Stronger, Together.

I am honored to share with you a few of the outstanding people whose passion and work enable us to educate lawyer-leaders and serve the people of this state and nation. Working in a variety of roles within our profession, these individuals enhance the reputation of the University of South Carolina School of Law and make us stronger, together.

As you read these brief profiles and take in the personalities that shine through their dynamic portraits, you will quickly notice common threads: a strong sense of purpose and a commitment to justice. Whether in the classroom or in the public square — and often in both — each of these individuals is moved to impact the lives of students, clients, and vulnerable members of our society.

**Professor Seth Stoughton** and **Associate Dean Susan Kuo** have educated and inspired our students for years and continue to make their marks as nationally recognized scholars, teachers, and experts.

**Professors Etienne Toussaint** and **Madalyn Wasilezuk** are new faculty members who bring with them rich experiences spanning many disciplines and continents.

**Mark Yancey**, director of the U.S. Department of Justice National Advocacy Center, is reinvigorating the NAC’s relationship with the law school. As a result, our students are gaining invaluable learning and experience in trial advocacy from the nation’s top prosecutors.

**Joe and Lisa Rice** and **Mitch Willoughby** are ardent supporters of the causes they care deeply about: children and advocacy. As stewards of their generosity, the law school is growing its scholarship, teaching, and training opportunities.

The law school is fortunate and proud that these professors, alumni, and partners are pillars of our community. We are also grateful for the many **Lifetime Contributors** listed in this publication. Your financial generosity makes it possible for us to be an innovative, student-centered law school that advances knowledge and the public good.

In all that we do at the University of South Carolina School of Law, we are stronger, together.

William C. Hubbard (’77 law)
Dean, School of Law
University of South Carolina
Seth Stoughton envisioned a quiet career in police scholarship when he joined the UofSC law faculty in 2014. But as cases of police misconduct became seared into the national conscience, Stoughton — a former officer with the Tallahassee Police Department — has emerged as one of the nation’s leading reform voices. With criminologist Geoffrey Alpert, Stoughton is now launching a Center of Excellence to support public safety agencies with comprehensive training and robust research to inform policy.

“We can make the world a better place by improving the delivery of police services.”
“To be part of someone's trajectory is an immense privilege. There is no greater compliment than students sharing their life with you and trusting you to weigh in.”

Susan Kuo started teaching her classmates in elementary school and, well, never stopped. A perennial classroom favorite and an expert on legal pedagogy, Kuo connects with students and supports them through both academic and personal challenges. She launched a free pantry three years ago to address food insecurity issues at the law school and uses her role as associate dean to improve the student experience. In academic circles, Kuo is known for her contributions to the field of disaster law and policy.
Joe and Lisa Rice
Children’s Guardians

“It has been our life’s mission to advocate for those who can’t advocate for themselves, whether it’s in the courtroom or the community.”

Perhaps it's altogether fitting that an attorney known for his power at the negotiating table and in the courtroom has become, with his wife Lisa, a lauded ally for society’s most vulnerable members: abused children. Across more than two decades of advocacy, Joe Rice ('76 B.S. business, management and '79 law) and Lisa Rice ('77 B.A. psychology) helped to create an endowment for the Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center and fund a private medical treatment area for abused children at the MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital, among other philanthropic projects. And now they are transforming training for South Carolina's child welfare professionals, forensic investigators, and prosecutors by providing the lead gift to create a state-of-the-art training space for the Children's Law Center at the School of Law.
Etienne Toussaint discovered the power of the law as an engineer constrained by public policy. He sought to solve problems and build better communities, but he needed more than draft paper: he needed rules informed by broader perspectives. Toussaint is equipping his students with a critical lens to analyze the work before them — business contracts, policies, and regulations — so they can erect a stronger framework for communities, piece by piece. He’s walking the walk with them, collaborating with law and geography faculty to explore energy vulnerability in the South, and pursuing partnerships across other academic disciplines to produce innovative scholarship.

“Critical theory is important in law school because it positions students to understand that the law determines what we view as normal or neutral in society. Critical perspectives push back on those neutral or normal viewpoints, which is important if we want to address the experiences of communities and individuals who are marginalized.”
Mitch Willoughby

Public Justice Pillar

At his core, Mitchell Willoughby (’75 law) views himself as a solution builder for his clients’ complex and nuanced problems. And his most valuable tool? The law. Willoughby has witnessed the power of the law across decades of practice and considers equal application of the rule of law the underpinning of civilized society. Now his major gift strengthens the law school’s resources to cultivate advocacy scholars and practicing attorneys through a distinguished professorship, visiting fellows, and symposia.

“The legal system impacts every citizen every day. I wanted to make sure it continues to be modernized and that justice is fairly meted out to all citizens.”
Madalyn Wasilczuk found her passion for criminal justice reform after observing her first court proceedings in Kenya as an undergraduate student. Wasilczuk’s international activism took her from Malawi to Myanmar and many places in between, and she honed her domestic advocacy skills serving as a public defender in Philadelphia, running a juvenile defense clinic in Louisiana and representing inmates on death row in Ohio and South Carolina. Practicing in different environments helped her become an agile attorney with diverse scholarship interests, and she aims to develop students who are likewise reflective and independent learners.

“It’s energizing to be around students discovering how to work with clients and advocate their position for clients.”
Mark Yancey

Advocacy Partner

From a compound tucked behind wrought iron gates one block from the law school, Mark Yancey leads comprehensive training initiatives for the “world’s largest firm”: the U.S. Department of Justice. The former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma shepherds a team at the National Advocacy Center that delivers live training, publishes a journal and practice guides, and films DOJ TV and video programs. Students interested in criminal law can intern at the center, learn directly from prosecutorial expert Yancey in a capstone course, or hear guest lectures from national and international experts who teach and learn at the NAC. And if students are lucky? Maybe a story from Yancey about what it was like investigating Timothy McVeigh or Joe “Exotic” Maldonado of “Tiger King” fame.

“The ability to collaborate and share experts with the law school is critical. It’s helpful for us to have access to academics, particularly on policy issues, and we’ve created a nice pipeline for students to clerk and gain experience from litigators.”
The University of South Carolina School of Law gratefully recognizes those whose support through June 30, 2021 enables the school to serve justice and advance the law through engaged learning, teaching, scholarship, and service.

Giving to the Law Scholarship Fund is an easy way for you to make a difference in a student’s life. Use the enclosed envelope to send a check or make your gift online by scanning the QR code.
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* Honors those who have passed away.

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To all who have given to make us stronger, together, THANK YOU.

Great care was taken to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Should there be any discrepancies, please accept our apology and contact Carol A. Mitchell at mitche@law.sc.edu.

Giving to the Law Scholarship Fund is an easy way for you to make a difference in a student's life. Use the enclosed envelope to send a check or make your gift online by scanning the QR code.

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