

is the No. 1 thing that will change Kentuckians for the better. It's where you can really do more to help."

One of the problems Ball has tried to address has been lowering the attrition rate of returning students who can't keep up with tuition costs. In 2018, she gave the University of Kentucky \$10 million to establish a scholarship fund that will focus on students from Nelson County, where she grew up and Henderson County, where Don was raised. It will fund dozens of undergraduate and graduate scholarships in the two counties and surrounding areas, focused specifically on addressing unmet financial need.

IMPACT ON HBA MEMBERSHIP

While her efforts have been highly publicized in the world of higher learning, Ball recognizes the benefits of work experience and involvement in organizations to promote lifelong learning.

"My work experience at UK was as valuable as any classroom experiences I had," said Ball. "I think experience is a big educator, and sometimes you have to make your own. I enjoy learning about new things all the time. That's the reason I like KET so much."

The Balls were active members of the home builders association and were jointly named Builders of the Year by the Lexington HBA in 1992. Attending meetings like the International Builders Show was a source of ongoing learning for her.

"I used to go to those meetings, and there wasn't a time that I didn't come back with something valuable. I went to all the financial seminars, and I can still remember some of the speakers and what they said," she laughed.

Ball points to her upbringing and her Christian faith for prompting her to serve her community through the years. She talked about a young minister who influenced her to see all people as deserving of love and respect. As she describes how she felt when she visited the Hope Center and other drug and alcohol addiction recovery programs, Ball's compassion for those who struggle in her community is evident.

"You never visit those places without thinking how blessed you are," she said. "If you just go in and really talk to people, you get the idea that you've just got to help."

GEORGETOWN LAW'S "LAWYERS AS LEADERS" COURSE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, there is no question that 2020 has been a year of challenges, difficulty, and concern. It is in these more challenging times that it is especially important to shine a light on those individuals and institutions that are doing good work, work that inspires the next generation of leaders to think bigger and create a brighter future. It is no surprise that Georgetown Law, where I earned my law degree, is doing precisely that, living up to its timeless motto: "Law is but the means, justice is the end."

This fall, Georgetown Law has offered a unique course entitled "Lawyers as Leaders" for the first time. Far from a staid black letter law class, this course is styled as a series of candid, introspective conversations between Georgetown Law Dean William M. Treanor and faculty members who have been prominent leaders in the law and public service. These conversations seek to confront law students with the

pressing issues of the day—the COVID-19 pandemic, racial injustices, the fragility of our democracy's norms, to name a few—and give them a sense for what, as future attorneys, they can do to address them.

In a time of unprecedented uncertainty, the course is a reminder, as one enrolled student put it, "that there is hope." Lawyers as Leaders centers students in the values that inspired them to study the law and reminds them of their own agency to make measurable change. It is no wonder that over 300 students have enrolled in this course, the largest class enrollment in Georgetown Law's 150-year history. I hope this course is offered for many semesters to come.

I have often highlighted the achievements of Georgetown Law both on and off the Senate floor. The education I received there was central to my decision to dedicate my career to public service. It is exactly courses like Lawyers as Leaders that will help encourage this and future classes of Georgetown Law students to pursue their passions as attorneys. Georgetown Law should be commended for offering this course and reminding students that the law is most exciting and transformative when it is viewed not just as a career, but as a calling.

I ask unanimous consent that an article from the Washington Post, published on November 6, 2020, titled "Most popular course ever at Georgetown Law? How to fight for justice," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Nov. 6, 2020]

MOST POPULAR COURSE EVER AT GEORGETOWN LAW? HOW TO FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

(By Susan Svrluga)

In her third year of law school, Maxine Walters expected to have everything in place: Her job locked in, her career path mapped out.

Then the pandemic hit, and economic uncertainty, and protests erupted over racial justice and tensions flared over the presidential election and transition. Her summer job with a firm evaporated, and with it the hoped-for offer of a permanent position by the time classes resumed for the fall.

But her school year began with an unusual class—one created to mark Georgetown University Law Center's 150th anniversary and shaped by the realities of 2020—that has, for many students, upended their ideas about rigid timelines for success, their expectations and even their aspirations.

Instead of a traditional course focused on an area of law such as contracts or torts, the school's leaders crafted a more personal, broad-ranging look at leadership. It was a recognition that the tumultuous times are forcing a reckoning, and leaving many students yearning to have an impact.

Clearly, they touched a nerve: More than 300 upper-level students signed up for "Lawyers as Leaders," the largest enrollment for a course in the history of Georgetown Law.

"This is definitely a time where the ground is moving," said Max Lesser, a 28-year-old student from New Jersey. "Everyone realizes that the old paradigms of politics and justice are kind of breaking. . . . Lawyers have a real role to play in what path we take."

