“All law is health law.” Charity Scott, founding director of the Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State University College of Law, has said this many times during her distinguished career in health law. With over 200,000 deaths in the United States at the time of printing, the legal issues arising from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the truth of this statement. The outbreak has implicated all areas of the law – constitutional law, business law, employment law, family law, education, housing, and even criminal law. Georgia State Law’s faculty, students and graduates have proven their commitment to community wellbeing, responding to the call to address the crisis.

Continued on page 8-9.
Center for Law, Health & Society
Founding Director Retires

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of health law, public health and health justice to the fabric of society. It has changed the way we work but has not slowed us down. Center faculty, students, alumni and partners continue to engage and lead the way through these historic times. We have also adapted. The HeLP Legal Services Clinic shifted online while maintaining excellence in services for clients and educational experiences for students. Despite all, we have much to celebrate: the well-earned retirement of founding director, Charity Scott, welcoming Brooke Silverthorn as co-director of the HeLP clinic; the publication of The Oxford Handbook of Children’s Rights Law coedited by Jonathan Todres, Yaniv Heled and Patricia T. Morgan; ranked No. 2 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report; and sharing the publication of The Handbook of Children’s Rights Law which now offers an extensive array of cutting-edge health law courses. Holding joint faculty appointments in business and public health at the university, she developed dual degrees with these disciplines. She created the first certificate program at the law school and championed curricular development around core competencies for health law.

Scott co-founded the nationally recognized Health Law Partnership (HeLP) with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. She was the first director of the HeLP Legal Services Clinic at the law school, which she helped to launch in order to promote interdisciplinary clinical education and public service for law, medical and graduate students. Scott’s strong commitment to interdisciplinary education was reflected in her long-term collaborations with Emory University’s medical school faculty to teach bioethics in joint classes with law and medical students. She received the Heroes in Health Care Ethics award for her work with Emory’s Center for Ethics.

Scott had a long-standing commitment to building bridges between academia and the real world of lawyers and legal practice. She helped to launch and develop the health law sections of the both ABA and the State Bar of Georgia, where she held leadership positions for years. In recent years Scott expanded her teaching and research interests beyond health law. She earned a master’s degree in conflict management and taught negotiation and mediation in order to better prepare law students to resolve clients’ problems and disputes in non-adversarial ways. She created the mindfulness training program at the law school and developed other wellness initiatives for law students in order to support their health and well-being.

“I hope that Georgia State Law continues to put law students at the center of its mission, and Georgia State University will develop programs that nurture students in a holistic way that supports every dimension of their well-being and health,” she said. “This will support them both as people and as professionals.”

Visit clhs.law.gsu.edu/charity-scott.

Journal of Legal Medicine: Call for Submissions

Georgia State Law and the American College of Legal Medicine invite article submissions to the Journal of Legal Medicine, JLM is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed, internationally circulated journal that focuses on the intersection of health law, science and policy. Qualifying submissions of short commentaries (up to 3,000 words) and articles (up to 7,500 words) are accepted. Book and film reviews (approximately 1000 words) may also be submitted. Visit clhs.law.gsu.edu/journal for more information.

The health law program at Georgia State Law is ranked No. 2 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report.
Amid the continuing opioid epidemic in the United States, a new report on opioid prescribing from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine claims guidance for treating acute pain is lacking, which could play a factor in the crisis.

In February, Dr. Bernard Lo, president of the Greenwall Foundation and chair of the committee that wrote the new report, "Framing Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for Acute Pain: Developing the Evidence," spoke to a classroom of students, faculty and community members at Georgia State Law. The lecture was hosted by the Center for Law, Health & Society and made possible through the Diversity in Bioethics grant from the Greenwall Foundation.

Lo said there are not consistent prescribing practices for acute pain. Acute pain – defined as pain that starts suddenly and lasts for up to 90 days – can follow an injury, surgery or childbirth.

“How many of you have had surgery in your lifetime or gone to the emergency room for acute pain?” Lo asked.

Nearly every hand in the room went up. He then asked how many had leftover opioids in their medicine cabinets from that surgery or childbirth.

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“Do you talk to people that have opioid use disorder; many of them say they started with prescription drugs before moving on to stronger opioids such as heroin or fentanyl,” said Lo.

