

# In Brief

The Magazine of Case Western Reserve University School of Law



## A decade of deanship

School of Law leaders celebrate 10 years of impactful collaboration



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UNIVERSITY  
School of Law

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# In Brief

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**ON THE COVER:**  
 Michael Scharf and Jessica Berg, deans of Case  
 Western Reserve University School of Law  
 (photo by Annie O'Neill)

If you've got a story to share,  
 don't hesitate to contact us at  
[lawalumni@case.edu](mailto:lawalumni@case.edu).  
 We'd love to hear from you.

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# High marks

Case Western Reserve University School of Law consistently ranks among the nation's best for a variety of reasons. Here are a few recent highlights.

*U.S. News & World Report*  
(2023)

**#2**

In Ohio

**#10**

For International Law

**#11**

For Health Law

*Princeton Review*  
(2023)

**#26**

For Quality of Teaching

**#47**

For Academic Experience

*preLaw magazine*  
(2023)

**#10**

In Practical Training

CWRU also earned top ratings from *preLaw magazine* (2023) in:

**A+**

Health Law  
International Law  
Intellectual Property Law  
Tech Law

**A**

Trial Advocacy  
Business Law  
Criminal Law  
Environmental Law  
Entertainment Law

**A-**

Public Policy Law  
Human Rights Law

Plus:

**#8**

Mock Trial Teams

*GAVEL Rankings, Hofstra Law School's Trial Advocacy Association (2023)*

**#40**

Impactful Faculty

*Forward-Looking Academic Impact Rankings based on scholarly citations, as published in Florida Law Review (2023)*

**\$4.5 million**

in Grant Funding

*last year, a record amount*

# World-class center

Students and faculty at the Cox International Law Center make gains



## Paving the way for prosecuting war crimes in Yemen

The Yemen Accountability Project (YAP) published its fourth white paper, “Yemen’s youngest victims: The Yemen civil war’s toll on children.”

A law student-led initiative affiliated with the Global Accountability Network and hosted at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, YAP investigates and analyzes open-source materials covering the Yemen Civil War with a goal of facilitating the eventual prosecution of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Their latest paper examines the various ways in which Yemeni children’s international human rights were violated and humanitarian laws were broken during the civil war. In addition to unlawful targeting and indiscriminate killing of children during armed attacks, the 34-page white paper demonstrates how the war caused a decline in children’s physical and mental health, interfered with access to childhood education, worsened poverty levels, perpetuated the prevalence of forced child marriage, displaced children from their families and forced children to serve as soldiers throughout the Yemen conflict.

Read the white paper:



## Online course surpasses 165,000 students

Dean **Michael Scharf**’s Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on international criminal law is now in its 10th year.

Scharf was one of Coursera’s first online instructors, and his was the world’s first international law MOOC. Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, interest in the course has increased, with 300 new enrollees per week. More than 165,000 people from 137 countries have enrolled—and the course has garnered thousands of favorable reviews.



Take the course:



# Learning the law online

School of Law planning first fully remote degree programs

Twenty-five years ago, **Cassandra Burke Robertson** was a state budget analyst with dreams of advancing her career—something she'd need a law degree to do. But with no part-time law school programs nearby, she had a decision to make: Be content with the job she had, or quit and go to law school full time.



*Cassandra Burke Robertson*

"I left my job, went to school full time for three years and, ultimately, found a new path in academia," recalled Robertson. "It worked out well for me, but I've always thought there should be more opportunities for people who don't live close to a law school that has a part-time or evening program."

Robertson, who is now the John Deaver Drinko - BakerHostetler Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, has been working with Dean **Jessica Berg** on an initiative that would have helped her all those years ago: options for completely remote, part-time JD, LLM and master's programs.



*Jessica Berg*

Berg, who served as chair for the university provost's online education committee in the years leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic and saw this effort as "an opportunity to expand access to legal education," she explained.

But not everyone was convinced—at least, not yet.

"I joke with people that the spring of 2020 was the greatest natural experiment on the face of the earth for online education," Berg said. She said she went from trying to convince everyone that virtual education was the future to quickly adapting in-person courses to an online format out of necessity.

"And that's not how you run an online class," Berg added, pointing out that online education needs to be designed as such from the beginning.

The following summer, Berg worked with faculty to design truly online courses. Soon after, the law school faculty, the university's Faculty Senate Graduate Studies Committee, the Ohio Department of Education, the Higher Learning Commission and the American Bar Association all granted their approval to move forward.

Berg and Robertson are now in program-building mode, and expect to enroll the first students in the fully online programs in fall of 2024. The cohorts, consisting of no more than 20 students, will engage in experiential education online or in their home cities and be paired with mentors to help guide them through their studies.

"The key to the program is that you don't have to be in Cleveland to get some of the really unique things that we offer," explained Berg.

Robertson noted that CWRU School of Law is one of the first in the nation to develop a completely online program, making it stand out from its peer institutions. But reaching new populations is what really drives her.

"What I'm most excited about is our ability to reach students who previously wouldn't have had access to a law school education," she said. Students like herself, more than two decades ago.

"People who have obligations that prevent them from moving near a law school could still pursue a legal career," Robertson said. "They don't have to put their dreams on hold."

Learn more  
about the program  
or apply:



# Developing inclusivity

## New academy helps students and professionals become better leaders

What's the key to ensuring others feel included?

According to Bill Bradley, EdD, a facilitator for the Academy for Inclusive Leadership Development (AILD) program at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, it starts with focusing on yourself.

That's why he starts off his AILD session by asking participants to complete a self-assessment exercise.



*Bill Bradley*

"Then we analyze: Does that show up in the interactions that I have? In the relationships of the people I'm working with?" said Bradley, who has more than 30 years of experience in change management and teaching diversity, equity and inclusion. He then takes it a step further. "Here's what you say that your values are; are those showing up in the way you deal with people?"

It's all part of the AILD's approach to teaching inclusivity. The program launched last year with the goal of training students and professionals on structural bias and anti-racism in the workplace. The in-person program consists of specialized readings, training tools, presentations, discussions, exercises and simulations—as well as opportunities for reflection and application in real-world settings. Its next cohort—which includes law students and professionals—begins in October.

Together, participants grapple with structural biases in the legal profession, the science of bias, cultural humility, the economics of law practice, performing organizational assessments, building diverse work teams and inclusive practices in organizations, employment law, organizational management and transformational leadership.

"This isn't only about the national response to George Floyd and the racial reckoning of 2020," said

**Bryan Adamson (LAW '90)**, the David L. and Ann Brennan Professor of Law and associate dean for diversity and inclusion at the law school.



*Bryan Adamson*

"More than ever, law firms seek associates who aren't just great attorneys, but great leaders as they look to transform their firms," Adamson continued. "The AILD will make a real difference for graduates and law firms during the hiring process, and certainly helps attorneys be better equipped to make and sustain diverse, equitable and inclusive legal practices."

**Jayda Rogers**, a 2L who participated in the program last year, appreciated the host of perspectives from law students and professionals. She recalled that the conversations were especially timely when, in June, the U.S. Supreme Court outlawed affirmative action in higher education.



*Jayda Rogers*

"I think now, more than ever, [diversity, equity and inclusion] needs to be discussed," said Rogers, who is also the 56th Midwest Regional Director of Programming for the Black Law Student Association, which comprises over 50 chapters including CWRU School of Law.

"Students really need answers, [and] programs like the AILD are where these conversations are happening."

**Learn more and apply for the AILD program:**



# Pursuing accountability

## CWRU helps U.S. develop pathway for prosecuting Russian war crimes

For a year and a half, the world has watched in horror as Russian forces continue their invasion of Ukraine. From the start, Russian troops have committed serious violations of international law, including war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, said international law expert Milena Sterio in a fall broadcast of *Talking Foreign Policy*, Case Western Reserve University School of Law's radio program and podcast.

A few cases may ultimately be tried by the International Criminal Court (ICC), which issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin in March, charging him with the war crime of abducting thousands of Ukraine children and transferring them to Russia for adoption. But the ICC does not have jurisdiction to prosecute Russia's crime of aggression.

David Crane, the former chief prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, whose proposal for a tribunal to prosecute the Russian crime of aggression is under consideration by the United Nations, has prepared draft indictments for Russian leaders who have committed these crimes.

"We haven't seen some of these tactics since World War II," Crane said during the broadcast last year. "They're almost barbaric and they're clearly violating many international norms and statutes. They're totally ignoring the rule of law."

One draft indictment targets President Vladimir Putin and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov for aiding and abetting aggression, which "is really the core international offense of the invasion," said Crane.

And while Ukrainians have the authority to prosecute these crimes, explained fellow radio show guest Paul Williams, president of the Public International Law and Policy Group (PILPG), none of the prosecutors in that country—despite being highly skilled—have ever prosecuted war crimes before. "It's not something people specialize in domestically," he said. Moreover, leaders cannot be prosecuted in ordinary domestic courts due to the general international law principle of "head of state immunity" during leaders' terms of office.

So how does the world hold Russian leaders accountable?

In July 2022, PILPG presented a potential solution.



*Milena Sterio and Michael Scharf at the ideastream public media studio in Cleveland*

With a team that included Williams and **Michael Scharf**, dean of Case Western Reserve University School of Law, PILPG drafted model legislation to establish the Ukraine High Court for War Crimes. Created after weeks of research and meetings with Ukrainian and U.S. legal experts, the legislation would create an internationalized domestic court modeled on the existing High Anti-Corruption Court of Ukraine. This proposed court would prosecute high-level cases of war crimes, crimes against humanity and aggression.

In March 2023, U.S. Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack announced that the U.S. would support the creation of an internationalized domestic court in Ukraine to prosecute the Russian crime of aggression. The U.S. proposal hews closely to the model set forth last summer by PILPG.

"Whatever shape an aggression tribunal ultimately takes," Scharf and his colleagues concluded a few days later in the online foreign policy website *Just Security*, "we applaud the new U.S. position, which is likely to generate momentum for the prosecution of Russia's crime of aggression against Ukraine."

**Listen to the  
*Talking Foreign Policy*  
broadcast on holding  
Russian leaders  
accountable.**





# Scholarly impact

Faculty at Case Western Reserve University School of Law frequently publish books, chapters, journal articles and briefs across their areas of law expertise. Here are some of their published works that have appeared over the past year.

## Bryan L. Adamson

David L. Brennan  
Professor of Law



- “Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Legal Education, the Legal Profession, and Under the Law,” *73 Washington University Journal of Law & Policy* (2023).

## Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial  
Professor of Law



- *Climate Liberalism: Perspectives on Liberty, Property and Pollution* (2023).
- “Uneducating Americans on Vaping,” *Regulation* (2023) (with Jacob James Rich).
- “Climate Liberalism: Introduction,” *Climate Liberalism: Perspectives on Liberty, Property and Pollution* (J. Adler ed., 2023).
- “Nature and the Firm,” in *Climate Liberalism: Perspectives on Liberty, Property and Pollution* (J. Adler ed., 2023).
- “The Clean Water Act at 50: Is the Act Obsolete?,” *73 Case Western Reserve Law Review* 207 (2022).
- “A ‘Step Zero’ for Delegations” in *The Administrative State Before the Supreme Court: Perspectives on the Nondelegation Doctrine*, 161 (Peter Wallison and John Yoo eds., 2022).
- “Displacement and Preemption of Climate Nuisance Claims,” *17 Journal of Law, Economics & Policy* 217 (2022).
- “Super Deference and Heightened Scrutiny,” *74 Florida Law Review* 267 (2022).
- “West Virginia v. EPA: Some Answers about Major Questions,” *2021-2022 Cato Supreme Court Review* 37 (2022).

## Anat Alon-Beck

Assistant professor



- “SPAC Directors: Big Tech’s New Approach to Skirting Antitrust,” *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law* (2023) (with Moran Ophir, Miriam Schwartz-Ziv and John Livingstone).
- “Mythical Unicorns and How to Find

Them: The Disclosure Revolution,” *Columbia Business Law Review* (2023) (with John Livingstone).

- “Dual Fiduciaries, Corporate Law and Unicorns,” *A Research Agenda for Corporate Law* (Christopher Bruner and Marc Moore, eds., 2023).
- “A Duty to Diversify,” *75 Vanderbilt Law Review En Banc* 97 (2022) (with Michal Agmon-Gonnen and Darren Rosenblum).
- “Bargaining Inequality: Employee Golden Handcuffs and Asymmetric Information,” *81 Maryland Law Review* 1165 (2022).
- “Interlocking Directorship: Evidence from a Natural Experiment by Israeli Competition Law,” *Research Handbook on Competition and Corporate Law* (2023) (with Moran Ophir).

## Avidan Y. Cover

Professor



- “Sanctions and Consequences: Third-State Impacts and the Development of International Law in the Shadow of Unilateral Sanctions on Russia,” *100 University of Detroit Mercy Law Review* 441 (2023).

## Jonathan L. Entin

David L. Brennan Professor  
Emeritus of Law



- “Court Packing and Judicial Independence: An American Perspective,” *Judicial Independence: Cornerstone of Democracy* (Shimon Shetreet & Hiram Chodosh eds.) (2023).
- “Introduction to Symposium on America’s Classrooms: Frontlines of the First Amendment,” *73 Case Western Reserve Law Review* (2023).
- “Conservation Easements, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Administrative Procedure Act,” *Journal of Taxation of Investments* 27 (Summer 2022).
- “Introduction to Symposium on AEDPA and the PLRA After 25 Years,” *72 Case Western Reserve Law Review* 527 (2022).

## Victor Flatt

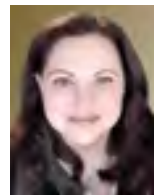
Professor



- “Smart Regulation To Enhance Wealth Creation & Sustainable Capitalism,” *Sustainable Capitalism: A Contradiction in Terms or Essential Work for the Anthropocene?* (2023) (with Inara Scott).
- “Rotting Under the Bridge: How False Data is Polluting Administrative Rulemaking,” *48 Columbia Journal of Environmental Law* (2023) (with Nicholas Bryner).
- “The Myth of State Surface Water Regulation: The 50 year flaw of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Jurisdictional Debate,” *52 Environmental Law* 331 (2023).
- “The Evolution of the ‘Waters of the United States’ and the Role of Economics,” *Review of Environmental Economics, Vol. 16, Issue 1* (2022) (with D. A. Keiser, S. M. Olmstead, K. J. Boyle, B. Keeler, D. J. Phaneuf, J. S. Shapiro and J. Shimshack).
- “Ethics & the Profession 2022 Annual Report,” *American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources Year in Review 2022* (2023).

## Shannon E. French, PhD

Inamori Professor of Ethics  
and School of  
Law professor



- “War and Technology: Should Data Decide Who Lives, Who Dies?,” *Ethics in the AI, Technology, and Information Age* 277 (Michael Boylan and Wanda Teays eds., 2022).

## Paul C. Giannelli

Albert J. Weatherhead  
III and Richard W.  
Weatherhead Professor  
Emeritus of Law,  
Distinguished University  
Professor



- *Katz & Giannelli Criminal Law* (3rd ed., 2022 update) (with Lewis R. Katz, Judith P. Lipton, Phyllis L. Crocker, John Martin and Jay Macke).
- *Ohio Criminal Laws and Rules* (2023 ed.) (with Lewis R. Katz).
- *Rules of Evidence Handbook* (2022 ed.).

