

# In Brief

The Magazine of Case Western Reserve University School of Law



## Welcoming a legal luminary

Celebrated attorney, scholar and professor takes helm as dean



CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY  
School of Law

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# In Brief

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**ON THE COVER:**  
Paul Rose joined Case Western Reserve  
University as dean of the School of Law in July.

If you've got a story to share,  
don't hesitate to contact us at  
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We'd love to hear from you.

Connect with us:



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# From the Dean



**To our alumni and friends,**

As I step into my role as dean of Case Western Reserve University School of Law, I'm filled with enthusiasm for our collective future. Through conversations with our staff, faculty, students, alumni and other stakeholders, I've witnessed firsthand the deep commitment to our school and an eagerness to work together to build on the strong foundation laid by my predecessors, **Jessica Berg** and **Michael Scharf**.

A student-first perspective guides my priorities for CWRU School of Law. I am focused on three simple, but crucial, goals: attracting the very best students to our law school; ensuring they receive a great education that will prepare them to excel on the bar exam and in their careers; and expanding their employment opportunities.

We're fortunate to have a vast community supporting us. I am eager to build relationships within our school, in the Northeast Ohio legal community, and with alumni across the country and around the world. Our law school's international reach, its prime location in a vibrant urban center and our faculty's commitment to excellence make us well-positioned to rise to even greater heights.

I look forward to our collective work in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

**Paul Rose, JD**

Dean, School of Law

Case Western Reserve University



## A legal legacy

**Michael Scharf** and **Jessica Berg** ended their tenure as co-deans earlier this year after a decade of collaborative leadership. To honor their contributions, CWRU School of Law alumni established the Co-Deans' Scholarship fund in their honor.

Contribute  
to the  
fund:



# Ruling the ranks

Case Western Reserve University School of Law's specialties are consistently recognized among the nation's best. Here are some of the school's most recent accolades.

*U.S. News and World Report*

**#13**  
in International Law

**#15**  
in Healthcare Law

*PreLaw magazine*

**#6**  
in Tech Law

**#10**  
in Practical Training

*The Princeton Review*

**#27**  
for Teaching

*Other 2024 preLaw magazine ratings include:*

**A+**

Business & Corporate Law  
Criminal Law  
Health Law  
Human Rights Law  
Intellectual Property Law  
International Law

**A**

Environmental Law  
Trial Advocacy and  
Litigation  
Entertainment Law

**A-**

Public Policy  
Racial Justice

# To preserve, protect and expand

The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* led to a momentous shift in reproductive health law with far-reaching consequences. In the midst of this change, one School of Law professor launched a statewide initiative to support the legal fight for reproductive rights.

When Ohio voters passed the Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety amendment last year, they voted to preserve abortion access and reproductive rights in the state's Constitution.

"It was such a great night," recalled **Jessie Hill**, the Judge Ben C. Green Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University School of Law, who had long been active in the push for reproductive rights in Ohio, notably with the ACLU of Ohio.

She recalled talking to another attorney afterward who told her that the passage of the amendment felt more consequential than when *Roe v. Wade* was decided.



Jessie Hill

Despite the win, Hill said they're still fighting a legal battle because dozens of abortion restrictions—which are now legally at odds with the new amendment—remain on the books in Ohio.

"My husband said to me, "Now that Issue 1 has passed, you can relax, right?" Hill said, remembering the conversation.

"No," she told him. "This is when the work begins."

## A new legal landscape

Hill had been thinking about bringing the work of reproductive rights law to CWRU's campus since 2016, and that only intensified after the death of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg in 2020.

"At that point, I knew the writing was on the wall, and *Roe v. Wade* was going away," she explained.

After the U.S. Supreme Court decided to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, effectively ending federal protection of abortion rights, the power to control and regulate abortion access moved to the states—as did the legal fight.

Recognizing that shift, Hill worked to create the Reproductive Rights Law Initiative (RRLI), a small but growing group of experts who aim to preserve, protect and expand access to abortion and reproductive healthcare in Ohio and throughout the Midwest.