For the online course, students submit questions about assigned readings and then listen to a conversation between Georgetown Law Dean William M. Treanor and a faculty member. He asks them to talk about how to move forward to confront "the great issues of this terrible time."

"This is a time when we're all grappling with so many crises" and profound challenges and losses, he said.

The conversations held each Sunday—now available to all on the school's anniversary website—have been topical, even urgent. Students have heard from Lawrence Gostin about health-care policy during the pandemic, such as vaccine distribution and whether the government should mandate mask-wearing and social distancing.

Neal Katyal, who has argued more than 40 cases before the Supreme Court, spoke about the contested 2000 election, in which he was co-counsel to Democratic candidate Al Gore, and about electoral integrity this year. Randy Barnett, a libertarian and self-described contrarian, talked about the constitutionality of health policy, recent Supreme Court nominees and the importance of seeking out opposing viewpoints. And Rosa Brooks talked about her work examining whether norms will hold fast in the aftermath of this contentious election, or whether the country could face a constitutional crisis.

The conversations have been challenging, insightful, sometimes funny and surprisingly vulnerable. Gostin spoke of his difficult childhood, and how that had helped shape the optimistic outlook he's known for. He shared his tips for the best way to make popcorn.

Katyal told students to do something that was uncomfortable for them, especially early in their careers. He said he had recently taken rap improv classes to improve his ability to think on his feet, and found it terrifying.

Katyal also shared how his father faced discrimination and was unfairly fired, but had his dignity restored by a civil case, inspiring Katyal to go to law school. He told how he always asked his children's advice the night before a Supreme Court case, and shared some of their tips on how to stay calm when facing the justices. (Once: "Think of a cute pig.")

This is a time when shared challenges make people more comfortable talking about vulnerabilities, Treanor said. "I don't think we would have these same conversations if we had this class two years ago."

Hillary Sale, an associate dean and professor who helped design the class, agreed. The stress of the times is making people introspective and reflective, she said, "in ways that are probably really good, and probably wouldn't happen without that outside pressure."

Paul Butler, a former federal prosecutor, challenged students to rethink the justice system, which he argues is not weakened by a few racist bad-apple police officers, but is "broke on purpose" and working the way it was designed to work.

Butler told of his searing experience decades ago when he was arrested while he was a prosecutor on a case accusing a U.S. senator of corruption. As he wrote in his book "Let's Get Free," Butler was charged with simple assault after a neighbor falsely accused him of pushing her after a dispute over a parking space. Police officers cursed at him. At the courthouse, he was led, handcuffed, through the inmates' entrance—when, as a prosecutor, he normally could breeze through the main entrance without needing to go through a metal detector.

At his trial, he said, he listened to a police officer lie on the stand. After he was acquitted, he felt the weight of how easily the false

accusation could have destroyed him, if not for the skill of his attorney.

A Yale- and Harvard-educated prosecutor, Butler had once felt different from the Black men he prosecuted, he told *The Washington Post*. But, he said, “I certainly wasn’t different in the way police responded to me.”

He wanted students to think about the inevitable setbacks and traumatic experiences they would face, and how they would confront those with integrity. “The main thing I wanted students to think about,” Butler said, “is justice.”

For Walters, a 23-year-old Black student from Mobile, Ala., the leadership class initially sounded like a welcome break from typical law classes—in which professors grill students with tough questions—during a busy fall when she is also applying for jobs. But Walters, who is president of the Georgetown Law Black Law Students Association, has been struck by a number of the conversations, including Butler’s.

“It has been inspiring to have this class,” Walters said.

As faculty reflect in the class on their own life choices, the odd zigs and zags of their careers, the abject failures that turned out to be gifts and the pinnacles that unexpectedly fell flat, the stories resonated with other students confronting their own imminent decisions.

People are definitely more stressed about careers this fall, said Luke Bunting, a student from Indiana who has worked for Republican members of Congress and is now in his second year at Georgetown Law. He hopes to work for a firm and make an impact, and hearing from people with such different backgrounds and approaches made him more confident that was possible, he said.

Kristin Ewing, a student from Nebraska by way of a musical-theater career in New York, gained an interest in health-care policy when she saw how performers were affected by their lack of insurance. She said it was reassuring to hear professors talk about career pivots.

Rujuta Nandgaonkar, also interested in health policy—an inclination cemented by the pandemic, she said—was struck by Barnett’s advice to surround yourself with people who disagree with you, and an idea several people shared about getting past the inevitable bumps in the road. “Those are important lessons for these times,” she said.

“This is not the greatest time—but there is hope,” Nandgaonkar said. “That’s the string that runs through it.”

Lesser, a high school teacher for four years before law school, isn’t sure what he wants to do after he graduates. But he is considering options that tie into his interests in democracy and criminal justice reform, such as working in a prosecutor’s office, judiciary committees in Congress or for the military.

