

have real consequences," he said. "This has been a moment where we saw something similar, in politics, the divisions in society, the need for racial justice."

It's what cemented Kamal Rattray's decision to apply. The Bronx high school teacher said he had long wanted to become a lawyer, but he applied after his father, who had a green card, was deported to Jamaica by the Trump administration for reasons he still doesn't understand. Rattray's immigrant students feared the same thing could happen to their families, he said.

"All the deportations, without due process, that the Trump administration took full advantage of while further disenfranchising communities of color inspired me to go to law school," he said. "I think we need more lawyers of color in order to hold accountable people with ideologies akin to the Trump administration's."

Rattray had four law schools to choose from—but Georgetown was a no-brainer, he said. "I really felt like there was consistent outreach from Georgetown while I was in the application process. I also liked that the school has a Black Law Students Association, and there seems like there is a lot of camaraderie."

The school's numbers are also attractive to applicants. Georgetown ranks in the top 10 on the Princeton Review's ranking of law schools for best classroom experience, and it has one of the lowest student-to-faculty ratios in the country. Ninety to 95 percent of students graduate in three years, and more than 95 percent of its students pass the bar exam on their first attempt. Ninety percent of students who graduated in 2020 (the latest year for which there is data) were employed by the time they received their degree, and Georgetown Law is tied for highest median starting salary among graduates working in private practice as associates.

Law school is expensive—and that's true at Georgetown as well. For 2021-22, the cost of attending full-time is close to \$100,000, the school's website says, with \$69,280 going to tuition. Seventy-eight percent of this year's entering Georgetown Law class received scholarship aid of some sort.

The outreach to applicants is led by Andrew Cornblatt, the law school's veteran dean of admissions. Cornblatt makes it a point to stay connected to students who come to campus, and is often stopped on campus by students who just want to say hi.

"Most people think of assembling a law school class as putting a puzzle together," Cornblatt said. "For me it's more like creating an orchestra with lots of different instruments, not just violins. I am always struck by how many talented, interesting, well-qualified applicants we receive from all over the world."

Working at home during the pandemic, he spent hours each day interviewing 2,700 applicants in small groups. Zoom allowed him to visit 50 states, 37 countries and six continents.

"We are looking for applicants who really want to do this and while we are happy to welcome college seniors, we also put great emphasis on work and life experience," Cornblatt said. "Opera singers, veterans, class presidents, Fulbright scholars, football players, Hill staffers, people working in nonprofits fully committed to public service."

For fall 2021, Georgetown enrolled 561 students from 45 states and 17 foreign countries, an acceptance rate of 12.9 percent—down from 21 percent a year ago. It was also the most diverse first-year class—with 40 percent identifying as people of color, as compared with 32 percent the previous year. Of the 561, 110 are Opportunity Scholars, which awards scholarships to students with the most significant financial need and high academic

credentials. Women constitute 54 percent of the class.

Cornblatt played a key role in persuading Kathie Duperval, 24, to attend Georgetown. She was in the final stretch of applying to law school during the 2020 presidential election after a tough year navigating the pandemic and, she said, Georgetown's outreach sold her.

"Specifically, Dean Andy made a tremendous effort to form connections with many students during the interview process," she said. "Though virtual, he made sure to connect with us, and he even went out of his way to send personalized videos to admitted students on a weekly basis."

For Elena Bacon, 22, the social justice movement that emerged from Floyd's murder changed her legal path. Once seeing herself as a corporate lawyer, she said she now plans to pursue a career in international human rights law so she can advocate for those being denied fundamental freedoms. Georgetown was always at the top of her list, she said, "because of the number of opportunities it offers for experiential learning, its distinguished Human Rights Institute, and its location in Washington, DC."

Now, Cornblatt—a graduate of Harvard University and Boston College law school—is engrossed in leading his 31st admissions season as dean.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GARY KELLY

• Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to recognize and congratulate Gary Kelly, the CEO of Southwest Airlines, as he hands over the reins of this great Texas-based company and transitions to a new role as executive chairman.

Southwest is a remarkable success story that captures the spirit of Texas—bold, innovative, and unafraid to take risks, while also warm, hospitable, and focused on people. Those words describe Southwest, and they equally describe the company's devoted leader, Gary Kelly.

Gary is a seventh-generation Texan who has served the people of Southwest in various capacities since 1986, including nearly two decades as CEO. Looking back on those years, it is incredible to recall the many storms Gary and the people of Southwest navigated—years of depressed travel demand following the September 11 attacks, the great recession, and now a global pandemic. Through it all, Gary provided steadfast leadership and support to the airline's more than 56,000 employees and countless beloved customers.