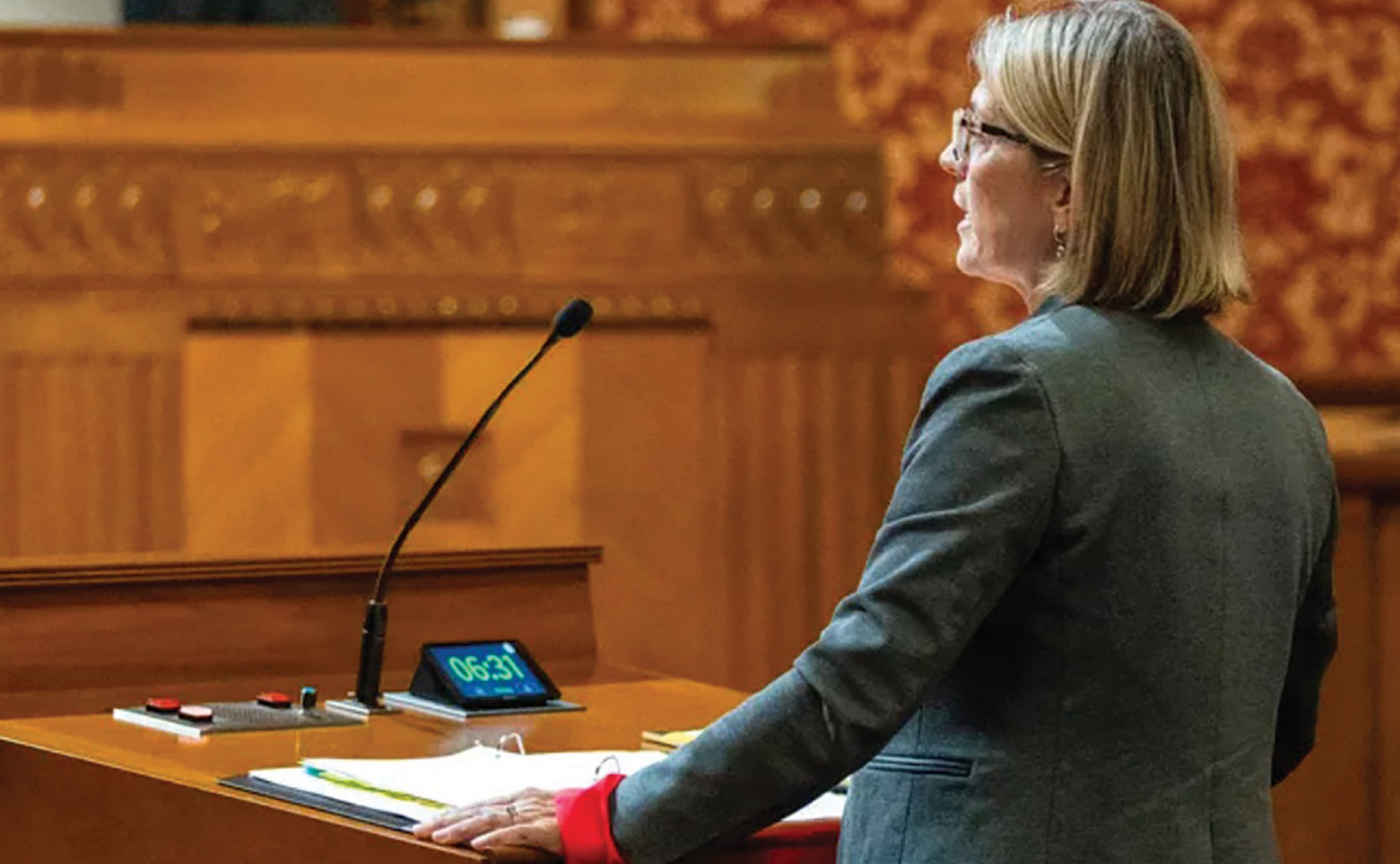
The group provides legal support to abortion providers and advocacy organizations. Their ultimate goal is to create a



From left: Reproductive Rights Law Initiative Staff Attorney/Lecturer Becca Kendis, Director Jessie Hill and Freda Levenson, legal director of the ACLU of Ohio

*"Ohio is the place to be right now because it was the first red state to pass [a reproductive rights] amendment. Everybody wants to see what happens next."*

—Jessie Hill



*Jessie Hill before the Ohio Supreme Court arguing in the case of Preterm-Cleveland v. David Yost on behalf of Ohio abortion providers, the ACLU of Ohio and Wilmer Hale on Sept. 27, 2023*

sustainable legal infrastructure in support of reproductive rights in Ohio and beyond through legal advocacy, education and scholarship.