### **Brian Gran, PhD**

**Professor of law and sociology**

- *Children's Rights and Independent Children's Rights Institutions* (Brian Gran and Agnes Lux, eds., 2022).
- "Pandemic Perils of Migrant Workers—Inequalities Intensified?," *Rapid Response on COVID-19* (2022) (with Reema Sen).
- "The European Network of Ombudspersons for Children," *Children's Rights and Independent Children's Rights Institutions* (Agnes Lux and Brian Gran eds., 2022) (with Robin Shura).
- "Why the United States Needs a National Children's Rights Ombudsperson," *Children's Rights and Independent Children's Rights Institutions* (Agnes Lux and Brian Gran eds., 2022).



### **Ayesha Bell Hardaway** **Professor**

- "The Rise of Police Unions on the Back of the Black Freedom Movement," 55 *Connecticut Law Review* 179 (2022).



### **B. Jessie Hill**

**Judge Ben C. Green**  
**Professor of Law**

- "History's Speech Acts," 108 *Iowa Law Review* (2023).
- "Religious Nondelegation," 54 *Loyola University Chicago Law Journal* (2023).
- "Unlimited Discretion: How Unchecked Bureaucratic Discretion Can Threaten Abortion Availability," *Journal of Health Politics, Policy & Law* (2023) (with Orlaith Heymann, Danielle Bessett, Alison Norris, Danielle Czarnecki, Hillary J. Gyuras, Meredith Pensak and Michelle L. McGowan).
- "Big, Bad Roe," 14 *ConLawNOW* 65 (2023).
- "Due Process, Delegation, and Private Veto Power," 108 *Iowa Law Review* 1199 (2023).
- "Right to Decisional Privacy," *Laws of Medicine: Core Legal Aspects for the Healthcare Professional* (Amirala Pasha ed., 2022).
- "Look Who's Talking: Conscience, Complicity, and Compelled Speech," 97 *Indiana Law Journal* 913 (2022).
- "Response to Wasserman and Rhodes: The Texas SB 8 Litigation and 'Our Formalism,'" 72 *American University Law Review Forum* 1 (2022).



- "Uprooting Roe," 12 *HLRe: Houston Law Review Online* 50 (2022) (with Mae Kuykendall).

### **Sharona Hoffman**

**Edgar A. Hahn**  
**Professor of Law**

- *Aging with a Plan: How a Little Thought Today Can Vastly Improve Your Tomorrow* (2d ed. 2022).
- "The Patient's Voice: Legal Implications of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures," 22 *Yale Journal of Health Policy, Law, and Ethics* (2023) (with Andy Podgurski).
- "Vulnerable Populations and Vaccine Injury Compensation: The Need for Legal Reform," *COVID-19 and the Law: Disruption, Impact and Legacy* (I. Glenn Cohen et al., eds., 2023) (with Katharine A. Van Tassel).
- "Cognitive Decline and the Workplace," 57 *Wake Forest Law Review* 115 (2022).
- "Interoperability in the Post-Roe Era: Sustaining Progress While Protecting Reproductive Health Information," 328 *Journal of the American Medical Association* 1703 (2022) (with Daniel Walker and Julia Adler-Milstein).
- "Physicians and Cognitive Decline: A Challenge for State Medical Boards," 108 *Journal of Medical Regulation* 19 (2022).
- "Privacy and Security - Protecting Patients' Health Information," 387 *New England Journal of Medicine* 1913 (2022).
- "Professional Speech at Scale," 55 *U.C. Davis Law Review* 2063 (2022) (with Cassandra Burke Robertson).
- "Sharing Clinical Notes: Potential Medical-Legal Benefits and Risks," 327 *Journal of the American Medical Association* 717 (2022) (with Charlotte Blease and I. Glenn Cohen).
- "Transcript: Presentation on Artificial Intelligence and Discrimination in Healthcare," 35 *Journal of Law and Health* 436 (2022).



### **Daniel A. Jaffe**

**Professor of lawyering skills**

- *Ohio School Law* (2022-2023 ed.) (with Richard D. Manoloff, Michael L. Sharb and W. Michael Hanna).



### **Erik M. Jensen**

**Coleman P. Burke Professor**  
**Emeritus of Law**

- "Recent Developments Affecting the SALT Cap, Including an Appellate Court Decision Upholding the Cap's Constitutionality," 39 (2) *Journal of Taxation of Investments* 65 (Winter 2022).
- "What's a Tax for Bankruptcy Law Purposes?," 29 (4) *Journal of Taxation of Investments* 49 (Summer 2022).
- "Tax Issues Affecting Marijuana Businesses," 67 *South Dakota Law Review* 465 (2022).
- "Washington's Capital Gains Tax Isn't an Income Tax," 40 (3) *Journal of Taxation of Investments* (Spring 2023).



### **Lewis R. Katz**

**John C. Hutchins Professor**  
**of Law Emeritus**

- *Katz & Giannelli Criminal Law* (3rd ed., 2022 and 2023 update) (with Paul C. Giannelli, Judith P. Lipton, Phyllis L. Crocker, John Martin and Jay Macke).
- *Ohio Criminal Laws and Rules* (2023) (with Paul C. Giannelli).
- *Ohio Search and Seizure* (2022 and 2023).



### **Juliet P. Kostritsky**

**Everett D. & Eugenia S. McCurdy Professor of Contract Law and director of the Center for Business Law**

- "The Hidden Cost of Contracting for ESG: A New Perspective on Private Ordering," 74 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* (2023).



### **Charles R. Korsmo**

**Morris G. Shanker**  
**Professor of Law**

- "What Do Stockholders Own? The Rise of the Trading Price Paradigm in Corporate Law," 47 *Journal of Corporation Law* 676 (2022).



### **Judith P. Lipton**

**Honorable Blanche E. Krupansky and Frank W. Vargo Jr. Professor Emerita**

- *Katz & Giannelli Criminal Law* (3rd ed., 2022 update) (with Lewis R. Katz, Paul C. Giannelli, Phyllis L. Crocker, John Martin and Jay Macke).



**Cathy Lesser Mansfield**  
*Senior instructor*

- “It Takes a Thief... and a Bank: Protecting Consumers From Fraud and Scams on P2P Payment Platforms,” *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform* (2023).



**Maxwell J. Mehlman**  
*Arthur E. Petersilge Professor of Law, Distinguished University Professor*

- “Governing Nonconventional Genetic Experimentation,” 10 *Oxford Journal of Law and the Biosciences* 1 (2023) (with Ronald A. Conlon, and Alex Pearlman).
- “Ethical and Legal Implications of Advances in Genetics,” *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Health Law* (David Orentlicher and Tamara K. Hervey eds., 2022) 919-988 (with Sonia Suter and Mette Hartlev).



**Kevin C. McMunigal**  
*Professor*

- “When do Misleading Statements Cross the Disciplinary Line?,” 37 *Criminal Justice* 46 (2023) (with Peter A. Joy).
- “The Ethics of Trump’s Shadow Lawyers?,” 69 *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy* 127 (2022) (with Peter A. Joy).
- “Ethics: Paying Witnesses’ Attorneys,” 37 *Criminal Justice* 52 (2022) (with Peter A. Joy).
- “Burdens of Proof and Choice of Law” in *Evidential Legal Reasoning: Crossing Civil Law and Common Law Traditions* 361 (Jordi Ferrer Beltra’n and Carmen Va’zquez eds., 2023).
- *Evidence Law: A Student’s Guide to the Law of Evidence as Applied in American Trials* (5th ed. 2022).



**Alireza Nourani-Dargiri**  
*Legal Writing, Leadership, Experiential Learning, Advocacy and Professionalism fellow*

- “Words We Manifest: How to Amplify Diverse Voices Through Course Materials in Lawyering Skills Courses,” 27 *Legal Writing* 273 (2023).



- “World’s Response to Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine Illuminates the International Community’s Double Standard in Addressing International Law Violations,” 100 *University of Detroit Mercy Law Review* 101 (2023).
- “The Injustice of Life Without Parole Sentences for Child Defendants,” 28 *Texas Journal on Civil Liberties & Civil Rights* (2023) (with Thaddeus Cwiklinski).

**Andrew S. Pollis**  
*Professor*

- *Ohio Appellate Practice* (2022-2023 ed.) (with Mark P. Painter).
- “The Appellate Judge as The Thirteenth Juror: Combating Implicit Bias in Criminal Convictions,” 95 *Temple Law Review* 1 (2022).
- “Enforcing the Fiduciary Duties of Class Representatives: A Response to Professors Green and Kent,” 72 *Florida Law Review Forum* 153 (2022).



**Robert N. Rapp**  
*Visiting assistant professor*

- *Blue Sky Regulation* (2nd ed. 2022-2023 updates).



**Cassandra Burke Robertson**

*John Deaver Drinko-BakerHostetler Professor of Law*

- “Adopting Nationality,” 98 *Washington Law Review* (2023) (with Irina Manta).
- “Litigating Partial Autonomy,” 109 *Iowa Law Review* (2023).
- *Baldwin’s Ohio Practice: Civil Practice* (2022 ed.).
- “Integral Citizenship,” 100 *Texas Law Review* 1325 (2022) (with Irina Manta).
- “Professional Speech at Scale,” 55 *UC Davis Law Review* 2063 (2022) (with Sharona Hoffman).
- “The United States Experience,” *Research Handbook On Extraterritoriality In International Law* (Austen Parrish and Cedric Ryngaert, eds., 2022).



**Mathew Rossman**  
*Professor*

- “Cultivating the Skills of In-House Counsel in a Law School Clinic,” *Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal* (February 2023) 36.



**Michael P. Scharf**  
*Dean and Joseph C. Hostetler - BakerHostetler Professor of Law*

- “Power Shift: The Return of the Uniting for Peace Resolution,” 55 *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 217 (2023).
- “Foreword: International Law and the New Cold War,” 55 *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 1 (2023) (with Emma Peters).
- “Bridging the Divide Between the ICC and UN Security Council,” 52 *Georgetown Journal of International Law* 977 (2022) (with Laura Graham).
- “Foreword: The Academy and International Law: A Catalyst for Change and Innovation,” 54 *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 1 (2022) (with Caroline R. Cirillo).
- “Hugo Grotius and the Concept of Grotian Moments in International Law,” 54 *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 17 (2022).



**Katharine A. Van Tassel**  
*Visiting professor*

- *Food and Drug Administration* (4th, 2022-1, 2022-2, 2023-1, 2023-2 ed.).
- “United States of America,” *International Encyclopedia of Laws: Medical Law* (2023).
- “Vulnerable Populations and Vaccine Injury Compensation: The Need for Legal Reform,” *COVID-19 and the Law: Disruption, Impact and Legacy* (I. Glenn Cohen et al., eds., 2023) (with Sharona Hoffman).



**Andrew A. Zashin**  
*Adjunct professor*

- “Jewish Divorce,” *Baldwin’s Ohio Practice, Domestic Relations Law* §33:32 (Beatrice K. Sowald and Stanley Morganstern eds., 2022).



# Distinguished speakers

## Experts visit the School of Law to share insights

Case Western Reserve University School of Law regularly hosts in-person and virtual events that allow students, alumni and professionals to expand their legal expertise in urgent and emerging topics in law. Here are just a few events that took place over the last year.

### Reflections on international justice



*Fatou Bensouda*

In her last few weeks as chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2021, Fatou Bensouda visited Darfur refugee camps with her ICC delegation.

As she walked among the refugees, “One could see the enthusiasm ... their hunger for justice, their hope for a change in their circumstances through justice was loud,” she recalled. “It was undeniable.” And it was a stark reminder of the gravity of her work prosecuting war criminals.

Bensouda shared this story at the Cox Center’s Bruce J. Klatsky Endowed Distinguished Lecture in Human Rights, which took place last year.

The international commitment to prosecuting war crimes and atrocities has deepened since the ICC was established in 1998 with the Rome Statute, the founding treaty of the ICC.

“The underlying principle [of the Rome Statute] is clear,” Bensouda explained during her talk. “Impunity is no longer an option, and everyone, regardless of their position or rank, may be held individually accountable for their criminal acts.”

Bensouda noted an important paradigm shift she observed during her tenure: a broadening acceptance that the protection of one person’s human rights benefits all. “We, as peoples and nations of the world,” she said, “embrace the notion that no longer should the perpetrators of the world’s most heinous crimes be allowed to escape justice,” she said. “It’s such a powerful idea.”

**Watch Bensouda’s remarks:**



*Monte Mills delivered a presentation at the School of Law last spring.*

### Fighting for the future of public lands

In March, the Burke Center for Environmental Law hosted Monte Mills, the Charles I. Stone Professor of Law and director of the Native American Law Center at University of Washington School of Law, to discuss the history and management of public lands in the United States, and the impact it has on indigenous people.

Historically speaking, the United States viewed tribal nations as dependent on the United States federal government, Mills explained. As the United States expanded ever westward, it forced indigenous people from their lands, laying claim to them through treaties—agreements which the federal government seldom honored.

Today, tribal nations continue to fight for their sacred sites and for what was promised to them in centuries-old treaties. Mills asserted that, although justice takes time, treaties “remain powerful avenues through which tribes can assert their protections for off-reservation resources.” With continued persistence, he predicts “a coming revolution in the management of our federal lands.”

**Watch Mills’ presentation:**



## Ukraine crisis

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has been top of mind for international law experts around the world, and the Cox Center has been at the forefront of discussions about the impact of the crisis on international law.



*Sean Murphy*



*Beth van Schaack*

Last fall, the law school hosted “International Law and the New Cold War,” a conference that was an intensive look into how the Russian invasion of Ukraine has transformed international law and institutions.

In his morning keynote speech, Sean Murphy, a member of the United Nations International Law Commission and Manatt/Ahn Professor of International Law at George Washington University Law School, answered the question of whether the United States is facing a “new Cold War” with Russia or China—or both countries simultaneously.

“If there is some kind of new Cold War, it is not of the type we experienced prior to 1990,” Murphy explained during his speech at the Tinkham Veale University Center Ballroom. “The Cold War of today is best understood as a conflict between states that favor liberal democracy and states that favor authoritarianism.”

The conference’s experts addressed three areas of international law that will be most impacted by the rise of authoritarian regimes: the maintenance of peace and security, human rights and economics.

United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice Beth van Schaack delivered the second keynote address over lunch, during which she discussed the attempt to ensure accountability for atrocities committed in Ukraine and across the world.

**Watch “International Law and the New Cold War” conference:**



## When algorithms go wrong

To confront the overdose crisis in the United States, the federal government implemented state-funded prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) that surveil controlled substances such as opioids. When a patient is prescribed opioids, it’s tracked in a statewide database—usually without their knowledge.

PDMPs, designed by law enforcement, use algorithms to assign risk scores said to predict which patients will develop substance abuse disorders. These patients are “red-flagged” in the state’s database.

The problem? The algorithm is only as good as the data it is given. So if that data is incomplete, based on faulty assumptions or rooted in racial bias, the recommendations made by the algorithm will be similarly flawed—and in the case of PDMPs, it would use bad data to unfairly label patients as high risk for substance abuse disorder.

To bring awareness to this issue, the Law-Medicine Center at CWRU School of Law hosted a presentation by Jennifer Oliva, professor and co-director of University of California Law San Francisco’s Consortium on Law, Science and Public Health Policy. In her presentation, Oliva suggested remedies to address the discrimination embedded in the algorithm—one of which was the reasonable expectation and the third-party doctrine’s limiting principles of voluntary disclosure.

