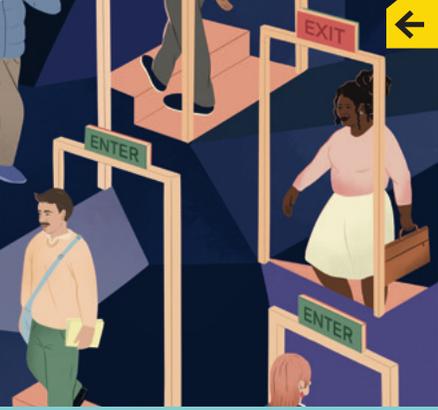
Inside this issue:

**DR. GILLIAM JOINS BU AS NEXT PRESIDENT**



She brings to BU her passion for the arts and humanities along with two decades of higher education leadership.

8



**LOOKING FOR A WAY UP AND OUT**

Venture capital peaks, down rounds, and the cyclical nature of the market.

10

**THE ENTREPRENEUR'S ATTORNEY**



A penchant for the cutting edge.

16



**FROM 1L TO FOUNDER**

BU Law fosters generations of business leaders.

20

2

**EVOLVING ENRICHMENT**

**THE RECORD**

**THE MAGAZINE OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW**



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4

**A THIRD ACT**

29

**CLASS NOTES**

34

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**



# BUILDING ON A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE: EMPOWERING EVERY BU LAW STUDENT FOR SUCCESS

→ BY ANGELA ONWUACHI-WILLIG

## WHENEVER I MEET INDIVIDUALLY WITH ALUMNI ACROSS THE COUNTRY, I HEAR TWO CONSISTENT THEMES

from them, regardless of when they graduated from BU Law. First, alumni regale me with stories about the outstanding professors who taught them. They praise BU Law professors' dedication to and support for students as well as the excellent example faculty set for them as lawyers. Second, alumni praise the stellar education they received in the classroom and beyond, proclaiming that it provided them with the foundation they needed to excel as attorneys and a passion for continuous learning. These commitments to academic excellence, first-rate teaching, and mentoring remain as hallmarks of a BU Law education, and they continue to enable the law school to attract faculty of the highest caliber in teaching and scholarship. These core values and commitments also shape and ensure thoughtful design of our curriculum—from the foundational, doctrinal courses of the first year to the practice-focused lessons of our award-winning Lawyering Skills course to the phenomenal experiential learning opportunities offered through clinics and externships during the second and third years.

No surprise, the latest investment in our curriculum design—a newly expanded Academic Enrichment Program (AEP), now led by an associate dean and two full-time faculty members—seeks to enhance the outstanding educational experience we have long provided by offering greater academic support and enrichment for all of our students. Over the past few years, law schools across the nation have sought to strengthen the reach of their offerings with more robust academic support and enrichment programs. As the National Conference of Bar Examiners works to launch the new NextGen bar examination and as we seek to grapple with the effects of the pandemic on education at every level, we, too, are working hard to ensure that every student at BU Law—regardless of their background—has access to a high-quality educational experience in our law school. Such work is particularly salient as more and more students enter law school as I did decades ago—with limited or no exposure or connection to real-life attorneys or the legal profession at all.

The AEP is a multifaceted initiative aimed at providing students with the tools and holistic support they need to thrive academically and professionally. Its faculty-led programming offers targeted academic support designed to assist students with their coursework and the transition to law school. It also offers courses and workshops to help with bar examination



PHOTO BY NICOLE LOEB

preparation, including the soon-to-come NextGen bar exam, which is expected to launch in summer 2026, the summer when today's 1Ls will be graduating. The AEP also provides rich, one-on-one mentoring from faculty and peers, plus new opportunities for our alumni to engage. Through faculty, peer, and alumni mentorship, our students will gain vital guidance from individuals who have stood in their shoes and traversed similar paths to success.

Under the exemplary leadership of Associate Dean Gerry Muir and Director and Professor Lisa Freudenheim, the AEP is poised to make a profoundly positive impact on student success and well-being. Dean Muir and Professor Freudenheim bring a wealth of experience in legal education to this important program. That experience, coupled with their unwavering commitment to student empowerment, positions them as invaluable assets in our ongoing efforts to enhance the student experience and ensure all students will leave the law school with an even stronger foundation than their predecessors. Our students truly could not be in better hands. Our academic excellence dictates that we must never rest on our laurels but instead continually seek to improve, adapt to the changing legal and educational landscapes, and always provide exceptional preparation to our students.



# EVOLVING ENRICHMENT

**GOING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM TO SUPPORT STUDENTS FROM THEIR FIRST YEAR THROUGH BAR PASSAGE—AND BEYOND.**

**BY LAUREN ECKENROTH**

**LISA FREUDENHEIM** has devoted her career in legal education to helping students develop fundamental skills for success and well-being in law school and the legal profession. She joined BU Law last fall after 13 years at New England Law | Boston, where she served as dean and held positions as associate dean, co-dean, and professor and director of the academic excellence program. At BU Law, Freudenheim is director of the newly expanded Academic Enrichment Program, in which she and Visiting Assistant Professor **TL GRAY** are leading workshops and other services aimed at evolving the academic support resources available to BU Law students. *The Record* spoke with Professor Freudenheim about the new program and its success so far.

*The following interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

## **What are the goals of the Academic Enrichment Program?**

For most of us, law school involves a steep learning curve and tends to be a time of tremendous personal and professional growth. Our goal is to support and empower students as they move through the challenges and opportunities that law school presents, from the first year through bar passage. We recognize the incredible potential that each one of our students brings to the BU Law community and try to be transparent about what is expected of them and how they can achieve their goals. Ultimately, we are fortunate to be building a program in a law school with a faculty and staff so dedicated to student success and well-being.

## **What kind of programming do you offer?**

Our initiatives span the law school and bar-prep curriculum. We offer classes, workshops, and individual coaching to support student learning and professional development, keying in on where we think students might benefit from additional practice, guidance, and training. In the first year, our programming



# IN THE FIRST YEAR, OUR PROGRAMMING FOCUSES ON GIVING STUDENTS LOW-STAKES OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY OUT NEW SKILLS... AND THEN TO LEARN AND GROW AS A LAW STUDENT AND LAWYER.”

focuses on giving students low-stakes opportunities to try out new skills—whether it’s writing a case brief, outlining, or taking an exam—and then to learn and grow as a law student and lawyer.

In the fall semester, we held a 1L-wide civil procedure practice exam. All students were offered a chance to engage in thoughtful self-assessment, where they could see where they hit the mark and where they fell short. We then provided feedback on the core skills they would need in the final exam. This kind of a program, with this level of coordination and emphasis on self-assessment, was very well received by students.

This spring, we launched a new bar skills course, and with that we were looking to create a class that does more than just prepare students to take a test—one that also helps them see the connections between law school and practice.

## **What’s next for the program?**

We’re hoping to create a program to connect alumni who can serve as bar mentors for our students. What we know about bar passage is that so much of it rises and falls on feeling connected and supported. So, we’re really hoping that we can leverage the wisdom and experience of our young alumni to support and encourage our even more recent grads as they take

the bar. In addition, we are looking to offer a course in legal analysis skills to students in their second year who might benefit from deeper skills training and feedback.

In January, the program served as a field site for testing the new bar exam format—the NextGen Bar Exam. What is promising is that the new exam is being designed to align the type of skills and knowledge used by newly licensed lawyers with a new bar exam format. The exam will be gradually rolled out over the next several years, and we will be designing and offering programs to ensure our students have all the skills and knowledge to succeed on the exam. ■

## **Volunteer Alumni Mentors Needed!**

The Academic Enrichment Program is launching an Alumni Bar Mentorship Program to provide individual support and connection to our students who are preparing for the bar, and we need the assistance of our amazing and dedicated alumni network. Alums will be paired with BU Law grads studying for the July bar exam to enhance the grads’ support network, serve as a vital resource and sounding board, and share their valuable bar experiences.

➔ Please email Professor Lisa Freudenheim at [lfreuden@bu.edu](mailto:lfreuden@bu.edu) with the subject line **Bar Mentorship** for more information and to volunteer your time.

## ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT BY THE NUMBERS

From workshops to practice exams and individual advising, the new Academic Enrichment Program at BU Law has something for everyone.

### NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS HELD:

# 14

*plus a weekly class through the spring semester*

### PERCENT OF 1L CLASS ENGAGED WITH ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT WORKSHOPS:

# AVERAGE: 37%

# PEAK: >50%

### PERCENT OF 1L CLASS THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PRACTICE EXAM:

# 98%

### BAR-PREP SESSIONS HELD: *A 13-week course, plus a range of other workshops and programming*



# A THIRD ACT

**NATALIE LOGAN (LLM IN TAXATION '24) PIVOTS FROM A CAREER IN THE ARTS TO OPENING HER OWN LAW FIRM WITH HER MOTHER. BY TING YU**

**FOR MOST PEOPLE,** the parallels between opera and tax law are ambiguous at best. But for **NATALIE LOGAN**, a trained coloratura soprano turned attorney, mastering the arias of Puccini's *La Bohème* isn't so different from decoding the intricacies of capital gains and irrevocable trusts. "I've always had a passion for music," she says, "and music is math."

For her first act, Logan trained for years to become a professional opera singer—she holds a master's in voice performance from the Boston Conservatory at Berklee—but the Texas native struggled to find her foothold as a performer. "I went for it one hundred percent, and I have no regrets," she says, "but sometimes when you make your passion into your career, you can

lose a little bit of what made it your passion in the first place."

Logan left the performing world and began teaching voice and working in development, writing grants and fundraising for the Boston Opera Collaborative. She discovered she had a gift for numbers and enjoyed the research and writing involved in development work. As she pondered her next career move, one role model stood out in her mind.

As a kid growing up in Bellville, Texas, "it was always just me and my mom," she says. Her mother, Ruth, presided as a municipal judge for a decade before opening her own family law practice in Dallas. During summers, Logan would help out in the law office and sometimes watch Ruth argue cases in court. "My mom is an incredibly fair and



# “

## I WANTED THE LLM IN TAXATION BECAUSE I NEEDED ADDITIONAL TRAINING TO HOLD MYSELF OUT AS AN EXPERT TAX ATTORNEY.”

brilliant person and attorney,” Logan says. “She advocates for every client as if they were family. When I retired from singing, I decided to follow in her footsteps because I saw the tremendous impact she had on people’s lives.”

Logan entered her second act, applying to law school and winning a full scholarship to New England Law | Boston. It was there that her affinity for math connected with a purpose. “When I got to law school, I found myself attracted by the numbers,” she recalls. “I loved personal income tax, taxation of business entities, and estate planning. Pretty much from day one of law school, I knew that was the area I wanted to pursue.”

The meticulous nature that had served Logan well in studying librettos translated easily to her legal studies. “Think of the *Marriage of Figaro*. It’s a four-hour opera,” she explains. “You have to memorize the entire score—and not just your part, but everybody’s parts. You need to learn the language, and you have to collaborate. [As a law student], I’d have to go over briefings with a fine-tooth comb and be able to digest a new legal language. Because of my musical training, I don’t breeze through anything.”