This type of work is done mostly on the east and west coasts, added Hill, who is also the School of Law's associate dean for research and faculty development. The RRLI is the only program of its kind housed at a law school in the Midwest.

The RRLI's law school location also gives Hill and her colleagues the opportunity to draw more students into reproductive rights law—an area that is rapidly growing now that states have the ability to make their own laws around abortion access.

They're starting that effort by hiring their first extern, **Adrienne Pohl**, a third-year law student. Pohl joins Hill and the rest of the team of the RRLI: **Becca Kendis (LAW '19, SAS '19)** and **Maggie Scotece**—both staff attorneys and lecturers—and Program Manager **Holly Bland**.



*Becca Kendis*



*Maggie Scotece*

With six cases already pending in Ohio in which the RRLI is working to preserve or expand access to abortion and reproductive healthcare, the team has their work cut out for them.

“We’ve got to divide and conquer,” Hill explained, noting that many across the country are looking to Ohio to lead the way for reproductive rights law.

“Ohio is the place to be right now because it was the first red state to pass [a reproductive rights] amendment,” Hill said. “Everybody wants to see what happens next.”

Contact the program manager for more information about the RRLI: [holly.bland@case.edu](mailto:holly.bland@case.edu).

Learn more about the RRLI:



Sign up to receive updates from the RRLI:



# Education in action

Case Western Reserve University School of Law's lab courses enable students to develop their lawyering skills by working on real cases and legal research projects. Here are two examples from the Urban Development Lab and the Athlete Data Lab.

## “Smart” impact

Leaders and policymakers in state governments have struggled for years to understand whether, and to what extent, incentive programs help spur economic growth and development in urban areas.

Last spring, CWRU law students enrolled in the Urban Development Lab added their own research that could help communities reshape their approaches to neighborhood revitalization efforts.



Urban Development Lab 2022 cohort

For their semester-long project, the students surveyed businesses and community leaders in the neighborhoods surrounding CWRU's campus to learn which economic development incentives—directed by governments toward those neighborhoods—are making the greatest impact.

“We took an ‘on-the-ground’ approach,” explained **Matthew Rossman**, the law professor who leads the lab. “Rather than simply relying on statistics about changes in poverty rates or job growth, students interviewed business owners, community leaders and residents from the neighborhoods we studied to understand which incentives are making a meaningful difference.”

The group examined more than 100 businesses and conducted nearly 30 interviews in six neighborhoods that surround Case Western Reserve's campus. Ultimately, the students found that carefully tailored incentives that are more selectively or competitively available—such as the New Markets Tax Credit—generate greater community benefit than those that reward business activity or are more widely

available within a community. The reason: Incentives like these are more likely to be closely monitored and adapted to ensure greater positive impact.

The team of students presented their conclusions to community leaders and legislators, and Rossman published their work in the *Washburn Law Journal*.

“The [Urban Development Lab] was one of my favorite—if not my favorite—classroom experiences I had in law school,” said **Elena Barone (LAW '23)**. “Unlike many law classes, the class is entirely practical rather than theoretical. We were shown how federal laws play out at the state and municipal level—a perspective that even the lawmakers themselves don't always have.”

Read the Urban Development Lab students' paper:



## Alumni-powered partnership

Technologies such as body sensors, software applications and artificial intelligence allow every golf swing, breaststroke, basketball layup or field goal kick to be a source of valuable data. This data helps athletes, coaches, sponsors and sports analysts better understand an athlete's performance.

But this treasure trove of data has opened up questions about who controls athletes' data and how it's used—in everything from training to contracts and sponsorships.

To help make sense of this rapidly emerging legal field, two CWRU School of Law alumni helped establish the Athlete Data Lab with **Craig Nard**, the Galen J. Roush Professor of Law.

**Mark Gorski (LAW '07)** and **Stan Mimoto (LAW '08, MGT '08)** are the founders of Sports Data Labs Inc., which collects, analyzes and distributes real-time human data from body sensors and sensing systems in live professional sports. Their goal is to empower athletes to collect, control and monetize their personal data. This partnership gives students access and exposure to novel, real-world use cases, while providing guidance on specific legal focus areas through the direct involvement of Sports Data Labs Inc. and their partners.



Students enrolled in the lab tackle foundational issues related to the capture, distribution and monetization of unique personal data collected from athletes, with a focus on personal data collected during live sporting events.