The report details the need to create clinical practice guidelines, which would provide evidence-based criteria for prescribing opioids, help clinicians assess the risks and benefits, and identify areas where more evidence and research is needed.

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“In March, Heather Walter-McCabe, then associate professor at the Indiana University School of Social Work and assistant professor at the IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law, brought her interdisciplinary perspective to Georgia State Law for a discussion of stigma and health in the LGBTQ community. The event was hosted by the Center for Law, Health & Society and co-sponsored by the Student Health Law Association and OUTLaw student organizations.

Walter-McCabe’s research examines the disproportionate impact of law and policy for the LGBTQ population, with an emphasis on the transgender and non-binary community. Due to stigma and limited social support, the LGBTQ community experiences increased rates of suicide, substance abuse and other physical and mental health disorders, compared to the general population. This community is also at greater-risk of being victims of violence. However, Walter-McCabe encouraged a reframing of the narrative. “Being LGBTQ is not the risk factor,” she said. “The social structures of bias and phobias are the risk factors. Those are the things we can change.”

Walter-McCabe highlighted recent regulation and litigation aimed at altering the rights of the LGBTQ community, such as employment and housing discrimination, health care coverage and insurance, criminal law and hate crimes, and public accommodation or bathroom bills, among others. States vary dramatically on these laws. Even when laws are proposed but not passed, the publicity and debate surrounding the legislation can increase stigma against the community.

To better understand the impact of these laws on health and how changes at the policy level can lessen the health burden on the LGBTQ population, Walter-McCabe is currently working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Public Health Law Program to create a database of laws affecting the LGBTQ community. She is also partnering with a LGBTQ center to analyze health data.

“We have to work within health care and behavioral health systems to educate on culturally competent care for the LGBTQ community,” she said. “We must consider the impact on health when developing policies and laws.”
In January, the Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State Law hosted the authors of Preventing Child Trafficking: A Public Health Approach (Johns Hopkins University Press). Distinguished University Professor Jonathan Todres and Dr. Angelica Diaz, director of the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center spoke about their new book, which explores how sex and labor trafficking can be prevented using public health methods.

While public awareness about human trafficking has increased significantly in the past 20 years, Todres challenged the audience to consider how much progress has been made. "Despite all those efforts, most people in the field agree there’s no evidence to suggest that prevalence has declined," said Todres. "We haven’t necessarily made a dent in the number of people being trafficked at any point in time."

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Public health experts have been warning that the next dangerous pandemic was not a matter of if, but when. In early 2020, the United States found itself responding to an outbreak of novel coronavirus. Georgia State Law faculty members have responded to the pandemic’s legal issues through policy development, research, and advocacy.

In March, state and local city and county governments began imposing “stay-at-home” orders and restrictions on public gatherings to combat the spread of disease. Some churches challenged the orders as violating First Amendment religious freedoms. In their ACS blog post, “Forced Closing of Houses of Worship During the Coronavirus: Both Federal and State,” Eric Segall, Kathryn and Lawrence Ashe Professor of Law, and his co-author explained the constitutional support for including religious services in bans on large gatherings. “Not only is it perfectly legal during this crisis under both state and federal law to apply general closure laws that are devastating millions of Americans in many different settings to houses of worship; it is obviously the right thing to do for the American people.”

New to Georgia State Law, assistant professor Anthony Kreis also tackled constitutional issues in his Harvard Law Review Blog post, “Contagion and the Right to Travel.” State travel restrictions on short-term visitors or requiring travelers to quarantine raises dormant commerce clause questions. “[T]he reasonableness of public health orders from state officials restricting the movement of interstate travelers in a pandemic should be weighted against the characteristics of the disease, the reasonableness of the covered jurisdiction(s), and the relative treatment of nonresidents versus residents,” he stated.

Several Georgia municipalities, including the City of Atlanta, issued mask mandates this summer. Governor Brian Kemp challenged these mandates as contradicting his state-wide orders. Clark Cunningham, W. Lee Burge Chair of Law and Ethics, spoke to Time and other media outlets on the lawsuit. The Governor’s emergency powers, said Cunningham, give him the authority to “take action to protect the health, safety and welfare of Georgia’s residents and visitors to ensure COVID-19 remains controlled throughout the State.” Preventing the City of Atlanta from having a more protective order than the State may defy that authority, particularly when the virus remains uncontrolled.