“State law mandates that the dispenser enter this [patient’s] information,” Oliva explained. “Most patients don’t even know that this is going on. There’s no voluntary disclosure at all.”

**Watch Oliva’s talk:**



# Team effort

## School of Law students shine in moot court and mock trial competitions

Over the last year, Case Western Reserve University School of Law excelled in prestigious moot court and mock trial competitions. This success was hard-earned by students and faculty coaches who invested thousands of hours of research, writing and practice arguments.

## The Jessup Competition

World's oldest and most prestigious international moot court competition  
Sponsored by the International Law Students Association

**700**  
universities

**100+**  
countries

**2,000+**  
competitors

### THE TEAM



(Left to right) Brianna Schmidt, Elise Manchester, William Baker, Sydney Warinner and Ellen Buerk.

### THE TASK

Address the legality of attacks against terrorists, treatment of detained terrorists and shipping hazardous waste abroad.

### THE TRIUMPH

*In February's regional competition in Chicago...*

- Overall Winner
- Best Brief Award
- Best Oralist Award, Sydney Warinner
- 4th Best Oralist Award, Elise Manchester

*In April's world championship in Washington, D.C. ...*

- Undefeated during preliminary rounds
- Ranked 2nd in the world based on briefs and preliminary round oral scores
- Placed 3rd for best brief
- World's Best Oralist Award, Elise Manchester (only student in history to win the honor two years in a row)
- 13th Best oralist, Sydney Warinner



# The International Criminal Court Moot Court Competition

World's largest competition on international criminal law  
Sponsored by the International Bar Association

**100+**  
teams

**50+**  
countries

**5**  
teams from the Americas qualify  
for the spring international round  
at The Hague in The Netherlands

## THE TASK

Argue whether “ecocide” could be prosecuted as a crime against humanity.

## THE TRIUMPH

*In March’s Americas round in White Plains, New York...*

- 3rd Place Memorial and 3rd Place Oralist (Prosecutor), Kelsey Tschanen
- 3rd Place Oralist (Government), Spencer Luckwitz
- Finalist in the Americas Competition, earning a berth in the International Rounds

## THE TEAM



*Top row (left to right): Denakpon Tchobo, Kelsey Tschanen, Lucas Christiansen and Spencer Luckwitz. Bottom row (left to right): Madeline McDaniel and Rose Lekan.*

# Case Classic Mock Trial Competition

Among the country's first mock trial competitions each year  
Hosted at the Cleveland Justice Center in part by  
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

**24**  
teams

**7**  
states

**4**  
rounds

## THE TEAMS



*Ault Mock Trial Team (left to right)  
Elizabeth Martinez, Meghan Lanter,  
Jenna Heini, Jacob Cohen*



*Ault Mock Trial Team (left to right): Jacob  
DeBaltzo, Kelsey Moore, Coach Joseph  
Shell (LAW '20), Pammy Boulas, Michaela  
Guyot-Polverini*

## THE TASK

Prosecute or defend a case in which an attorney was charged with murdering a judge who had just ruled against the attorney in a prior trial.

## THE TRIUMPH

- Advanced to semifinals in Cleveland

# National Trial Competition

The oldest and most prestigious mock trial competition in the country.  
Sponsored by Texas Young Lawyers Association and American College of Trial Lawyers

**300**  
teams

**50**  
states

**30**  
teams advance to  
national rounds



# Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition

Sponsored by the National Black Law Students Association

Develops courtroom presence, oral advocacy and legal researching skills

**100+**

**schools in 7 regions**

**15**

**teams in the  
midwest region**

**3**

**teams in each region advance  
to the national rounds**

## THE TASK

Prosecute or defend a case in which a police officer is accused of excessive force by a plaintiff with an outstanding warrant and a history of diagnosed anxiety.

## THE TRIUMPH

- 1st place at the midwest regional in Chicago
- 2nd place at national competition in Washington, D.C.

## THE TEAM



*Case Western Reserve University's Black Law Students Association mock trial team (left to right): Nneka Onyekwuluje, Aanya Myrie-Silburn, Ryn Wayman, Tyler Tipton, Xavier Poplawski, Thomas Lipker, and Coach McClellon Cox*

## THE TASK

Prosecute or defend the liability of a self-driving car company in a wrongful death suit.

## THE TRIUMPH

- Regional champions in Cleveland
- Advanced to national quarterfinal round for the second consecutive year in San Antonio

## THE TEAM



*Ault Mock Trial Team (left to right): Coach Bradley Ouambo (LAW '17), Dave Walters, Veronika Bondarenko, Andrew Thompson, Ryn Wayman, Jordan Weeks, and Coach Lauren Tuttle (LAW '17)*

# Rising leaders

## Meet two law students learning to change the world

Law students often aspire to make the world a better place once they enter the field. But at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, our students don't wait until graduation. Here are two who are already making an impact.



**Name:**  
Emily Worline

**Level:**  
Third-year law student

**Career goal:**  
To open her own immigration law clinic

**What makes a good leader?**  
“Someone who is prepared to learn from others around them and adjust course when they learn of ideas better than their own.”

**Emily Worline** was working in refugee camps in Greece in 2016 when her perspective on immigration was upended.

“I was shocked by the ease at which some people migrated, and the inability of others to do so,” she explained. “Some could migrate freely and others could not due to European officials’ perception of their nationality.”

She saw people from Middle Eastern countries—many of whom had fled their homes to escape war and instability—sleeping along freeways and crowded into makeshift tents.

What’s worse, she witnessed the violent measures Greek and Macedonian officials used to prevent migrants from moving into Europe, including shooting tear gas and rubber bullets directly into their encampments.

Driven by this experience, Worline sought to make changes at home. In her first year as an undergraduate at Kalamazoo College, she reached out to a resettlement agency in Michigan to see how she could help. She soon learned they needed apartment furnishings for those resettling to the area.

So she got to work.

After a successful furniture drive, she and her teammates took their next step, creating Refugee Outreach Collective (ROC), a volunteer-run nonprofit that leverages university resources and networks to expand access to educational opportunities for those who have experienced forced displacement.

The organization now has nine student chapters and an accredited college degree program in Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Malawi, which is based on a partnership with Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan Community College. Last year, Worline brought ROC to CWRU. Here, ROC volunteers partnered with the law school’s Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic for the Work Permit Initiative, which helped 72 clients secure the ability to work in the United States while they complete their asylum application process. This summer, ROC at Case Western Reserve added the Pro Se Asylum Application project, which assists eligible individuals in applying for asylum in the United States.

Worline still has another year left of law school, but she plans to keep ROC alive by continuing to lead the organization in Michigan, even after she graduates. It’s a way to give back, she said, for what ROC has given her.

“ROC has provided me many unique opportunities to learn from people from all over the world,” Worline said.

When **Ikenna Ezealah, PhD** walked into the General Assembly Hall at the United Nations in Geneva this winter, he could feel the weight of history.

“A lot of decisions that have affected the globe have occurred in this room,” he recalled thinking at the time.

Rather than feel daunted, Ezealah felt assurance.

“Just sitting there, it felt that ... this is where I belong,” he said. “My aspirations to become a diplomat were affirmed.”

Ezealah was enrolled in a three-week program last winter that he describes as the “perfect fit:” the United Nations Immersion Programme for Multilateral Diplomacy.

Through webinars and a five-day visit to Geneva for lectures, guided tours, visits to U.N. agencies and more, the program aims to equip participants with diplomacy knowledge and skills, empower them to work more effectively and efficiently in any international environment, and offer access to the U.N.’s institutions and staff to build networks and gain career insights.

With the law school’s support, Ezealah signed up for the session, in which he learned about the history, objectives and structure of the U.N. He was inspired.

“The program confirmed that my qualities and goals reflect the profile of the next generation of U.N. leadership,” Ezealah said. “The international arena of vision setting, governance and creating initiatives that drive global development is my element.”

Then, with funding from the law school’s Cox International Law Center, Ezealah interned this summer in Geneva at the International Trade Center, a multilateral agency that has a joint mandate with the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. In addition, Ezealah participated in the Summer Diplomatic Program of Washington International Diplomatic Academy in Washington, D.C.

It’s all core to his goal of one day working for the U.N.—what he calls “the premier diplomatic organization.”

Ezealah was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and emigrated to the United States with his family as a 10-year-old. “I’m a son of two worlds—the West and Africa,” he said of his upbringing.

Because he belongs to both communities, he explained, he intends to give back by becoming a diplomat who furthers the development of the African people.

“In nature, a tree doesn’t eat its own fruit. It bears fruit for its environment,” said Ezealah. “In the same way, we’re meant to bear fruit through our abilities, to render a service to our community.”



**Name:**

**Ikenna Ezealah, PhD**

**Level:**

Second-year law student

**Career goal:**

To become a nation-building diplomat for the African people

**What does it take to be a leader?**

“The sincere love for the welfare of a people.”

# In the press

Case Western Reserve University School of Law faculty members are regularly sought for their assessments of the latest breaking legal news around the world. Here are a few examples of how they weighed in on pressing issues over the last year.



“[The tactics of disinformation are] as old as the Jim Crow era of attempting to disenfranchise people of color, going back to voter intimidation and suppression efforts after the Civil Rights Act of 1866.”

—Atiba Ellis, Laura B. Chisholm Distinguished Research Scholar and Professor of Law, to *Associated Press* about disinformation in presidential elections



“These are hazardous chemicals and have potential health impacts if they contaminate our air and water. So it’s really important that we make sure that the cleanup efforts are really looking at this on a long-term basis.”

—Miranda Leppla, director of the Environmental Law Clinic, to *ABC News* about the toxic chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio

Over the last year, School of Law faculty were quoted in **1,365+** articles in high-profile media outlets such as:

ABC News	Reuters
Associated Press	Talking Points Memo
Bloomberg	The Atlantic
Business Insider	The Boston Globe
CBS News	The Christian Science Monitor
CNN	The New York Times
Forbes	The Washington Post
Fortune Magazine	USA Today
Los Angeles Times	U.S. News & World Report
NBC News	Vox
NPR	Washington Examiner
Politico	Yahoo News
Raw Story	



“[The election fraud charges] go to the heart of our political system. In that sense, they’re really serious. They’re potentially more serious than the [charges filed in the] classified documents situation.”

—Jonathan Entin, David L. Brennan Professor Emeritus of Law, to *USA Today* about the federal indictment of former President Trump for trying to overturn the 2020 presidential election



“It’s misleading. It rings of a regular traffic stop, when in fact we know that these were not officers on patrol looking for speeding. I wonder what prompted them to call out this incident and to acknowledge it at all.”

—**Ayesha Bell Hardaway**, professor and director of the Social Justice Law Center, to *Associated Press* about the Memphis Police Department’s statement on the arrest of Tyree Nichols, who died after being taken into police custody

“The justices vote in line with our ideological expectations. But on the issues that haven’t been really the focus of attention, they don’t conform because the questions don’t immediately fit into our prior notions of where a conservative or a liberal justice fits.”



—**Jonathan Adler**, Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law, to *CNN* about the U.S. Supreme Court justices’ June 2023 rulings

## Cited by the highest court

In June, the work of **Erik Jensen**, the Coleman P. Burke Professor Emeritus of Law, was cited by the highest court in the land.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas pointed to Jensen’s article in a 35-page dissent in *Health & Hospital Corp of Marion County v. Talevski* (2023).



The article, published in 2014 in *Northwestern University Law Review*, was about the 16th Amendment, which grants Congress the authority to issue an income tax without having to determine it based on population. The case was about whether individuals could sue for violations of spending legislation, in which the federal government offers money to the states with certain conditions. Citing Jensen’s article, Thomas argued that individuals can sue only to redress “the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws,” and that legislation enacted pursuant to Congress’s spending power does not “secure” rights by “law.”







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# A DECADE OF DEANSHIP

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Deans Michael Scharf and Jessica Berg have set a strong example for collaborative leadership

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By Daniel Robison

Sometimes Dean **Michael Scharf** brings a prop to meetings—a cowbell made famous by a *Saturday Night Live* skit in which a music producer repeatedly calls for a song to have “more cowbell.”

“The cowbell helps make a point when we’re being too cautious,” said Scharf. “Leaders can’t afford to do that—we have to experiment and move forward.”

Fellow dean **Jessica Berg** is known for providing balance, approaching decisions methodically after careful consideration.

“And I can tell you,” Scharf said, laughing, “a lot of times that’s saved our bacon.”

“We may have different styles, but we have a lot in common,” Berg said. “We’re both very energetic and highly collaborative.”

Consensus-building and open communication—with each other and the law school’s constituents—have been hallmarks of their decade of deanship.

Under their leadership, the law school has expanded degree programs, grown enrollment and set school records for fundraising, among other accomplishments.

What’s more, their co-deanship is the longest-ever at any U.S. law school—and among the longest at any U.S. university.



*Deans Scharf and Berg stand with a group of School of Law graduates in 2016*

“They’re the poster team. When anyone talks about whether co-deans can work, everybody always points to Michael and Jessica as the example to show it can be done,” said Andrew Strauss, dean of the University of Dayton School of Law.

“It’s a tough thing to pull off,” he added, “but they have real chemistry.”

### **Motion carried**

The deanship did not begin with visions of a long-term partnership. Berg and Scharf assumed the roles unexpectedly in the middle of a semester, stepping in during a difficult time at the law school.

“We walked in from day one saying we were not interested in being in a holding pattern,” said Berg.

Facing sharp declines in enrollment and revenue, the then-acting (and later, interim) deans created a plan to stabilize finances, restore trust in the school’s leadership, and address other immediate and long-term needs.

“They didn’t suggest they had a magic formula to solve every problem,” said

**“Yes, they’re deans, but they’re not at such a lofty place. They’re right in front of students—and that matters.”**

—Jonathan Entin

**Jonathan Entin**, professor emeritus of law who was on the faculty for 40 years. “But they understood this place and moved us forward together.”

### **Direct appeal**

Since being named full deans in 2015, Berg and Scharf have leaned into the advantage of having two people tackle the workload.

A division of labor “allows us to literally be in two places at once,” said Berg.

Each dean is responsible for particular facets of the job. Berg handles finances, facilities and human

resources; Scharf oversees marketing, communications, international programs and faculty meetings.

With strategic thinking and planning, Berg and Scharf discuss, deliberate and make decisions together.

They tag-team on things like fundraising events, attending together or taking turns.

“I never feel as if we have half a dean at our meetings,” said **Nicole Braden Lewis (LAW ’01)**, president of the Law Alumni Association Board, which hosts Berg and Scharf frequently. “Whoever is with us speaks on behalf of them both. Frankly, it’s given us more time with leadership.”

Duty-splitting means at least one dean is almost always in Cleveland, which has created the presence of stability at the law school, said **Sharona Hoffman**, the Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law.

“The continuity they’ve brought has been a huge advantage,” said Hoffman, who has been on the faculty for 24 years. “It’s allowed faculty to place more focus on our work.”



## New standard

During the deanship, the law school's faculty have been recognized with new distinctions in teaching, research and advocacy. The deans are credited with shoring up many of the school's specialty areas, solidifying experiential education as a standout strength by opening new law clinics, and introducing unique degree programs that draw on international partnerships.

"They've been distinctly successful in being creative and entrepreneurial," said Robert B. Ahdieh, dean of the Texas A&M University School of Law. "They have a reputation as deans who are not afraid to try new things, and our fellow deans hold them highly in that regard."

