

CELEBRATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WOMEN ON THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW JOURNAL

Professor Jeffrey Van Detta, Faculty Advisor

Since the Law School's earliest graduating classes in the 1930s, women have been prominent in our student body, in our student organizations, and in our alumni. John Marshall's commitment to educating law students of all genders goes back to its very founding, as evidenced by this wonderful exhibit that you will find on the 19th Floor in the hallway outside of Classrooms 1951 and 1952:



Four members of the 1938 graduating class were women, and the Valedictorian was “Miss Ann Kimsey,” who “deliver[ed] the valedictory address.”

To put this in perspective, most American law schools were not admitting women at that time. Even twenty years later, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, for example, was one of only nine women in the entering class of 509 at Harvard Law School in 1956.



She went on to become one of only two women on the Harvard Law Review, 1957-1958. Can you pick her out of this sea of men? (Hint: Both women are in the same row, at opposite ends.)



See <https://hls.harvard.edu/today/ruth-bader-ginsburg-and-harvard-law-a-sixty-four-year-journey/>

In 2024, *The National Jurist* contacted Mr. Leron Burge in our Office of Student Affairs with a request: “The National Jurist is doing a story, and would like to feature women student leaders and leadership at the law school. The article would like to acknowledge the number of women who hold executive roles on the Law Journal board.”

Here is information of interest that Professor Van Detta gathered for *The National Jurist*, supplemented by updates through June 2025:

At AJMLS, women have been well represented on the Editorial Board of Law Journal since its inception in 2007. During Professor Van Detta’s eleven years as Faculty Advisor, seven women have served as Editors-in-Chief:

Madeline Jackson Townsend

Suzanne Fulcher Oldweiler

Miriam Perfecto

Taylor Deciano

Antoinette Clarington

Marie Wofford Sussenbach

Aryn Carpenter Sedore

Looking to an earlier period when other faculty served as faculty advisors, **Amanda Gaddis Speights** was the first woman to serve as Editor-in-Chief, for Volume 2 in 2009. She was also Valedictorian of the Class of 2009.



Amelia Regan followed as E.I.C. for Volume 3, Kristi Barbre as E.I.C. for Volume 4, Stacie Chapman for Volume 5, Jenna Melton for Volume 6; Rachel Morelli for Volume 7; and Brandy Porter for Volume 8.

Volume 1 of the Law Journal (2007-2008) saw the first woman to serve on the Editorial Board, Amanda K. Kee, who inaugurated the Managing Editor role.



In 2014-2015, Brandy Porter became the first African American woman to lead the Law Journal as Editor-in-Chief (Volume 8). Editor-in-Chief Porter also led that year's CLE Symposium Event as the Annual Symposium Co-Chair.



In 2018-2019, Volume 12 featured an all-woman Editorial Board: Editor-in-Chief Taylor Deciano; Executive Managing Editor Heather Tucker; Executive Articles Editor Marie Wofford Sussenbach; Executive Notes & Comments Editor Adrienne McKay; and Executive Legislative Editor Ellen Dorsey.

You can get a good sense of the very substantial overall representation of women on the Law Journal's Executive Board from our Mastheads at:

<https://www.johnmarshall.edu/lawreview/masthead/>

The Law School has much to be proud of in its contributions to diversity in the bar of this State and wherever its graduates go. As we go into our 91st year of educating lawyers to serve Georgia and beyond, the John Marshall Law Journal reaffirms its commitment to one of the proudest traditions of which any law school in the nation can boast.”



Volume 18 (2024-25) John Marshall Law Journal Editorial Board: Jesse Moore, Executive Research Editor; Morgan Knowles and Anthony Zahn, Executive Legislative & Recent Case Summaries Co-Editors; Gloria Garcia, Executive Managing Editor; Suzanne Fulcher Oldweiler, Editor-in-Chief



Faculty Advisor Van Detta with Volume 16 Executive Managing Editor Monique Cherry and Editor-in-Chief Chauncey Graham.

*Monique Cherry, Executive
Managing Editor, Vol. 16*



*Shinnay
Richards,
Executive
Managing
Editor,
Vol. 17*



*Antoinette S. Clarington,
Editor-in-Chief Vol. 9, Co-
Editor-in-Chief, Vol. 8, Issue 2*



*Miriam Perfecto, Editor-in-Chief,
Volume 14; Co-Editor-in-Chief,
Volume 13; 2021 Part-Time
Division Valedictorian*