With the easing of restrictions, business owners have expressed concern over liability for customers or employees who may be exposed to the virus while at their establishments. Distinguished University Professor Timothy Lytton was quoted in a variety of news outlets, including the Huffington Post, WSJ, Legal Examiner and LA Times. He laid out his argument in both the Conversation and the Regulatory Review, stating that it would be extremely difficult to hold a business liable for an individual contracting COVID-19, unless that business had not acted with reasonable care. “Immunity from liability could actually encourage businesses to be less cautious in preventing COVID-19 transmission,” he warned.

COVID-19 has exacerbated health disparities faced by underserved communities. Center for Access to Justice director Lauren Sudeall, and Center for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth professor John Marshall, along with their co-authors, wrote “Towards an Emergency Housing Response to COVID-19 in Georgia,” arguing that housing stability is critical for public health, economic resilience, and protection of children. Among other things, they pushed for an extension of moratoria on foreclosures and evictions. Sudeall also co-authored “Courts in Crisis: Exploring the Impact of COVID-19 on Eviction Court in Georgia,” describing Georgia’s decentralized court system and varying response to the Georgia Supreme Court’s emergency order suspending non-essential court functions. The fragmented policies mean that tenants across the state may be treated differently during and post-pandemic, and all parties may find the eviction process difficult to navigate.

In her chapter on housing in “Assessing Legal Responses to COVID-19,” a report produced by Public Health Law Review, associate professor Courtney Anderson cautioned that short-term fixes alone are not enough. “These individuals face challenges other than housing, and their race and socioeconomic status puts them at greater risk for health inequities.” At the federal level, in addition to amending the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, she recommended amendments to the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act and Section 8 of the U.S. Housing Act. Recommendations at the state level included providing support for high-speed internet and utilities.

Susan Goico Walker, adjunct professor, director of the Olmstead Disability Clinic, and director of the Disability Integration Project at Atlanta Legal Aid Society, collaborated with stakeholders statewide on an open letter to Governor Kemp. With the support of eleven organizations comprising the Georgia Developmental Disability Network, the letter urged steps Georgia should take, stating, “Every effort must be extended to ensure the protection of the civil rights of people with disabilities, who should not be discriminated against medically or socially during this difficult time.”

These and other legal issues were topics addressed by Public Health Law Watch’s COVID Legal Briefings series and included in their report. The Law Section of the American Public Health Association co-sponsored the video series. Stacie Kershner (J.D. ’08), associate director of the Center for Law, Health & Society and program planner for the Law Section, assisted with communication for these events and has organized a special panel session at the upcoming APHA Annual Meeting featuring several of the national public health law experts.

The diversity of the Georgia State Law faculty’s involvement and expertise in response to COVID-19 highlights the array of legal issues set in motion by the pandemic. It underscores that all law is health law in a public health crisis of this magnitude, spanning disciplines and jurisdictions. Yet, a common theme has emerged: an effective public health response depends on advancing justice in all spheres of society.
Brooke Silverthorn has been named co-director of the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic in the College of Law faculty last summer to teach in the health law program and help launch the online master of jurisprudence degree program. “Brooke’s long-term interest in clinical legal education, and her prior work experience and passion for children’s health and welfare issues makes her a perfect addition to the HeLP Legal Partnership team,” said Lisa Bliss, associate dean of experiential education and scholarship related to the social determinants of health as well as to increase the impact of HeLP’s unique, interprofessional approach to serving clients. “One of the great things about clinics in general is that they give students some context for the concepts they learned in their 1L courses,” Silverthorn said. “Clinics help the law to ‘come alive.’ They are working to continue the clinic’s mission of research and educational cases typically involve children that have a disability and either have an individualized education program or they’re applying for one,” Mitchell said. “So obviously this is a very hard-to-predict situation at this time. We don’t necessarily have a one-size-fits-all solution so we will be evaluating each case going forward.” The clinic has anywhere from 25 to 40 clients, and an additional 15 clients are seen on a regular basis. Mitchell added, “our education cases are constantly evolving. For example, during the pandemic, we were able to provide remote assistance to our clients. In the fall semester, we transitioned back to in-person visits for our clients.” The team, said as much as they tried to prepare for anything that might get thrown their way, the hearing taught them to always expect the unexpected. “You can practice and go over things in your head but sometimes in the hearing things just pop up that you might not have anticipated.” Stocus said. “I just learned to be flexible and to be open to different scenarios happening.” This win is especially meaningful for the team, each saying they’re glad to have had the opportunity they will have as lawyers to impact real life issues.” challenges to win a fully favorable decision during a hearing this spring. The team composed of Georgia State Law students Brian Aton (J.D. ’20), Brittany Stocus (J.D. ’21) and Kayla Watkins (J.D. ’21) successfully convinced the judge to grant their client Supplemental Security Income benefits for her child.