Berg and Scharf also make regular efforts to build morale, emphasizing community-building and organizing social events—including regular get-togethers at which Scharf's faculty-student band, Razing the Bar, plays classic rock for students, faculty and staff (see p. 51).

"We both enjoy our jobs," said Berg. "And we want other people to enjoy their work, too."

Added Scharf, "Having fun is one way to make a community, and that's important to us."

**Gabe Kaufman (LAW '23)** can testify to it. As an 8-year-old, he had Scharf as a youth hockey coach. When Kaufman enrolled as a law student years later, he immediately recognized the dean's infectious enthusiasm.

"Scharf is a great cheerleader for the school—a permanently jovial man," said Kaufman, who served as Student



"Having fun is one way to make a community, and that's important to us."

—Michael Scharf



Bar Association president and met often with the deans to discuss student concerns and suggestions.

"Both deans are great listeners," said Kaufman, now an associate at Thompson Hine. "They understand there are 500 stress-filled future lawyers in the building, so they go out of their way to create a positive learning environment that also prepares us to practice."

Even with all the responsibilities of the position, both Scharf and Berg continue to teach regularly to stay connected with students.

"It conveys an important message," said Entin. "Yes, they're deans, but they're not at such a lofty place. They're right in front of students—and that matters."

## Sustained

In recent years, many areas of the law school have received significant makeovers, thanks to alumni gifts. The renovations have made the building's interior both familiar and revived—apt symbolism for the deans' effect on the institution.

Looking ahead, Berg and Scharf speak of capitalizing on gains, including establishing a "game-changing" scholarship fund to provide opportunity for future students—just one of an ambitious array of goals.

In other words—more compromise, collaboration ... and cowbell.

"Nobody really knew if this was going to work," said Scharf. "But we also couldn't have anticipated it working out so well."

# Reflecting on accomplishments

Deans' partnership spans a decade of wins for the School of Law

## Reforming curriculum

In their first year as co-deans, **Michael Scharf** and **Jessica Berg** oversaw the rollout of a new curriculum with an emphasis on experiential education. The law school expanded its research and writing course into a three-semester series, renaming it Legal writing, Leadership, Experiential learning, Advocacy and Professionalism (LLEAP I, II and III). LLEAP I and II included innovative content on leadership and business principles, and added a first-year client experience. The most significant change was the introduction of LLEAP III, a simulation course with a deep dive into either litigation or transactions. In addition, the law school expanded its second-year labs and added a third-year capstone semester, during which students choose an intensive clinical experience or an external externship. Within a few years, CWRU was widely recognized as a national leader in experiential education. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, *preLaw* magazine ranked CWRU among the top 10 law schools for practical training.



2013



*Berg and Scharf signing agreement with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences*

2014

## Attaining financial stability

A few months before Deans Berg and Scharf took the reins, the law school's entering class had been reduced by more than 50% to avoid a drop in incoming credentials in the midst of the steep national decline in applications. To tackle the resulting revenue shortfall, the deans developed a comprehensive recovery plan, which was approved by the university's Board of Trustees in 2014. Through cost containment, new revenue-generating measures and increased fundraising, the deans steadily reduced the law school's deficit to near equilibrium over the next nine years. They spearheaded

the launch of new programs including: a joint LLM program in International Commercial Law and Dispute Resolution with Southwest University of Political Science and Law in China; a Master of Financial Integrity program at Naif Arab University for Security Sciences in Saudi Arabia; a Master of Compliance and Risk Management; the foreign LLM "plus" program and an optional spring start JD program. And in 2024, the School of Law will launch a part-time online program that recently received university and ABA approval (see p. 6).



*Scharf signing agreement with Southwest University of Political Science and Law*

## Improving the bar pass rate

The deans worked with faculty on a multi-pronged initiative to improve the bar pass rate for CWRU School of Law students. The initiative required closed book exams in bar-tested subjects and added additional required courses to the upper class curriculum. The initiative also included a conditional scholarship for commercial bar prep courses, which requires completion of 90% of the practice questions. By 2016, CWRU jumped from 7th to 4th place in bar pass rates among Ohio law schools, and ranked 1st in 2017, 2019 and 2020. That year CWRU celebrated a 95% pass rate, which was the 20th best of any U.S. law school.



2015

2016

## Emphasizing diversity

CWRU became the second law school in the nation to add an associate dean for diversity and inclusion to its ranks. In 2020, the deans hired Professor **Bryan Adamson (LAW '90)** to carry on the work of the inaugural diversity associate dean. In subsequent years, the School of Law established the Dean's Cabinet for Diversity and Inclusion; entered into strategic partnerships with a dozen historically Black colleges and universities; opened the Social Justice Law Center; created a summer jumpstart program; launched the Academy for Inclusive Leadership Development; and initiated Race, Law & Society, a course taught in small sections by a dozen faculty members. The investments in diversity and inclusion continue to pay off. Last year, 23% of the incoming juris doctorate class was composed of students who identify as a member of an underrepresented group—the largest percentage in the school's history.



## Reflecting on accomplishments (continued)



### Marking 125 years

The deans' celebration of the law school's 125th anniversary included the production of a commemorative book and video and an alumni and faculty dinner at the Western Reserve Historical Society. CWRU School of Law alumni, faculty and students fought for immigrant rights in the midst of an executive order from then-President Trump that banned nationals from seven Muslim-majority countries. Meanwhile, the IP Venture Law Clinic added an office and conference room, and the law school's moot courtroom was updated thanks to a gift from BakerHostetler, a Cleveland law firm.

2017



*Scharf and Hewitt Shaw, then-managing partner at BakerHostetler, celebrate the renovation of the moot court room with a ribbon cutting*

2018



*(Left to right): Michael Scharf, Michael Benza, Carmen Naso and Jessica Berg holding up the Bail Reform Task Force report*

### Engaging the community

Through its clinics, labs and other initiatives, the School of Law strives to improve the community and the world. Deans Berg and Scharf joined **Lee Fisher (LAW '76)**, dean of Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, to co-chair the Bail Task Force convened by Cuyahoga County Judge John Russo, which developed major reform proposals in 2018. In addition, the School of Law's Criminal Justice Clinic helped reverse the conviction of two innocent men who spent 18 years in prison; the Health Law Clinic provided assistance to community members struggling to obtain disability benefits; and the Community Development Clinic helped launch local businesses and facilitated the redevelopment of the once blighted Hough neighborhood. That same year, the law school also launched the Yemen Accountability Project to document war crimes in Yemen's civil war for eventual international prosecution.



Mark Weinberger



John Majoras

## Fundraising success

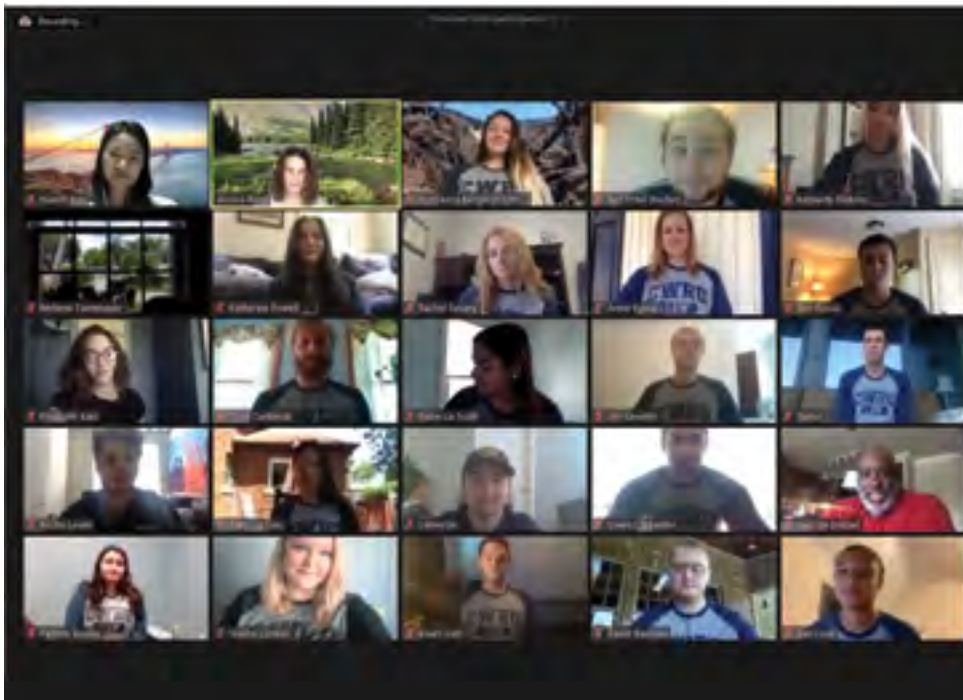
The university's Forward Thinking fundraising campaign came to an end in 2019 with the School of Law exceeding its initial \$25 million goal by \$33 million for a total of \$58 million. Major gifts included new chaired professorships and endowed scholarships; funding for the Law, Technology & the Arts Center and Law-Medicine Center; and \$10 million from alumnus **Coleman Burke (LAW '70)** to establish the Burke Center for Environmental Law. Under the leadership of Berg and Scharf, the law school has increased its endowment (now ranked 32nd largest of any law school) from \$77 million to \$127 million. This year, the deans launched an ambitious initiative to raise \$20 million to endow scholarships, starting with generous donations from co-chairs **Mark Weinberger (LAW '87, MGT '87)** and **John Majoras (LAW '86)** as well as other members of the Endowed Scholarship Committee.

2019

2020

## Overcoming challenges

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic required teaching, meetings, events, moot court competitions, internships and even commencement to be moved online for nearly a year. New technology and training were quickly introduced as the law school entered the world of virtual education. A few months later, shocking incidents of police brutality set off national and local protests. In response, the deans, faculty and students formulated and implemented an ambitious action plan to integrate racial justice more comprehensively into the curriculum, advocate more effectively for reform at local and national levels, and foster a more equitable, inclusive and welcoming environment at the law school and in our community.



School of Law students meet for class via Zoom in 2020

# Reflecting on accomplishments (continued)

## Enhancing facilities

With gifts from Roe Green, George Simon (LAW '96), and the law firms of Elk & Elk and BakerHostetler, the deans oversaw extensive renovations at the School of Law, including the upper rotunda, student lounge (renamed Ben's Place), moot courtroom and faculty lounge. New high-tech spaces were created, such as the Active Learning Classroom, Telepresence Room and the IP Venture Clinic. In addition, these and other gifts enabled the school to make classroom upgrades, install two large media walls as well as new carpeting throughout the school, and reorganize and refresh student spaces.



*Renovated classroom in Gund Hall*



*The Active Learning Classroom*

2021

2022

## Gaining new grants

In recent years, grant funding enabled the law school to hire fellows and clinical attorneys and to expand the number of clinics from four to 10. New clinics include the Environmental Law Clinic, First Amendment Law Clinic, IP Venture Clinic, Human Trafficking Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, Second Chance Reentry Clinic and Appellate Litigation Clinic. In 2022, the law school secured a record \$4.5 million in grants to support the cutting-edge work of its social justice, health law, reproductive rights and international law initiatives.



*Law school students relax in Gund Hall in between classes*

## Growing the team

Law scholars Paul Heald and Ted Sichelman rank CWRU School of Law faculty 30th in the nation based on downloads of their scholarship. Meanwhile, scholars Gregory Sisk and Brian Leiter rank CWRU 36th best based on publication citations. And *Princeton Review* rates the School of Law 26th for quality of teaching. In 2023, after years of limited hiring, the law school appointed four new tenured lateral professors—**Atiba Ellis** (elections and civil rights law), **Eric Chaffee** (business and tax law), **Betsy Rosenblatt** (IP law) and **Victor Flatt** (environmental law)—to fill curricular needs and bring new energy and direction in strategic areas. Earlier this year, **Ayesha Bell Hardaway (LAW '04)**, who gained national recognition for her work and her role as interim monitor overseeing Cleveland police reform, was promoted to full professor with tenure. Additionally, **Jack Turner (LAW '02)**, who teaches in and directs the LLM program, was promoted to full professor. And **Anat Alon-Beck**, a nationally recognized expert in business law with an online weekly column in *Forbes*, earned promotion to associate professor.



Anat Alon-Beck



Eric Chaffee



Atiba Ellis



Victor Flatt



Ayesha Bell Hardaway



Betsy Rosenblatt



Jack Turner

2023

## A decade of noteworthy numbers



**Best median LSAT score** in School of Law history (160)

**Highest median GPA** in School of Law history (3.70)

**Greatest diversity** in student body in School of Law history (23%)

**Employment rate** of graduates more than 90%

**Top 30 ranking** of its faculty

**Top 10 ranking** of its experiential education program

**“A” rankings** in 12 specialty areas

**Top 10 ranking** of mock trial and moot court teams

# From classroom



*CWRU law student Maryam Assar and Professor Andrew S. Pollis discuss some of their work at the Appellate Litigation Clinic.*

# to courtroom

Students were at the heart of high-profile cases and everyday advocacy this year, establishing new standards and pursuing just outcomes for clients

**By Daniel Robison**



The February derailment of a Norfolk Southern freight train carrying hazardous materials in East Palestine, Ohio, made international headlines for weeks.

The fallout from the incident is far from over—with dozens of class-action and individual lawsuits, in addition to state and federal cases, stemming from the ecological disaster that included the open-air burning of vinyl chloride and other toxic chemicals.

Working with numerous nonprofit organizations dedicated to legal and environmental matters, the Environmental Law Clinic at Case Western Reserve University School of Law hosted free legal clinics in April and June in the small eastern Ohio town.

As the Environmental Protection Agency-led cleanup—and the concerns about soil, water and air quality—continued, students met with residents to review their legal documents, helping them interpret details of releases, liability waivers and other files. They offered referrals to legal services to help navigate access to Norfolk Southern funds to compensate for damages to property, health and businesses.

“It’s critical that citizens understand their rights and processes in difficult situations like this, where there can be rampant misinformation and rumors,” said **Miranda Leppla**, director of the clinic, which launched in the fall of 2022. “We’ll continue to offer unbiased advice on an array of topics—from housing and property damage issues, to questions about safe drinking water and eating local vegetation.”



*Miranda Leppla*

*“Students are cutting their teeth on the entire experience. They put themselves into it with passion and gusto that sometimes isn’t there in the actual practice of law.”*

—Andrew Pollis, director of the Appellate Litigation Clinic

In the months ahead, the clinic will continue its presence in East Palestine, planning another spate of legal consultation events, partnering with the law school’s Health Law Clinic, as well as River Valley Organizing, Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services and others.

“Many folks have descended on the town in a short time span, and it’s difficult to know who to trust,” said Leppla. “Citizens know our clinic has no financial interest in the help we offer.”

### **Beyond the books**

Ongoing involvement in East Palestine is just one of the many student-led legal efforts at the 10 clinics that comprise the law school’s Milton A. and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic, through which nearly 25,000 hours of pro bono legal work are provided each year.

Under its capstone requirement, every third-year law student undertakes an intensive externship or clinic, in which students shoulder a broad spectrum of responsibilities on complex legal matters, working directly with clients, attorneys and judges. The clinic experience offers opportunities to practice new skills, such as conducting negotiations, case analyses and oral arguments, among other activities.