*From left: Mark Gorski and Stan Mimoto*

“We’re now able to provide students with first-hand experiences in one of the most dynamic and growing areas within the sports sector,” said Nard, “while providing guidance to the global sports community on the many legalities associated with collection and use of athlete data.”

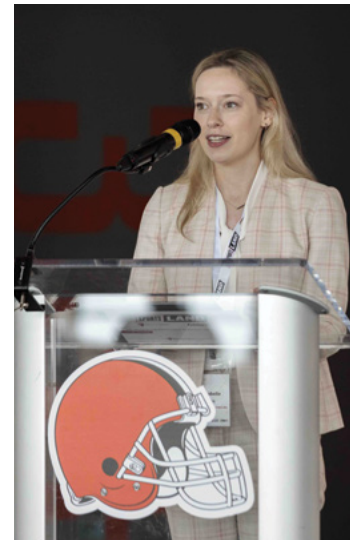
Third-year law student **Annabelle Lincoln** was one of the first to get that experience with a project she and her fellow lab students, **Nathaniel Arnholt** and **Trey Quillin**, took on last year.

Their research explored the critical issue of collegiate athletes’ control over their personal data. With rapid advancements in wearable technology, the ability to collect vast amounts of data on athletes both on and off the field has grown exponentially. This data is increasingly

valuable to organizations, raising important questions about ownership of that information. The students finalized their work in a paper, and concluded that a “more robust consent and revenue sharing-based framework” is needed between universities and collegiate athletes.

Lincoln presented their research at the inaugural SportsLand Summit at Cleveland Browns Stadium in September, where she spoke alongside sports industry leaders including Cleveland Cavaliers CEO Len Komoroski and Cleveland Browns COO David Jenkins.

“It was truly an honor to speak at the summit,” said Lincoln. “Nathan, Trey and I researched this topic extensively, and hope our paper will be helpful to players and industry leaders moving forward.”



*Annabelle Lincoln*

**Read the Athlete Data Lab students’ paper:**



## An athletic advantage

Members of the Athlete Data Lab’s recently formed advisory committee will contribute to discussions on athlete data issues, review literature, offer insights on strategy and legal considerations, and provide feedback on lab output and processes.

### Advisory committee members:

- Charles Baker, partner and co-chair for the Entertainment, Sports & Media Industry Group, Sidley Austin
- Martin Braun, partner and co-chair, Big Data Practice Group, WilmerHale
- Sean Sansiveri, CEO, OneTeam Partners
- Sophie Gage, vice president, Business & Legal Affairs, NFL Players Inc.
- Chelsey Antony, corporate counsel, Business & Legal Affairs, NFL Players Inc.
- David Foster, deputy general counsel, National Basketball Players Association
- Johnny Andris, deputy general counsel, MLS Players Association
- Andrew Scott-Howman, general counsel, New Zealand Professional Footballers’ Association
- JP Mowberry, general counsel, Professional Footballers’ Association Scotland
- James King, general counsel, Professional Footballers’ Association
- Rebecca Lewis, legal counsel, Tennis Data Innovations
- Brett Byron, senior legal counsel, ATP Tour
- Tim Stemp, executive director, International Tennis Federation

# Leading voices in law

Every year, Case Western Reserve University School of Law hosts lectures, panels and presentations on a range of topics foremost in the minds of legal professionals. Here are a few highlights from the past year.

## Advocating for change

Environmental activists celebrated a historic victory in 2021 when The Hague District Court ruled that London-based oil company Shell contributes to the dire effects of climate change and had to reduce its carbon emissions by 45% before 2023.

But that didn't stop Shell from moving ahead with 20 major oil and gas projects—six of them in 2023 alone—demonstrating a lack of commitment to adhere to the court's ruling.

The battle continues to play out in court at The Hague, where Shell has appealed the ruling. The company's position is that, although climate change is indeed a problem, punishing a single corporation is not an effective way to tackle it.

This and similar topics were at the heart of the CWRU School of Law's international law conference in September 2023, which hosted two dozen experts in climate change and international law at the Cleveland Botanical Garden.

"We're trying to force them [polluting facilities] to admit that there's a problem, and they have to start fixing it—which we view as a partial effort to change behavior and to educate the public," said conference speaker Allan Kanner, environmental lawyer and managing partner of Kanner & Whiteley LLC. Litigation, he pointed out, is essential to spreading awareness about climate change and galvanizing communities to act.