The team only had three weeks to prepare. Once they started going over the details, they realized it would be difficult explaining the child’s disease. Stocus said it is not something many people are familiar with, and her particular condition was more serious than most. “If you Google searched her condition, everything online about it is pretty minor,” Stocus said. “People might not understand why it is a big deal, so we had to explain the very unique case that she has.” The team said it was helpful to have the partnership with medical students to make sense of the thousands of pages of medical records they combed through. “Those records are not very easy to read, so a lot of time was spent pulling pieces out of the documents and constructing them in a framework that made sense in light of the Social Security Administration’s listings for eligibility for SSI benefits,” Aton said.

The hearing included testimony from a medical expert, who agreed with their argument, but, even so, it was an uphill battle for the students to convince the judge.

“Honestly it’s a dream role for me,” Silverthorn said. “It combines my experience in advocacy for children with my passion and commitment to working with the next generation of lawyers to improve the quality of representation and access to justice for children.”

Over the summer, Silverthorn began collaborating with HeLP’s medical partners, including medical director Dr. Robert Pettignano. They are working to continue the clinic’s mission of research and scholarship related to the social determinants of health as well as to increase the impact of HeLP’s unique, interprofessional approach to serving clients. One of the great things about clinics in general is that they give students some context for the concepts they learned in their 1L courses,” Silverthorn said. “Clinics help the law to ‘come alive.’ So, at the very least, I want every clinic student to leave with a better understanding of both the enormous responsibility and opportunity they will have as lawyers to impact real life issues.”

A student team with the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic overcame unique challenges to win a fully favorable decision during a hearing this spring. The team composed of Georgia State Law students Brian Aton (J.D. ’20), Brittany Stocus (J.D. ’21) and Kayla Watkins (J.D. ’21) successfully convinced the judge to grant their client Supplemental Security Income benefits for her child. While the COVID-19 pandemic required many aspects of life to be shut down or put on hold, the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic has learned how to transform to continue representing its clients. The clinic is offered as a course at Georgia State Law during the spring and fall semesters, but continues to work as an internal law firm with cases being handled by supervising attorneys through the summer. This year, even with the pandemic, that has continued. “That initial month or two, we had to be the most intentional,” said Jimmy Mitchell, clinical supervising attorney for the HeLP Clinic. “We couldn’t just go on prior experience and intuitively know what to do next, we had to take these extra steps and require extra layers of thought.” That transition began midway through the spring semester when students started communicating with clients virtually. One of the main roles for the clinic is preparing for Supplemental Security Income hearings with the Social Security Administration, which were put on hold in the spring. They have since started back up with the hearings being held via telephone, with the option for clients to wait for an in-person hearing. A challenge the clinic has experienced is gathering evidence in its cases. Often the students or supervising attorneys request medical records from doctors or medical providers by calling or faxing, but with many employees still working remotely, it’s taking longer to hear back. Beyond SSI cases, another big area for the clinic is to handle cases in special education. “Our education cases typically involve children that have a disability and either have an individualized education program or they’re applying for one,” Mitchell said. “So obviously this is a very hard-to-predict situation at this time. We don’t necessarily have a one-size-fits-all solution so we will be evaluating each case going forward.” The clinic has anywhere from 25 to 40 cases, and the supervising attorneys work with their colleagues at the Health Law Partnership to assess when the clinic and its students can work on additional cases. In the meantime, the HeLP Clinic supervising attorneys and students will continue to represent their clients in the fall, even if how they do that looks a little different.