After law school, Logan joined established Boston law firm Cushing & Dolan as a trust and estates attorney. The firm’s founding partner **LEO CUSHING** (LLM in Taxation’85), also a BU Law professor, encouraged her to pursue her master’s in taxation. “I wanted the LLM in Taxation because I needed additional training to hold myself out as an expert tax attorney,” she says. “I wanted in-depth analysis skills and accounting

principles to really set me apart and set me up for success.”

Logan says BU Law’s faculty made a highly technical area of the law come to life for her. She recounts time as a student, in Professor **TODD LUTSKY’S** course in elder law, analyzing the detailed case study of a retired couple without much income who were applying for Medicaid to help cover nursing home expenses. “Their home was their biggest asset, and they didn’t want the nursing home to take it,” Logan says. “We went asset by asset and learned how to protect each one by applying the code and learning about exceptions to it. Todd took something that seemed impossible to decipher and made it about people and their lives.”

Last year, for her third act, Logan left Cushing & Dolan to open a joint practice with her mother, who had relocated to Boston when her daughter moved for law school. She credits the specialized education she received at BU Law with giving her the confidence to launch her own practice just one year out of law school. (Logan will receive her LLM in Taxation this August.)

“It would have taken me a decade to gain the skills that I’ve learned in four semesters as a part-time student,” she says. “The investment in my education has enabled me to grow my practice because I can provide tax advice to a wider range of clients, specifically business owners who need assistance with entity formation, ongoing compliance, and business succession planning.”

Logan also handles estate planning, probate, trust administration, and accounting, while Ruth focuses on family law, divorce, and child custody.

“We pretty much have a separate but equal practice,” she says, “but there are times when our work overlaps. We’ve done several consultations together, which have been fun. We’re a good team.”

Logan says the peer-to-peer dynamic suits her mom just fine. “I call my mom ‘Ruth’ at the office,” she says, “which works well because she loves telling folks we are the Logan sisters.”

She says Logan & Logan LLP has benefited from Ruth’s many decades of experience and even temperament. “She is extremely adept at handling difficult client scenarios,” Logan says. In one case, Logan represented a widow who was embroiled in a contentious lawsuit against her stepchildren. “I had my mom sit in, and she served as a mediator, calming the parties down and giving me advice about how to react or not react to certain litigious issues.”



The best advice from Mom? “To slow down. In this world of instant gratification, your clients, the opposing counsel—no one needs an immediate response,” Logan says. “A really thorough, thoughtful email—or even just sleeping on it and responding in the morning—will keep you out of trouble.”

Logan hopes to eventually expand her practice and mentor younger attorneys. Although she admits the uncertainties inherent in starting a new firm can be stressful, she believes the reward is worth the risk. “I appreciate the freedom of running my own ship,” she says. “It feels good to be working for myself.” ■

# *BU LAW REIMAGINES* **BU/MIT STUDENT**



The clinic, staffed by BU Law students and led by Executive Director Andrew Sellars (in the blue jacket), is a free and confidential legal service for students at MIT and BU who seek legal assistance related to their research, advocacy, and creative projects.

# INNOVATIONS LAW CLINIC

BY LAUREN ECKENROTH



**IMAGINE A BU OR MIT STUDENT** has an idea for an AI platform that helps users hire recent graduates by recommending candidates based on social media content. The student knows they need legal guidance to form an entity, draft early-stage employment agreements, and perhaps develop an intellectual property strategy for the software they create. But they may not know that they also need to consider some big legal issues that aren't related to launching a new business: Can they acquire social media content in the way they hope to? Are there privacy concerns they haven't thought of? Might there be antidiscrimination-law concerns with how their algorithm operates? The answers to these questions could fundamentally change the way the student builds their platform, so they need a clear sense of these issues early in the process.

Thanks to the newly restructured BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic—created by merging the Startup Law Clinic and Technology Law Clinic, both launched in 2015 in partnership with MIT—students will have a one-stop shop for advice about the exciting milestones that new entrepreneurs most often think about when launching a business—as well as issues that may come up later in the process.

BU Law students joining the clinic will have more flexibility in the areas they choose to explore. The unified clinic consists of three practice groups: Venture & Finance; Privacy, Security & Health; and Intellectual Property & Media. Students pursuing IP law can gain experience on both the transactional and litigation sides, and those seeking a breadth of experiences related to innovation and entrepreneurship have the opportunity to practice with different groups based on their interests.

"Bringing these two clinics together has been tremendously exciting," says **ANDREW SELLARS**, clinical associate professor of law and the clinic's executive director. "I think in this new model, we can push ourselves even further and create an even more enriching educational program for our law students and legal service for our clients." ■



“

**I LEAD BY LISTENING,  
COLLABORATING,  
AND EMPOWERING  
OTHER PEOPLE.”**

**—MELISSA L. GILLIAM**



# BU PREPARES TO WELCOME 11<sup>TH</sup> PRESIDENT, **MELISSA L. GILLIAM**

BY DOUG MOST

**MELISSA L. GILLIAM**, executive vice president and provost of The Ohio State University and a distinguished educator, scholar, research scientist, and physician, will be Boston University's 11th president, the University trustees announced in October. She will assume the post on July 1, 2024.

A national leader in faculty recruitment and student success and a champion of diversity and inclusion, Gilliam is also a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and of pediatrics whose scholarship focuses on developing interventions to promote adolescent health and well-being. Dr. Gilliam earned her MD from Harvard University and MPH from the University of Illinois Chicago. She completed an internship in general surgery at the University of Chicago and her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Northwestern University. Beyond her background in science and medicine, Gilliam, who studied English literature as an undergraduate at Yale and earned her MA in philosophy and politics from the University of Oxford, says she was raised to embrace the societal importance of arts and culture. Her late father was a pioneering abstract painter known for a career of continuous experimentation and innovation. And her mother was a trailblazing journalist and the first Black female reporter hired by the *Washington Post*. Her parents instilled in her an intellectual curiosity and a firm belief in the importance of civic engagement and public service.

Gilliam will come to Boston from Ohio State, a sprawling midwestern university and one of the largest public institutions in the country, with 15

colleges, more than 7,500 faculty members, and over 60,000 students across 6 campuses. Ohio State is committed to service, and Gilliam says she's enjoyed meeting and learning from people across the state of Ohio.

"I'm really excited about how engaged Boston University is in the city and how engagement has been a hallmark of BU," she says. "I'm looking forward to hearing from people, learning and listening. I lead by listening, collaborating, and empowering other people. That is the best way to run big organizations, to get everyone excited and engaged and doing more than they think they're capable of doing. This philosophy is core to shared governance, an essential component of a thriving university."

The Boston University community reacted with excitement, elation, and pride at the announcement of Dr. Gilliam as BU's 11th president.

"What a wonderful, historic day," says **ANGELA ONWUACHI-WILLIG**. "For us to have our first woman and first Black president, for a university that has long been forward-thinking and forward-moving [to] have a leader who is truly representative of our history and our values." ■

➔ Learn more about Dr. Gilliam's appointment at [bu.edu/articles/2023/boston-university-names-melissa-gilliam-president](https://bu.edu/articles/2023/boston-university-names-melissa-gilliam-president).

*A version of this story was first published in BU Today.*

# LOOKING FOR A WAY UP AND OUT

BY  
REBECCA  
BEYER

Venture capital investment has trended down since its peak a few years ago, but faculty and alumni say the cyclical nature of the market means happier days are ahead.

ILLUSTRATIONS  
BY  
MICHELLE  
MILDENBERG



ENTER

EXIT

EXIT

ENTER

ENTER

Lauren Schoeffler '13



For several years at Holland & Hart, the Denver law firm where **LAUREN SCHOEFFLER** ('13) is a partner working on venture capital financing and other corporate matters, there was an entire class of associates who had never handled a “down round,” where the value of a business declines from the previous investment period.

“My colleague and I were joking about it recently,” says Schoeffler. “We had a whole generation of people who only knew good times.”

Not anymore.

Since its peak in 2021, almost everything about the venture capital market has been trending down *except* down rounds. Those are up. So are painful pay-to-play deals, where investors must provide additional funding or lose some of their ownership rights. Also up: initial public offerings and acquisitions in which a company is valued below everyone’s original expectations. Schoeffler calls those “sad exits.”

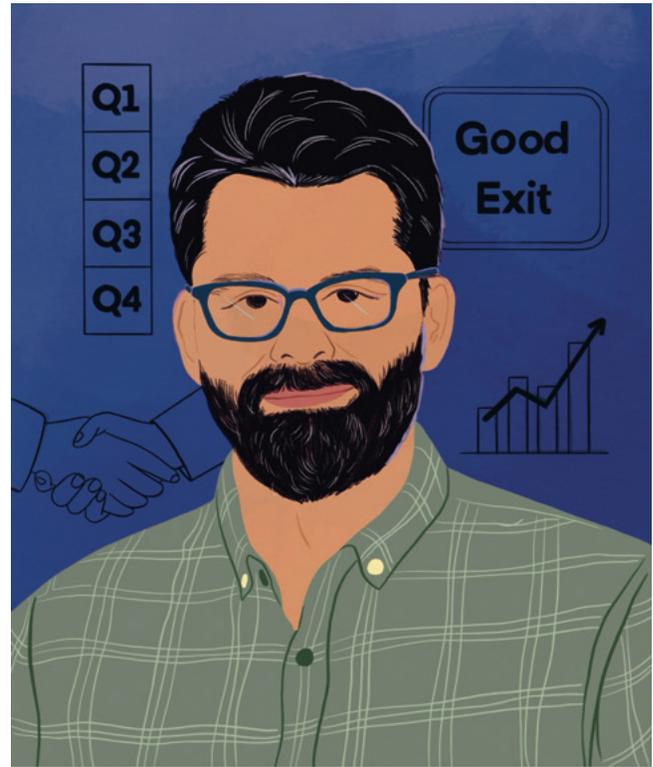
“Good exits were hard to come by for companies in 2023,” she says. “I’ve become something of a specialist in the not-so-fun exits where everyone but the buyer is disappointed.”

Schoeffler’s experience isn’t unique. After years of low interest rates, when start-ups notched higher and higher

**“Good exits were hard to come by for companies in 2023.”**

—**LAUREN SCHOEFFLER** ('13)

Prithvi Tanwar '08



valuations from investors looking for a way to generate big returns on the Next Big Thing—including during the pandemic—deals began to slow and sour around the end of 2022. BU Law alumni and faculty who work with emerging companies say most investors and founders are still trying to find their footing.

Eventually, they will. That’s the nature of the markets, the practitioners say. **PRITHVI TANWAR** ('08), a partner at Polsinelli in Boston, points out that things began to improve last year: in the second quarter, there were more flat rounds—valuations stayed stable from one funding round to the next—than in the previous quarter, and “glimmers of normalcy” even appeared in the third quarter.

“Flat rounds were the new up round,” Tanwar jokes.

### “WILD TIME”

Despite concerns of a recession and the fact that millions of people lost their jobs, the pandemic turned out to be a boon for much of the economy, including venture capital. Interest rates were low, so investors were looking for profitable places to put their money and often found themselves competing to invest in promising companies, causing valuations to skyrocket. According to **TONY LEWIS** ('12), cofounder of Aumni—a data analytics company that analyzes the venture capital industry and was recently acquired by JP Morgan—valuations around the first quarter of 2022 were up 100 percent over the prior year.