*On screen: Allan Kanner; in person, from left: Cassandra Burke Robertson, Wes Henrickson, James May and Jonathan Adler*

## Pursuing energy justice— from The White House

When Shalanda Baker was a researcher at the University of Hawaii in 2014, she recalled looking out at west Oahu, seeing a swath of industrial facilities planted among communities of people with low incomes and no access to clean energy such as solar or wind power—things found in more affluent communities throughout the state. As someone who focused on climate change and civil rights, she saw the problem clearly.



"These communities just have to be a part of the [climate] conversation," Baker recalled thinking.

It prompted her to create the Energy Justice Program at the University of Hawaii, which aims to create theories and systems of energy justice for local, regional and global application.

This was just one of the anecdotes Baker shared when she visited CWRU School of Law last year to talk about her efforts to advance civil rights and ensure equity in the United States as it transitions away from fossil fuels, and toward cleaner energy sources. Today, Baker is the director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy and Secretarial Advisor on Equity, where she has built a team of legal and policy experts who she tasks with engaging communities—just like those in west Oahu—in conversations about climate change.

## Other events featured speakers such as:

- Lead Prosecutor Brenda Hollis of the International Criminal Court in The Hague provided an inside account of the investigation and charges against Vladimir Putin and four other high-ranking Russian officials for war crimes in Ukraine.



*Brenda Hollis delivering lecture at Gund Hall*

- Rear Admiral, Judge Advocate General and Chief Counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard **Richard Batson (LAW '02)**, who delivered a lecture on the U.S. Coast Guard and Maritime Governance.



*From left: Stephen Petras, Michael Scharf, Richard Batson and members of the Cleveland-area Coast Guard*

- Leila Sadat, Washington University in St. Louis law professor, who successfully launched the international effort to forge a comprehensive treaty on Crimes Against Humanity, delivered the Bruce J. Klatsky Lecture in Human Rights and received the Cox International Law Center Humanitarian Award for Advancing Global justice.



*From left: Bruce Klatsky, Leila Sadat and Michael Scharf*

**Browse all past events hosted by CWRU School of Law:**



- Amy Acton, MD, former director of the Ohio Department of Health, was the Law-Medicine Center's 2023 Schroeder Scholar in Residence. Her lecture, "The Leader We Wish We All Had Is YOU: Insights from the COVID-19 Pandemic," was a first-hand account of her acclaimed leadership during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.



*From left: Sharona Hoffman and Amy Acton*

- **François-Philippe Champagne (LAW '94)**, Canadian Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, visited the School of Law for a fireside chat about his memories as a law student and his experiences as a public servant in the Canadian government.



*From left: Michael Scharf and François-Philippe Champagne*

## High-profile guest

In February, news media buzzed over Robert Hur's Special Counsel Report, which asserted that President Joe Biden did not break any laws in his handling of classified documents after he left the vice presidency. Many parallels were drawn between this report and the investigation James Comey, former director of the FBI, conducted into Hillary Clinton's use of an external email server while she was U.S. Secretary of State.

So it was a timely coincidence that, just a week after Hur's report was released, Comey delivered a virtual guest lecture to a packed room for "White Collar Crime: Prosecution and Defense," a class taught by Adjunct Professors **Jonathan Leiken** and **Caitlin Bell**. Comey spoke about his life and career, answered questions about working for Presidents George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump, and addressed the pressures and criticism that came with serving in such high-profile positions.



*James Comey (on screen) gave a virtual presentation to students in February.*

# Rising legal stars

## Overseas—and real-world—experience

Third-year law student **Jonathan Kronert** is no stranger to working overseas. Before coming to Case Western Reserve University, he lived in Thailand for two-and-a-half years, teaching English to high school students in Suratpittaya.

With grant support from Case Western Reserve's Frederick K. Cox International Law Center, Kronert returned to Thailand once again this past summer—this time, for an externship at JTJB International, a Bangkok firm that specializes in business law.

Every day was different at the firm, said Kronert, whether he was working through expert comments in arbitration, drafting client emails in contract negotiations or poring over contracts to identify potential breaches.

While Kronert's time in the classroom at CWRU has been essential to his legal education, this practical experience gave him insights he could only get on the job.

"In school, we are trained to analyze the facts and the law, then convey information to our supervisor or the court," Kronert explained. During his externship, he was able to take it further by "conveying that information to a client—telling them why their preferences are difficult to achieve or simplifying complex or dense information relative to whatever they're asking for in a palatable way."