I've been proud to work with Gary and his incredible team over the years, most notably on the Payroll Support Program, which protected the jobs of airline employees during the most turbulent days of the pandemic. Throughout its 50-year history, Southwest has never laid off employees—a point of great pride for the airline's people-focused CEO. It's abundantly clear that the love flows both ways. I remember visiting Southwest's headquarters in Dallas and seeing the admiration on employees' faces as they spoke about their dedicated and talented leader.

Congratulations to Gary Kelly on nearly two decades as the CEO of Southwest Airlines. As he transitions to a new leadership role, I have no doubt that he will build upon his legacy of dedicated service to Southwest and its employees.●

TRIBUTE TO LATONYA BARTON

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the remarkable life of Ms. LaTonya Barton, a military spouse who made tremendous contributions to veterans, especially veteran entrepreneurs, veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Ms. Barton and her spouse, Mr. Timothy Barton, a U.S. Army veteran, founded Kingdomware Technology, Incorporated, in 1993. After several unsuccessful responses to requests for proposals issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs—VA—Ms. Barton suspected that the Department was failing to comply with a statutory requirement known as the Rule of Two. Under this Federal law, VA contracting officers are required to restrict competition to veteran-owned small businesses when it is reasonable to expect at least two veteran-owned small business interests will compete for a given VA contract award.

Ms. Barton's legal challenge wove its way through the Federal judiciary until it reached the Supreme Court of the United States of America as the case Kingdomware Technologies, Inc. v. United States. Ms. Barton ultimately prevailed in her case, as the Supreme Court issued a unanimous 8-0 opinion which held that the Rule of Two is a mandatory legal requirement that applies to all VA competitive contract awards, including orders on the Federal Supply Schedule.

Ms. Barton's legal victory was a significant win for the rule of law and every veteran-owned small business interest seeking to do business with the VA. Throughout her years of conducting research for the litigation and testifying before Congress, Ms. Barton always kept faith in our justice system and remained steadfast in her determination to make sure veteran small business owners who served our Nation in uniform would benefit from laws enacted to help them do business with the VA. Ms. Barton will be remembered by colleagues as a pioneer businesswoman who was unwavering in her commitment to the principle that when American tax dollars are expended by the VA, veteran-owned small business interests must be empowered to compete with large private sector competitors.

Of course, Ms. Barton was far more than a savvy businesswoman. She was also a devoted mother, mentor, friend, and patriot who was loved and respected in her community. Despite the significant demands placed on her time by the litigation, Ms. Barton invested countless hours developing her children's academic and athletic prowess.

The fruits of her labor resulted in developing a successful veteran-owned small business that has lasted more than 20 years and three outstanding student-athletes who excel in the classroom and on the basketball court.

Ms. Barton passed away unexpectedly on November 3, 2021, leaving behind a legacy for veteran entrepreneurs across our Nation. She will always be remembered for her tenacity and dedication to doing right by our country's veterans. Qualities that are taught and found in our servicemembers came naturally to Ms. Barton, who was an outstanding leader, refused to accept defeat, possessed a never-quit attitude, and never gave up on the mission or her team.

Ms. Barton leaves behind her husband, Tim, and their three children, Timothy, Jr., Carolae, and Johnathan. May her service, legacy and kind spirit serve as an inspiration to all.●

RECOGNIZING OLIVE YOU BOUTIQUE

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, Olive You Boutique of Richmond, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Nearly a decade ago, Katie Stallons and her sister Lindsay Wiley decided there were not enough clothing options for the ladies of central Kentucky. The sisters, both Richmond natives and alumni of University of Kentucky, decided to take matters into their own hands and open Olive You Boutique. Their mother, Jennifer Brandenburg, joined in their venture, designing the interior of the boutique, and now working in-store alongside her daughters and the other lovely ladies at Olive You Boutique. In their 9 and a half years of operating, this woman and family-owned business has seen plenty of growth and success. In 2015, they received the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Minority Business of the Year Award, and they are routinely voted as Best Women's Shopping in Richmond in local publications. Despite all this success, they have never lost sight of their mission.