In the last decade, the law school has bolstered its efforts and national reputation as a leader in experiential education. For three years running, *preLaw* magazine has ranked the school in the top 10 for practical training.

“Students are cutting their teeth on the entire experience,” said **Andrew Pollis**, director of the Appellate Litigation Clinic. “They put themselves into it with passion and gusto that sometimes isn’t there in the actual practice of law.”

And the results speak for themselves, Pollis added, with the Appellate Litigation Clinic winning its last 13 cases in a row.

“We’re challenged to look at the record from every possible perspective and to have an open mind,” said **Matt Borcas (LAW ’23)**, who delivered two oral arguments for the clinic this year, both in the Eighth District Court of Appeals. “If we approach cases with that attitude, we feel there’s a decent chance to succeed for our clients.”

*“I feel confident representing my clients because I’ve already done it at the clinic.”*

—Magda Phillips

In late 2022, the clinic prevailed for the first time in an appeal to the Ohio Supreme Court.

After revelations that the client was unaware of key evidence when he entered his plea, trial and appellate courts had refused to retract his guilty plea.

In 2021, students appealed the case to the state’s highest court, arguing the state-wide standard cited by lower courts was ambiguous and applied too rigidly.

In December 2022, the Ohio Supreme Court overturned two lower-court decisions, providing a victory for the client—and clarification on the state standard.

The students advanced a better understanding of Ohio law on the subject, added Pollis, “because the decision is precedent that now binds the rest of the state’s appellate courts.”

In the spring, the prosecution in the trial court dropped all charges against the client.

“The students’ work proved pivotal,” said Pollis of the 13 now-graduates who worked on the case over three years. “When push came to shove, prosecutors realized they couldn’t prove their case, which is why they fought so aggressively to hold our client to an uninformed guilty plea.”



*Appellate Litigation Clinic team, bottom row (left to right): Andrew Pollis, Francesca Bergeret, Rebecca Singer-Miller, Veronika Bondarenko Center row (left to right): Andrew Thompson, Maryam Assar, Victoria Neikam, Matt Borcas. Back row (left to right): Ashley Mueller, Tristan Cavanaugh, Richard McGraw*



*Second-Chance Re-entry Clinic students Magda Phillips (left) and Maggie Kinkopf (right) outside Cleveland Municipal Court*

## New benchmarks

Last spring, the First Amendment Clinic took on a high-profile free speech case, representing one of several anonymous online commenters critical of Beachwood, Ohio, officials on the city’s Facebook page.

The municipality and its police chief filed a defamation suit, seeking to use the discovery process to identify the commenter. That was when one of the account owners approached the clinic to seek representation.

Within weeks, students filed a motion challenging the basis of the claim, noting their client made no false statements—and arguing that opinion-based anonymous online speech is protected by the First Amendment under what’s known as the Dendrite standard.

Shortly after, Paul Levy, one of the country’s leading experts on anonymous speech litigation and the pioneer of the Dendrite standard, filed an amicus brief. Levy argued in the brief that the standard is the proper balance of anonymous speech protections because it requires a party show they have a valid claim before permitting de-anonymization.

A Cuyahoga County Common Pleas judge agreed with the students, applying a modified version of the Dendrite test to deny the city’s motion for discovery based on the court’s finding that the commenter engaged in protected speech.

Soon after, the city and police chief voluntarily dismissed their claims.

“What’s really exciting about the case is that we were able to get the court to apply this standard in Ohio for the first time—setting a higher threshold for when to deanonymize somebody online,” said **Andy Geronimo (LAW ’10)**, director of the First Amendment Clinic.

“The experience was a budding lawyer’s dream,” said **Kennedy Dickson (LAW ’23)**, who worked on the case. “To successfully argue for the adoption of a new legal standard at the intersection of internet speech and the First Amendment is the type of meaningful work that drew me to study law.”

## Turning points

While some clinic cases make headlines, many fly under the public’s radar.

At the Second Chance Reentry Clinic, established in 2020 and funded by a U.S. Department of Justice grant, students serve as advocates for formerly incarcerated individuals transitioning back into society—helping with common challenges, including securing housing and custody.

Recently, the clinic represented a non-citizen who accepted a plea without being informed by his prior attorney of the mandatory deportation consequences attached to the deal. Based on evidence of ineffective assistance of counsel, the clinic—teaming with attorney **Maya Lugasy (LAW ’18)**, who worked in the law school’s Immigration Law Clinic as a student—successfully argued for the plea to be vacated in the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

“For every single person who comes to our clinic, these are huge cases,” said **Hannah Christ**, a fellow with the clinic. “Everyone has a right to effective assistance, and we provide the expertise that can help remove barriers resulting from previous interactions with the criminal justice system.”

**Magda Phillips (LAW ’23)** was drawn to the clinic to help clients “move forward with their lives.” Last fall, one of her clients—a single mother seeking to have her record sealed to better employment prospects—lacked child care and brought her young son to court.

“I saw myself in the client. I was raised by a single mom and know the despair of feeling stuck and overlooked,” said Phillips, whose motion was granted in the case. “It’s the humanity you don’t get from a court docket that motivates me to fight for clients.”

Now a fellow for Ohio Access to Justice Foundation at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Phillips is pursuing a career focused on providing better access to legal services to “our most vulnerable community members.”

“I feel confident representing my clients,” she said, “because I’ve already done it at the clinic.”



# Seeking asylum

CWRU's Immigration Law Clinic students  
earn their stripes by fighting for their clients

by Lauren Marchaza

**A**fter being threatened and detained by the Belarusian government for her activism, a woman and her family, including two young children, fled to the U.S. in July 2022 in hopes of securing asylum.

Shortly after arriving, she found the the law school's Immigration Law Clinic where students—under the instruction of Director **Aleksandar Cuic**—work cases like immigration attorneys.

Once the clinic agreed to take on her case, third-year law student **Joe Javorsky** began collecting evidence that would demonstrate the threat the threat to the client and her family in Belarus.

“Letters from the government summoning them to court, testimony from family members or neighbors are

critical,” Javorsky explained. “We needed to prove that either the Belarusian government itself—or an organization that the government is unwilling or unable to control was persecuting the individual.”

Last spring, with evidence in hand, Javorsky and other law students prepared, researched and filed her application with United States Citizen and Immigration Services (USCIS) in just nine weeks—an incredibly short period of time by immigration law standards.

As the client now waits for her application to be processed, Cuic called the speed with which it was submitted a shining example of success—for both the client and the students, who stand to benefit from their newfound skills. “This real-world experience will only put them ahead when they graduate,” said Cuic, who is also a partner at Brown Immigration Law in Cleveland.



*Alex Cuic*

## A home for learning immigration law

Since 2017, students enrolled in the Immigration Law Clinic’s semester-long seminar have been representing non-U.S. citizens before various governmental agencies, including Department of Justice immigration courts, USCIS and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). They work on applications for relief from removal or deportation, asylum, withholding of removal and protection under the Convention Against Torture.

They also assist clients with applications for naturalization and permanent residency, which includes everything from conducting legal and country condition research to filing briefs and conducting questioning at hearings.

In addition to the clinic’s well-rounded education, its location in Cleveland is a bonus, Cuic said.

“It’s the ideal place for an immigration clinic,” he explained, “because we have one of the nation’s regional immigration courts and a continuing flow of new immigrants from all over the world.”

The hands-on experience often leads students to post-graduation success, with students going on to careers as immigration court clerks, trial and appellate attorneys, and immigration attorneys at nonprofit organizations and law firms (see sidebar).

## High stakes—and expectations

Alexa Stovsky (LAW ’23) came to law school with the goal of becoming an immigration attorney. So when she started her final year, she enrolled in the clinic’s seminar, in which she was assigned a number of asylum cases.

One of her clients, a woman from Jordan, was rejected and endangered by her conservative Muslim family for her sexuality. She came to the U.S. in 2016, hoping for a path to citizenship.

*“I am constantly surprised with how inadequate our system is in the U.S. and how many barriers there are for migrants to obtain legal status here.”*

—Alexa Stovsky



Last summer, she approached the Immigration Law Clinic for help.

Stovsky, who was assigned to her case, understood the stakes. “It’s actually life or death for them,” she said.

After many months of hard work, Stovsky’s client was granted asylum, and now—seven years since she arrived in the U.S.—clinic students have begun working to secure her green card, which will give her permanent residency.

Immigration law can seem contradictory in nature—simultaneously fast-paced with proceedings that can drag on for years. Asylum cases are notoriously difficult, often taking months or years to resolve, and not always with affirmative results. Learning to set expectations—their own and those of their clients—was a key takeaway for clinic students last year.

“I am constantly surprised with how inadequate our system is in the U.S.” said Stovsky, “and how many barriers there are for migrants to obtain legal status here.”

One case in particular demonstrates the long, winding path some clients take to become citizens. A woman who came to the U.S. illegally from Belize in 1994 applied for asylum in a San Diego immigration court many years ago. Instead of being granted asylum, however, her case was closed in 2016, with deportation proceedings pending.

In 2022, she was living in Cleveland and, still wanting to become a lawful permanent resident, found her way to CWRU’s Immigration Law Clinic. She asked that her case, which had been inactive for nearly 10 years, be reopened. This would put her on a legal path to citizenship based on “Parole in Place,” a program that would allow her to stay in the country because of a family member’s U.S. military service.

That fall, clinic students filed a Freedom of Information Act request with a federal immigration office for her records. But by the end of the semester, the case was still ongoing. So, a new team of students, including **Sydney Warinner (LAW ’23)**, picked up the case in the spring.

*Story continues on p. 40*



Alexa Stovsky

# Gifts for growth

Since 2017, the Immigration Law Clinic has relied on the school's general fund, allowing for moderate but limited growth.

Until this year, when Case Western Reserve University School of Law received two gifts to ensure its future.

**Austin Fragomen (LAW '68)** has a long and storied history at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. As a law student, he founded *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law*, now in its 55th year of publication. He also was known for providing many hours of pro bono services, for which he received the Jacob Hecht Award upon graduation.



*“The clinic’s work in providing legal services to the migrant community will advance our lifelong commitment and passion of developing excellent lawyers to support this community.”*

—Austin Fragomen

Fragomen went on to lead the world's largest immigration law firm. He also authored a treatise and books on business immigration law; served as an adjunct professor of law at New York University School of Law; and was the chairman of the City Bar Justice Center in New York.

But he never forgot his alma mater. Last spring, the accomplished alumni leader sealed his legacy at the school with a \$1 million gift from him and his wife, Gwendolyn Robosson Fragomen. Their commitment established the Austin Fragomen Distinguished Practitioner position in the school's Immigration Law Clinic—a position that aims to greatly enhance the capacity and reach of one of the law school's most impactful clinics.

Margaret W. Wong, a Cleveland-area immigration attorney, has similar goals. For nearly 50 years at her successful immigration law firm, she has assisted



*“As a proud mother of two immigration attorneys, Allison Chan and Steven Chan (LAW '10), I know firsthand that an education is an investment, and endowment support is one of the most meaningful ways to help the students and the law school achieve success.”*

—Margaret Wong

thousands of people—whether they're asylum seekers wishing to become permanent U.S. citizens or students pursuing careers in immigration law.

To demonstrate her commitment to educating the next generation of immigration attorneys, Wong recently made a \$100,000 gift to the CWRU School of Law to establish the Margaret W. Wong Immigration Endowed Scholarship, which will provide funds for students working at the Immigration Law Clinic.

Cuic said both investments will enable the clinic to continue growing, benefiting both students and clients.

“The local immigrant community is greatly in need of legal representation, and this will allow us to expand our reach on who we can help,” Cuic said. “The students will now be given opportunities that could not have been done without their generosity.”



## CWRU School of Law's Immigration Law Clinic:

7

years and running

120  
clients

50  
students

10  
individuals granted asylum

Warinner helped prepare a request to the ICE office for both sides to file a joint motion with the Immigration Court to terminate the client's case. By ending her deportation proceedings, they explained in the request, their client could become eligible for Parole in Place.

"Warinner and the team really prepared a persuasive request to the ICE prosecutor's office," said Cuic. "So persuasive that ICE agreed to join in our motion on their last day of the spring semester, actually."

He added: "It was a nice send-off for the students' law school careers."

### Striking a balance

While the work of immigration law can be fairly technical, many of the cases are emotionally charged with stories of tragedy and trauma. Take, for example, the circumstances of a young man from the conflict-plagued Tigray region of Ethiopia who arrived in the U.S. last year to pursue a college degree. Shortly after arriving, he received a call from home: His father—a member of a coalition that fights for the rights of ethnic minorities—was believed to have been murdered by members of the government. Making a devastating situation worse, his mother and sibling had been kidnapped, and no one knew their whereabouts.

Essentially orphaned, with no contact with his family, the young man was connected by a friend with the Immigration Law Clinic, where Warinner helped file his application for asylum.

"Working on asylum cases is challenging," Warinner explained, noting that they are the most intense aspects of immigration law because they require extensive research, writing and interviews.

The grievous nature of these circumstances only magnify their intensity, she said. "They are both intellectually and emotionally challenging."

But talking through the matter as a team, and with Cuic's guidance, helped Warinner balance the work with her emotions—and the client's expectations.

"To be honest, it is emotionally draining," agreed Stovksy, who said she makes it a point to build mental health breaks into her schedule to allow her time for doing the things she loves.

"I have found that it is important to maintain some emotional separation between my immigration work and the rest of my life so that it is not all-consuming," Stovksy added.

Javorsky, who graduates in December, emphasized

the importance of importance of setting personal boundaries when such empathy is required. "Our clients have unfortunately suffered terrible circumstances," he said, "[but] our job as attorneys requires us to keep a clear perspective of how to gather necessary information from

### CWRU School of Law alumni serve as immigration court judges around the country:

Daniel Smulow (LAW '98), Baltimore

Colleen O'Donnell (LAW '06), Laredo, Texas

Jennifer Peyton (LAW '98), Chicago

Jennifer Riedthaler-Williams (LAW '01), Cleveland



the client while supporting them through the legal process.”

### Applying practice... to practice

Gaining real-world experience is what Case Western Reserve’s 10 law clinics are all about. Each clinic gives students the chance to work with real clients and consequences in a court setting—and prepares them for law careers, whether in immigration law or another specialty.

Stovsky, who began her new role as an associate attorney at Cleveland’s Brown Immigration Law this summer, said the clinic helped her feel ready for what came next. She added that working with clients from all over the world allowed her to develop a rich cultural competence that she uses on the job, even today.

For Warinner, who started as an attorney at the Central Office of the Federal Bureau of Prisons in Washington, D.C., this summer, the benefit of the clinic was the real-world application. “We could apply what we have learned in law school to real cases,” she explained. “The experience with client interaction and managing a heavy caseload greatly improved my confidence as a new attorney entering the profession.”

Cuic said the clinic essentially has two goals: “to provide clients with skilled representation and give students the tools they’ll need to be successful attorneys.

“Going forward,” he added, “that is what we will continue to strive to do.”

# From clinic to career

Since its establishment in 2017, graduates of the Immigration Law Clinic have gone on to careers in immigration law. Here is where some of them landed.

**Seth Garfinkel (LAW ’17)**, attorney advisor, U.S. Executive Office Immigration Review in Denver

**Rachel Hehr (LAW ’17)**, immigration attorney, The Law Offices of George P. Mann & Associates P.C. in Farmington Hills, Michigan

**Rohmah Javed (LAW ’17)**, supervising immigration attorney, Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York in Buffalo

**Maya Lugasy (LAW ’18)**, associate at Brown Immigration Law in Cleveland

**Katelyn Masetta-Alvarez (LAW ’18)**, immigration law appeals attorney, Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.

