TOGETHER WE ARE stronger

Dear Friends,

One of the greatest challenges that we’ve faced over the last few years is finding ways to remain connected while being apart. As we emerge from all that we’ve endured together, we are grateful for the support of our alumni and donors that has helped our community become stronger than ever before.

Fresh, new spaces within the Law School building invite learning, engagement, and collaboration in ways that enrich our students’ total well-being.

Thanks to you, new programs allow students to explore areas of legal education in transformative ways. From learning about careers in criminal justice through the Richmond Criminal Justice Forum to the range of expertise that our new faculty bring, your generosity enables us to deepen the richness of our students’ experience.

Our newest professorship, the first in our school’s history to bear a woman’s name, reaffirms the important role that women have played in our school. We are excited for this milestone, especially on the eve of celebrating 100 years of women at Richmond Law.

Every year, we issue the Dean’s Report to share good news and to recognize alumni, friends, and donors who have contributed along the way. As we continue to strengthen our community, we know that we are strong only because of you. It is your generosity that makes all that we do possible. Thank you for the impact that you have made on the Richmond Law community, and we look forward to continuing to grow together.

Warmly,

Wendy C. Perdue
DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW
From watching a baseball game at Camden Yards to mud crawling in Officer Candidate School, Richmond Law Spiders can be spotted around the world participating in a range of activities that enrich their personal and professional lives. Share in these adventures through our social media #LawSpiderSpotting series.

1. Chris Ames, L’24, spent last summer interning in the general counsel’s office at Callaway Golf is Carlsbad, CA. Next summer, he’ll be off to San Diego for an internship at Jones Day. 2. UR Law and undergrad students stop for a moment outside the Royal Courts of Justice on a field trip to London during the ever-popular Cambridge Summer Program. 3. Marine Officer Candidate Benjamin Payne, L’24, spent his summer in USMC Officer Candidate School. Upon graduation, he’ll Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and be on track to serve as a Marine Corps Judge Advocate. 4. Mohammad Fawad, L’23, and Tanasia Hicks, L’24, attended the Virginia State Bar annual meeting this summer, and had the pleasure of congratulating fellow Spider, Stephanie Grana, W’90 and L’93, on her swearing in as VSB president. 5. Liz Jacobs, L’23, spent her summer as an associate for Cordell & Cordell in Baltimore, MD. By day, Liz enjoyed hands-on experience in family law cases and observing court proceedings; by night, she caught a few Orioles games at Camden Yards. 6. We spotted Elizabeth Stalfort, L’24, and Karl Canby, L’24, who visited historic Machu Picchu this summer before starting their internships with the DC Attorney General’s Commercial Division and the US Army’s Trial Defense Office at Fort Bliss. 7. Carolyn Stough, L’23, and Katie Gill, L’24, connected with other Spiders while interning with the Central Virginia Legal Aid’s domestic violence team this summer. Front: Becky Hutchinson, L’20, Carolyn Stough, L’23, Rebekah Luttrell (attorney), Rhonda Earhart, L’97. Back: Dana Saenz (intern), Nicholas Kalagian (attorney), Palma Pustilnik (attorney), Anne Stambaugh (paralegal), Katie Gill, L’24.
Students were greeted by fresh spaces—and fresh construction—when they returned to campus in August. The Law School building renovations that took place this summer made way for welcoming, multi-functional spaces that will benefit our students for many years to come. At the center of this initial phase was the Library’s Reading Room, which now boasts bright lights, comfortable chairs, cozy nooks, and sunny spaces.

Launched in spring 2021, the multi-phased renovation will ultimately also include an open “town square” that will serve as the community hub for the building, and an excellent space for alumni events; a suite of offices to house our clinics; and upgraded classrooms and moot court spaces. This exciting renovation will provide a noteworthy opportunity to recognize donors and their gifts to the Law School by naming spaces within the school.

As the building continues its transformation, we look forward to welcoming you back to campus to see these new and improved spaces.

(Photos courtesy of Mindie Ballard)

For more information about how you can make an impact, contact Allie Carter, Assistant Dean for Development & Alumni Relations at acarter2@richmond.edu or (804) 287-6463.

