Welcome to the fifth issue of the William S. Richardson School of Law e-news.

To support programs at the Law School, to expand student scholarships, and to give added life to innovative ideas, the Law School is dedicated to raising private funds in addition to the public funding it receives through the state.

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Stories by William S. Richardson School of Law Media Consultant Beverly Creamer, unless otherwise noted.

2014 Sees Largest Ever Incoming Class

New faculty: Meet Daniel Barnett and Shalanda Baker

Free Caregivers Handbook—and how to get one

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WHILE LAW schools across the country were again facing falling enrollments this year, the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai‘i welcomed the largest incoming class in its 41-year history.

The class size for the fall 2014-15 year fulltime program almost doubled from a year ago, with 98 incoming JD candidates this fall compared to 53 a year ago.

The Law School also enrolled 24 students in its Evening Part-Time program; another 7 candidates for its LLM (Masters of Law) program; 7 students in its new Advanced JD program; plus 6 transfer students and 2 visiting students.

With all categories included the entering class totaled 145 students.

While the UH Law School is one of the smallest in the country, it consistently ranks among the nation’s Top Tier law schools in the annual *U.S. News & World Report*, and it is among the most diverse for its mix of both students and faculty.

Law School Dean Avi Soifer said, “We are very excited to have so many students taking advantage of our personalized instruction and our relatively low tuition; they can expect the rare experience of a rigorous legal education that students actually like. And the word is out that our students support each other and that they still can expect to get challenging legal jobs.”

He added, “This substantial upturn in enrollment did not just happen. Elisabeth Steele Hutchison, our Director of Admissions, her staff and the faculty and students on our admissions committee - as well as many other faculty and staff members - really worked hard to attract these extraordinary students.”

“In addition, Professor Alison Connor helped develop and implement our new Advanced JD program and we recruited outstanding students for the first class.”

In a transformative moment during this year’s orientation activities, the incoming class stood in the hushed Supreme Court, raised their right hands, and took the Richardson student pledge, administered by Hawai‘i Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald with the entire Supreme Court bench looking on.

Each year, as part of the pledge, the incoming class commits itself to “zealously guard legal, civil, and human rights...and above all to endeavor always to seek justice.”

Before the pledge, Recktenwald noted that there is “a great partnership between the Law School and the Supreme Court,” pointing out the valuable work law students do in the community, often in conjunction with the Court’s own outreach programs.

“What it means to be a Richardson law student is a commitment to access to justice, and a commitment to civility and professionalism,” Recktenwald told the students. “What really stands out is that commitment has been embraced by the students.”

He said the law students have been a “driving force” in creating and staffing clinics like the child welfare clinic, as well as in developing the idea for a new program to link loan repayment to community service after graduation. That concept is now under study by a task force created by the Hawai‘i Legislature.

“All of this really makes this Law school unique,” said Recktenwald.
UH Law School Gains Outstanding Faculty
In Environmental Law Program and Legal Writing

WO EXCEPTIONAL NEW FACULTY MEMBERS - Associate Professor Shalanda H. Baker, and Professor Daniel L. Barnett - joined the University of Hawai‘i Richardson Law School this summer, providing students with expanded offerings in the School’s award-winning Environmental Law program, as well as advanced courses in legal writing and problem solving.

Additionally, Associate Faculty Specialist David M. Forman ‘93 was named Director of the Environmental Law Program after nearly three years as Interim Director. Together Forman and Baker will guide a Law School program that explores the intersection of law and environmental needs in a state known for its unique but fragile ecosystem.

These additions and changes serve to strengthen the already highly rated course offerings at the William S. Richardson School of Law. Hawai‘i’s Law School has been singled out repeatedly by national publications for its diversity, within a culture that welcomes students from around the world. The incoming class of 2014 was the largest in the Law School’s 41-year history.

In joining the Law School, Baker will focus on creating an energy law program in addition to teaching courses in energy and international environmental law.

“I’m thrilled to join the ELP as a member of the core faculty, and as Faculty Advisor to the program, in addition to creating a new energy law project at the Law School,” said Baker. “This is such an exciting time to be in Hawai‘i, which is leading the way to solve complex problems related to energy and the environment.”

Barnett, meanwhile, will bring remarkable breadth as the new Director of Legal Writing. He joins Richardson from Lewis & Clark Law School, where he
was the Distinguished Professor of Legal Writing. He also taught at Boston College Law School for more than two decades, receiving the Boston College Distinguished Teaching Award in 2004 and the 2007 Teaching with New Technology Award.

Barnett earned his BA at the University of the Pacific in 1982 and his JD with honors at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in 1986.

“I feel privileged to be part of a Law School with such an important history of celebrating diversity and creating a dynamic learning environment – both in and out of the classroom,” said Barnett. “As the new Director of Legal Writing, I am particularly excited by the challenge of continuing the school’s long tradition of creative teaching – especially in the legal writing curriculum.”

Barnett’s appointment began August 1, 2014, as did Baker’s appointment.