**Katerina Voronova (LAW ’18)**, attorney, YWCA Immigrant and Refugee Services of Greater Harrisburg in Pennsylvania

**Shelby Wade (LAW ’18)**, attorney advisor, U.S. Department of Justice in Arlington, Virginia

**Lindsay Cook (LAW ’18)**, asylum officer, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in Newark, New Jersey

**Amelia Wester (LAW ’19)**, attorney, Blake Immigration Law in Alexandria, Virginia

**James Nichols (LAW ’19)**, immigration attorney, Catholic Charities in Cleveland

**Mariya Howykowycz (LAW ’19)**, attorney, Howykowycz Immigration Law in Cleveland

**Giancarlo Lisciani (LAW ’20)**, business immigration attorney, Colombo and Hurd in Miami

**Meghan Lunders (LAW ’20)**, judicial law clerk, Tacoma Immigration Court in Washington

**Karla Gil (LAW ’20)**, immigration attorney, Berry, Appleman and Leiden in Dallas

**Courtney Koski (LAW ’21)**, immigration attorney, Costas Network Law Center in Cleveland

**Kristen Connors (LAW ’21)**, immigration attorney, Montroll, Ottinger and Barquist in Burlington, Vermont

**Charlee Thomas (LAW ’21)**, immigration attorney, Lepore, Taylor and Fox in Paramus, New Jersey

**Asako Ejima (LAW ’21)**, immigration attorney, Law Office of Amie D. Miller in San Francisco

**Tommy Messner (LAW ’21)**, attorney, Brown Immigration Law in Cleveland

**Amy Rubenstein (LAW ’22)**, immigration attorney, Novo Legal Group in Denver

**Adrian Corona (LAW ’23)**, immigration attorney, Sus Abogados Latinos in Painesville, Ohio

**Alexa Stovsky (LAW ’23)**, associate attorney, Brown Immigration Law in Cleveland

# Diploma day

## New graduates take their first steps into the future

On a rainy Sunday in late May, the newest class of alumni from Case Western Reserve University School of Law filed into the Veale Convocation, Recreation and Athletic Center to the strains of “Pomp and Circumstance,” ready to begin their journeys as newly minted lawyers.

School of Law Dean **Michael Scharf** opened the event by praising the Class of 2023 for their tenacity and dedication.

“Your time here corresponded with the height of one of history’s most deadly pandemics,” he said. “But rather than become distracted, you retained your focus; rather than become dispirited, you persevered. You have made us all very proud.”

Student Bar Association President **Gabriel Kaufman (LAW ’23)** spoke next, addressing his graduating peers.

“It’s often said that law school transforms graduates by teaching us how to think like lawyers,” he said. “But law school didn’t transform us. While the school opened the door, we had to walk through it.

“To transform requires both enough foresight to generate a vision of the kind of person one wants to become,” he continued, “and enough introspection and humility to modify one’s actions, thought process and value system to bring it into harmony with that vision.”

Twenty years after her own graduation from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, **Michele Connell (LAW ’03)**, global managing partner of the international law firm, Squire Patton Boggs, delivered the commencement speech.

“You have not chosen a job,” she told the graduates. “You have chosen a profession which, when practiced at its best and with integrity, is a noble profession.”



All photos by Annie O'Neill, unless otherwise credited



Photo by Dan Milner



Photo by Dan Milner



**Class of 2023:  
by the numbers**

**222**  
students from

**25**  
states

**11**  
countries

**120** JDs    **84** LLMs    **18** SJDs



Photo by Dan Milner

# Society of Benchers 2023

Established more than 60 years ago by Case Western Reserve University School of Law, the Society of Benchers is a group of legal professionals honored for their extraordinary achievements and dedication to the highest principles of the industry.

Every year, the School of Law welcomes a new group of members into the society. This year's inductees are:



Joseph J. Allotta  
(LAW '72)



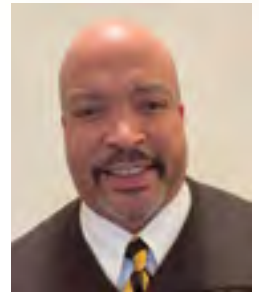
Ann Brennan



Nicole E. Braden Lewis  
(LAW '01)



Douglas W. Charnas  
(LAW '78)



Charles E. Fleming  
(LAW '90)



Margaret Jean Grover  
(LAW '83)



S. Michael Lear  
(LAW '88)



Laura McNally



Thomas Mester  
(LAW '69)



Deborah Pergament  
(LAW '98)



Christopher Michael  
Rassi (LAW '03)



William "Bud" P. Rogers  
Jr. (LAW '78)



Lewis I. Winarsky  
(LAW '72)

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Victor R. Perez (LAW '99)

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Chris Hunter (LAW '89)

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Laura Quatela (LAW '82)

Christopher Rassi (CWR '00; GRS '00,  
political science; LAW '03; MGT '03)

Tanakrit Tangburanakij (LAW '98)

Ritchie Thomas (LAW '64)

Lewis Winarsky (LAW '72)

Margaret Wong

Richard Wortman (LAW '87)

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Matt Kades (LAW '96)

Mark Kramer

James Lewis (LAW '79)

Laura McNally

# Class notes

Includes updates from Aug. 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

## 1952



**James R. Willis** was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at its annual “Race Matters” seminar in Cincinnati.

This award recognizes exceptional accomplishments, distinguished leadership and dedicated service to law.

## 1954



**Fred D. Gray** received the 2023 American Bar Association Medal, the association’s highest honor, at its annual meeting.

## 1966

**William Tenwick** was honored by the Florida Bar Association for 50 years of legal service.

## 1967



**Sheldon Gilman** received the Bruce K. Davis Bar Service Award from the Kentucky Bar Association.

## 1968

**Michael Pohl** was honored by the Florida Bar Association for 50 years of legal service.

## 1969



**Jeffery B. Marks** received the International Municipal Lawyers Association’s Epps Award, which was established in memory of James H. Epps III to honor local government

attorneys who have distinguished themselves with at least 30 years of service to the community of Cleveland.

## 1970

**Richard Russell** was honored by the Florida Bar Association for 50 years of legal service.

## 1975

**George Coakley** joined Frantz Ward LLP in Cleveland.



**Steven Kaufman** received the Living Legacy Award from the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.

**Richard C. Spain** joined Hahn Loeser & Parks in Chicago as partner.

## 1976



**Patrick Guida** was elected treasurer of the Rhode Island Bar Association.

**Michael P. Kelbley**, judge at the Seneca County Common Pleas Court in Tiffin, Ohio, was honored by the Seneca County Democratic Party for his 34 years of service.

**Nancy M. Spain** joined Hahn Loeser & Parks in Chicago as partner.

## 1977



**Frances Floriano Goins** was named as one of the Top 250 Women in Litigation by *Benchmark Litigation*.

**Charles E. Hallberg** received the Distinguished Achievement Award from University of Massachusetts Amherst during the 2023 commencement ceremony.

## 1978



**Howard Stein** was named managing partner at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman LLP in East Meadow, New York.



**Donald Brad Zimmerman** received the Alumnus of the Year for Lifetime Contribution Award from the Quaker Foundation.

## 1979



**Martin J. Gruenberg** was sworn in as chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Board of Directors.



**Jay Pendergrass** retired from the Environmental Law Institute, an internationally recognized non-partisan research, publishing and education center in Washington, D.C.

## 1981

**Debra Shifin** joined Liner Legal in Cleveland as general counsel.



**Mary Jane Trapp** won the 2022 Legacy of Justice Award from the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland at its 117th annual meeting.

## 1983

**Neil Tramer** was named a 2022 Difference Maker by *Cleveland Jewish News* for making invaluable contributions for the betterment of the Jewish community.

## 1985

**Gary S. Desberg** received the Rosewater Award for his long-term commitment and service to the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association and its real estate section.



**David Leopold** was included in the 2023 Immigration Trailblazers List in *National Law Journal*.

## 1989

**Karen Nathan** joined Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani LLP in Chicago as partner.

## 1990



**Walt Edwards** was appointed president of Graham-Pelton Consulting Inc., a nonprofit consulting firm in Pittsburgh.

**Patricia A. Gajda** was named co-chair of the Business Transactions & Corporate Counseling Practice Group at Brouse McDowell in Cleveland.

**Jocelyn Stefancin** was appointed director of the Conviction Integrity Unit at the Franklin County (Ohio) Prosecutor's Office.

## 1991



**James Gardner** published his first book, *A Chance to Breathe: Stories from a 1918 Road Trip*, about Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, John Burroughs and Harvey Firestone.

**Cynthia Lammert** joined Frantz Ward LLP in Cleveland.

## 1992



**Matt Donaher** was elected partner at Finn Dixon & Herling LLP in Stamford, Connecticut.

**Robert T. Glickman** was named a 2022 Difference Maker by *Cleveland Jewish News* for making invaluable contributions for the betterment of the Jewish community.

## 1993



**Keith R. McCurdy** received the Cornerstone Award by Lawyers Alliance for New York for being an outstanding business and transactional lawyer while providing pro

bono legal services to nonprofits that are improving quality of life for New Yorkers with low incomes.

## 1994

**Michael Robic** was promoted to vice president and deputy general counsel at Highmark Health, a health insurer based in Pittsburgh.

## 1995



**Ronald O. (Chip) Whitford Jr.** was promoted to senior vice president, general counsel, chief compliance officer and corporate secretary at BWX Technologies,

a Cleveland-based supplier of nuclear components and fuel to the U.S. government.

## 1996



**Kristin Lynch Pruitt** was named president of Lakeland Financial Corp. and its subsidiary, Lake City Bank in Warsaw, Indiana.

## 1997



**John Melaragno** was named judge for the Erie Division of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

## 1999



**Myra Barsoum Stockett** was appointed co-manager of Perez Morris, a business law firm in Cleveland.



**Wendi Fowler** began a three-year term on the Ohio State Bar Association Board of Governors and was inducted into the 2023 fellows class of the Ohio State Bar Foundation.

## 2001



**Shawn McClelland** joined Mandelbaum Barrett in Roseland, New Jersey, as partner in its tax and trust and estates practice groups.

## 2002



**Rick Batson** was named judge advocate general and chief counsel of the United States Coast Guard.

## 2003



**Thomas Welsh** was elected managing partner of Calfee, Halter & Griswold in Cleveland.

## 2004



**Justin Arpey** joined Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP in Atlanta as litigation partner.



**Diandra “Fu” Debrosse Zimmerman** published “Making a Career in Mass Torts: Grit, compassion and paying it forward” in *ABA Journal*.

## 2008



**Abigail Phillips** was named vice president and chief risk officer at FirstEnergy in Akron, Ohio.

**Gabrielle A. LaHatte** was promoted to counsel at Latham & Watkins LLP in San Francisco in the Intellectual Property Litigation Practice and Litigation & Trial Department.



**Andrea Linna** became partner at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, California, in the Digital Health Industry Group and its FDA regulatory, healthcare and

consumer products practice.



**Teresa Santin** was named co-chair of the construction contracting and disputes practice group at Brouse McDowell in Cleveland.

## 2005

**Denise Glinatsis** joined Premier Bank in Mahoning Valley, Ohio, as vice president and senior trust officer.



**Nathan Shaker** was appointed judge for Wayne County Municipal Court (New Jersey).



**Kimberly Pinter** was recognized on *Crain’s Cleveland Business’s* Forty Under 40 list for making an impact on Northeast Ohio’s business and civic communities.

## 2013



**Daniela Paez** was appointed chair of Ulmer & Berne’s Women in Law and Leadership Group in Cleveland.

**Ken Smith** became a partner at Mansour Gavin LPA in Cleveland.

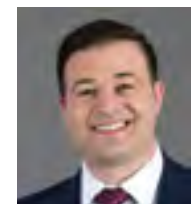
## 2014



**Alyssa C. Dechow Kennedy** joined Plunkett Cooney’s Torts & Litigation Practice Group in Petoskey, Michigan.



**James Pasch** was recognized on *Crain’s Cleveland Business’s* Forty Under 40 list for making an impact on Northeast Ohio’s business and civic communities.



**Gregory Frohman, Mitchell Gecht and Yelena Katz** were all promoted to partner at Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP in Cleveland.

**Trace Sexton** joined Wilson Elser in Atlanta as counsel.



**Rebecca Wright** was promoted to managing partner at Rathbone Group in Brooklyn Heights, Ohio.

## 2009



**Philip S. Hadji** was nominated by President Joseph Biden to be a judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C., for a 15-year term.

## 2007

**Jill Dietrich Mellon** was recognized as a 2023 Woman of Note by *Crain’s Cleveland Business*.



**Gerald Sink** joined Walter Haverfield LLP in Cleveland as chief financial officer.

## 2010



**Andrea Glinka Przybysz** was promoted to partner at Tucker Ellis LLP in Chicago.



around racial and social justice. She was also inducted into the Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows Class of 2023.

**Valissa Turner Howard** received the Ohio State Bar Foundation’s Community Service Award for Attorneys 40 and Under for her contributions to the community



**Brian Patrick Nally** joined the International Association of Defense Counsel, the preeminent, global legal organization for attorneys who represent corporate and insurance interests.



**Nathan Wiedemann** joined Ulmer & Berne in New York as counsel.



## 2012

**Megan Center** joined Quarles & Brady LLP in Washington, D.C., as a partner in their Business Law Practice Group.



## 2015



**Tyler Kimberly** joined Blank Rome LLP in Washington, D.C., as an associate in the International Trade Practice Group.



**Andrew Murphy** joined Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP in Cleveland as an associate in the Commercial Finance & Banking Practice Group.

## 2016



**Sara Dorland** joined the Young Professionals Board for Fostering Hope, a Cleveland-area nonprofit that raises awareness of the challenges faced by children within the foster care system.

**Nathan Nasrallah** was promoted to counsel at Tucker Ellis LLP in Cleveland.

**Jason D. Norwood** became an assistant United States attorney in the Northern District of Iowa.

**Brendan Saslow** joined Blank Rome LLP in Washington, D.C., as an associate in the International Trade Practice Group.

## 2017

**Jeremy Chai** joined BakerHostetler in Los Angeles as an associate.



**Mengxue Xie** was elected to the West Creek Conservancy Board of Directors at the West Creek Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting local natural

areas, open spaces, streams and waterways in Parma, Ohio.

## 2018



**Jasmine Boutros** is now an enterprise technology senior manager at KeyBank in Cleveland.

## 2019

**Taylor Frank** joined Lacy Katzen LLP in New York as an attorney.

**Cory Novak** joined Goldberg Segalla in Chicago as an associate in the firm's Global Insurance Services and Environmental Law Groups.

**Erin Przybylinski** joined Jennings Haug Keleher McLeod in Phoenix as a litigation attorney.

## 2020



**Teresa Azzam** joined Miles & Stockbridge in Washington, D.C., as an associate.



**Jessica F. Ice** supported a \$4.2 billion project to redevelop John F. Kennedy International Airport through drafting and editing financing and bond documents, participating in negotiations, and coordinating logistics to close the transaction.



**Emily M. Peterson** joined Wickens Herzer Panza in Avon, Ohio, as an associate in the Corporate and Business Transactions Department.