“There was more supply of cash than quality companies,” Lewis explains. “Valuations just went up so fast.”

Schoeffler, who had previously worked in biotech financing, moved to Holland & Hart in 2020 to work in the firm’s consumer packaged goods practice. When the pandemic hit, “everyone thought it was going to be a tough time,” she says.

# “Many founders were betting that the market would bounce back to those high-water marks on a faster timeline. I don’t think that’s coming.”

—TONY LEWIS ('12)

“But, at least in my industry, things were going crazy. Money was flooding in. It was a wild time.”

A variety of factors contributed to the post-pandemic slowdown in the market, including rising interest rates—which made safer investments more attractive—and uncertainty in general about the markets and a war-torn world. There was also just a sense among investors that things couldn’t keep growing and growing and growing.

“People realized they were behaving irrationally based on factors that were not going to continue indefinitely,” Tanwar says.

Lewis says he doesn’t like to use words like “bubble”; nevertheless, he agrees, “a lot of people called it a bubble.”

By last year, any bubble there might have had burst. Valuations for Series B and Series C financing rounds were down 60 percent or more in the first half of 2023, according to Aumni. The number of deals was down 85 percent from the

prior peak, and the total capital raised was down 24 percent from the final six months of 2022. One of the biggest deals of 2023 was actually a down round: in April 2023, Crunchbase credited Stripe’s \$6.5 billion round with helping prop up the first quarter of the year, but the massive deal actually came with a valuation (\$50 billion) almost 50 percent lower than two years prior (\$95 billion).

For founders, the question now is how to make the money they have last longer, Lewis says.

“Many founders were betting that the market would bounce back to those high-water marks on a faster timeline,” he adds. “I don’t think that’s coming.”

**TOM PATTEN**, a lecturer and clinical instructor in the Venture & Finance group within the BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic, puts it this way:

“When that interest rate goes up, investments like treasury bonds become more appealing—now [founders are] competing against those safer investments,” he says.

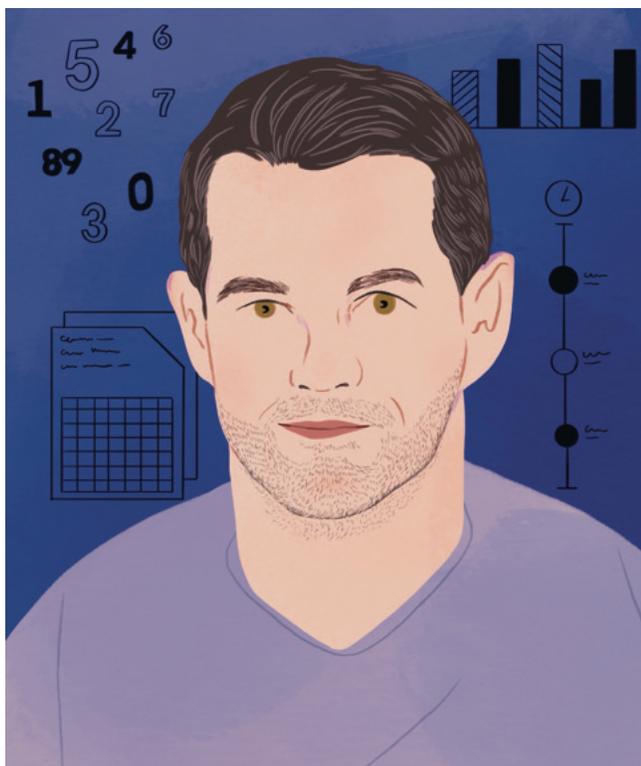
Indeed, Schoeffler and Tanwar say founders are facing an environment of investors prioritizing the fundamentals of running a business over the potential for future growth.

“It was almost like something flipped,” Tanwar says. “The focus went from acquiring scale to becoming more capillary conservative—that’s almost diametrically opposed to the message a few months earlier, which was ‘Why aren’t you spending my money? Why aren’t you hiring?’”

The fourth quarter of 2022, he adds, was “the season of the RIF [reduction in force].”

Schoeffler agrees. Company founders are often driven by ideas. But ideas aren’t enough in the current environment.

“A lot of founders have had to learn how to run a business in the past year or so,” she says. “Funds are not—at least in the



Tony Lewis '12



Tom Patten / Faculty

near future—going to be giving money on a prospect, a hope, a dream. They want to see real value.”

**MARKET CYCLES**

Of course, all markets experience ups and downs, including devastating and long-lasting drops like the one that followed the financial crisis of 2008, the year Tanwar graduated from BU Law.

“It was the deep freeze,” he remembers. “There was no money moving around.”

**DAVID LE** ('07) also experienced the Great Recession as a young attorney.

“That was very, very hard for many people and businesses,” he says. “And, at the same time, there are corrections that happen on a periodic basis, for better or worse. These things can be very cyclical.”

Le has worked on all sides of the venture capital table. He began his career at Pillsbury in its emerging companies practice; led mergers and acquisitions at Electronic Arts; then joined Lyft to build out its corporate and commercial legal teams, eventually leading the rideshare app’s \$2.3 billion IPO in 2019. He also has served as an angel investor and start-up advisor himself and now advises portfolio companies as operating partner at Autotech Ventures, a VC firm that seeks

**“The free flow of capital has turned off.”**

—**DAVID LE** ('07)

David Le '07



**“Every wildfire is followed by fresh growth.”**

—**PRITHVI TANWAR** ('08)

to solve the world’s transportation and logistics challenges with technology.

For many years, he says, the attitude of some founders and investors was “growth at all costs.”

“Now if you ask investors, ‘Do you value growth or profitability?’ they just say: ‘Yes,’” he says. “The free flow of capital has turned off.”

Instead, investors are being more cautious with their deployable funds and demanding answers to hard questions.

“Deals that we used to do in four or five weeks now take 10 or 12 weeks,” Tanwar says. “There is a ton more diligence, a ton more fixation on risk.”

**VALUE OVER VALUATION**

Despite the pain for particular people who are unsuccessful in seeking capital, down markets can have positive effects, too, Tanwar says.

“Every wildfire is followed by fresh growth,” he says. “When the economy crashes and there are layoffs, there is a massive amount of uncertainty. But, in all of that, some really smart people are now given the opportunity to think about building things for themselves.”



Vivian Etter / Faculty

Also, when investors prioritize businesses that are focused on fundamentals, genuinely valuable companies have a better chance of success.

“Slowdowns can be a positive,” Tanwar explains. “They can separate valuable products from people who just raise a lot of capital.”

**VIVIAN ETTER** is a lecturer and clinical instructor who heads the Venture & Finance group in the BU/MIT clinic. She points out that venture capital financing is extremely rare no matter how the market is doing—less than one percent of companies receive funds from VCs in a given year, according to sources like the Kauffman Foundation, a nonprofit that supports entrepreneurship and diversity in the venture capital field.

“We get approached as though VC funding were the norm, when statistically, it’s more of an outlier,” she says. “Funders are looking for that sexier product—it’s really about something that’s innovative and unique and can be scaled up well.”

But even in down markets, good ideas—or the trendiest ones—will still attract investors. For now, all VC roads lead to artificial intelligence (AI). According to Aumni’s report, the median post-money valuation among AI-related companies was higher than software companies generally in the first half of 2023. “AI has experienced a massive upswing,” Tanwar says. “It’s really countercultural in terms of the broader patterns of VCs. You have funders really pushing for more revenue discipline, and, on the flip side, they are pouring money into these AI companies that have very little to show so far.”

(Case in point: Schoeffler says she represents a fund that is looking to invest in “anything AI-related.”)

Despite the challenges of the current market, practitioners say working with emerging companies is a reward in and of itself.

**“We get approached as though VC funding were the norm, when statistically, it’s more of an outlier.”**

—VIVIAN ETTER

Le says he has spent his career trying to be “in the room” where decisions are made about what to fund and why. That quest led him to his current role at Autotech Ventures.

“If you’re able to identify an idea that might disrupt an industry, that might change the world—that’s pretty exciting,” he says. “How do you filter for that?”

Patten says he loves his work in the BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic because “you have no idea what’s going to come in your door that day.”

Founders are generally “wildly passionate about what they are doing—they see a need in society that they want to correct and participate in,” he says. “Working with that type of person can be really exciting.” ■

ILLUSTRATIONS BASED ON COURTESY PHOTOS

Mckenzi Baker '21



## BRINGING IDEAS TO LIFE

**AN ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT AND A HELPING HEART LEAD MCKENZI BAKER—AND HER CLIENTS—TO REALIZE THEIR DREAMS.**

**MCKENZI BAKER** ('21) came to BU Law with a specific career goal. “I wanted to build businesses,” she says, matter-of-factly.

And that’s exactly what she has done, basically ever since she arrived in Boston from her home state of Arkansas. Baker interned at Cooley during her 1L summer and returned to the firm throughout her time at BU Law, working mostly on issues related to company formation. She also took a transactional simulation course called Follow-On Venture Capital Financing and participated in the Startup Law Clinic (now the BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic—read more about the clinic on page 6).

Now an associate at Cooley’s Boston office, Baker advises clients throughout their organizational life cycle, including on formation and corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financing, and initial public offerings. She also represents Black- and women-owned businesses whenever she has the opportunity. She was among the Cooley attorneys who represented Embrace Boston—the organization behind the new Boston Common sculpture that honors Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (GRS’55, Hon.’59) and Coretta Scott King (Hon.’69)—when it formed as a nonprofit. She was part of a woman-led Cooley team that advised Chief, a private networking organization for women, on its \$100 million Series B funding round, which resulted in a valuation of \$1.1 billion. And she represented Boston While Black, a digital network focused on helping Black people thrive in the city, when it became a benefit corporation and in its first major external investment.

Baker traces her interest in entrepreneurship to the early years of her life, when she saw members of her community form their own businesses with varying degrees of success. Some of them were formerly incarcerated people who struck out on their own because they had a hard time finding traditional jobs. Inevitably, they ran into red tape, which they found hard to navigate without an attorney. Baker thought she could help.

“I feel like I can identify with the entrepreneurial spirit,” she explains. “I like seeing a company come to life. When you talk to a founder, they have an idea in their heads. I help translate that idea into reality.”

At Cooley, Baker enjoys her representation of all kinds of clients, but she says she gets a “special joy” working with a “subset of underrepresented founders.”

“They bring a different perspective,” she says. “I consider it a privilege to help them bring their ideas into the world.”

PHOTO BY CONOR DOHERTY

A  
PENCHANT  
FOR THE  
CUTTING  
EDGE.

**THE**  
**ENTRE**  
**PRE**  
**NEWB'S**  
**ATTORNEY**

BY  
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PHOTOS BY  
EDWARD  
LINSMIER

Brent Britton '94



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**STARTING IN**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL,  
WHEN HE WENT  
DOOR TO DOOR  
SELLING GREETING  
CARDS, BRENT  
BRITTON ('94)  
ALWAYS HAD A  
SIDE HUSTLE.