1. Plush seating and bright lighting make the Law School’s library more inviting.
2. Carrels and stacks made way for an open floor plan flooded with natural light.
3. Richmond Law clinics have a new home in the building.
4. Modern architecture and classic features blend together to create a unique space.
5. Refreshed common areas provide spaces for students to collaborate and connect.
is DONE!
Honoring Strong Women

RICHMOND LAW RECEIVES GIFT TO ESTABLISH NANCY LITCHFIELD HICKS PROFESSORSHIP, ITS FIRST NAMED FOR A WOMAN

Richmond Law saw its first woman graduate in 1923. Now, on the eve of this important milestone’s 100th anniversary, the school is celebrating another unique first. And this one—again— involves a woman. A generous gift from the family of Nancy Litchfield Hicks, L‘85, has established the school’s first professorship named in recognition of a woman.

“Nancy loved it there,” said Hal Hicks, who made the gift in memory of his late wife. “I think she’d be very proud that there’s now a professorship named after a woman, and that the first one to hold the position is a woman professor who is highly regarded in the field.”

Hicks’s gift to establish this professorship is a continuation of the ongoing generosity he has displayed over the last several years. Following her passing in August 2020, Hal, and the couple’s three sons, Josh, Billy, and Matt, R‘15, established the Nancy Litchfield Hicks (L‘85) Memorial Scholarship in Nancy’s name.

Two years later, inspired by the strength he watched Nancy display throughout a difficult illness, Hal sought to do something more to honor her and other “strong women” in his life. “Nancy was a strong woman. Her daughter-in-law, Jess, is a strong woman. And, yes, her two-year-old granddaughter, Zoey, is certainly turning out to be a strong young woman (and the absolute queen of the family),” he said.

Earlier this year, Professor Jessica Erickson was named the Nancy Litchfield Hicks Professor of Law. A prolific scholar on the Richmond Law faculty since 2007, Professor Erickson teaches and writes in the areas of corporate and securities litigation. She is the founding director of the Richmond Law and Business Forum, which helps students prepare for careers in business law. The 2020 School of Law Distinguished Scholar, her scholarship has appeared in the Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Vanderbilt Law Review, Notre Dame Law Review, Boston University Law Review, and Iowa Law Review, among other venues.

“Women are such an important part of the Law School’s story, and we are thrilled that this new professorship serves as an enduring tribute to two important women in our history,” said Dean Perdue. “An endowed professorship is one of the highest academic awards that the University can bestow on a faculty member. This professorship is such a fitting way to honor two exceptional women. I am grateful to the Hicks family for making it possible.”

Pictured here: Nancy Litchfield Hicks, L‘85, with her adoring family. The professorship established in her memory is the first at Richmond Law named for a woman.
Students interested in careers in criminal justice now have more options to learn about the field, thanks to our new Richmond Criminal Justice Forum. Visiting professor and retired executive director of the Virginia Indigent Defense Commission, Dave Johnson, L'83, launched the program this fall to give students the opportunity to explore careers in criminal justice and to provide a venue to discuss criminal justice issues.

Three Richmond alumni teamed up for the first panel discussion in the forum’s speaker series: Two Ends of Criminal Justice: A Conversation About Careers in Criminal Justice. Moderated by Amari Harris, L’13, Mychael Jefferson-Reese,'00, Chief Public Defender for the Chesterfield County Public Defender’s Office, and Shannon Taylor, L’95, Commonwealth’s Attorney for the County of Henrico shared the paths they took to arrive at their current positions, the challenges they face in those roles, and their respective viewpoints on job satisfaction.

Alumni panelists alongside Prof. Dave Johnson, L’83.

Alumni interested in learning more about the forum can reach out to Johnson directly at djohnso7@richmond.edu.

Your Support Makes a Difference

“I am grateful for the sense of community that Richmond Law provides. Professors and staff are all eager to help students in any way they can, classmates provide interesting insights in class without putting anyone down, and the sense of community carries on through alumni who choose to hire or support Richmond Law graduates. I was a little nervous moving across the country in the middle of a pandemic to go to a school I had never seen, but I could not be happier I did. The campus environment turned what should be a really stressful three years into an extremely positive experience.”