She joins Richardson after two years on the University of San Francisco School of Law faculty, two years as a William H. Hastie Fellow at the University of Wisconsin School of Law, and legal work as a corporate and project finance associate at the international law firm, Bingham McCutchen, in Boston and Japan. Following her law school graduation from Northeastern University School of Law, Baker clerked for Justice Roderick Ireland of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

She is a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy and a 2005 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law. In 2012 she earned an LLM from the University of Wisconsin School of Law.

Law Dean Avi Soifer said he is very pleased to have such remarkable people join the Richardson ‘ohana.

“We are excited to have two such enthusiastic and talented new faculty members as part of our team, and to welcome David Forman officially into the leadership role at ELP. He has done an outstanding job of guiding the program as interim director.

“We are also proud to build on our rich legacy of excellence in environmental law at Richardson,” Soifer continued. “Led by David and Shalanda, Richardson will play a key role as a world-class program that embraces a sustainable energy future - not only for Hawai’i, but for the Pacific Rim and beyond.”

Associate Dean Denise Antolini, who was an early driver of environmental law at Richardson along with program founder Casey (Jarman) Leigh, said that she, too, is gratified to watch the program expand and excel and to have both on board, diversifying the faculty strengths, and supporting the growing number of students graduating with Environmental Law certificates.

At this point, 195 students have graduated with certificates in Environmental Law.

“The addition of Professor Shalanda Baker on the core ELP faculty and David Forman’s role as the ELP Director gives our already nationally prominent program an exciting boost in stature and capacity,” said Antolini.

“Professors Baker and Forman have tremendous expertise in local, national, and international issues. From teaching innovative classes to publishing cutting-edge scholarship, and through their roles as coaches for our two environmental law moot court teams, they will continue to improve ELP’s ability to serve the Bench, Bar, and community as the centerpiece of environmental law and policy in Hawai’i and beyond,” she added.

Forman’s appointment as ELP Director began last March, after he served for almost four years as a full-time faculty member. Forman’s diverse legal experience includes a stint in Washington, D.C. as a fellow with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration as well as working in the Environmental and Cultural Resources Practice Group at one of Hawai’i’s largest law firms, Alston Hunt Floyd & Ing, and six years as the Enforcement Attorney with the Hawai’i Civil Rights Commission.

Forman said that with the additional strength Baker brings to an already outstanding program, he expects even more students to focus on environmental law, and to seek ELP certificates.

“Professor Baker provides an essential boost to the capacity of our program,” he noted. “Beyond her substantive expertise, I am grateful for Professor Baker’s assistance with demanding administrative responsibilities so that I will have the opportunity to devote additional time to my own academic interests.”

Forman graduated from Harvard College in 1988, before he attended Richardson Law School, from which he graduated in 1993. Following graduation, Forman clerked for Justice Robert Klein of the Hawai’i Supreme Court. 
NEW FACULTY FOCUS:

Daniel Barnett

What brought you to teach at Richardson Law School and why is it important to you to be part of this 'ohana?
A: The opportunity to be a part of Richardson’s long tradition of effective and student-centered teaching is what initially drew me to Richardson. As I learned more about the Law School, its social-justice mission, and the diverse and dynamic faculty, staff, and students, I knew that I wanted to be part of this ‘ohana.

Q: What can students expect to gain from your program, and tell us about why this is an important part of their legal education?
A: Legal writing is a critical lawyering skill. Lawyers write a lot! At Richardson, the legal writing program is designed to provide students with intense hands-on learning in small classes from the beginning of the first year so students have the individual attention necessary to effectively learn this important skill.

Q: What have been some of the most important influences in your life and why?
A: The most important influences on my life are my mother, my husband, and my best friend. Their support and encouragement keep me going every day. In addition, many, many teachers - from Ms. Bluitt in the second grade to Madame Darcy to Professor White - continue to shape who I am as a teacher and a person. I am very grateful to all of them.

Q: Share with us one of your most fulfilling experiences as an attorney.
A: I have had many fulfilling experiences as a lawyer, but the one that always comes to the forefront was a small pro bono case during my second year of practice when the AIDS crisis was at its worst. I represented a very sick client with AIDS who had lost his health insurance. The legal work was easy - I really just discovered a small technical mistake by the insurer that solved the problem - but the client’s overwhelming relief that his medical coverage was reinstated demonstrated to me the power that attorneys have to change lives on many different levels. I think about that client often.

Q: Was there a seminal event in your life that led you to law school?
A: I would not say that one event led me to law school. Rather, the combination of my undergraduate education and life experiences convinced me that a legal career was a good choice for me. I think I made the right decision.

NEW FACULTY FOCUS:

Shalanda Baker

What about Richardson Law School drew you to want to be part of this community?
A: I was drawn to Richardson’s unique commitment to Native Hawaiian legal issues and its Environmental Law Program. Of course, as the only law school in the state, the school also has a unique duty to meet the needs of the broader public. The broader stakeholder view is very appealing. It ties the work that we do within the Law School to broader community commitments to social justice.