# N

1989,

**BRENT BRITTON** ('94) was wrapping up a computer science degree at the University of Maine and mulling over his career prospects. He figured he could get a job as a programmer at IBM or Digital Equipment Corp., a typical path for many of his classmates. But Britton had always had a penchant for the cutting edge.

He put himself through college by working as a systems operator at the campus computing center—"those old mainframe computers with the tapes swirling," he says. But on his own time, Britton dabbled in new technologies. He wrote his first AI program in his junior year and published a digital humor magazine on the university's primitive networked computer system. When Britton read about a groundbreaking new graduate program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he decided to apply.

Founded just a few years earlier, MIT's Media Lab sought to bring together bright young innovators in engineering, technology, and design to solve real-world problems. "It was basically advanced computer science and artificial intelligence," Britton says. "People like [AI and computing

pioneers] Marvin Minsky and Alan Kay were there. It was amazing people doing amazing things."

During Britton's time at MIT, debates around intellectual property (IP) were coming to the fore. In recent years, a series of legal rulings had established the patentability of certain software-related inventions. "This was ruffling a lot of feathers in ways that I didn't immediately understand because I had been such a deep math nerd my whole life," Britton concedes. "I didn't know a patent from a potato, but it seemed to me that the regulators and the government weren't speaking the same language as the scientists and engineers. I thought it could be useful for someone like me to learn how the law works and help bridge that gap."

After earning his master's degree from MIT, Britton left research behind and headed to BU Law, where he immersed himself in the complexities of intellectual property law. In the last three decades, he has written a book on the fundamentals of IP (*Ownability: How Intellectual Property Works*, 2013) and cofounded numerous tech start-ups as well as two successful technology law firms. In 2022, he merged his second firm, Tampa-based CoreX Legal, with international firm Bochner Law. Britton stayed on as partner and currently helps lead a group of 40 attorneys in what is now one of the largest intellectual property firms in the southeast.

Britton's group at Bochner specializes in providing tech entrepreneurs with cradle-to-exit representation—in areas including corporate formation, venture funding, software licensing, IP strategy and prosecution, and dispute resolution. The team boasts a uniquely qualified bench of engineers, scientists, and

entrepreneurs and positions itself as a firm built for innovators. "Our lawyers have been in your shoes and walked your journey," the site reads.

Like Britton, his group's ethos is irreverent with a bit of an edge. The practice's landing page declares its trademarked motto in bold, blue lettering: "BE EPIC. BE FEARLESS. BE UNFORGETTABLE."

"I've never been a suit and tie guy," says Britton, who appears on the company website sporting a black T-shirt, his arms swathed in elaborate tattoos. "The hallmark of my legal career has been to buck the instinct to conform and reject the grayness of the crowd. I do the work that I want to do the way I want to do it."

Even as a kid growing up in Howland, Maine—a bucolic town of about 1,200—Britton always had a side hustle. He went door to door selling greeting cards in middle school and later deejayed school dances for cash. As an enterprising high school freshman, Britton convinced the school to pay him to run the Howland Job Bank, an agency that connected student workers with tasks like mowing lawns and delivering groceries.

With a strong knack for numbers and tech, Britton was in his element during undergrad and at MIT. BU Law, on the other hand, expanded his aperture. "I hadn't taken a lot of classes where there was no obvious right answer," Britton says. "The right answer in law school turned out to be arguing both sides of a question. It was a different way of thinking that was very enriching."

Britton decided to focus his studies on the intersection of science, tech, and IP, eventually founding the *Boston University Journal of Science & Technology Law* and publishing it in digital format.



Britton went into law school expecting it to be competitive, even cut-throat, but his experience at BU was the opposite. “It was congenial, with a lot of cool people and wonderful professors,” he recalls. “They were very supportive in really wanting students to be themselves.”

That worked well for Britton, who describes his law school vibe as “a long-haired biker dude” with mirror shades. “It was the ’90s. I was kind of doing the Pearl Jam Eddie Vedder thing.”

During law school, Britton clerked for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a nonprofit that defends digital civil liberties. After graduation, he moved to San Francisco and toiled briefly as an associate for a Silicon Valley firm before striking out on his own.

In 1997, Britton and two friends formed their own technology law practice. Launching a private firm three years out of law school was audacious, but Britton was sure he understood the tech world better than many lawyers. “It was the dot-com bubble. Everything was going crazy,” he says. “We figured, we know how to do this stuff just as well—and maybe better—than anybody else because so few had done it before.”

Britton Silberman & Cervantez LLP soon matured into a multimillion-dollar practice—one early client was Craig Newmark of Craigslist—and was acquired in 2000 by another Silicon Valley firm. “It wasn’t a retirement-level event,” Britton says, “but I paid off my law school loans and bought my Steinway.”

Britton moved from the West Coast to New York City and practiced technology law for a few years there before settling in Tampa in 2004. (He is admitted to practice in California, Florida, and New York. “That’s 42 hours of bar exams,” he notes dryly.)

In the past three decades, Britton has exuberantly pursued his dual passions of technology innovation and law, with plenty of cross-pollination between the two. Even as he continues to practice law full time, Britton sees himself as an entrepreneur at heart. “I’ve never been one to blindly accept the status quo,” he says. “I’m always interested in how to take a situation and make it better, stronger, faster, more efficient, or, in any case, make it my own.”

**“There is no limit to what’s coming. Innovation, invention, entrepreneurship—to create and build and grow—these define the very mantle of what it means to be human.”**

—BRENT BRITTON

Britton has been involved with the launch of dozens of start-ups. To name a few: DealerWizard (“a SaaS [software as a service] that helped car dealers manage inventory”), Lextrovert (“an Etsy for continuing legal education videos”), and VerifIP (“an IP auditing and due diligence tool”). He has enjoyed a handful of profitable exits as well as his fair share of flops.

Like many seasoned entrepreneurs, Britton is sanguine about his failures. Painful mistakes and hard-won lessons now translate into savvy business advice for his legal clients—for example, the absolute necessity of conducting rigorous market validation before bringing a product to market. “I started more than one company based on my assumption of what I thought was a good idea,” Britton says. “But when we launched, it was crickets. Nobody came to the party because I’d never asked the audience what they wanted.”

Britton counsels inventors to rein in their secretive tendencies. “The first thing I tell clients is, sure, take basic steps to protect your IP or source code, but then, get out of stealth mode. Go to the crowd. Share your product. Interview potential customers and ask, ‘Do you like this? Will you pay for it? If not, how should it change?’ That makes all the difference in the success of a start-up.”

As he looks to the future, Britton, like many others, views artificial intelligence as the next frontier of technology law. He predicts that within a few years, practicing law without the use of AI may well be considered malpractice. “AI is not going to replace lawyers yet,” Britton says, “but lawyers who use AI tools are going to powerfully outperform lawyers who don’t.” AI, he says, will be less



of a disruption and more of a “creative destruction tsunami.”

And Britton is intent on catching that wave. Among his recent business ventures are two artificial-intelligence-driven start-ups: Idyllic, an AI tool for trademark risk analysis and other legal functions, and Zenzio, an AI-powered sales associate.

Despite the ominous predictions of AI doomsayers, Britton approaches the future with an innovator’s sense of possibility. “I wouldn’t be a lawyer to entrepreneurs if I didn’t deeply believe in the good, kind, and eleemosynary spirit of human beings,” he says. “I’ve always believed that technology and start-up law is the future of everything, and I’ve been right for 30 years. There is no limit to what’s coming. Innovation, invention, entrepreneurship—to create and build and grow—these define the very mantle of what it means to be human.” ■



BU LAW  
FOSTERS  
GENERATIONS  
OF BUSINESS  
LEADERS.

# FROM TIL TO FOUNDED

BY  
LAURA ERNDE

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PHOTOS BY  
CHRIS  
SORENSEN



<<  
**A LATE NIGHT IN**  
THE OFFICE AS A  
SENIOR ASSOCIATE  
IN A NEW YORK CITY  
FIRM SPARKED MING  
ZENG'S IDEA FOR  
A BUSINESS.

Ming Zeng  
**'09**

**ER**

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**ZENG SAYS HER**  
BU LAW EDUCATION  
BUILT A SOLID  
FOUNDATION FOR  
BECOMING AN  
ENTREPRENEUR.



**“I worried about the firm’s perception of me as a working mother. I was bringing in clients, getting great feedback, but I didn’t have the flexibility that others had to show up for important meetings.”**

—MING ZENG ('09)



With its location in one of the nation’s start-up hubs and a rich history of alumni who launched major businesses, BU Law has earned a reputation for nurturing entrepreneurship in its students.

This strong tradition goes back more than a century. The Class of 1896’s **OWEN YOUNG** founded the Radio Corporation of America (RCA), a subsidiary of General Electric. Over time, RCA became the largest radio company worldwide and led to the first American radio network, the National Broadcasting Company, or NBC. More recently, serial entrepreneur **ANIL AGGARWAL** ('95) has led more than 10 fintech and event start-ups to multimillion-dollar acquisitions. His newest venture is Personatech, a leading end-to-end event tech company.

# “We have passionate ideas. While testing out hypotheses, it helps me see objectively where the weak points are and in what direction to take an idea.”

—MING ZENG ('09)

Today, cutting-edge programs such as the BU/MIT Student Innovations Law Clinic, the Transactional Law Program, and the Corporate Counsel Externship give students skills like communication, leadership, and critical and creative thinking. Designed to help them advise corporate clients, these skills are also highly transferable to starting a business. A dual degree program with Questrom School of Business allows students to complete a JD and MBA in as little as four years.

*The Record* recently caught up with two alumni who are channeling their entrepreneurial spirits and talents into creating new ventures. **MING ZENG ('09)** and **ALEXANDRA FENNELL ('03)** have each founded companies aimed at solving everyday problems. Here is how they got started and how their BU Law education gave them a solid foundation for building their businesses.

## MING ZENG ('09) FOUNDS CAREGIVING PLATFORM APIARI

A late night in the office as a senior associate in a New York City firm sparked Ming Zeng's idea for a business.

Zeng was in a meeting with a partner that was running past regular business hours. She wanted to stay late but quickly realized there would be no one at home to care for her children, aged one and three.

Even with the law firm's generous backup care benefits and the emergence of apps designed to book caregivers, she wasn't able to arrange the help she needed when she needed it. On-site childcare ended at 6 pm, and finding a reliable sitter for last-minute evening coverage was impossible. She ended up going home.

“I worried about the firm's perception of me as a working mother,” she says. “I was bringing in clients, getting great feedback, but I didn't have the flexibility that others had to show up for important meetings.”

Discussing the dilemma with Yi-Hsian Godfrey (COM'97, CAS'97), former marketing director at American Express, they realized there was a business opportunity. They set out to create a new technology platform that would meet the needs of families and connect them with experienced care providers, starting with babysitters.

The two teamed up with a third cofounder, Adam Berlinsky-Schine, former chief technology officer of dating app Coffee Meets Bagel, who built the website's matching platform and chatbot interface.

Apiari launched in 2018. Today, Zeng serves as Apiari's chief operating officer, while Godfrey is the CEO.

Because Apiari thoroughly screens the caregivers before they can join the platform, parents who use the service can have confidence they're hiring a trustworthy person, often booking a provider within minutes of a match. Likewise, caregivers don't have to waste their time and money going on interviews that might never lead to paid work, she says. The platform also provides seamless payment tools for care providers.