Owner Katie Stallons' fundamental goal for Olive You Boutique is to carry something for "all of you" lovely women of central Kentucky and beyond. The store offers clothes to women of all ages; one stop shopping for daughter, mother, and grandmother, during all seasons. Olive You Boutique carries a wide range of items from casual loungewear to cocktail attire and everything in between. Regardless of age, shape, likes, and dislikes, Olive You Boutique has something for every woman. Customers are known to travel from all over Kentucky and beyond, with the store offer-

ing items for every Bluegrass activity, whether it be Keeneland, Kentucky Derby, weddings, graduations, Easter, and more.

Small businesses often have a very familial atmosphere, and Olive You Boutique is no exception. Whether you are greeted by one of the sisters in charge, their delightful mother and interior designer, or one of the other charismatic women working alongside them, customers instantly feel like they are at home. Without a doubt, Olive You has brought a fun and personal shopping experience to the Bluegrass State. From unique clothes to sweet gifts for any occasion, "all of you" can be sure to find something special when shopping at Olive You Boutique.

The owners of the store keep both feet on the ground when conducting business and always look out for friends and neighbors. Often hosting "Shop For a Cause" events in their store, they most recently teamed up with jewelry designer Kendra Scott and raised \$1,000, which was matched by the designer, and then donated towards the medical journey of a Centre College student who had suffered a horrific spinal cord injury. Their caring spirit extends even beyond the Kentucky community. In 2013, during the week following the category five tornado that struck Moore, OK, the owners of Olive You Boutique donated 10 percent of all sales to the American Red Cross Oklahoma Disaster Relief Fund.

In keeping their community in mind, Katie and Lindsay do not forget about other small businesses. Olive You Boutique is often the source of gatherings, with the owners inviting weekly food trucks to come offer breakfast or lunch to their customers. They also host trunk shows where they invite food vendors, florists, and other local artisans to come and sell their products alongside those found at Olive You. And if it is not a trunk show, it is a fun seasonal event to take advantage of community good cheer, often hosting summer soirees and other events around the winter holidays.

Katie and Lindsay are two entrepreneurs who demonstrate the best values of a small business owner. Olive You Boutique is not just a women's clothing store, it is a site that fosters community involvement and outreach. It is a fun and friendly place where ladies can shop, where vendors can collaborate and where you can find local support and always a friendly face. Congratulations to Katie Stallons and Lindsay Wiley and the entire Olive You team. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

RECOGNIZING POWELL VALLEY MILLWORK

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding

Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize the small business, Powell Valley Millwork of Clay City, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Twenty-seven years ago Jim Thornberry and his son Jimmy left the mining industry behind in search of a new venture. Shortly thereafter, Powell Valley Mill work was founded. The Thornberrys started their mill with the desire to harvest a tangible product within a sustainable industry, and that mission has stayed at the heart of their business throughout their decades of growth and success.

The talent and substance of Powell Valley Mill work draws directly from our State, with the mill focusing on only one species of lumber: poplar. As the State tree of Kentucky, poplar is an abundant resource within Appalachia, which makes their location in rural Clay City a prime spot for their operation. Often referred to as "the painter's wood" poplar is known for its clear grain, smooth milling, and paint-taking qualities. The versatile and fine nature of the wood allows Powell Valley Millwork to supply consumers with a wide variety of interior-trim products, such as stretcher bars, door and window jambs, stair parts, cabinetry components, primed finger-joint interior trim, and more. In creating all these products, the Powell Valley millworkers make sure nothing goes to waste. Poplar can be safely used as animal bedding which means the mill's offcuts, those that are not already being used to fuel the company's wood drying kilns, are turned into shavings. These shavings are then bagged and shipped out by the truck load to be sold in a wide variety of retail outlets.

This Powell County mill maintains their technology at a topnotch standard. In 2019, the owners invested in a new addition to the team: a sophisticated scanning rough mill line from Eagle Machinery & Supply, Inc. The new rough mill line is able to process 65,000 board feet of lumber in a single 8-hour shift with only six people required to operate it. The joint project between Powell and Eagle, both family companies, demonstrates that U.S. machinery manufacturers can successfully compete with Europeans in providing world-class technology to the North American wood processing industry.

The Thornberrys keep their eye on efficiency and progress, opening up ownership of the company to experts outside the family, including Dale Budke, Powell Valley's Operations Manager. As a partner in this company, Dale provides the expertise necessary for navigating the growing Kentucky lumber industry. In 2019, Powell Valley Millwork acquired the Metrie Poplar manufacturing facility in nearby Jeffersonville, KY. With a new 125,000-square-foot location only 12 miles from their original facility, the two locations utilize their natural synergies to support the needs of a diverse customer base across North