Q: Tell us about the energy law program you’ll be creating.
A: Based on my conversations within the broader energy community and with students, the program is taking shape to include three primary components: (1) curricular development that will prepare students to work in various sectors within energy; (2) job development and pipeline creation to link students to jobs in energy; and (3) policy work to address questions of law and policy raised by the current energy debates.

Q: Was there an important event in your life that led you to go to Law School?
A: My experiences as a military officer inspired me to fight for and pursue social justice. When I graduated from the Air Force Academy I had the opportunity to work with young high school students from diverse backgrounds and encourage them to go to college. I witnessed first hand the stark disparities between rural and low-income schools and more affluent, urban schools. This was the beginning of my consciousness around structural inequality.

Q: What have been the most important influences in your life and why?
A: This is a hard one. I’m not sure where to start! My life has been quite the journey. I left home at 17 for college at the Air Force Academy, which shaped my life in unexpected ways. My family has had a profound influence on my life, in particular my grandmother always encouraged me to strive for excellence and reach my fullest potential. My first two classes of students once I started teaching also had an impact on me.

Q: Share with us one of your most fulfilling experiences as an attorney.
A: My experience working in Tokyo, Japan, as the only American attorney in my law firm’s Tokyo office really changed my view of legal practice and the dynamism of law. I landed in Tokyo one week after Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy, and over the course of the next year I had the opportunity to learn a great deal, very quickly, about cross-border insolvency. It was an incredibly rewarding experience.
New Free Handbook Offers Help for Caregivers

In Handling Legal and Medical Issues of Aging

THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI’I ELDER Law Program has updated its indispensable guide to aging that offers clear coverage of the many legal and medical issues involved.

The new legal handbook – *Deciding What’s Next and Who in the World Cares? A Legal Handbook for Hawai'i’s Older Persons, Families and Caregivers* – is available free on O’ahu through the Senior Helpline at the City and County of Honolulu Elderly Affairs Division.

“Many people don’t have a good sense about end-of-life issues, wills, powers of attorney, trusts, health care coverage, elder abuse issues, and even hiring a care-giver,” continued Pietsch. “Very often it’s thrust upon them very quickly, and they need help in a hurry. We know a lot of people will look to it for crisis intervention.”

The handbook offers easy-to-read guidance through many areas of potential legal tangles for caregivers and for families in coping with aged loved ones. It includes updates on laws and data current to the fall of 2014. This is the fourth in the most recent series that includes: *Deciding What If?*, *Deciding Who Cares?*, and *Deciding What’s Next?* for students.

The handbook provides a broad overview of what families may be facing, but it’s not intended to be a substitute for personal legal advice, said Pietsch. He hopes families will turn to it before a crisis in order to plan ahead.

“We hope this will give them a roadmap to at least know how to get started,” said Pietsch.

Law School Dean Avi Soifer added, “This handbook is merely the most recent example of the remarkable service that Jim Pietsch and Lennie Lee consistently provide to countless vulnerable members of our community. They do so in such a low-key way that they never seem to get the recognition they most certainly deserve.”

While focusing on legal issues around aging and care-giving in Hawai’i, the handbook also explores and introduces some overseas resources. A series of recent workshops at the Law School, entitled “The Marigold Experience,” has brought together local and national experts to explore and discuss some of these options.

The University of Hawai’i Elder Law Program under Pietsch and Lee’s leadership has produced several series of similar handbooks during its 25-year history at the Law School, but this is the most extensive so far. The Elder Law resource center has also helped more than 10,000 people with legal issues around aging, and it also serves as a training clinic for students.
UH Law School’s ‘Unique’ Joint Programs Are Called Some of the Country’s Best

THE UH LAW SCHOOL has been singled out for its diversity of programming in an article about unique joint degree programs in the fall 2014 issue of *Prelaw* Magazine.

The William S. Richardson School of Law was among 20 U.S. law schools cited as having one of the “most unique joint degree programs” – with specific reference to its focus on the study of law and Hawaiian Studies.

Richardson’s Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law is unique in the country for its focus on Hawaiian and indigenous practices through both cultural and legal lenses.

Along with a law degree, UH Richardson students can obtain a Native Hawaiian Law Certificate upon graduation that establishes their credentials in indigenous law.

The Center was established at the Law School in 2005 through a Native Hawaiian Education Act grant. Director Melody Kapilialoha MacKenzie ’76 was in the Law School’s inaugural graduating class. She is the former executive director of the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, a public interest law firm advocating for the Native Hawaiian community, and she is also currently the president of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association, which she helped establish in 1992.

MacKenzie said the Law School program is “groundbreaking.” She added, “It provides our students with the legal principles to advance the rights of indigenous and Pacific peoples and it also increases knowledge and protection of customary practices and values.”

Dean Avi Soifer said this new recognition for Richardson Law School is yet another example of the school’s outreach into the community and its reflection of Hawaiian cultural values, as well as its well known embrace of diversity.

This new *Prelaw* article stated, “We narrowed our list down to the programs that were the most interesting to show the breadth of joint degree offerings.” But it also noted that there is a “growing trend” to offer JD as well as LLM – Masters of Law – degree programs.