Zeng and Godfrey have continued to fundraise to grow the company, with a focus on nurturing the caregiver side of the business, a population that has been traditionally overlooked and underserved by the technology industry. The New York Economic Development Commission chose the company for a founder fellowship in 2023. Apiari also recently received funding from Vest Her Ventures, a venture capital firm specializing in women-led tech companies that enable economic mobility and inclusive workspaces.

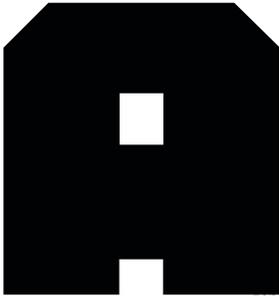
Zeng says her BU Law education built a solid foundation for becoming an entrepreneur, helping her respond to investor questions about risk, structure the company to limit legal liability, and operate in a safe and sound way.

“More importantly, the legal training has shaped my critical thinking,” she says, and informed the many iterative discussions she had with her cofounders. “We have passionate ideas. While testing out hypotheses, it helps me see objectively where the weak points are and in what direction to take an idea.”

The start-up experience, even with its roller-coaster ups and downs and fundraising challenges, has been fun and fulfilling. Plus, it hews closer to her original dream of becoming a human rights lawyer than her earlier career in corporate law, where she focused on cross-border mergers and acquisitions and project financings.

After hearing stories of babysitters who spent days and weeks applying to jobs and going on interviews, some even lacking the metro fare to get home, she was inspired to level the playing field for them. Ultimately, she hopes her business will be able to provide them with other benefits, such as health insurance and retirement savings.

“I've always been passionate about helping people,” she says. Now, she gets to support a community of caregivers who are nearly all women, 80 to 90 percent of whom are people of color. “It was a driving force. No one else is building a platform for this group.”



**ALEXANDRA FENNEL ('03)**

**CONCEIVES ATTN:GRACE**

When she first began pitching her business idea for a new line of incontinence products, Alexandra Fennell says she had to resist the temptation to ask everyone she met with to sign a nondisclosure agreement.

It seemed like a sensible risk-management tactic to Fennell, who had spent 16 years practicing patent litigation before becoming an entrepreneur. Not so much in the fast and loose start-up world.

“My brother-in-law, a VC in the UK, told me I had to dial it back,” she says.

She was also taken aback when, during an investor meeting, a young venture capitalist turned to her and asked, “What are you going to do as a lawyer?” Meanwhile, the man had instantly connected with her cofounder and wife, Mia Abbruzzese, who had previously launched the successful children’s shoe brand Morgan & Milo.

Pitching to him and other mostly male investors, it felt like an uphill battle to get them excited about the new product idea. Fennell began to doubt her decision to leave the “golden handcuffs” of a law firm partnership and pursue a risky new venture, especially one geared toward a common but embarrassing condition that primarily affects women.

But she and Abbruzzese steeled their resolve after hearing a speaker at an industry conference refer to similar products being buried in a store’s “aisle of death.”

“I thought, ‘Oh no, this is why we have to do this,’” she says.

The inspiration for their company, Attn:Grace, was seeing their parents deal with varying degrees of incontinence when they reached their 80s.

“My father dealt with it in a very male way, which is saying, not at all,” Fennell says. Abbruzzese’s mom lived a very active and dignified life in the house where she raised her children. Yet, at lunch one day on the North Shore of Boston, her mom struggled to discreetly stuff her adult diapers into a blue plastic newspaper wrapper.

Their market research found that 77 percent of women were not happy with the products they were using.

Thinking there must be a better way, Abbruzzese and Fennell worked with manufacturers and a team of experts in the nonwoven category—which includes wipes, diapers, and menstrual products—to develop sustainable incontinence products that would help destigmatize a problem that affects half of adult women.

Their products also promote wellness, since they are made with materials that don’t cause irritation and are specially designed to capture lighter viscosity liquids, unlike the period products many women start out using.



**“My brother-in-law, a VC in the UK, told me I had to dial it back.”**

—ALEXANDRA FENNEL ('03)



Alexandra Fennell '03

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**FENNELL HAS**  
DEPLOYED HER  
LEGAL BACKGROUND  
WHEN RESEARCHING  
PATENT ISSUES AND  
NAVIGATING THE  
RIGOROUS PROCESS  
OF OBTAINING B  
CORPORATION  
CERTIFICATION.

They launched Attn:Grace in 2020, selling online directly to consumers. In May 2023, their products became available in 1,600 Walmart stores nationwide and through Target.com. Last summer, they closed a \$2 million fundraising round.

Notwithstanding those earlier challenges, Fennell says her BU Law education and legal background prepared her well to become an entrepreneur.

Her legal training taught her to persevere, prioritize, and organize. Her writing professors, including the late **ROBERT VOLK** ('78), helped her hone the communications skills she now relies on daily.

"The BU Law writing program was hands-down transformative for me," she says.

BU Law internships gave her practical experience. "It was helpful to learn not in a vacuum or a hypothetical world all the time," she says. The first summer, she worked at GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, founded by Professor

**JOHN WARD** ('76). During the second summer, she interned at a law firm that placed her with an insurance company client, where she got her first sense of balance sheets and bottom lines.

She has deployed her legal background in many tasks, including researching patent issues and navigating the rigorous process of applying for and obtaining B Corporation certification for Attn:Grace, showing it meets high social and environmental performance standards.

"That's one of our proudest achievements," she says. It also imposed a level of discipline on building the business, forcing the founders to think about everything from how they source their ingredients to their labor practices. Following such stringent regulations is not unlike practicing law.

"I'm a lawyer, through and through," she says. "It's ingrained in how I assess risk, problem-solve, and put teams together. It probably comes through in everything I do." ■

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# *CULTIVATING GROWTH AND CONNECTIONS*

Over the past year, BU Law has offered engaging lectures, thought-provoking symposia, and vibrant networking and social events. These initiatives have celebrated our community's pursuit of knowledge and fostered an environment where students, faculty, and alumni can make meaningful connections. We hope to see you soon at one of our lectures, networking events, or celebrations held at the law school or across the country.



**Find upcoming BU Law events at**  
[bu.edu/law/calendar](https://bu.edu/law/calendar).



1

An ice cream social early in the fall semester gave students the opportunity to take a break and connect.

2

LibraryFest 2023 let the community learn about library and law school resources.

3

Students gathered in the Butler Atrium to learn more about the many student organizations operating at BU Law.

1. PHOTO BY KIMBERLY MIRAGLIUOLO  
2. PHOTOS BY KIMBERLY MIRAGLIUOLO  
3. PHOTO BY TAYLOR MORALES

4



4

BU Law welcomed scholars from across the country for **We Robot 2023**, an interdisciplinary conference examining legal and policy questions related to robots and AI.

5

Students and faculty gathered to celebrate the end of the fall semester.

6

Dr. Charles C. Jalloh, the 2023–24 William and Patricia Kleh Distinguished Visiting Professor of International Law, presented the Kleh lecture in November 2023.

4. PHOTO BY TAYLOR MORALES  
5. PHOTO BY LAUREN ECKENROTH  
6. PHOTO BY LAUREN ECKENROTH

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# CLASS NOTES

If you would like to submit an update for **The Record**, please visit [BU.EDU/LAW/CLASS-NOTES](http://BU.EDU/LAW/CLASS-NOTES).

## 1960s

**AARON J. BOR (LLB'61)** was selected to receive a St. Thomas More Medalion from the Diocese of Fall River. The award is presented to members of the area legal community in recognition of dedicated service.

**DEMITRIOS M. MOSCHOS (JD'65)**, partner and chair of Seder & Chandler's labor & employment practice, was an inaugural *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* Hall of Fame honoree. The award is given to extraordinary attorneys with over 30 years of experience in the legal profession who have made notable contributions to the legal field.

## 1970s

**ALAN M. PARNES (JD'70)** retired in April 2013 from Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in New York City after 40 years as an associate and counsel.

**WILLIS F. FLOWER (JD'71)** joined Fox Rothschild in the firm's Atlantic City office as counsel in the litigation department.

**JERY EDWARD BARTON (JD'72)** transitioned from legal practice to grant writing focused on obtaining funds for energy efficiency improvements for residences in low-income communities. He is also assisting with cybersecurity grants for nonprofits.

**STEPHEN LEWINSTEIN (LLM'73)** made the largest gift in history to Dartmouth Athletics.

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**HON. SHELVIN LOUISE MARIE HALL (JD'74)** and her husband created the Black Heroes Matter organization in Chicago. They campaigned for a year and convinced Chicago City Council to rename iconic Lake Shore Drive in honor of the city's founder, a Black man of Haitian descent. The street is now known as Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive.

**HARVEY M. KAPLAN (JD'74)** has been volunteering with the Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) Bob Sable Immigration Unit and the Harvard Immigration Clinic. He has used his considerable knowledge of both the development and substance of US immigration laws to assist GBLS in representing individuals facing removal and in presenting numerous cases to the First Circuit. In September 2023, GBLS presented him with the Southgate Award for outstanding volunteer service.

**GORDON B. RUSSELL (JD'74)**, a founding director of Kane Russell Coleman Logan PC, was recognized in the 2024 edition of the *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of corporate law and real estate law.

**JEFFREY D. WOOLF (JD'74)** was honored with the Guardians of Israel Award from the Jewish National Fund in June 2023.

**HON. STEPHEN A. MARCUS (JD'75)** retired from the Los Angeles Superior Court after 35 years as a judicial officer. He was the first drug court judge in Southern California (1993) and completed more than 350 felony jury trials, including several death penalty cases. Judge Marcus was also an adjunct professor at several law schools and universities while serving on the bench. He played a major role in planning and teaching judicial education programs for the Los Angeles Superior Court and the statewide judicial research center. He now looks forward to working as an assigned judge, traveling, and studying to be a contestant on *Jeopardy!*

**JAMES FOSTER (JD'76)** was named among the Top 50 Healthcare Technology CEOs of 2023 by Healthcare Technology Report.

**HUGH H. MO (JD'76)** is principal and owner of the Law Firm of Hugh H. Mo PC, which was honored with the title of 2023 APA-Owned Law Firm of the Year

by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association. Mo and the firm represent individuals and corporations in criminal and complex civil litigation matters and also serve as US counsel for many international entrepreneurs, corporate entities, and Chinese governmental entities.

**HON. GARY ELLIS HICKS (JD'78)** retired from his role as senior associate justice of the New Hampshire Supreme Court in November 2023 after more than 20 years on the bench. Justice Hicks says he plans to increase his activity with St. Paul's Advanced Studies Program and to continue with the American Inns of Court, where he has served as a past member of the board of trustees. He would also like to spend more time with his grandkids.

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**NANCY S. SHILEPSKY (JD'78)**, a partner in Sherin & Lodgen's employment department, was an inaugural *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly* Hall of Fame honoree. The award is given to extraordinary attorneys with over 30 years of experience in the legal profession who have made notable contributions to the legal field.

