

LAURA H. HARSHBARGER
Class of 1997

A member of the Class of 1997, celebrating its twentieth reunion, Laura Harshbarger has established herself as a preeminent attorney in her field, an anchor of her community, and a stalwart supporter of our law school.

After graduating with highest honors from Bucknell University in 1994, Laura matched the achievement at the College of Law, graduating *summa cum laude* as a member of the Order of the Coif. She was also a notes editor of the *Syracuse Law Review*.

Laura has spent her entire career in Syracuse with the firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, first as an associate and then as a partner (including current service as a member of its Management Committee). Her practice focuses on labor and employment law, with a specialty in working with schools, colleges, and universities. Her work centers on representing public school districts in all aspects of the employment relationship, including civil service hearings, teacher dismissal proceedings, arbitrations under collective bargaining agreements, medical leave and disability matters, and discrimination and harassment claims brought by or on behalf of students before state and federal tribunals. She is sought after to provide anti-harassment training for teachers, administrators, and other school district employees. She advises colleges and universities on matters involving Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and related issues. In 2016, the National Center for Campus Public Safety selected her to serve on the team for its Trauma-Informed Sexual Assault Investigation and Adjudication Educational Program. Laura has been repeatedly recognized by the legal media as one of the leading management-side employment lawyers in Central New York.

In 2013, Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed Laura to serve as Chair of the Fourth Department Judicial Screening Committee and as a member of the Governor's State Judicial Screening Committee. Both committees evaluate the qualifications of judicial candidates and make recommendations to the governor on appointments to the state bench. She is a board member of the Onondaga County Bar Foundation, a member of state and national bar associations, and a frequent author and CLE lecturer.

As chair of her law firm's Diversity Committee a number of years ago, Laura developed the firm's 1L Diversity Clerkship, now known as the M. Catherine Richardson Clerkship Program (named for a member of the College of Law's Class of 1977 and former New York State Bar Association President). Laura also spearheaded the development of the firm's initiatives to enhance diversity and inclusion.

As her nominator says, "Laura has earned an outstanding reputation in her field. She remains involved in the College of Law community and has spent many hours on campus speaking to students, and serving as a mentor to many students and lawyers. She is an outstanding citizen of her legal community, a credit to the profession and an exemplary graduate of the College of Law."

*In recognition of her distinguished career and contributions to the legal profession and her community,
Syracuse University College of Law is proud to honor
Laura H. Harshbarger with the Syracuse Law Honors Medal.*