At Richardson, candidates for the LLM degree program, begun in 2003, have come from more than 40 different countries.

*Prelaw* reaches more than 60,000 prospective law students at 350 universities across the country, and is one of the major resources used by students interested in pursuing a legal education.
Halloween at Law School

POOKS AND Goblins galore haunted the Richardson Law Library on the afternoon of Halloween and most of them were barely three feet tall.

Each year the keiki of law students along with the keiki of faculty and staff members arrive at the Law School for an unusual afternoon of trick-and-treating complete with costumed law professors and enough treats and party games to satisfy all the goblins.

It’s one of the unique offerings at the William S. Richardson School of Law, a place where youngsters are welcome and where Students with Keiki is one of the very active law student groups.

Amy Monthei, who volunteered to paint faces – and did so on several dozen happy and wide-eyed tykes, not to mention some of their parents – noted that butterflies were popular this year. But the favored costume? Elsa from the movie “Frozen,” with three little girls representing her very well.

Law Professor Justin Levinson, hard hat firmly in place, toted 8-month old baby Maya, looking extremely green in a Monster-U bodysuit, as his wife, Galit, asked for a butterfly on her check.

“Can we get matching ones?” she asked, as Monthei dabbed and swirled her paintbrush to create a dramatic pink butterfly on five-year-old sister Shiley Levinson’s cheek, and then another on her mom. Dad was about to go for similar adornment except his beard got in the way.

Meanwhile, Jumpei Nagaoka, a visiting Fellow for the Institute of Asia-Pacific Business Law (IAPBL) who was celebrating his first Halloween dressed in orange, and wearing a plush pumpkin head, declared the whole spectacle “interesting.”

“Very different from Japan culture,” he added. “Most Japanese don’t have party culture.”

As the party wound down, and when Spiderman, the beautiful witch with the glittering red hat, and the pink ballerina all looked pretty tuckered out, law librarian Keiko Okuhara strode through the library, adorned with balloons and wearing an intriguing costume that should have been in a movie.

And what was she?

“Not sure,” she admitted with a grin, waving balloons of many hues.

“A gypsy maybe?”

PHOTOS BY SPENCER KIMURA ’96

Very different from Japan culture. Most Japanese don’t have party culture.
There’s more good news for the University of Hawai‘i Law School. According to a new survey by U.S. News & World Report, of the country’s top-ranked law schools, the William S. Richardson School of Law is the 10th cheapest to attend. The U.S. News Short List reported this summer that of those 2013 law students who borrowed money for school, Richardson graduates carry the 10th lowest level of debt. It also noted that of the 10 most reasonably-priced law schools in the country, Richardson ranked higher than five of them. The report found that the 2013 graduates who borrowed to attend Richardson carry an average debt load of $70,263 – almost $40,000 lower than the average debt carried by all 2013 law school graduates across the country.

Average law school debt for 2013 graduates who borrow is $109,756, according to U.S. News data. However, the average debt of the 10 lowest-priced schools for 2013 graduates who borrowed was $63,008. UH Law Dean Avi Soifer said the school has long excelled at keeping costs as low as possible while providing an exceptional legal education for students. Additionally, he pointed out that the Part Time Evening Program at Richardson enables students to continue working at day jobs while attending law school.

The recent report also noted that 2013 graduates of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law in California who borrowed had the largest average debt among the 181 ranked law schools that reported data to U.S. News in the annual survey. Those grads carried an average debt of $180,665.

In recent months, Richardson was also lauded by PreLaw Magazine, which ranked it 6th in the nation for hands-on service learning, and called it one of America’s “Success Stories” because of its top rankings in diversity for the last two years in a row. In November 2012, UH Law School was ranked 7th in the “Diversity Honor Roll” among America’s top 27 law schools by National Jurist magazine, placing among the top 20 U.S. schools for overall diversity and among the top seven with the highest diversity of faculty.

Richardson grads carry one of lowest debt levels.

UH Law School Ranked as 10th Least Expensive of Top Schools Based on 2013 Graduate Debt
Regulation of ‘Fracking’ Remains Disjointed and Confused, say UH Law School Authors

HYDRAULIC FRACTURING, OR “FRACKING,” has become a controversial issue in the U.S., with supporters saying it could lead to far greater energy independence, and opponents arguing that the process poses serious environmental and aesthetic dangers.

This raises serious questions about how this industry should be managed, say authors Law Professor David L. Callies and Chynna Stone ’14, in a recent article for the Journal of International and Comparative Law. Today, they say, the regulatory regime is disjointed, confusing and inconsistent. The scattershot regulatory process in the U.S. “offers a useful, if cautionary, paradigm for other countries also struggling with the issue of how to regulate the industry,” they write.

Hydraulic fracturing, is a process by which water, sand and chemicals are pumped underground under high pressure to create fractures in shale formations and release large quantities of natural gas, or “shale gas” which is considered a viable and clean alternative to oil.

Because fracking is occurring, or is planned, in a number of jurisdictions across the U.S., it might make sense to have an overarching federal regulatory scheme, the authors say. But by-and-large, hydraulic fracturing has been exempted from federal law, including such obvious candidates as the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act and others.