After hearing Brooks talk, Lesser said, “her lecture reinforced that having a functional modern democracy is a precious thing, and it can get lost easily if people aren’t willing to perfect it.”

The class has been grounding, Lesser said. “It reminds you of why you’re doing this. That’s important, especially when our country is being tested, our field is being tested. You have to reconnect to the values” that brought people to study the law, he said.

Walters had gravitated during law school to apply to firms because she was worried about paying off student loans. But after a summer of protests following George Floyd’s killing in police custody, she witnessed people paint messages about defunding the police near the White House, and was struck by the role public defenders were playing in the community.

The new economic uncertainty and the idealism reinforced by the class reaffirmed

her original commitment to go back to the South—where she grew up not seeing Black lawyers, she said—and work as a public defender.

“I’m kind of grateful to be able to do what I’m passionate about,” Walters said. “I think it would be great to go back there and try to make it the best place it could be.”

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 225, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Ray Knepp II, to be a United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

It was necessarily absent but had I been present would have voted yes on rollcall vote 226, on the nomination of James Ray Knepp II, to be a United States District Court Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

ETHIOPIA

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to call upon the administration to take urgent diplomatic action to address the escalating conflict in Ethiopia, a country in the midst of what many in the international community, including myself, had hoped would be a historic political transition to democracy. Instead the country is sliding into civil war. Unless the international community acts quickly to forestall further violence, I fear that bloody and protracted conflict is unavoidable.

Ethiopians have long aspired to participate in a democratic system of government. For years, their leaders let them down, but in 2018, things appeared to change when in response to peaceful popular protests centered in Ethiopia’s Oromo and Amhara regions, Ethiopia’s ruling party elevated Abiy Ahmed to Prime Minister. Prime Minister Abiy undertook dramatic political reform in the first year of his administration, releasing thousands of political prisoners, inviting exiled opposition groups back home, and allowing the press to freely operate. Repressive laws like the Charities and Societies and Anti-Terrorism proclamations, which had long been used to stifle political dissent, were revised and replaced. The new government committed itself to free and fair elections and, for the first time in Ethiopia’s history, introduced a gender-balanced Cabinet. Many Ethiopians and much of the international community rightly celebrated these achievements and looked to further democratic progress. Abiy himself was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2019.

Yet transitions from autocratic rule to democracy are rarely seamless, and Ethiopia’s transition is no exception. The journey to democracy has been beset by the proliferation of ethnically motivated violence across the country. In 2018, IOM reported that Ethiopia re-

corded the third highest number of new ID P’s anywhere in the world, fueled by ethnic violence and displacement in Gedeo and West Guji zones, and violence has continued. In June 2019, rogue regional security forces assassinated the president of Amhara region and the head of the Ethiopian National Defense Forces, and in June 2020, the murder of popular Oromo singer Hachalu Hundessa triggered violence that killed at least 239 people. Sadly, Ethiopians of all ethnic and religious backgrounds have been victims of this endless cycle of senseless violence.

To be clear, there are some who have taken advantage of new-found freedoms to threaten or use violence to achieve political ends, engage in hate speech, and incite broader conflict. Such behavior is inconsistent with democratic practice and has further exacerbated the country’s ethnic and political divisions in a profoundly damaging way. Ethiopian authorities have a responsibility to protect their citizens by holding the perpetrators and purveyors of such actions accountable through a transparent, credible legal process.

Yet the government’s response to these challenges has only complicated matters. In May 2020, a report from Amnesty International chronicled a long list of abuses committed by Ethiopia’s security forces since the transition began, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary arrest. The government has engaged in a troubling crackdown on political opposition, media organizations, and civil society, particularly in the wake of Hachalu Hundessa’s death. There are growing fears that state institutions are being leveraged by the ruling party to unfairly consolidate the current government’s power, including through weaponizing law enforcement and the judicial process to attack government critics. Under these conditions, it is unlikely that Ethiopia’s next general elections can be anything approaching credible, exacerbating an already volatile political situation.

Against the backdrop of a transition in jeopardy, violence between the federal government and political leaders of the Tigray region is escalating. Reports suggest that hundreds have already died in clashes between government and regional forces. I am particularly horrified by evidence of a civilian massacre in Mai-Kadra. I condemn this act and all attacks on civilians in the strongest term, and call for a thorough and transparent investigation by a credible, neutral, independent body. Those who attack civilians must be held accountable in accordance with the rule of law. I am also concerned by reports of civilian deaths as a result of federal government airstrikes, mass displacement, and discrimination and arrests based on ethnic profiling. Authorities in Tigray have confirmed that their forces fired rockets into the capital of a neighboring country, Eritrea.