**BRUCE T. BLOCK (JD'79)** was named in the 2024 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*.

## 1980s

**GENE BARTON (JD'82)**, of Goulston & Storrs, was named to *Lawdragon's* 2024 list of 500 Leading Dealmakers in America. Barton is a well-known dealmaker with over 30 years of experience leading middle market M&A transactions for US and international clients in a wide spectrum of industries, including healthcare. In the past five years alone, he was lead counsel on more than \$3 billion in M&A

transactions. His clients include private and public company sellers, PE firms, strategic acquirers, entrepreneurs, and a broad range of technology companies.

**LAURIE RUCKEL (JD'82)** was named among the Top 50 Attorneys of New Jersey for 2023 by Attorney Intel.

**STEVEN BAUER (JD'83)** retired from the full-time practice of law, but as his wife repeatedly tells him, retirement seems to be merely a legal phrase with no impact on his schedule. He is now a professional mediator and arbitrator with JAMS, the largest private alternative dispute resolution provider in the US. He focuses on technology and life sciences-based disputes, with a national and international practice, and spends as much time on the road as he ever did. (He just spent three days mediating a case in Paris!) He finds it much more satisfying settling cases than filing them.

**TED A. BERKOWITZ (JD'83)** has been recognized in the 2024 edition of *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of bankruptcy and creditor debtor rights/insolvency and reorganization law; and litigation—bankruptcy.

**GEOFFREY B. GOMPERS (JD'83)** was named among the best truck accident lawyers in Philadelphia by Forbes Advisor.

**MARK MORRIS (JD'83)** was named among the Top 50 Law Firm Executives of 2023 by Attorney Intel.

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**RICHARD S. NICHOLSON (JD'83)** retired in 2020 after 16 years in private practice in Boston; 5 years of solo practice in Concord, New Hampshire; and 16 years with the US Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. He is now living and tending his own gardens alongside his wife, Kathy, and their long-haired dachshund, SweetPi, in the Kansas City metro area. He hopes everyone from the Class of '83 has been happy and well all of these years and wishes more of the same for many years to come!

**STEPHEN RIDER (JD'83)** was recognized in the 2024 edition of the *Best Lawyers in America* and *Best Lawyers in America* "Ones to Watch."

**ALAN RUTKIN (JD'83)**, a partner at Rivkin Radler, edited the third edition of the *Reference Handbook on the Commercial Liability Policy*, published by the American Bar Association. He was also named to the 2023 New York Metro Super Lawyers list.



**MARTHA ANNE TOLL (JD'83)** had a long, wonderful career as the founding executive director of the Butler Family Fund after a number of legal jobs that didn't quite sing to her (including a stint as an honors attorney at the US Treasury and affiliated bureaus). Butler collaborated with colleagues from the Gates Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and many others, and Toll brokered a series of grants totaling over \$4 million from the Geneva-based Oak Foundation to expand their US work to break the cycles between homelessness and criminal justice. Along the way, she became a book critic for NPR, the *Washington Post*, *Lilith* magazine, and others. Her first novel, *Three Muses*, won the Petrarch Prize for Finely Crafted Fiction. Her second novel, *Duet for One*, will be out in May 2025. She and her husband, a climate activist, are the proud parents of two adult daughters. Please be in touch! You can find her at marthaannetoll.com.

**FERN FINKEL (JD'84)** was named chair of the New York State Bar Association's elder law and special needs section.

**MARK LEEDS (JD'84)** was named among the Top 50 Attorneys of New York for 2023 by Attorney Intel.

**MICHAEL N. UNGAR (JD'84)** has been recognized with the Living Legacy Award from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA). In conjunction with CMBA's 150th anniversary celebration, the Living Legacy Award honors lawyers who have made significant contributions to the legal, business, and civic arenas in Greater Cleveland. He was also named the *Best Lawyers in America* "Lawyer of the Year" for 2024.

**BILL BOGDAN (JD'86)** was named a Litigation Trailblazer by the 2023 *National Law Journal* for his victory in *Kuciemba v. Victory Woodworks* before the Supreme Court of California that invalidated the take-home COVID liability theory against employers.

**JOE CONROY (JD'86)** was named among the Top 50 Law Firm Executives of 2023 by Attorney Intel.

**STEVEN A. FELDMAN (JD'86)**, a partner at Feldman and Feldman Attorneys at Law in New York, was named a Super Lawyer by his peers. He has won over 200 civil and criminal appeals in state and federal court, including in the US Supreme Court. His partner (and wife), **ARZA RAYCHES FELDMAN (JD'85)**, the smarter of the two, has won even more trials and appeals.

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**RICHARD G. MILLS, JR. (JD'86)** joined United Educators Insurance as president and CEO.

**MARTIN J. MCLAUGHLIN (JD'87)** was named among the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America*.

**RYAN REETZ (JD'87)**, managing partner in the Miami office of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, has been named among the Top 50 Attorneys in Miami for 2023 by Attorney Intel.

**DANIEL AVERY (JD'88)**, of Goulston & Storrs, was named to *Lawdragon's* 2024 list of 500 Leading Dealmakers in America. Avery is a senior corporate and M&A attorney who has overseen the acquisition or disposition of hundreds of middle market companies in the US and around the world. He represents both PE and strategic buyers and sellers across a variety of industries.

## 1990s

**WILLIAM J. DELANEY (LLM'91)** was recognized as a 2023 Super Lawyer.

**DANIEL S. FIELD (JD'91)**, of Morgan, Brown & Joy, was recognized by *Best Lawyers 2024* in the area of employment law.

**MARK W. MANNING (JD'91)**, a partner in the corporate group at Burns & Levinson, was selected for inclusion in the 2024 *Lawdragon 500 Leading Dealmakers in America* list. Manning concentrates his practice on middle market mergers and acquisitions and growth capital. He facilitates M&A deals across a wide variety of industry sectors for buyers and sellers, in addition to negotiating growth capital financings on behalf of emerging business and capital sources.

**ALAN CHANG (JD'92)** was named among the Top 50 Attorneys of New York for 2023 by Attorney Intel.

**ELIZABETH L.B. GREENE (JD'92)** was selected by her peers for inclusion in the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America* in the field of medical malpractice—defendants. She has been recognized in *Best Lawyers* since 2013. Greene is a partner in Mirick O'Connell's litigation group and a member of the firm's health law group. She serves as a counsel for physicians, medical groups, hospitals, and allied healthcare professionals, defending them in medical malpractice cases and representing them before their professional licensure boards.

**DENNIS ROSSIEN (JD'92)**, a shareholder in Munsch Hardt's Dallas office, has been named to the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America* list in the commercial litigation category. Roossien has broad litigation experience in state and federal courts, arbitration proceedings, and bankruptcy-related matters. He has subject matter expertise in insurance coverage, personal injury defense, telecommunications, securities fraud, commercial disputes, oil and gas, real estate, fair housing, healthcare, code enforcement, fiduciary malpractice, receiverships, bankruptcy, and cross-border asset recovery. At present, his primary practice focus is on complex parallel civil and criminal proceedings arising from the investigative and enforcement efforts of the Securities & Exchange Commis-

sion, Department of Justice, Federal Trade Commission, and other agencies. In most cases, his work has aligned with the government, as he has served as and represented court-appointed fiduciaries, victim groups, and civil plaintiffs. He has also handled white-collar criminal defense matters, assisted with health-care audits, responded to government investigations, and defended parties in civil proceedings having the potential for parallel criminal proceedings.



**CHRISTINE DESMARAIS BERGSTROM (JD'93)** is coming up on her 30-year anniversary with her firm, Wadleigh, Starr & Peters in Manchester, New Hampshire. Her partners have been so good to her over the decades! She recently married Jack Bergstrom, who is the great love of her life. Her family law practice is wonderful, and she is hoping to retire in three to five years. Her son is thriving in college, and she is pursuing her lifelong dream of owning a horse and competing in dressage. Life is good. She hopes everyone is well and thriving in their practice or retirement.

**DANIEL DORNFELD (JD'93)** was selected to the 2023 New York Metro Super Lawyers list in the area of real estate law.

.....  
**JANET P. JUDGE (JD'93)** left big law with a colleague at the beginning of 2022 to start a boutique law firm in Boston. It's an interesting time to be working with colleges, universities, and athletics conferences around sports and civil rights law challenges. No two days are the same. On one of her pre-COVID work trips, she ended up on the campus of Hawaii's law school having coffee with Dean Avi Soifer and chatting with Professor

Fran Miller. She's thankful always for the lessons learned and for the many friendships formed at BU. She's lucky to have found a wonderful life partner, to be the mom of two strong young women, and for Goose, the happiest black lab ever.

**ERIC KAPLAN (JD'93)** practiced structured finance law for 5 years and then spent 17 years on the banking side. In 2017, following almost a decade of post-crisis, policy-focused work (in addition to his "day job"), he joined the nonprofit, nonpartisan Milken Institute to run the housing finance program within the Center for Financial Markets. He shifted to a senior advisor role in 2021 and continues to serve in that capacity. In 2022, he joined the nonprofit Operation HOPE as executive vice president and president of the Financial Literacy for All initiative. Their mission is to make financial literacy a fundamental part of US culture. He's also served on industry trade group and nonprofit boards and is currently a board member of Kroll Bond Rating Agency. He also served a two-year appointed term (2019–21) on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Consumer Advisory Board and served as board chair from 2020 to 2021. Quite an interesting career journey since graduating from BU Law!

**FRANK MACDONALD (JD'93)** sends a happy 30th to all his classmates. He remains in the most interesting job he has ever had—chief of the Asset Forfeiture Unit in the Essex County District Attorney's Office. If anyone ever finds themselves in Essex Superior Court, stop by and say hi!

**JOANNE MARY STELLA (JD'93)**, continuing the tradition she started in law school with the Public Interest Project, has dedicated her *pro bono* work to helping victims of domestic violence. In 2023, she received an award for distinguished *pro bono* service at the New Hampshire Bar Association's annual meeting in recognition of her 20 years of service to over 70 clients, mostly women seeking protection from abusive relationships. Other than raising two awesome children, now adults, it is the thing of which she is most proud.

**WENDY WHITMAN (JD'93)** turned to writing after working as a journalist for 20 years at Court TV & on the *Nancy Grace* show at HLN. Her debut crime thriller, *Premonition*, came out in 2021 and the sequel, *Retribution*, was re-released in July 2023. She hopes everyone will check out her books!



**DAWN (KOREN) GOLDSTEIN (JD'94)** was incredibly honored to receive the Norton J. Come Award from the National Labor Relations Board in August 2023. This award “is presented to the attorney who best exemplifies the agency’s standards of legal excellence.” That same month, she was named deputy associate general counsel of the NLRB’s division of legal counsel. Her work focuses on Administrative Procedure Act issues, including rulemaking, bankruptcy, mandamus, National Labor Relations Act preemption, primary jurisdiction, the Freedom of Information Act, and the Privacy Act, and involves bankruptcy, district, and appellate court civil litigation. She is always happy to discuss labor law and working for the federal government with BU alumni and current students. Her husband, **JIM GOLDSTEIN (JD'93)**, is in-house counsel with T-Mobile, and they have two wonderful kids: Judith, a junior at Barnard, and Sara, a junior in high school, as well as one very needy cat, Stitch.