That leaves regulation and oversight largely to the states, which offer a patchwork of systems from relatively strict to generally hands-off. But the legal picture is far from clear, they say, because many local jurisdictions – cities and counties – have attempted to control or ban fracking based on local zoning laws and aesthetic concerns.

There is no clear legal consensus, Callies and Stone say, about how state laws specifically targeting the industry can preempt local land use laws and regulations.

Generally speaking, they report, it comes down to a “how” and “where” argument, with the states in control of how fracking is conducted and local jurisdictions having a say over “where.”

While there is no hydraulic fracturing in Hawai’i, the legal issues – especially which level of government regulates – are largely the same as those raised in Hawai’i over the regulation of GMOs: state preemption and home rule.

The legal issues surrounding control and supervision of this important but controversial new industry are far from settled, the authors conclude.

Their article appears in the June 2014 issue of the journal.
INTERNATIONALLY-RENOwnED Law Professor Lakshman D. Guruswamy spoke about “energy justice in the developing world” Nov. 20 in the Moot Court Room at the UH Law School, as part of an Environmental Law Program colloquium that was free and open to the public.

Guruswamy, the inaugural “Distinguished Scholar in Residence” for the Environmental Law Program (ELP) at the William S. Richardson School of Law, is the Nicholas Doman Professor of International Environmental Law and Director of the Center for Energy & Environmental Security at the University of Colorado Law School at Boulder.

As a recognized expert in international environmental and energy law, Guruswamy is a frequent speaker at scholarly meetings both in the U.S. and around the world.

UH Law School ELP Director David Forman said, “Professor Guruswamy's willingness to share his insights with the Law School and the community at large has been greatly appreciated.”

And UH Law Dean Avi Soifer noted that having a scholar of Guruswamy’s caliber in residence offers law students and the public a unique opportunity.

“Professor Guruswamy is unusually friendly and wonderfully approachable as well as deeply knowledgeable,” Soifer stated, “and the entire Law School community has benefitted from his presence.”

As part of a two-month guest residency through early December, Guruswamy taught, offered seminars, and mentored students. He also worked to finish two books: Global Energy Justice and International Energy & Poverty: The Emerging Contours.

Guruswamy’s colloquium talk delved into the global inequities that prevent the “energy poor” – more than 2.8 billion people in developing nations in Africa and Asia - from having access to beneficial energy to meet their basic needs for cooking, heating, water, sanitation, illumination, transportation, and basic mechanical power.

“Energy poverty results in millions of premature deaths,” said Guruswamy. “For example, burning polluting energy such as biomass results in 3.5 million deaths every year, primarily of women and children. Polluted drinking water causes (another) 3.5 million deaths, (again) largely among children. A lack of energy for illumination prevents women and children from studying at night, affects functioning of schools and hospitals, and makes life dangerous after dark.”

Guruswamy argues that there ought to be a new subject called Energy Justice, and his talk examined the legal heritage of the idea and its meaning and relevance today.

“In both public and private arenas,” he explained, “it is possible to use the concept of energy justice to reshape sustainable development in practical ways that solve the problems of the energy poor.”
INTERNATIONAL LEGAL, ocean, and human rights experts from Asia and the Pacific gathered in Honolulu in mid-December for a unique conference to explore the state of ocean governance and the protection of ocean resources, as well as to scrutinize recent developments in human rights.

The international gathering - “Our Ocean Planet Governance for a Better Future” – was held December 15th, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Burns Hall at the East-West Center.

The keynote address – “Status of Self-Determination for Native Hawaiians” – was presented by Professor Melody K. MacKenzie, director of the Ka Huli Ao Center for Excellence in Native Hawaiian Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

The conference brought together scientists, scholars, educators, attorneys, and other experts from half a dozen nations to look at issues such as recent human rights demonstrations in Hong Kong, China's aspirations in the Polar seas, self-determination for Native Hawaiians, legal issues around tagging marine animals, questions regarding Arctic drilling, and other topics.

The conference was sponsored by the Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology (KIOST) in Ansan, Korea, in association with the Jon Van Dyke Institute of International Law and Justice, the William S. Richardson School of Law, and the East-West Center. Additional sponsors included the Center for Korean Studies and the School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Hawai’i.

Richardson Law School Dean Avi Soifer and East-West Center President Charles Morrison opened the gathering with welcoming remarks. Sherry P. Broder, Executive Director of the Jon Van Dyke Institute, was instrumental in setting up the conference in collaboration with the other sponsors.

Dean Soifer stated, “This conference serves as a fitting continuation of work done by our late beloved Professor Jon Van Dyke, and Sherry Broder is doing a magnificent job in carrying forward his remarkably broad legacy.”

A series of panels throughout the day covered the following topics:

- Maritime Claims in Asia and the Polars, Recent Developments in Human Rights in Asia, Protecting the Ocean and its Resources, Marine Scientific Research, Emerging Ocean Issues.
- This conference serves as a fitting continuation of work done by our late and beloved Professor Jon Van Dyke, and Sherry Broder is doing a magnificent job carrying forward his remarkably broad legacy.