**Alexandra Raisa Hassan** joined the Workers Compensation Group at Goldberg Segalla in New York City.

## 2021

**Andy Nunez Sanchez** joined Gallagher Sharp LLP in Cleveland as an associate in the General Litigation and Transportation Practice Groups.

## 2022



**Michael Bishop** joined MacDonald, Illig, Jones & Britton LLP as an associate in Erie, Pennsylvania.



**Colleen D. Campbell** is now an associate at Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett PC in Erie, Pennsylvania.



**Ryan W. Gillespie** became an associate in general business litigation at Ulmer & Berne in Cleveland.



**Nadia Haile** joined Gallagher Sharp LLP in Cleveland as an associate in the Appellate, Business & Employment and Transportation Practice Groups.



**Reagan Joy** is now an associate in the Intellectual Property Practice at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren in Milwaukee.

**C. Mason Myers** joined Saxton & Stump Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the Healthcare and Mitigation and Commercial Litigation Groups.



**Charbel Najm** is now an associate at Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP in Cleveland.

**Zora (Zoe) Raglow-DeFranco** was awarded the Hanna S. Cohn Equal Justice Fellowship from the Empire Justice Center in Rochester, New York. The two-year fellowship is awarded to a new attorney in public interest law.

**Dennis Schwartz** joined Premier Bank in Cleveland as its Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money-laundering officer.

# Congratulations to Case Western Reserve University School of Law alumni named to these prestigious lists in 2023:

## *Ohio Super Lawyers*

Steven Kaufman (LAW '75)  
Richard Hardy (LAW '78)  
Randy Oppenheimer (LAW '79)  
James Goldsmith (LAW '80)  
David Weibel (LAW '80)  
Rita Maimbourg (LAW '81)  
Mark Arons (LAW '83)  
Paul Singerman (LAW '83)  
Gary S. Desberg (LAW '85)  
Laura K. Hong (LAW '85)  
David Leopold (LAW '85)  
Kevin Young (LAW '85)  
Michael Tucker (LAW '86)  
Robert Chudakoff (LAW '87)

Matthew Kadish (LAW '87)  
John F. McCaffrey (LAW '87)  
Ronald Teplitzky (LAW '87)  
Timothy Downing (LAW '88)  
Susan L. Racey (LAW '89)  
Michael Smith (LAW '89)  
Stephen L. Byron (LAW '91)  
John Slagter (LAW '91)  
Christopher Koehler (LAW '92)  
William Edwards (LAW '93)  
Douglas Schnee (LAW '94)  
Christopher Keim (LAW '96)  
Jennifer Lawry Adams (LAW '96)  
Margaret Mary Murray (LAW '96)

Franklin Malemud (LAW '97)  
Craig Haran (LAW '00)  
Benjamin Sassé (LAW '00)  
Lindsey Carr Siegler (LAW '01)  
Chaz Weber (LAW '08)  
Christina Niro (LAW '10)  
Lindsey Sacher (LAW '11)  
Madeline Dennis (LAW '14)  
Bradley Ouambo (LAW '17)  
Daniel Schiau (LAW '18)  
Brandon Wojtasik (LAW '18)  
McClellon Cox III (LAW '19)

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## *Best Lawyers in America*

Michael F. Harris (LAW '77)  
Rita Maimbourg (LAW '81)  
Matthew Moriarty (LAW '81)  
Paul Singerman (LAW '83)  
Gary S. Desberg (LAW '85)  
Laura K. Hong (LAW '85)  
John F. McCaffrey (LAW '87)

Ronald Teplitzky (LAW '87)  
Susan L. Racey (LAW '89)  
John Slagter (LAW '91)  
Corine Corpora (LAW '92)  
S. Peter Voudouris (LAW '92)  
Thomas Simmons (LAW '93)  
Jeffrey Gorski (LAW '94)

Margaret Mary Murray (LAW '96)  
Franklin Malemud (LAW '97)  
Benjamin Sassé (LAW '00)  
Jennifer L. Roth (LAW '02)  
Anthony Vacanti (LAW '06)  
Jennifer L. Mesko (LAW '11)

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## *Best Lawyers in America “Ones to Watch”*

Ashtyn Saltz (LAW '12)  
Daniel Falk (LAW '13)  
Daniela Paez (LAW '13)

Halden Schwallie (LAW '15)  
Sara Dorland (LAW '16)  
Sarah Katz (LAW '17)

Mengxue Xie (LAW '17)  
McClellon Cox III (LAW '19)  
Jocelyn Smith (LAW '20)

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## *Chambers USA Legal Guide, America's Leading Lawyers for Business*

Steven Kaufman (LAW '75)  
Frances Floriano Goins (LAW '77)

David Leopold (LAW '85)  
John Slagter (LAW '91)  
Corine Corpora (LAW '92)

Jodi Rich (LAW '00)  
Jennifer L. Mesko (LAW '11)

# Jamming for justice

A group of 12 students, faculty and alumni from Case Western Reserve University School of Law walked onto the stage at the Beachland Ballroom in August, one of Cleveland’s most beloved rock halls. They donned matching black flaming guitar T-shirts and picked up their instruments to play their set, starting with Van Morrison’s “Brown Eyed Girl.”

The concordant crew, called Razing the Bar, was among eight other local bands made up of lawyers and judges, performing to raise money for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland in August—all told, \$120,000.

First formed a dozen years ago, the CWRU law school band regularly performs around Cleveland—including at venues

as prestigious as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Dean **Michael Scharf** and University Trustee **Charles Hallberg (LAW ’77)** play guitar and sing, and **Liz Safier (LAW ’21)** plays electric violin. The student members change each year as some graduate.

“I joined the band before my first year as a way to get to know other students and faculty members in a fun way,” said **Kelsy DelMonte**, a 3L vocalist who is also captain of the law school’s International Criminal Court Moot Court team. “It was a great stress relief from the chaos of classes.”

“We really do have a lot of fun,” added DelMonte. “It’s definitely been one of the highlights of my law school career!”



*Razing the Bar on stage at the Beachland Ballroom in Cleveland*

# Empower future leaders



Scholarships are essential to recruiting the most qualified students to CWRU School of Law, regardless of financial circumstances. Endowed funds ensure that vital support is available for generations to come.

That is why we launched a \$20 million scholarship endowment drive—our most ambitious scholarship initiative in our 130-year history.

To learn how your gift can reduce barriers to access and make it possible for more students to reap the benefits of a Case Western Reserve legal education, contact John Coorey at 216.368.6352 or [john.coorey@case.edu](mailto:john.coorey@case.edu).

## **Thank you to our Endowed Scholarship Drive Committee**

Colleen Batcheler (LAW '98)  
Jim Chen (LAW '91)  
Michael Cherkasky (ADL '72, LAW '75)  
Cathy Kilbane (WRC '84, LAW '97)  
Don Lefton (LAW '55)  
John Majoras (LAW '86), co-chair  
Karen Milton (LAW '81)  
Nicole Nason (LAW '95)  
Matt Tenerowicz  
Mark Weinberger (LAW '87, MGT '87), co-chair  
Charles Zumkehr (LAW '64)



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY**  
School of Law

# Making “CWRU happen”

## Scholarship support helps law student pursue his passion

Survey data from the American Bar Association shows that African Americans continue to be underrepresented in the legal profession, accounting for just 5% of all lawyers nationwide, while representing 13.6% of the U.S. population.

**Obasi Ndukwe (CWR '20)**, a second-year student at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, wants to see that that number increase in his lifetime—and donor support is helping him be part of that change.

Ndukwe was born and raised in Cleveland, and Case Western Reserve University’s programming in city schools allowed him to become familiar with the institution and its campus from a young age. When it came time to decide where he would spend his undergraduate years, Ndukwe chose CWRU because of the scholarships and financial aid he received. The same was true when the alumnus set his sights on Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

“Scholarships made CWRU happen for me twice,” said Ndukwe. “It’s expensive to study law, not to mention covering living expenses. Without support, I wouldn’t have been able to make this work.”



*“Having a community of friends and mentors is so important. We don’t have a lot of representation in the legal field, so I hope to be that for Black youth.”*

—Obasi Ndukwe



Obasi Ndukwe

“At Case Western Reserve, we are committed to making law school as affordable as possible for our students,” said Dean **Michael Scharf**. The website *Above the Law* recently ranked CWRU among the top 10 law schools for offering students the most help with tuition.

Ndukwe finished a clerkship at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur in Cleveland over the summer and now represents his fellow second-year students on CWRU’s Student Bar Association senate. He also serves as vice president of the Black Law Students Association, which he calls a highlight of his CWRU law experience.

“Having a community of friends and mentors is so important,” Ndukwe said. “We don’t have a lot of representation in the legal field, so I hope to be that for Black youth.”

In addition to being a role model, Ndukwe aims to use the skills he’s gained at Case Western Reserve to provide others with the opportunities and resources to succeed.

“I want to give something back to my community, whether that’s through a nonprofit or through scholarships, like I’ve received,” he said. “Having the education, experience and connections that come with being a lawyer will help me make an impact.”

—Carey Skinner Moss

# In memoriam

Includes names of deceased alumni reported to Case Western Reserve University School of Law from July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023.

Kim Diane Adams (LAW '95)	Michael E. Grueschow (LAW '77)	John A. Murphy Jr. (LAW '65, LAW '71)
Thomas E. Africa (LAW '71)	Alan S. Hartman (ADL '62, LAW '65)	Robert E. Murray (ADL '58, LAW '61)
Lynne B. Alfred-Hanson (LAW '76)	Frank H. Harvey Jr. (LAW '55)	Douglas James Neuman (LAW '77)
Oakley V. Andrews (LAW '65)	Stephen L. Hensley (LAW '76)	Lawrence Mark Oberdank (ADL '58, LAW '65)
Robert D. Archibald (LAW '56)	Harold Lee Hom (LAW '87, MGT '88)	Don H. Pace (LAW '64)
John J. Bagnato (LAW '68)	Thomas J. Horton (LAW '81)	David S. Perelman (ADL '56, LAW '58)
Paul J. Blachowicz (LAW '76)	Roger Y. K. Hsu (GRS '53, LAW '64)	John D. Petruso (LAW '69)
Donald Richard Brooks (LAW '49)	Denise A. Hunyadi (LAW '77)	Ronald G. Rice (LAW '56)
Gary L. Bryenton (LAW '65)	John J. Hurley Jr. (LAW '68)	Stephanie Lyn Robinson (LAW '93)
Thomas A. Cables (LAW '61)	Milton Dwight Jefferson (LAW '89)	Richard C. Rose (CLC '42, LAW '47)
Edwin F. Cathcart (LAW '71)	Samuel Vinton Kelly (LAW '94)	John Joseph Sheehan Jr. (LAW '66)
Ernest Charvat (ADL '50, LAW '52)	Byron Krantz (LAW '62)	Alan S. Sims (ADL '55, LAW '58)
Clarence L. Chavers Jr. (ADL '48, LAW '51)	Wallace B. Krivoy (LAW '51)	Evan Bernard Smith (LAW '85)
Richard Armstrong Clapp Sr. (ADL '49, LAW '52)	Fred L. Kurlander (LAW '62)	Susan P. Stauffer (FSM '67, LAW '70)
David B. Deioma (CIT '62, LAW '65)	John J. Lasko (ADL '30, LAW '32)	Geoffrey E. Stein (LAW '78)
Paul M. Dutton (LAW '72)	Robert A. Lenga (LAW '64)	Myron S. Stoll (LAW '60)
Emmett E. Eagan Jr. (LAW '70)	John M. Lennon (LAW '56)	Gabriel S. Szabo (ADL '50, LAW '53)
William John Edwards II (LAW '69)	Irwin M. Levy (LAW '64)	William Talley Jr. (LAW '83)
Jerome M. Ellerin (ADL '53, LAW '56)	William H. Logsdon (LAW '62)	Debra Samad Thomas (LAW '77, LYS '80)
Stuart L. Fauver (LAW '67)	Joseph M. Mancini (ADL '58, LAW '66)	Angela Georgia Trakas (LAW '08)
John A. Fiocca Jr. (LAW '75)	Ernest P. Mansour (LAW '55)	Roger W. Van Deusen (LAW '68)
Marc J. Frumer (LAW '88)	William C. McCoy (LAW '49)	Paulsen King Vandever (LAW '87)
Paul F. Gambrel (LAW '72)	Susan Papanek McHugh (LAW '81)	Donna M. Weaver (LAW '82)
Gerald S. Gold (ADL '51, LAW '54)	Alex S. Melgun (ADL '52, LAW '55)	Milan Robert Yancich (LAW '88)
Elliott Herschel Goldstein (ADL '61, LAW '67)	Frank S. Merritt (LAW '68)	Peter F. Young (ADL '59, LAW '62)
James A. Griffith (ADL '54, LAW '58)	Mike Michalske (LAW '65)	Alan S. Zuckerman (LAW '59)
	Hubert J. Morton Jr. (LAW '74)	
	Eugene D. Murphy (LAW '51, '56)	



## HONOR ROLL

BY DONOR CLUB

Recognizing alumni and friends who made gifts to the law school from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023.

### Leader

(\$100,000+)

Anonymous

Colleen Batcheler (LAW '98) and

Andrew D. Batcheler

Coleman and Susan Burke Foundation

Leon Cabinet\*

Austin T. Fragomen Jr. (LAW '68) and

Gwendolyn Fragomen

The JLT Fund

David A. Kutik (LAW '80) and Martha M. Kutik

Donald E. Lefton (LAW '55)

John Michael Majoras (WRC '83, LAW '86)

Robert G. McCreary III (LAW '76) and

Meredith McCreary

The Miami Foundation

Karen Greve Milton (LAW '81)

Nicole R. Nason (LAW '95)

Jane M. Picker

Joy Lea Pritts (LAW '82)

Stanton Foundation

The U.S. Russia Foundation

Margaret Wong

### Benefactor

(\$25,000 - \$99,999)

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Thomas Harvie Barnard (LAW '70)

Luke Lucien Dauchot (WRC '83, LAW '86)

Clinton\* and Margaret\* W. Dewitt

Paul P. Dosberg Foundation Inc.

