

# FACULTY HONORS

## Scherr receives two leading educational service awards

A steadfast ambassador for clinical legal education at the School of Law for more than two decades, Alexander W. “Alex” Scherr – who currently serves as the director of the Veterans Legal Clinic – received two significant scholarly honors earlier this year.



He was presented with the 2019 William Pincus Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment to Clinical Legal Education in January. As the preeminent national award in clinical education, this Association of American Law Schools honor constitutes “a career award conferred for exceptional contributions” to the field. It recognizes individuals or institutions for service, scholarship, program design and implementation or other activity beneficial to clinical legal education or to the advancement of justice.

During April, he received UGA’s Engaged Scholar Award, which recognizes a tenured faculty member for contributions to advancing public service, outreach and community engagement at the university with emphasis on endeavors such as engaged research and scholarship that is conducted for the benefit of a community; curricular engagement of students in academic service-learning courses; or mutually beneficial community-university partnerships that address critical community needs.

Since joining the law school in 1996 as its first director of civil clinics, Scherr has been instrumental in the substantial growth of clinical and experiential course offerings at the school – from three to 17.

## Mayson wins Junior Scholar Award

Assistant Professor Sandra G. Mayson was named the winner of the 2019 Association of American Law Schools Section on Criminal Justice Junior Scholar Award for her article “Bias In, Bias Out” in 128 *Yale Law Journal* 2218 (2019). Notably, this is her second article published in this prestigious journal.



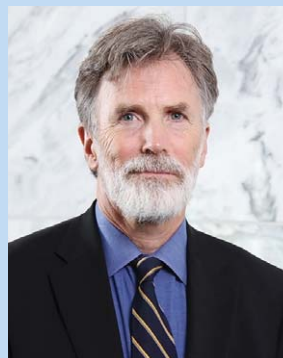
In “Bias In, Bias Out,” Mayson acknowledges that algorithmic risk assessment is increasingly used in the criminal justice system to estimate the likelihood that a person will commit future crime and that these assessments tend to have disparate racial impact. She argues that the problem is not algorithmic methodology, however, but rather the nature of prediction: “All prediction looks to the past to make guesses about future events. In a racially stratified world, any method of prediction will project the inequalities of the past into the future. This is as true of the subjective prediction that has long pervaded criminal justice as of the algorithmic tools now replacing it. Algorithmic risk assessment has revealed the inequality inherent in all prediction, forcing us to confront a problem much larger than the challenges of a new technology.”

Her work has also been published in the *Boston University Law Review*, the *Stanford Law Review* and the *Notre Dame Law Review*.

## Gabriel honored by criminal defense lawyers

This past academic year, Clinical Professor & Criminal Defense Practicum Director Russell Gabriel (J.D. ’85) received the 2018 Indigent Defense Award from the Georgia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. The mission of the association is to promote fairness and justice through member education, services and support, public outreach, and a commitment to quality representation for all. This award recognized Gabriel for “decades of unwavering excellence in indigent defense, for instilling in law students the importance of public defender work through training and mentoring, and for inspiring everyone to always fight for equal justice for all.”

Gabriel has been part of the school’s Criminal Defense Practicum for more than 25 years. In 1988, he joined the school’s Legal Aid and Defender Clinic (as it was referred to then) as a staff attorney, and in 1996 he was named the director (after a three-year stint with the Federal Defender Program in Atlanta). He is a past



recipient of the law school’s Equal Justice Foundation outstanding public interest attorney award.

Gabriel’s most recent work includes spearheading a study by the State Bar of Georgia’s Indigent Defense Committee of the right to counsel for indigent persons appearing in Georgia courts whose criminal law

jurisdiction is limited to misdemeanors and local ordinance violations. One conclusion of the study is that Georgia’s system is more aptly characterized as a system where the right to counsel is waived, rather than a system where the right to counsel is invoked.