*Naja MacIntosh, Executive
Legislative Summaries Editor,
Vol. 15*



*Nikki Ahmad-Khosravi,
Executive Research
Editor, Vol. 17*

*Wendy Carlyle,
Internet Access &
Online Presence
Editor, Vol. 17*



*Annual
Symposium Co-
Editor Ashley
Starnes, Volume
16*



*Executive Managing Editor Tierra M. Monteiro,
Volume 16*





*Adrienne McKay, Executive
Notes & Comments Editor,
Vol. 12*

*Taylor Power Deciano,
Editor-in-Chief, Vol. 12*





*Kamaria Womack, Executive
Legislative Editor, Volume 11*



*Heather Tucker, Executive
Managing Editor, Volume 12*

*Jessica Swords Burton, Co-
Executive Legislative
Editor, Volume 13*





*Marie Tessa Martin, Executive
Managing Editor, Vol. 13*

*Ellen Dorsey-Williams,
Executive Legislative Editor,
Vol. 12*





*Jasmine Barber, Executive
Comments Editor, Volume 8*



*Kristan Polard, Executive
Articles Editor, Volume 11*



*Rachel Roberts, Executive
Articles Editor, Volume 8*

Ayrn Carpenter Sedore, Co-Editor-in-Chief, Volume 12; Executive Managing Editor, Volume 11



Leanna Wade, Executive Legislative Editor, Volume 8



*Viridiana Guido Carreon,
Executive Legislative Editor,
Volume 6*



*Amelia Ragan, Editor-in-
Chief, Volume 3*



*Tanya McAdams, Deputy
Managing Editor, Volume 2*



*Glenda Mitchell, Annual
Symposium Co-Chair,
Volume 8*

*Tracee Benzo, Legislative Co-
Editor, Volume 1*





*Irena Chernova,
Executive Articles
Editor, Volume 7*



*Jessica Rachel Scott,
Research Editor, Volume 1;
Valedictorian, Part-Time
Division, 2008*



*Kristi Bankston, Legislative
Co-Editor, Volume 1*



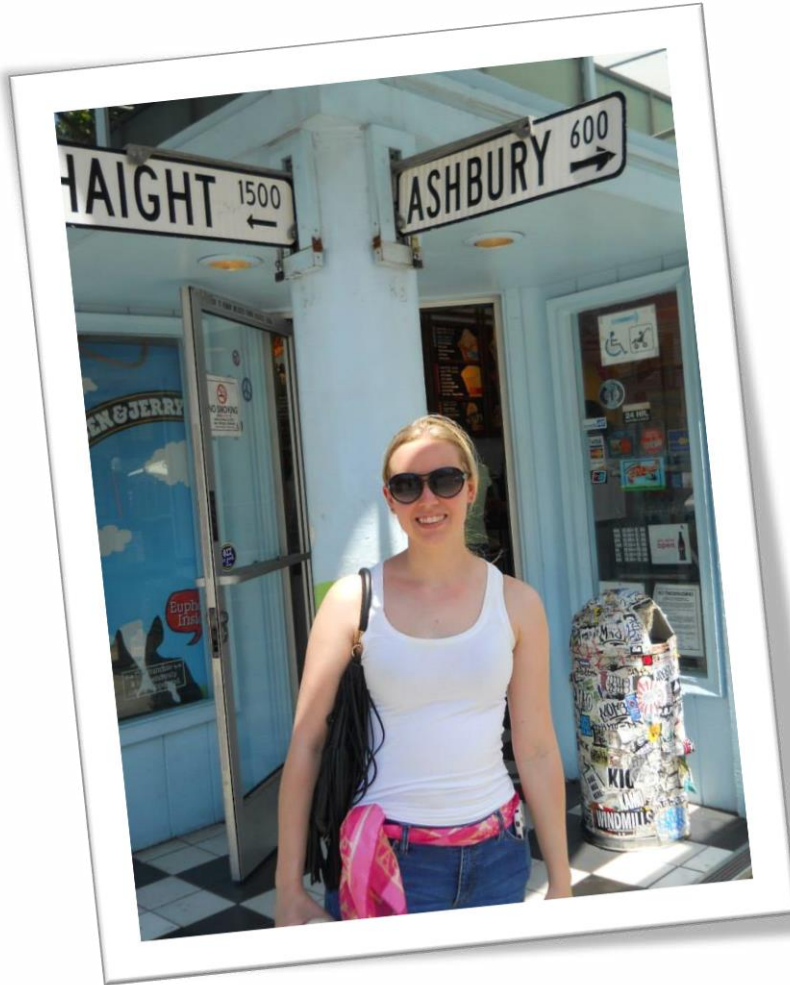
*Faith Richardson Lynn,
Executive Articles Editor,
Volume 7*



*Jenna Melton Fowler, Editor-
in-Chief, Volume 6*



*Amanda Marie
Wofford
Sussenbach,
Volume 13 Co-
Editor-in-Chief;
Volume 12
Executive Articles
Editor*



*Alix Orlando, Corresponding
Editor-at-Large, Volume 13*

Line Editor Jacob “Jake” Moskowitz with the Editorial Board of Volume 19, 2025-2026: Chloe Strickland-Teems, Executive Managing Editor; David Smith, Executive Legislative & Recent Case Summaries Editor; Kendice Armstrong, Executive Symposium Editor; Phillip Pringle, Online Access & Internet Presence Editor; Madeline J Townsend, Editor-in-Chief.