Char and Chuck Fowler Family Foundation

Harry K. and Emma R. Fox

Charitable Foundation

Sheldon G. Gilman (LAW '67) and

Nancy S. Gilman

Robert Todd Glickman (LAW '92) and

Linda Glickman

Marie C. Grossman (LAW '71) and

Charles Grossman

The George Gund Foundation

Mark R. Kramer

Adam David Marshall (LAW '99) and

Stefanie Rosato Marshall (LAW '00)

Colleen Ann O'Connor (LAW '83) and

Joseph Hubach (LAW '83)

Ranney Foundation

Saint Luke's Foundation of Cleveland

Beverly B. Vila\* and Richard Vila\* (LAW '59)

### Partner

(\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Anonymous

Akron Community Foundation

Brush Foundation

Lisle M. Buckingham\* (ADL 1917, LAW 1919)

Robert Brayden Downing (LAW '79)

James D. Graham (LAW '95)

Walter E. Kalberer (ADL '55) and

Jean C. Kalberer\* (FSM '55, LAW '81)

Grunfeld Desiderio Lebowitz Silverman and

Klestadt LLP

Charles R. Kowal (LAW '78)

John Krajewski (LAW '85) and

Judith Steiner (LAW '87)

Thomas and Dr. Dana Kromer (LAW '82)

David Alan Kutik (LAW '80)

### Why I give



**Nicole R. Nason**  
(LAW '95)

*Vice president of federal affairs, commercial aviation, sustainability and corporate policy, The Boeing Co.*

*"I established an endowed scholarship fund because I am so grateful for the education I received and the tools it gave me to pursue a challenging and rewarding career. I am passionate about helping others achieve their dreams, and I am so pleased my gift will make a difference in the lives of students at the law school for generations to come."*

\*deceased

# HONOR ROLL

## BY DONOR CLUB

### Why I give



**Janet MacKenzie Kittel  
(LAW '78)**

*Independent legal consultant*

*"I want our gift to grow and enhance the Legal Writing, Leadership, Experiential Learning, Advocacy and Professionalism Program (LLEAP) for future generations of law students. We are confident the continued evolution of this program will help students develop the skills they need to accomplish their professional goals, just as it did for me when I was a student."*

Garrett Eric Lynam (LAW '10) and  
Amanda Koeth Lynam (LAW '10)  
George L. Majoros Jr. (LAW '86) and  
Connie Chan Majoros  
Elizabeth Ring Mather and  
William Gwinn Mather Fund  
Frank S. Merritt\* (LAW '68)  
Joseph P. Meyers\* (ADL '52, LAW '58)  
J. Ambrose Purcell Trust  
Robert N. Rapp (ADL '69, LAW '72) and  
Sally Rapp (NUR '72)  
Thomas L. Sidlo Fund  
Alan I. Silver  
George Thomas Simon (MGT '91, LAW '96)  
John Ford Strong (LAW '70)  
Tucker Ellis LLP  
Ulmer and Berne LLP  
Richard H. Verheij (LAW '83)  
Frederick A. Watkins (LAW '68)

Charles David Weller (LAW '73) and  
Lucy Ireland Weller  
Thomas M. Welsh Jr. (LAW '03)  
Lewis Winarsky (LAW '72) and Susan Winarsky  
Thomas L. Wiseman (LAW '69)  
Richard M. Wortman (LAW '87)

### Dean's Society (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Anonymous  
Joseph J. Allotta (LAW '72)  
Christopher W. Baldwin (LAW '68) and  
Mary Creedon Baldwin  
Paul Bechtner Foundation  
Vincent B. Coe (LAW '14)  
Chester F. Crone (ADL '66, LAW '69)  
David Cupar (CAS '96, LAW '99) and  
Jennifer Cupar (CAS '96, LAW '99)  
Howard J. Freedman (LAW '70) and Rita Montlack  
Michelle Ya-Ling Gon (LAW '85)  
Bernard Goodman (LAW '60) and  
Susan Goodman (FSM '60)  
Margaret J. Grover (LAW '83)  
Hahn Loeser and Parks LLP  
Patricia Marcus Inglis (LAW '77)  
Stephen Hughes Kehoe (LAW '86)  
Margaret Kennedy (LAW '76) and Robert G. Paul

James Frederick Koehler (LAW '73) and  
Rosemary E. Koehler  
Elizabeth Haber Lacy (LAW '91)  
Jamie R. Lebovitz and Sharon Lebovitz  
Terrance Leiden (LAW '70)  
John C. Lucas (LAW '76)  
John James McConnell Jr. (LAW '83)  
McDonald Hopkins LLC  
Jonathan D. Mester  
Nurenberg Paris Heller McCarthy Co. LPA  
David Talmage Musselman (LAW '86) and  
Johanna B. Musselman  
David M. Paris  
Robert S. Reitman (LAW '58) and  
Sylvia K. Reitman  
William P. Rogers Jr. (LAW '78)  
Joseph Marc Sellers (LAW '79)  
Hewitt B. Shaw (LAW '80)  
Jennifer Stapleton (LAW '04)  
Eugene Stevens (ADL '56, LAW '58)  
James E. Thomson (LAW '61)  
Robert P. Weaver (WRC '73, LAW '76)  
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### Why we give



**George Simon (LAW '96) and Stephanie Simon (LAW '08)**

*Founders, Simon's Family Group LLC*

*"In the past, we have sponsored renovations of the student cafe, the dean's suite and a computer lab. This year, we were very happy to provide the funding for the remodeling of the faculty meeting room. With two generations of graduates in our family, we are committed to supporting the law school, which is a source of great pride."*



# HONOR ROLL

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#### Milton A. Marquis (LAW '84)

*Partner and shareholder, Cozen O'Connor  
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*"I am honored to support  
the students we serve. I have  
tremendous confidence in our  
deans, faculty and staff, who  
have transformed the school into  
a national leader in experiential  
learning. I know my support is  
building upon this success and  
will enable the law school to recruit  
the best and most diverse students  
for years to come."*

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## Why I give



**Matthew A. Tenerowicz**

*Partner, BakerHostetler*

*“BakerHostetler is a proud partner of CWRU School of Law, and we are pleased to support the annual scholarship drive. Scholarships help CWRU attract first-rate students who receive high-quality legal education and outstanding learning opportunities. Many of our attorneys are graduates of CWRU School of Law and, together, we are building a pipeline of well-trained lawyers for the future.”*

# A legacy for LLEAP

## Alumna honors parents with gift toward CWRU law program

When **Janet Kittel (LAW '78)** reflects on her 45-year legal career, two influences stand out as key to her success: her parents and Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

So the alumna and her husband, Russell Kittel, decided to pay tribute to both with an estate commitment to support the school's Legal Writing, Leadership, Experiential Learning, Advocacy and Professionalism (LLEAP) program.

A requirement of the JD curriculum, the three-semester LLEAP program helps students cultivate proficiency in several types of legal writing, a wide range of practical skills and professional development.

"The practical skills I gained at CWRU have been invaluable throughout my career," said Kittel, who benefited from programming similar to LLEAP and later mentored first- and second-year students in such coursework. "I'm encouraged to see the law school's continued focus on experiential learning, and happy to know our gift will be

used to arm students with the tools they need to be confident entering the field."

The commitment honors Kittel's parents, Martha (GRS '48, education) and Alexander MacKenzie, who instilled in their daughter a lifelong love of learning. Kittel grew up hearing her mother's fond memories of Case Western Reserve, so when it came time to pick a law school, the choice was obvious.

*Janet Kittel's mother, Martha, stands on the steps of Severance Music Center with Janet's father, Alexander MacKenzie.*

Four months after graduating from CWRU School of Law, Kittel became an attorney for the U.S. Department of



*Janet and Russel Kittel*

Defense. She met her husband 12 years later while working for the aerospace and defense company now known as Lockheed Martin. Today, the couple lives outside of Denver, where Kittel continues to work as a legal consultant.

"When I think about what has made the greatest impact for me, education rises to the top of the list," said Kittel, "just as it did for my parents. Giving back allows [Russell and me] to leave something behind that will make a difference in the lives of others."

To learn more about estate commitments and other forms of strategic giving, email [strategicgiving@case.edu](mailto:strategicgiving@case.edu) or call 216.368.6958.

—Carey Skinner Moss

Learn more  
about LLEAP:



# Law Firm Giving Challenge

Every year, alumni and other legal professionals at prominent Cleveland-area law firms show their support for Case Western Reserve University School of Law by participating in the Law Firm Giving Challenge (LFGC). Thanks to their generous efforts and support, the 2022–23 LFGC raised more than \$135,000 for the law school's annual fund.

## Congratulations to our Challenge Award winners:

### First Place, Participation – 100%

Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP  
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP  
McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co. LPA  
Tucker Ellis LLP

### Second Place, Participation

Weston Hurd LLP

### Third Place, Participation

Buckley King

### Total Giving

*Alumni and firm support combined.*

1. Jones Day
2. BakerHostetler
3. Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP

## Participating firms

### BakerHostetler

Matthew Tenerowicz, *managing partner*  
David A. Carney (LAW '05),  
*LFGC representative*

### Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff

Gregg A. Eisenberg, *managing partner and executive committee member*  
Megan Mehalko (LAW '90),  
*LFGC representative*

### Brennan, Manna & Diamond

Jack Diamond (LAW '83),  
*chief executive officer*  
Matthew Duncan (LAW '03),  
*LFGC representative*

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*LFGC representative*

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### Cavitch Familo Durkin Co. LPA

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*LFGC representative*

# Fighting for human rights

## Alum shares insights and wisdom from his law career

While many of his law school peers were pursuing careers in corporate law, **Andres Perez (LAW '04)** felt called to a different path: international criminal law and human rights.

It led him to enroll at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, where he availed himself of every opportunity he could find, including work in the War Crimes Research Lab, connections with mentors and finding grants that facilitated several internships. Collectively, these would form the springboard for Perez's successful career in international law.

Today, he is a legal adviser at the Rule of Law and Democracy Section for the United Nations (U.N.) Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, where he is on the vanguard of the U.N.'s fight for the protection of human rights throughout the world.

In an interview with *In Brief*, Perez discussed his career journey, his most impactful contributions and advice for law students interested in a career like his own.

### **Tell us about a highlight of your career so far.**

I spent more than five years as a legal adviser at the Judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania, serving on 13 cases. To find myself working on legal teams dealing with real cases in the courtroom was beyond my wildest dreams as a young lawyer.

My favorite memory is leading a team of six lawyers and 20 interns in drafting the 400-page judgment and sentence in *The Prosecutor v. Karemera, et al.*, a complex, multi-accused case against the highest-ranking civilian architects



*Andres Perez (left) and Judge Dennis Byron, president of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (right) in 2008*

of the Rwandan genocide. It was the first judgment in the history of international criminal law to deliver a conviction for rape as a crime against humanity under extended liability for joint criminal enterprise.



*Andres Perez (left) while working for the Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia.*

### **What do you consider one of the most impactful contributions you have made to human rights?**

Serving as a legal adviser for the United Nations International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia—which investigated allegations of violations and abuses of international human rights, humanitarian and international refugee law in Ethiopia—was very challenging, but impactful. I led a team of investigators, open-source analysts and interpreters to develop the factual crime base from which legal conclusions could be drawn. I developed legal conclusions for the commissioners to consider, and I ended up drafting most of the report. In the end, our first report was largely credited with leveraging the Ethiopian government into a peace process.

### **Do you have any advice for our students who are interested in careers in public international law?**

Choose what you love and go for it with everything you have. International law requires a lot of commitment to swim upstream and past many of your peers who are headed in the other direction. Flexibility is key because you are likely to receive the opportunity of a lifetime when you least expect it, with very little time to decide. It won't always be easy, so I have learned to never give up. Don't be afraid to take risks and try new things. It pays off to be a bit of a maverick.

# Global experience, local impact

## New role with international firm brings alumna “back to her roots”

**Michele Connell (LAW '03)** has always had a passion for all things international. She studied foreign service at Georgetown University and served for six years as a U.S. diplomat abroad before attending Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

She joined Squire Patton Boggs in Cleveland a few months after graduating law school graduation and has held various titles in her 20 years at the firm. But it's her latest role that brings Connell's career full circle: As global managing partner, Connell oversees 34 of the firm's 45 offices across 23 countries. She is responsible for approximately 75% of overall operations for the 1,500-lawyer firm, with a focus on helping companies navigate trade agreements in an increasingly complex geopolitical arena.



*Michele Connell*

She also serves on multiple boards locally, including University Hospitals in Cleveland, United Way of Greater Cleveland, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce and DirectWomen.

“I learn so much from each organization and I believe we're truly making an impact,” she said. “With University Hospitals, we're focused on increasing access to healthcare. At United Way, we're building stronger, more equitable communities.

“The Chamber of Commerce directly impacts our local economy,” she continued, “and DirectWomen gives women more opportunities to serve on corporate boards.”

Connell credits Case Western Reserve's holistic approach to legal education with preparing her to not only succeed in law, but to also serve communities at home and abroad. It's a responsibility she believes lies with every member of the legal profession—one of her core messages as she addressed the Class of 2023 during CWRU School of Law commencement in May.

“Your ability to analyze, to advance arguments and to advocate make you uniquely situated and uniquely qualified to help people,” she told graduates, “to speak up, to stand up and be part of important discourse across the globe.”

—Carey Skinner Moss

*“It's exciting to get back to my international roots. I also have the platform to transform the legal profession in meaningful ways.”*

—Michele Connell

“It's exciting to get back to my international roots,” said the alumna, who most recently managed the firm's Cleveland office. “I also have the platform to transform the legal profession in meaningful ways.”

Connell is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, paying particular attention to the promotion of women in a field still largely dominated by men. She has led Squire's Advancing Women Task Force since 2019 and is encouraged by recent progress: Squire Patton Boggs ranked No. 8 out of more than 200 firms in the 2023 American Lawyer Diversity Scorecard—22 points higher than the year before.

But her work goes beyond the firm.

# Congratulations

to our 2023–2024 Alumni Award Winners!



## Centennial Medal Award

Judge Mary Jane Trapp  
(LAW '81)

*Court of Appeals of Ohio,  
11th Appellate District*



## Distinguished Recent Graduate Award

Justin Bibb  
(LAW '18, MGT '18)

*Mayor of Cleveland*



## Distinguished Teacher Award

Ayesha Bell Hardaway  
(LAW '04)

*Professor of Law,  
Case Western Reserve  
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## The Joan Gross '76 Annual Fund Award

John Krajewski (LAW '85)

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Judy Steiner (LAW '87)

*Former Chief Risk Officer,  
Banner Bank*

## Save the date

and join us to celebrate their  
accomplishments!

Alumni & Faculty Scholarship Luncheon

Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The Silver Grille, Higbee Building  
Cleveland, OH

## Expanding knowledge

Case Western Reserve University School of Law regularly hosts conferences and lectures, often with the option to earn Continuing Legal Education credits. Below are just some of the events held over the last year.



*U.S. Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack delivered a speech at CWRU School of Law in September 2022.*

### Sumner Canary Memorial Lecture

Judge Kevin C. Newsom, On Being Predictably Unpredictable

### Law Review Symposium

America's Classrooms: Frontlines of the First Amendment

### George A. Leet

#### Business Law Symposium

Corporate Law and Private Ordering: What are the Limits and What Framework Should Guide Decisions on Private Ordering?

### Seventh Trade Law Fall Update

Retooling Trade in a Fractured Global Economy: A Practice-Oriented Update on Trade and Customs Law

What We Need to Learn: Lessons From Twenty Years of Afghanistan Reconstruction

A Year that Changed the World: The War in Ukraine, and How it Shaped the International Legal Order

### Canada-U.S. Law Institute Symposium

Stronger Together: Leadership for New Security and Economic Challenges

Watch past events and lectures:





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Gifts to the Case Western Reserve University School of Law Annual Fund—in every amount—make a difference directly supporting our students every day. Visit [giving.case.edu/law](http://giving.case.edu/law) or call the office of Alumni Relations and Development at 800.492.3308 to make your gift.



## What can my Annual Fund gift do?

**\$100:** Provides scholarship support that benefits more than 90% of our students.

**\$250:** Supports the Student Emergency Fund—which over the past two years, has provided \$25,000 to meet students' emergency needs.

**\$500:** Covers expenses for our award-winning moot court and mock trial teams, including registration fees, coaching stipends, and travel costs.

**\$1,000:** Allows us to provide books for a 1L incoming student. In 2023, 65% of our incoming class received this book support.

**\$2,500:** Enables us to provide grants to support students undertaking unpaid public interest or social justice internships. Last year, 48 students received these important grants.



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