**JAMES HEIMBACH (JD'94)** was named vice president, external and corporate relations, of the World Bank.

**THOMAS L'HELIAS (JD'94)** joined Loeb & Loeb as a partner in the capital markets and corporate department.

**JACQUELYN FAHEY SANDELL (JD'95)** joined Voyager Therapeutics as chief legal officer.

**GABRIELLE J. SELLEI (JD'95)** has been a solo practitioner since 2016 and more recently became an empty nester. She now has the time and energy to pursue some of her other interests, including serving on the boards of several arts organizations in her adopted city of Philadelphia. Life is good!

**GIOVANNI D. CICIONE (JD'96)**, a business attorney with over 25 years of corporate and legal management experience, was inducted into the Cranston Hall of Fame in Cranston, Rhode Island. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Cicione has served numerous community organizations, including as senior policy and legal advisor to the Rhode Island Center for Freedom and Prosperity, advocate and deputy grand knight to Bishop Hickey Council of Knights of Columbus, and trustee to the Rhode Island Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

.....  
**KATHERINE E. OLER (JD'96)** was nominated by President Joseph Biden for a seat on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She has served as special master of the US Court of Federal Claims since 2017.

**SCOTT LE BOUEF (JD'98)**, an energy and commodity transactional lawyer, joined Bracewell as partner.

**ERICA MCGREGOR (JD'98)** was named to the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America* “Lawyer of the Year” awards list. Only one lawyer in each practice area and designated metropolitan area is honored as the “Lawyer of the Year,” making this accolade particularly significant. McGregor has been named the 2024 “Lawyer of the Year” in the Cleveland market in the area of trusts and estates.

**CELISA MORIN (JD'99)** joined Reed Smith LLP as counsel.

## 2000s

**PANDA L. KROLL (JD'00)** was elected to serve as a trustee of the UC Santa Cruz Foundation.

**JEFFREY S. SIEGEL (JD'00)** was recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* 2024

in the areas of employment law—management, labor law—management, and litigation—labor and employment.

**ALEXANDER LYCOYANNIS (JD'01)** recently joined Holland & Knight’s New York office as a partner in the real estate capital markets group, where he represents owners, developers, and landlords in all phases of litigation and appellate practice. He resides in Ridgefield, Connecticut, with his wife, Kim, and two teenage sons, and he’d love to hear from old classmates at alexander.lycoyannis@hkklaw.com.

**JENNIFER L. MCMANUS (JD'01)** became the 71st president of the Michigan Association for Justice.

**CHAD J. PORTER (JD'01)** has been selected for inclusion in the 2024 *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Dealmakers in America. Porter is vice-chair of the Burns & Levinson Finance Group, where he handles a wide range of mergers and acquisitions, commercial financing arrangements, and private equity and investment transactions.

**PETE VAN HEDEL (JD'01)** joined the Bernstein Shur board of directors.

.....  
**BRIAN WOO-HYON SONG (JD'02)** received the Military and Veteran Service Award from the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association in November 2023. The award recognizes individuals within the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPI) legal community serving the US Armed Forces as uniformed personnel, civilians, or veterans and is meant to acknowledge AANHPI attorneys who exhibit the highest integrity, competency, and commitment to serving others, the AANHPI community, and their country and whose character and commitment reflect the highest standards of the Armed Forces.

**LARS TAAVOLA (JD'02)** was named among the Top 50 Attorneys of New Jersey for 2023 by Attorney Intel.

**ANDREW B. BARRAS (JD'03)** joined Keating Muething & Klekamp as a partner in the firm's litigation group, where he will focus on complex commercial litigation, False Claims Act litigation, and white-collar criminal defense.

**HON. MARIA CUBILLOS REED (JD'03)** became the first Hispanic immigrant to serve as a Monroe County Family Court Justice.

**JORDAN ROSENFELD (JD'04)** was appointed chief counsel, legal & compliance, strategy & growth initiatives at Marsh McLennan.

**SCOTT STEINBRECHER (JD'05)** was appointed deputy attorney general, natural resources and environmental section, for the state of Colorado. He oversees a team of 70 attorneys and staff who represent agencies within the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Health & Environment.

**JAMES LA ROCCA (JD'07)** was promoted to counsel at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP.

**STACEY PIETROWICZ (JD'08)** was named among the best personal injury lawyers in Boston by Forbes Advisor.

**MELISSA A. SULLIVAN (JD'09)** was promoted to publisher of the *Neshaminy Journal*.

## 2010s

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**MICHAEL GREENWALD (JD'10)** joined the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's Technology Advisory Committee as global lead, digital assets.

**ADAM VENESS (JD'10)** joined Dianthus Therapeutics as general counsel.

**DANIEL T. FLAHERTY (JD'11)** was honored as the 2023 Rising Star by the Wisconsin District Attorneys' Association.

**ELIZABETH L. MO (JD'11)** is counsel at the Law Firm of Hugh H. Mo, which was honored with the title of 2023 APA-Owned Law Firm of the Year by the National Asian Pacific American Bar

Association. The firm represents individuals and corporations in criminal and complex civil litigation matters and also serves as US counsel for many international entrepreneurs, corporate entities, and Chinese governmental entities.

**ALFRED FARGIONE (LLM'12)** was named among the Top Georgia Criminal Attorneys by *Georgia Law News*.

**ROBERT KILLIP (JD'12)** was named to the 2023 *Lawdragon* 500 X—The Next Generation list. The inaugural list highlights those who will define where the legal profession of our country goes.

**LAURA KIRSHENBAUM (JD'12)** was promoted to partner at Rose Law Partners LLP.

**DAVID LINHART (JD'12)** was named to the 2023 *Lawdragon* 500 X—The Next Generation list. The inaugural list highlights those who will define where the legal profession of our country goes.

**CASEY MILIANTA (JD'12)** was named to the 2023 *Lawdragon* 500 X—The Next Generation list. The inaugural list highlights those who will define where the legal profession of our country goes.

.....  
**ADAM PONTE (JD'12)** was selected as one of *Boston Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 for making a difference in his business and community. Ponte was one of nearly 300 nominations received. The selections were based upon career accomplishments, focus on success, and commitment to community.

**KOH UEDA (LLM'12)** joined Greenberg Traurig LLP as counsel.

**SHUDAN ZHOU (JD'12)** was named to the 2023 *Lawdragon* 500 X—The Next Generation list. The inaugural list highlights those who will define where the legal profession of our country goes.

**NINA DOW (LLM'13)** joined Bowditch & Dewey.

**DOUGLAS METCALF (JD'13)** joined Holland & Hart as an associate.

**CRISTINA I. RAMIREZ (JD'13)** recently started a new position at the University of Texas School of Law's Rapoport Center. She is the criminal defense lead for the newly formed Sissy Farenthold Reproductive Justice Defense Project. Through her role at the project, Ramirez continues to fight to safeguard the rights of her fellow Texans.

**JOHN P. REARICK (JD'13)** joined Dechert LLP as a partner in the intellectual property practice in the Boston office.

**SPENCER HOLLAND (JD'14)** was included in the 2024 *Best Lawyers in America* "Ones to Watch" list for environmental law, land use and zoning law, municipal law, and real estate law. This is his second year listed. Holland is an associate in Mirick O'Connell's land use and environmental law group as well as their public and municipal law group. His practice is focused on representing clients buying, selling, financing, and leasing commercial real estate. He also has experience advising clients on a broad range of land-use matters, including zoning, permitting, and title issues.

**NIMA MOVAHEDI (JD'14)** has been elected a partner at Latham & Watkins LLP in Costa Mesa, California. A member of the emerging companies & growth practice and corporate department, he advises private and public companies, venture capital and private equity firms, and investment banks on M&A, investments, joint ventures, and other complex corporate transactions, particularly in the technology and life sciences sectors.

**ERIC SWARTZ (JD'14)** joined Sterlington as partner and head of its Web3 practice.

**REBECCA JOHNSON (JD'15)** has been recognized by Super Lawyers as an Upstate New York Rising Star.

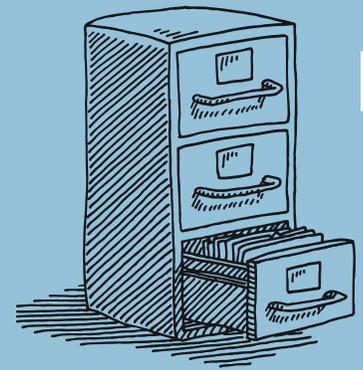
**JULIE MITAROTONDO (JD'16)** joined Greenberg Traurig as an associate.

**RACHAEL KUILEMA KLEIN (LLM'17)** joined Foster Swift Collins & Smith PC's trusts & estates practice group.

**MANDY WANG (JD'18)** joined the New Jersey office of the attorney general as a deputy attorney general in the data privacy and cybersecurity section.



If you would like to submit an update for **The Record**, please visit [BU.EDU/LAW/CLASS-NOTES](http://BU.EDU/LAW/CLASS-NOTES).



## 2020s

**BRAD BARANOWSKI (JD'20)** received the Roger T. Beitler Distinguished Former Student Award at the Kent State Ashtabula Community Reception.

**TRACY L. VRABLIK (JD'21)** moved to Bellingham, Washington, and continues to work remotely at Foley Hoag.

**CLAIRE E. WELLS (JD'21)** joined Hodgson Russ, handling business litigation, education, and healthcare matters.

## IN MEMORIAM

Anne M. Atherton (LAW'76)  
 Frank W. Barrie (LAW'76,'82)  
 Lee E. Berk (LAW'67)  
 Nathaniel A. Boone (LAW'56)  
 John B. Chase (Questrom'52, LAW'55)  
 Brian Cotter (LAW'71)  
 Bertram R. Cottine (LAW'72)  
 Anthony P. Croce (LAW'64)  
 William C. Decas (LAW'71)  
 Henry B. Dewey (LAW'52)  
 G. Mitchell Eckel III (LAW'78)  
 Lawrence M. Edelman (LAW'81)  
 Henry N. Frenette, Jr. (LAW'59,'63)  
 Anthony P. Gargiulo (LAW'56)  
 Howard B. Green (LAW'83)  
 Bernard Goldberg (LAW'53)  
 Barry T. Hannon (LAW'61)  
 Thomas P. Harrison (LAW'92)  
 Francis M. Harvey (LAW'67)  
 Sanford M. Kirshenbaum (LAW'58,'60)  
 Adam Kokas (LAW'96)  
 Seymour L. Kroopnick (LAW'56)  
 Elliot D. Lobel (LAW'77)  
 William O. Ludwig (LAW'72)  
 Martin S. Malinou (LAW'58,'59)  
 Frank A. Marciello Jr. (Questrom'61, LAW'63)  
 Paul E. Marum (LAW'56)  
 John J. McCarthy (LAW'63)

John J. McLoughlin (LAW'85)  
 G. Foster Mills (LAW'78)  
 George E. Morse (LAW'67)  
 Richard S. Moskow (LAW'55,'60)  
 Victor M. Muschell (LAW'65)  
 Henry G. Nagel (LAW'59)  
 John C. Needham (LAW'78)  
 Robert P. Nessen (LAW'96)  
 Richard A. Ney (LAW'78)  
 Kevin M. O'Grady (LAW'86)  
 Jerrold A. Olanoff (LAW'64)  
 Malcolm E. Osborn (LAW'56,'61)  
 Dean E. Peckham (LAW'68)  
 Susan N. Pescatores (LAW'69)  
 Robert W. Ross (GRS'70, LAW'71)  
 Mark A. Rubenstein (CAS'68, LAW'71)  
 Gregory A. Ruidl (LAW'79)  
 Terri H. Sandblom (LAW'92)  
 Arnold L. Slavet (LAW'57)  
 Harvey F. Strauss (LAW'73)  
 Charles B. Swartwood III (LAW'64)  
 Nelson D. Taylor (LAW'74)  
 Michael B. Trainor (LAW'80)  
 Pasquale Vaccaro (LAW'58)  
 Thomas C. Wojtkowski (LAW'57)

This list reflects community members who passed between June 1 and November 30, 2023.