His advice to students thinking about externing overseas: Understand how this experience can connect to your career goals.

"I don't think you need to know exactly what you want out of the externship or your future career," said Kronert who, for his part, hopes to eventually practice law in Asia, "but I think the opportunities you're seeking overseas should benefit both your optimal career as well as your second, third and 10th career choices. Try your best to have the externship fit you, rather than completely adapting to it."

—Meg Herrel



Jonathan Kronert

**Every year, Case Western Reserve University's Frederick K. Cox International Law Center provides more than \$80,000 to support student externs across the world.**

## Winning citation

**Jane Wiertel** never expected to be working at the intersection of journalism and the law, investigating and reporting on several legal issues facing the nation and world. But that’s precisely what she found herself doing in the summer of 2023 at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting in Washington, D.C.



*Jane Wiertel*

Working as a legal intern supported by the Squire Patton Boggs Foundation, Wiertel conducted research on book banning in the U.S. and ultimately published “News Analysis: Illinois Protects Books, Missouri Removes Them” on the Pulitzer Center’s website. The article explored U.S. Supreme Court case law on book banning, and the legislative efforts to both ban and protect books in Missouri and Illinois.

The following spring, in 2024, Wiertel was surprised to learn that her research was cited—by young scholars-in-training. In the Pulitzer Center’s Local Letters for Global Change competition, contestants—who range from kindergarten to 12th grade—write letters to their local representatives explaining an important issue in their community, and propose solutions.

The contest’s first place winner, 11th-grader James Wan from Central Bucks East High School in Pennsylvania, opened his letter calling for an end to book bans in his school by citing Wiertel’s research. Asking his senator to take action, Wan pleaded with him “to allow students greater access to diverse viewpoints and promote inclusion and equity.”

Read Wan’s winning letter:



Read Wiertel’s article:



## Sustained honor

Before she graduated in the spring, **Emily Worline (LAW ’24)** would celebrate a different accolade: being named Law Student of the Year by *The National Jurist*.



*Emily Worline*

Worline is now awaiting the results of her bar exam with the intention to become an immigration attorney in Michigan, but continues to lead Refugee Outreach Collective—an organization she founded—in the meantime.

“Her commitment and service to refugees is unmatched,” said **Michael Scharf**, the Joseph C. Hostetler – BakerHostetler Professor of Law, who nominated her for the award. “She has made an indelible impact on our law school and is sure to be a national leader in the field of immigration law.”



# ROAD TO

Case Western Reserve University School of Law’s mock trial and moot court teams racked up historic wins at last year’s competitions. Take a look at how their diligent work—which included preparing research, briefs and arguments—paid off.

## Ault Mock Trial Team

### TEAM

Julia Aliazzi	Cole McKee*
Jordyn Daubenmire	Kelsey Moore*
Gianna DeGeorge*	Michaela Polverini*
Amanda Hays*	Ryn Wayman *
Clare Kelley*	Trey Quillin*
Emerson McGinnis	Bailey Zugan*

### COACHES

Joe Shell, appellate attorney, Summit Legal Defenders  
 Madeline Kelley (LAW '22), associate, Lewis Brisbois  
 Lauren Tuttle (LAW '17), deputy chief assistant public defender, Office of the Lake County Public Defender

### COMPETITIONS

*Academy of Trial Lawyers Mock Trial Competition, Pittsburgh*

- Second place
- Top Litigator Award (Kelsey Moore)

*White Collar Crime Invitational Tournament, Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.*

- Semifinalists



*Ault Mock Trial Team*

## Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Team

### TEAM

Joel Berg	Alexandre Heuzé*
Rose Carlyon*	Matthew Matolka
Frankie Collins*	Vanessa Pilátová
Jim FitzGibbon	Nathaniel Sommers

### COACH

Kathryn Mercer, PhD (LAW '83; SAS '83; GRS '97, social welfare), professor of lawyering skills

### COMPETITIONS

*Regional Round, Vis Pre-Moot Competition, Asian International Arbitration Center, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

- Advanced to elimination round

*11th Annual Richard DeWitt Memorial Vis Pre-Moot Competition, Miami*

- Best Advocate Award (Vanessa Pilátová)

*Loyola University Pre-Moot Competition, Chicago*

- Third place



*Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court Team*

# VICTORY



## American Bar Association Moot Court Team

### TEAM

David Meredith\*                      Kory Roth\*  
Kelsey Moore\*                        Kyle Timmerman\*  
Michael O'Donnell\*