Sherry P. Broder
Renowned Scholar, Cornell’s Gregory S. Alexander, Offered ‘2014 Distinguished Gifford Lecture in Real Property’ Nov. 5

WELL-KNOWN PROPERTY law scholar Gregory S. Alexander, the A. Robert Noll Professor of Law at Cornell Law School, presented the 2014 Distinguished Gifford Lecture in Real Property Nov. 5 at the UH Law School.

Alexander’s topic was: “Five Easy Pieces: Recurrent Themes in American Property Law.” The lecture was held in the Moot Courtroom and was free and open to the public.

The annual Gifford lectureship was established in 2002 to honor outstanding work in the field of property law by David L. Callies, the Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law at the William S. Richardson School of Law at UH, as well as that of prominent Hawai’i attorney, Jerry M. Hiatt ’77.

Each year a nationally recognized authority in property law is invited to the UH Law School for the lecture, which is sponsored annually by Carlsmith Ball.

This year’s lecture brought yet another leading scholar, a member of the Cornell faculty since 1985. Alexander is a prolific author, and he was the winner of the American Publishers Association’s 1997 Best Book of the Year in Law Award for his path-breaking book, Commodity and Propriety.

Law Dean Avi Soifer noted that over the 13 years the Lectureship has been in place, Hawai’i has had the great good fortune to hear an outstanding array of property law experts from across the country.

“It is wonderfully fitting that someone of Professor Alexander’s stature joined us to honor David Callies and Jerry Hiatt this year,” Soifer said. He added, “Greg’s work is consistently provocative in the very best sense.”

Alexander has taught at the UCLA, Virginia, and Harvard Law Schools, and he was the Herbert Smith Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Cambridge University. He also has been a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University in Palo Alto, and at the Max Planck Institutes for Comparative Public Law and International Law in both Heidelberg and Hamburg, Germany.

Alexander received his JD from Northwestern University School of Law in 1973, and he then clerked for The Honorable George Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. After a year as a Bigelow Fellow at the University of Chicago Law School, he joined the University of Georgia School of Law as a professor, remaining there until he moved to Cornell.

Prof. Gregory S. Alexander

“Greg’s work is consistently provocative in the very best sense.”
Hawai‘i Lauded for Access to Justice Initiatives

Including UH Law School’s Outreach Efforts

Hawai‘i has ranked third in the nation for an impressive list of Access to Justice initiatives, according to a new national study. Additionally, Hawai‘i ranked first for one of those efforts - providing support for people representing themselves in civil court cases.

The new study was done by the National Center for Access to Justice, that conducts ‘Justice Index’ findings annually to measure how accessible the legal system is for vulnerable people, including those with low incomes, disabilities, English language difficulties, and those who represent themselves.

Hawai‘i’s Access to Justice Commission was formed by the Hawai‘i Supreme Court in 2008 and has led the way in developing programs with strong community partners, including the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai‘i.

Members of the Law School community, and in particular Prof. Calvin Pang ’85, helped spearhead efforts that led to the launching of the Commission.

In collaboration with Law Prof. Justin Levinson and then-law students Neal Gota ’07, Cheri Kawachi ’06, Sonya Toma ’06, Tony Tran ’07, Mira Turner ’07, and Tami Yorimoto ’07, Pang and a small group of public interest attorneys developed an assessment survey to quantify the unmet legal needs of low-income people in the state.

The effort grew from conversations among board members and the executive directors of the Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i and Volunteer Legal Services Hawai‘i. During those talks, Legal Aid board member George Zweibel shared his experiences working on access to justice initiatives in Washington State.

“That’s where we got a few ideas,” said Pang. “But before we could do anything here, we had to find out what the needs really were. That’s why the assessment was so important.”

Pang remembers how startling the results were, and how they mirrored the national average that showed that a staggering 80 percent of the legal needs of people living below the poverty line in Hawai‘i are not being met.

“The 2007 legal needs assessment highlighted several details,” said Pang. “It showed that approximately one in four people live below 200 percent of the federal poverty level in Hawai‘i. It also showed that the population of those under 125 percent of the federal poverty level had grown by 28 percent since 1989 when the previous needs assessment was done.

“And it showed that legal service providers for the poor (Legal Aid, Volunteer Legal Services, and others) turned away 67 percent of those who contacted them for help.”

Those statistics not only served as one of the catalysts for the creation of the Access to Justice Commission in Hawai‘i; they also have provided a framework for how to move forward.

From the beginning Jill Hasegawa ’04, a partner at Ashton & Wriston, served as Commission Vice-Chair, also lending a powerful voice to its formation and...
ground-breaking work.

“This was an opportunity to get all of the stakeholders in one place, and on the same page with one unified voice,” said Hasegawa of the commission. “It became one voice for lobbying at the legislature instead of having competing interests.”