Brooke Silverthorn (J.D. ’03) has been named co-director of the Health Law Partnership (HeLP) Legal Services Clinic in the College of Law for children and children’s issues for 15 years in various sectors, including government, non-profit, and education. She represented the prior work experience and passion for children’s health and welfare help launch the online master of jurisprudence degree program.

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Students Respond to Pandemic

Georgia State Law health law students demonstrated resilience in responding to the challenges of the pandemic and seized the opportunity to work on COVID-19-related legal issues.

When the pandemic hit, many students lost their summer externship opportunities due to budget cuts, uncertain court schedules and social distancing mandates. To fill this void, Andy Jonas Martinez, legal research assistant at the Georgia Latino Law Foundation, developed the Summer Virtual Judicial Internship Program for law students across the state to gain experience. Eight Georgia State Law students participated. They were paired with judges and attorney mentors and performed legal research on an issue that COVID-19 has presented to the operation of the legal system. Wesley Billiot (J.D. ’22) worked with Chief Judge Linda Cowan in the Clayton County State Court. His project explored whether judges have the opportunity to work on COVID-19-related legal issues. Wesley Billiot (J.D. ’22) submitted a proposal assessing the impact of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation’s Standing with Our Neighbors program. Their proposal was accepted.

SWON is a collaboration among AVLF, Atlanta Public Schools and Purpose Built Schools Atlanta that seeks to improve health and educational outcomes by addressing housing instability in low-income neighborhoods through a “place-based” or “community” lawyering model. Students such as Liv Devitt (J.D. ’21) had boots on the ground to make an impact during the pandemic as Atlanta Legal Aid volunteers. Devitt worked directly with clients to help them receive Food Stamps, Medicaid, unemployment insurance and the Stimulus Check by calling and speaking with clients about how they have been impacted by the pandemic. She’s not only been able to hear what matters in my community, but I’ve been able to ensure that they are aware of and receiving the public benefits available to them,” she said.

Health Law Awards

Morgan Schroeder (J.D. ’20) received the 2020 Charity Scott Health Law Award. The highest student accolade in health law at Georgia State Law has been renamed in honor of Center for Law, Health & Society founder Charity Scott. The center is very grateful to Scott for endorsing the award and to the Georgia Hospital Association for administering it. The award recognizes outstanding student achievement in health law. Schroeder was a commissioned health law student serving as a lead student editor of the Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics, vice president of membership for the Student Health Law Association, a health law regulatory and compliance competition captain and competition. She also participated in the HeLP Legal Services Clinic.

Christopher David Whitson (J.D. ’20) received the Excellence in the Study of Health Law Award for his performance in Health Law: Finance and Delivery. Joseph Allen (J.D. ’21) received this award for his performance in Health Law: Quality and Access. Michael Foo (J.D. ’20), Taylor Eben (J.D. ’20), Ryan MacCahan (J.D. ’20) and Nigar Nguyen (J.D. ’20) were presented the HeLP Legal Services Clinic Award, including a monetary gift sponsored by the HeLP Advisory Council, for demonstrating excellence in the delivery of legal services to low-income families served by the clinic.

For the past 15 years, Emory University’s Break the Cycle of Health Disparities, Inc. has invited students from across the globe to submit research proposals that address the adverse environmental factors affecting children’s health and development. Students are encouraged to examine creative strategies to improve health and well-being of children and families.

This year, Georgia State Law students Hazel T. Rains (J.D. ’21) and Briana James (J.D. ’21) submitted a proposal assessing the impact of the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation’s Standing with Our Neighbors program. Their proposal was accepted. SWON is a collaboration among AVLF, Atlanta Public Schools and Purpose Built Schools Atlanta that seeks to improve health and educational outcomes by addressing housing instability in low-income neighborhoods through a “place-based” or “community” lawyering model. Students such as Liv Devitt (J.D. ’21) had boots on the ground to make an impact during the pandemic as Atlanta Legal Aid volunteers. Devitt worked directly with clients to help them receive Food Stamps, Medicaid, unemployment insurance and the Stimulus Check by calling and speaking with clients about how they have been impacted by the pandemic. She’s not only been able to hear what matters in my community, but I’ve been able to ensure that they are aware of and receiving the public benefits available to them,” she said.

Graduate Happenings

• Jasmine Becerra (J.D. ’20) began a clerkship with Judge Jean-Paul Boulet of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

• Andrew Brown (J.D./M.S.H.A. ’19) was promoted to contracts attorney with the Georgia Department of the Northern District of Georgia.