## BU'S FIRST ENTREPRENEUR

As a child, ISAAC RICH (1801-1872) worked alongside his father at a fish stall in Boston's Faneuil Hall. When he was 19, his father died, leaving him to support his mother and 10 younger siblings. He opened an oyster shop on City Wharf and soon began dealing in dry goods, real estate, and banking.

Over time, Rich became one of Boston's wealthiest merchants and used his fortune and real estate to support institutions throughout New England. In 1869, Rich, LEE CLAFLIN, and JACOB SLEEPER obtained the charter to found Boston University. Just months before Rich's death in 1872, he and the other BU cofounders established the Boston University School of Law with the help of MELVILLE MADISON BIGELOW, one of the foremost scholars in legal history at the time.



# **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

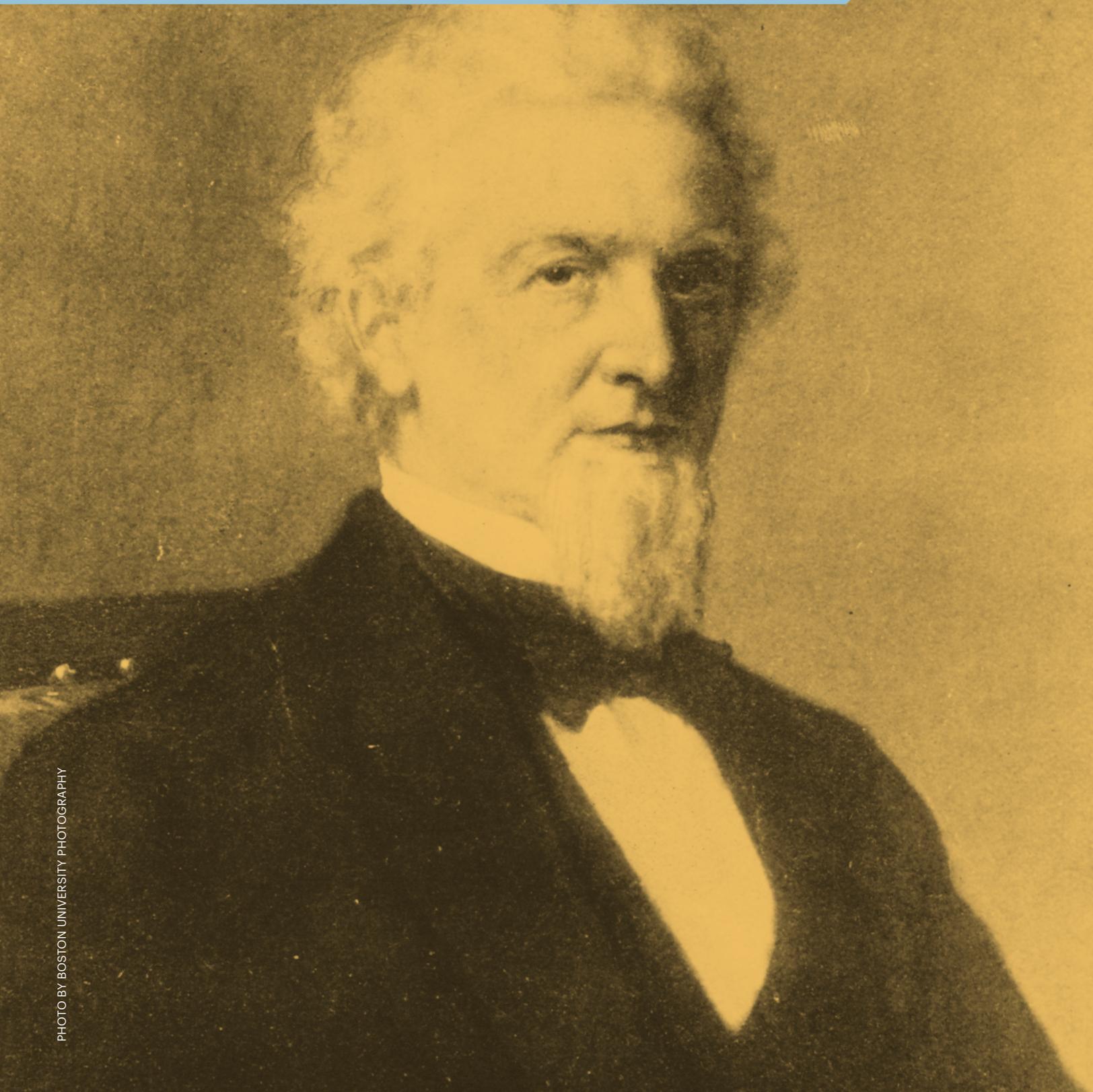
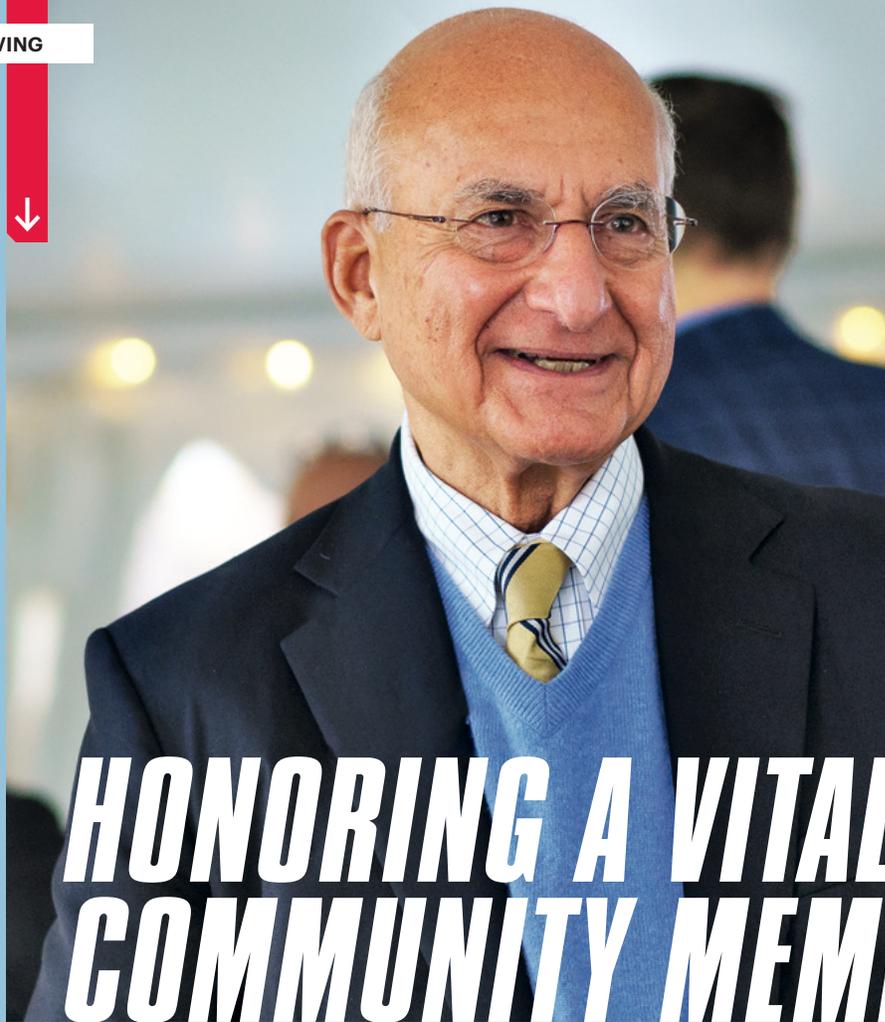


PHOTO BY BOSTON UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHY



# HONORING A VITAL COMMUNITY MEMBER

**ERNEST M. HADDAD** ('64) has been a vibrant—and beloved—member of the BU Law community in one capacity or another for the past 60 years.

Within months of joining the faculty and administration in 1966, Haddad spearheaded an effort to improve the quality of the student body by recruiting students from underrepresented groups into the legal profession—becoming one of the first law school recruiters ever to visit some of the country's best women's colleges and historically Black colleges. As the student body rapidly became stronger and more diverse, he expanded BU Law's career planning and placement efforts to help graduates enter the profession.

Haddad left BU Law in 1971 to enter public service. After 31 years—during which he pioneered the establishment of highly regarded law departments within major nonprofit organizations, notably Mass General Brigham—he returned to BU Law, this time as associate dean for the fast-growing LLM programs and director of the Graduate Tax and Visiting Scholars

programs. He “retired” in 2014 but continues to serve BU Law in a voluntary capacity.

In his honor and in recognition of his 60 years of service as an alumnus, staff member, teacher, mentor, and friend of the BU Law community, the school has established the **ERNEST M. HADDAD FACULTY SUPPORT FUND**. This permanently endowed fund will support faculty members whose work is focused on human rights by enabling them to engage law students as research and clinical assistants. With enough support and growth, this endowment will become the Ernest M. Haddad Professorship Fund, providing resources for the recruitment or retention of a distinguished member of the faculty whose teaching and research are focused on human rights.



Honor Haddad's contributions to the school with a gift to the **Ernest M. Haddad Faculty Support Fund**.



# keep in touch.

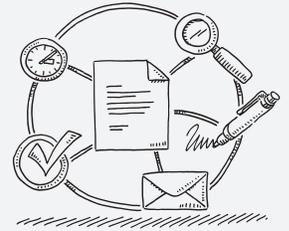
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Email [lawalum@bu.edu](mailto:lawalum@bu.edu) to receive *The Record Monthly*, our newsletter for alumni.



To submit a class note, please visit [bu.edu/law/class-notes](https://bu.edu/law/class-notes).



PHOTO BY JOHN GILLOOLY

LIFELONG BONDS, SHARED WISDOM, AND A NETWORK THAT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME. WHETHER YOU GRADUATED 5 YEARS AGO OR 50, THE BU LAW ALUMNI COMMUNITY IS HERE FOR YOU.



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**“THE LEGAL TRAINING HAS SHAPED MY CRITICAL THINKING. [MY COFOUNDERS AND I] HAVE PASSIONATE IDEAS. WHILE TESTING OUT HYPOTHESES, IT HELPS ME SEE OBJECTIVELY WHERE THE WEAK POINTS ARE AND WHAT DIRECTION TO TAKE AN IDEA.”**

**—MING ZENG ('09)**

Read more in *From 1L to Founder*



**PAGE 20**