Hasegawa said that as a single powerful lobbying group, with the valuable assistance of Gary Slovin and Mihoko Ito, the commission has been able to help increase funding for Access to Justice initiatives, including increasing the funds available through filing fees for the Indigent Legal Assistance Fund (‘ILAF’). The new fee structure has more than doubled the funding available, with more than $1.45 million now distributed annually to an array of legal services providers for the indigent, compared to about half that before.

While funding remains one of the biggest needs and challenges, said Hasegawa, the commission has still been able to create and support half a dozen legal self-help centers throughout the state in partnership with the Hawai‘i State Bar Association, county bar associations, the Judiciary, and legal service providers.

In 2013 alone, she said, more than 2,000 people received free legal advice or information through these centers, with several thousand more people served since.

“The idea is to grow these centers, and the intent is to make more assistance accessible online or through utilizing telephone software,” said Hasegawa.

“We also have interpreters available by phone (at the self-help centers) providing assistance in many languages.”

Despite continuing funding issues, the state’s efforts have been regarded as outstanding nationally, and Hawai‘i Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald thanked the many community partners who had provided so many pro bono legal services to earn the state such high praise.

“Our hard work is paying off,” said Recktenwald. “The findings reflect dedication and commitment toward realizing justice for all in Hawai‘i, and the effectiveness of the partnerships that the Commission has forged.”

Richardson Law School is one of the most dedicated partners mentioned by the Chief Justice, with law students doing extensive pro bono work that provides free legal services to thousands of clients. To graduate, Richardson students are required to perform 60 hours of free legal service, but students often provide far more.

For example, the Elder Law Clinic led by Law Prof. James Pietsch has provided free legal help to more than 10,000 clients over its two decades of existence. Often its clients live below poverty levels, and the Elder Law Project has provided key training and materials for caretakers as well as the elderly themselves.

Another example is the Medical-
Antolini helped establish and build the Environmental Law Program...
UH’s Richardson Law School Again Tops Nation as ‘Best Environment For Minority Students’ in The Princeton Review Rankings for 2015

For the second year in a row UH Law School topped the nation’s best 169 law schools as the ”Best Environment for Minority Students” in the The Princeton Review’s annual rankings for 2015.

Additionally, the William S. Richardson School of Law was named 4th in the country for its “Most Diverse Faculty,” and 7th in the nation as the law school “Most Chosen by Older Students.”

The Princeton Review reports that the average age of the entering class at Richardson is 26.

Law Dean Avi Soifer said he is again gratified by the national recognition for Hawai‘i’s very friendly Law School, which bucked the national trend and enrolled its largest incoming class ever this fall.

“We are proud to attract outstanding students who come to Richardson because of our ethic of accessibility, first-rate teaching, and a unique spirit of ‘ohana,” said Soifer. “Our students are already high achievers, and the legal education they get here opens greater opportunities for them as well as creating a supportive network of friends for life.”

Soifer said the Richardson Law School has an open and inclusive atmosphere that welcomes students from Hawai‘i, across the nation, and around the world. Its small programs for foreign-trained lawyers have attracted students from 50 countries, for example.


As part of its annual evaluation, The Princeton Review conducts online student interviews about their schools. Richardson students spoke of the “friendly, supportive environment,” and noted that the small student population often meant there was more support when students were in crisis.

One student stated that life at the University of Hawai‘i’s William S. Richardson School of Law “is not as carefree and relaxing as its gorgeous island setting might make you imagine,” according to the Review. “The course load is demanding,” the student added.

The Princeton Review noted that 74 percent of the student body at Richardson is composed of under-represented minorities; 56 percent of the full-time JD students are women; and 3 percent are international. Of the students, 77 percent are receiving some form of financial aid, with the average annual aid package at $32,326.

The rankings also pointed out that the average starting salary for graduates is $53,340.

The Richardson Law School has been deemed one of the 60 Best Value law schools in the nation, as well as one of the most reasonably-priced, leaving graduates with one of the lowest levels of law school debt in the country. In-state tuition during the current academic year is $19,464 a year, and out-of-state tuition is $39,192 annually.

Today 3,325 students have received Juris Doctor degrees from UH, as more than 2,200 members of the Hawai‘i State Bar Association are Richardson graduates. Eighty percent of the school’s graduates stay in Hawai‘i to work in law, business, government, and the non-profit sectors.

...opens greater opportunities for them as well as creating a supportive network.
Cover Topics from Terrorism to Race Theory

Visiting Legal Scholars at UH Law School ‘J-Term’

HE UH LAW SCHOOL once again brought a stellar group of legal scholars to Hawai‘i for its unique January-Term, this year covering topics ranging from terrorism, war, and the Constitution to legal issues in the European Union, and to sovereignty and indigenous rights.

The annual specialized mini-courses ran from January 5-10, offering law students the opportunity without charge to learn from renowned scholars, attorneys, judges and policy experts.

The annual program is scheduled a week before regular spring semester classes begin and it is supported by two generous gifts. Funding from the late Frank Boas, who helped start the program in 2005, continues to bring a Visiting Harvard Law School professor as a key part of the program each year.

Additionally, the Wallace S. Fujiyama Distinguished Visiting Professor Fund supports the other J-Term professors.