• Scott C. Crowley (J.D. ’95) joined the health care practice group of Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP in their Charleston office as an attorney and partner.

• Sakinah Jones (J.D. ’17) joined Holland & Knight’s health care and life sciences team.

• Laurice Rutledge Lambert (J.D. ’10) was elected to the partnership at BakerHostetler.

• Ray Lindholm (J.D./M.S.H.A. ’12) is now a shareholder at Polinski.

• Adam Strotman (J.D./M.S.H.A. ’19) accepted a position as regulatory counsel with the Food & Drug Administration, Center for Tobacco Products, Office of Compliance & Enforcement.

Do you have news to share? Send news and updated contact information to lawandhealth@gsu.edu.

Students Win Award at Environmental Health Disparities Conference

The community lawyering model seeks to build relationships and remove structural barriers. SWON provides free legal assistance to clients where they can more easily access it— at their children’s school. The attorneys work closely with school leadership to identify families who may benefit. They also collaborate with a SWON “community advocate” to connect families with other resources to address non-legal needs.

Over the course of the year, Rains and James researched SWON’s impact and presented their findings virtually at the 15th Annual Break the Cycle conference to more than 400 registrants. In a very short time, schools working with SWON have seen decreased absenteeism, fewer evictions and a 1.4% reduction in student turnover. In five years, the program has expanded to nine schools.

The law students’ project, “Standing with Our Neighbors: How Community Lawyering Can Break the Cycle of Children’s Health Disparities,” was recognized with the “Break the Cycle” award. Hazel and Briana participated in our Alternative Spring Break and saw firsthand the difference SWON is making for families,” said Danny Meeks, assistant director of the Center for Access to Justice, who supervised the students’ research. Their project shined a light on an innovative lawyering model that prioritizes being physically present in communities to build trust and make legal help more accessible. With SWON’s help, families stabilize and living conditions improve, so students can stay healthy and stay in school!”

SHLA New Officers

The Student Health Law Association is an organization for law students interested in health-related legal disciplines. The following students were elected as officers of SHLA for 2020-2021:

Baylee Culverhouse (J.D./M.S.H.A. ’21) 21 President

Avery Minnick (J.D. ’22) 21 President

Saskia Olczak (J.D. ’22) VP of Membership

Fanny Chac (J.D. ’21) VP of Programming

Nolan Hendricks (J.D. ’22) VP of Programming

Yasmine Jalinosazadeh (J.D./M.S.H.A. ’21) VP of Student Outreach

Zari Shah (J.D. ’22) VP of Community Outreach

Morgan Cronin (J.D. ’23) Secretary

DeChino Duke (J.D. ’21) Treasurer
“Hate Wins,” was accepted by the conference to be held in the fall of 2020. Her article, “Opioids are the New Black,” was published in DePaul Law Review and her article, “Out-of-Network Air Ambulance Bills: Prevalence, Magnitude, and Future of Community Integration” symposium issue of the Journal of Legal Medicine.

Jessica Gabel Cino
Cino has spent the last 5 months quarantined with now-17-month-old twins. She routinely dodges sweet potatoes and cheerios catapulted toward her and has developed a new expertise in corralling two toddlers walking wobbly in opposite directions. When not reciting veteran animal sounds found in Old McDonald’s Farm, she continues her work on health equity issues, including formulating best practices as a member of the National Institute of Standards & Technology’s Organization of Scientific Area Committees.

Stacie P. Kershner (J.D. ’08)
Kershner served as a guest editor with Susan Goico Walker of Atlanta Legal Aid Society on the “Olmedo at 20: Past and Future of Community Integration” symposium issue of the Journal of Legal Medicine. She was interviewed on WSB TV on preemption and COVID-19, and she provided communications assistance to the Public Health Law Watch COVID Law Briefings.

Charity Scott
Scott completed an empirical research project to study the effect of mindfulness training on law students. She created a new course called The Reflective Lawyer to promote qualities that contribute to the ethical and professional practice of law, including self-awareness, compassion, intelligence, diligence, honesty, authenticity, tolerance, initiative, creativity and adaptability. She helped organize the online Jay Healey teaching workshop for the Health Law Professors Conference.