— Megan Sutherland, L’23, Salinas, CA
Elis Olsson Memorial Foundation Law Scholarship Recipient

“I could not be more grateful for your sponsorship of my legal education, and especially appreciate your sponsorship of aspiring personal injury attorneys. Through my education at Richmond Law, I have received extremely invaluable instruction and training on how to be a successful trial attorney. I have received top-tier instruction on pre-trial motions practice, conducting effective discovery, and courtroom advocacy. This education has given me great confidence in my ability to be an effective trial advocate from the very beginning of my career as a litigator. Thank you so much for your part in lifting the financial burden of this education. Your assistance truly means the world to me.”

— Caleb Thompson, L’23, Harrisonburg, VA
Marks & Harrison Scholarship Recipient
We are pleased to welcome three new faculty who bring a wealth of experience and expertise.

Vincent Chiao  
*Tyler Haynes Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies*

Vincent Chiao joins Richmond Law from the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, where he served as an associate professor. Chiao earned his J.D. from Harvard University, his Ph.D. in philosophy from Northwestern University, and his B.A. from the University of Virginia. He researches and teaches primarily in the area of criminal law and criminal justice, with a particular interest in the philosophical examination of its doctrine and institutions. Professor Chiao served as the William Lyon Mackenzie King Visiting Professor at Harvard University immediately prior to beginning his position as the Tyler Haynes Interdisciplinary Chair, a position shared between the Law School and the Jepson School for Leadership Studies.

Marissa Jackson Sow  
*Assistant Professor of Law*

Marissa Jackson Sow joins Richmond Law from St. John’s University School of Law where she served as an assistant professor. She earned her J.D. from Columbia Law School, her Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and her B.A. from Northwestern University. Jackson teaches and writes in the areas of contracts, constitutional law, international law, human rights, and legal theory/jurisprudence. Immediately prior to returning to academia, Jackson served as a Leadership in Government Fellow for the Open Society Foundations and a 2020 Fellow for the Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent hosted by the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Danielle Wingfield, L’14  
*Assistant Professor of Law*

Danielle Wingfield, L’14, returns to Richmond Law from Gonzaga University School of Law where she served as a visiting assistant professor. She earned her J.D. from the University of Richmond, her Ph.D. in education from the University of Virginia, and her B.A. from the College of William & Mary. Her primary areas of teaching and scholarship include legal history, constitutional law, family law, race and the law, and education law and policy. Wingfield served as Of Counsel for The Child Advocate Law Firm, PLLC in Charlottesville, Virginia prior to returning to academia.
Honoring Exceptional Generosity

Donors recognized here have given or committed $100,000 or more to the School of Law during their lifetimes. Charter Associates whose bequests and planned gifts are at or above the $100,000 level are also recognized.

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Bevin and Michael P. Kehoe, ’93*
Classes ending in 2 and 7 gathered this spring for the Law School’s first in-person Reunion since 2019.
We choose to give back to UR Law because of the many benefits we have received, with the intention of ensuring the availability for future students. The influences of UR Law have permeated our lives and careers, encouraging us to strive for excellence in our practice of law while maintaining the highest level of professionalism and ethics along with a disposition of congeniality. UR Law instilled in us a life of service to something larger than ourselves.

— LISA ANDERSON-LLOYD, L’82 & ROB LLOYD, L’81

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* Deceased
I chose to give to the Law School by making a multi-year pledge at a leadership level because there is no better place to educating students and equipping them with the practical skills necessary to help their future clients. Giving back, in particular, helps the Law School fund scholarships that create a bright, well-rounded, and diverse student body; build facilities that will enhance their experience; and attract top-notch faculty. I have seen my donations at work firsthand, time and again, when interacting with stellar students during mock job interviews and writing competitions.

— R. Kennon Poteat III, L’06
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February 3, 2023 – Public Interest Law Review Symposium
February 9, 2023 – First Annual Black Law Alumni Association Dinner
February 17, 2023 – Law Review Symposium
February 24, 2023 – Journal of Law and Technology Symposium
April 4-5, 2023 – 5th Annual UR Here Giving Day
May 20, 2023 – Law Reunion for Classes ending in 3 and 8
May 31, 2023 – Richmond Law Celebration of Scholarship Donors (by invitation only)
Fall 2023 – Celebrating 100 Years of Women at Richmond Law (more details to come)