The line-up for 2015 includes:

Vicki Jackson, Thurgood Marshall Professor of Law, Harvard Law School, was the Frank Boas Harvard Visiting Professor. She taught “Selected Topics in Comparative Constitutional Law.”

Gerald Torres, Jane M.G. Foster Professor of Law, Cornell Law School, taught: “Indigeneity, Indianness: Themes in Sovereignty.”

Jules Lobel, Bessie McKee Walthour Endowed Chaired Professor of Law, University of Pittsburgh Law School, taught: “Terrorism, War, and the Constitution.”

Fraser Cameron, Director of the EU-Asia Centre in Brussels, taught: “Intro to the EU & Foreign Policy.”

Brief backgrounds:

VICKI JACKSON is a graduate of Yale Law School and previously taught constitutional law at Georgetown. She clerked at all three levels of the federal courts, including for Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Before she began teaching, Jackson practiced law for many years, including serving as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel, U.S. Justice Department, and was appointed by the Supreme Court to brief and argue jurisdictional questions in United States V. Windsor (2012-13.)

GERALD TORRES is a leading figure in critical race theory, dealing primarily with issues of environmental law and federal Indian law. He is a former president of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) and previously held the Bryant Smith Chair at the University of Texas. He has served as Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and as counsel to then U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno.

JULES LOBEL is president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, a national human and constitutional rights organization headquartered in New York City. Both an academic and a public litigator, he has challenged the ban on travel to Cuba and aspects of anti-terrorism laws as violations of free speech. He is currently lead counsel in a class action challenge to prolonged solitary confinement of prisoners in California.

FRASER CAMERON is a former European Commission advisor and well-known policy analyst and commentator on European Union and international affairs. He is visiting professor at the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin, and Senior Advisor to the European Policy Centre (EPC). He is an advisor to the BBC and to the United Kingdom’s Higher Education Panel on Europe. He received his Masters degree at the University of St Andrews in Scotland and his doctorate at Cambridge in England. From 1975-89 he was a member of the British Diplomatic Service, serving mainly in Germany, dealing with economic, political and press affairs. He joined the European Commission in 1990.
Do unconscious racial attitudes or stereotypes affect decision-making in Hawai‘i’s legal and educational systems? Do unspoken attitudes or stereotypical beliefs have an unfair impact on legal matters that affect people of color?

A day-long symposium in January, organized by the University of Hawai‘i Law Review staff at the William S. Richardson School of Law, explored those and related issues by bringing together leading national legal scholars.

The symposium – “Exploring Implicit Bias in Hawai‘i” – was held on January 16, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the UH Law School. It was free and open to the public.

“Implicit biases are the pervasive attitudes or stereotypes that affect a person’s actions and feelings toward others in an unconscious manner,” explains Law Review Co-Editor-in-Chief Sean Wong ’15. “In a legal context, the ramifications are quite significant. Studies have shown that even people with an avowed commitment to impartiality – such as judges – are affected by implicit biases developed over the course of a lifetime.”

The gathering was keynoted by Professor Robert J. Smith of the University of North Carolina School of Law, who is one of the nation’s leading scholars on these issues. He is co-editor with Richardson Law Professor Justin Levinson of the groundbreaking book, Implicit Racial Bias Across the Law, and he has served as the legal and policy advisor to Harvard Law School’s Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice.

Richardson Dean Avi Soifer said, “At least partially because of the great diversity of Hawai‘i and of our Law School, we truly are the nation’s leading Law School in terms of scholarship on these complex, yet very important issues. Our students have put together an absolutely first-rate symposium to discuss these matters seriously.”

Richardson Professor Linda Hamilton Krieger, who chairs the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission, gave opening remarks and Hawai‘i Supreme Court Associate Justice Sabrina S. McKenna ’82 offered the gathering’s closing address.

Other professors participating from law schools on the continent included:

- Professor L. Song Richardson from the University of California, Irvine School of Law
- Professor Rachel D. Godsil from Seton Hall University School of Law

The exploration of unconscious biases and their impact in the justice and educational systems in Hawai‘i included three panels:

- Criminal Justice
- Education and Local Biases
- Affordable Housing

Legal scholars, judges, and attorneys from Hawai‘i participating in the symposium also included:

- Hawai‘i Supreme Court Associate Justice Simeon R. Acoba (ret.);
- Richardson Associate Dean Ronette M. Kawakami;
- Professor Justin D. Levinson, Director of the Culture and Jury Project;
- Eric K. Yamamoto, the Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice;
- Associate Professor Andrea Freeman;
- Associate Faculty Specialist Kenneth Lawson;
- Breann Swann Nu‘uhiwa, former fellow of Ka Huli Ao;
- Attorney Tawnee Sakima ’14;
- Attorney Scott Schmidtke ’14.

Holiday Gatherings

‘Please rest ye merry gentlefolk
You’ve studied hard enough
This merry cast of characters
Is really not so tough!
They’ll keep us all from
getting grim
By wearing silly stuff...
Ob tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy
Ob tidings of comfort and joy!’

—ANON