Lisa R. Bliss
Bliss served on the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education 2020 Annual Meeting Planning Committee. The conference was postponed for a year due to COVID-19. Bliss will remain on the planning committee for the conference to be held in 2021.

Yaniv Heled
Heled co-authored and filed with 35 other health, torts, and family law professors an amicus brief in the case of Norman v. Xytec that is pending before the Supreme Court of Georgia. Heled also presented his forthcoming article “Genetic Paparazzi: Beyond Genetic Privacy” with Liza Vertinsky at the Law and Biosciences colloquium at the University of Utah College of Law.

Stacy E. Wolf
Wolf was interviewed on ABC News Radio, Fox News Radio and TV France 4. She was also quoted in news articles on COVID-19 in the New York Times, BBC News, and TV France 4.

Lauren MacIvor Thompson (Ph.D. ’16)
MacIvor Thompson presented in January at an international symposium on suffrage and the Nineteenth Amendment in Paris, France. She also gave a talk titled, “Doctors Versus Feminists? Medical and Legal Politics in the Early Birth Control Movement,” as part of the Histories and Politics of Reproduction speaker series at the University of South Dakota.

Jonathan Todres

James E. Mitchell
Mitchell continued supervising second- and third-year law students in the HeLP Legal Services Clinic. She also taught two online sessions, one in spring and one in summer, of a comprehensive child welfare law course to assist lawyers in preparing for their child welfare law specialist certification.


Brooke N. Silverthorn (J.D. ’03)
Silverthorn was named assistant clinical professor and co-director of the HeLP Legal Services Clinic. She also taught two online sessions, one in spring and one in summer, of a comprehensive child welfare law course to assist lawyers in preparing for their child welfare law specialist certification.

Paul A. Lombardo
Lombardo was quoted in Buzzfeed News: “Fox News And Donald Trump Are Embracing Xenophobia To Defend Against The Coronavirus,” and the Florida Times Union: “Buck y Bell: The High Court’s Low Point.” He spoke at an online symposium on eugenics at the University of Puget Sound, presented at the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, and was a visiting professor at the Centre for Bioethics and Culture in Karachi, Pakistan.

Timothy D. Lytton
Lytton delivered lectures on food safety at Boston University and Tufts University and a presentation on gun industry litigation at Duke University. His recent book on food safety was chosen as a finalist for the ABA Silver Gavel Award. He has been quoted in news articles on COVID-19 in the New York Times, BBC News, and TV France 4.

Charity Scott
Scott completed an empirical research project to study the effect of mindfulness training on law students. She created a new course called The Reflective Lawyer to promote qualities that contribute to the ethical and professional practice of law, including self-awareness, compassion, intelligence, diligence, honesty, authenticity, tolerance, initiative, creativity and adaptability. She helped organize the online Jay Healey teaching workshop for the Health Law Professors Conference.

Leslie E. Wolf
As part of the Greenwall-funded grant, Wolf co-taught with Courtney Anderson and Paul Lombardo an undergraduate honors course that focused on bioethics topics of relevance to diverse communities. The Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics published her article with Erin Fuse Brown and Vanderbilt Medical Center research colleagues, “Protecting Participants in Genomic Research: Understanding the ‘Web of Protections’ Afforded by Federal and State Law.”
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The financial support of our graduates and friends enables us to continue to offer high quality programming to students, graduates, health law attorneys and health professionals. Please consider donating to the Center for Law, Health and Society at clhs.law.gsu.edu.

Center Faculty & Staff

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Yaniv Heled, Associate Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Center for Intellectual Property
Wendy F. Hensel, University Provost and Professor of Law
Paul A. Lombardo, Regents’ Professor and Bobby Lee Cook Professor of Law
Timothy D. Lytton, Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development, Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Law
James E. Mitchell, Supervising Attorney with HeLP Legal Services Clinic
Charity Scott, Catherine C. Henson Professor of Law, retired
Brooke N. Silverthorn (J.D. ’03), Co-Director of HeLP Legal Services Clinic and Clinical Professor
Lauren Maclvor Thompson (Ph.D. ’16), Faculty Fellow and Lecturer of History, Perimeter
Jonathan Todres, Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Law
Leslie E. Wolf, Interim Dean, Distinguished University Professor and Professor of Law