### COACHES

Kathryn Mercer, professor of lawyering skills  
Andrew Pollis, assistant professor of law

### COMPETITIONS

*American Bar Association National Appellate Advocacy  
Moot Court Competition, San Francisco*

- Second place
- Second best oralist (Kelsey Moore)



*American Bar Association Moot Court Team*

## Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team

### TEAM

Lydia Abraham                        Yaninna Sharpley-Travis  
Jordyn Dawson                        Aanya Myrie Silburn\*  
Obsi Ndukwe                         Caren Teague  
Jayda Rogers                         Massiagbe Traore

### COACHES

Diane Russell (LAW '00), first assistant, Cuyahoga County  
Prosecutor's Office

Russ Tye, chief trial counsel, Cuyahoga County Office of the  
Public Defender

### COMPETITIONS

*Midwest Black Student Law Association (BLSA)  
Constance Baker Motley Mock Trial Competition, Loyola  
School of Law, Chicago*

- Second place
- Best Prosecutor Award (Jayda Rogers)
- Best Defense Advocate (Aanya Myrie Silburn)

*National Championship, BLSA Constance Baker Motley  
Mock Trial Competition, Houston*

- First place



*Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team*

\*Graduated from CWRU School of Law in 2024

# ROAD TO VICTORY

*continued*

## Jessup International Law Moot Court Team

### TEAM

Will Baker\*                                      Brianna Schmidt  
Ellie Buerk                                        Naomi Matthusen  
Elise Manchester\*

### COACHES

Michael Scharf, the Joseph C. Hostetler-BakerHostetler Professor of Law

Liz Safer, associate, Squire Patton Boggs

### COMPETITIONS

*Western National Competition, Portland, Oregon*

- First place
- Second place brief award
- Second (Brianna Schmidt) and seventh (Will Baker) best speaker awards

*International Competition, Washington, D.C.*

- 21st place
- 6th (Will Baker) and 25th (Brianna Schmidt) best speaker awards out of 600 competitors



*CWRU School of Law Moot Court Team*

## Law, Technology and the Arts Center Team

### TEAM

Benjamin Collado                                      Lucas Van Dyke  
Anthony Corigliano

### COACH

Self-coached

### COMPETITIONS

*New England Hockey Arbitration Competition, Western New England School of Law, Springfield, Massachusetts*

- Second place



*Law, Technology and the Arts Center Team*

\*Graduated from CWRU School of Law in 2024



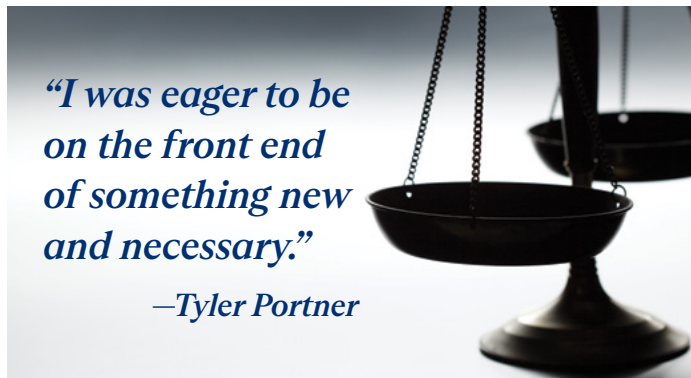
# Closing the “justice gap”

## School of Law partners with local bar association to help those in need

With more than 75% of Americans with low incomes experiencing at least one civil legal need in the last year, there’s no shortage in demand for legal services throughout the country. But not everyone can afford them.

People living under the federal poverty line—about one-third of Cleveland’s population—have access to free legal services. Meanwhile, 60% of Clevelanders are technically above the poverty line and therefore unqualified to receive free legal services—but still do not have the income to pay for legal support. So, often, they go without.

This “justice gap” is what led the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) to create the Cleveland Legal Collaborative (CLC), which brings together those needing low- or no-cost legal support with recent law graduates who are ready to help. These newly minted lawyers join the CLC as fellows for 18 months and, under the guidance of mentors, learn to represent their clients while balancing their practices and developing new business.



*“I was eager to be on the front end of something new and necessary.”*

*—Tyler Portner*

Former deans Jessica Berg and **Michael Scharf** worked with the CMBA to help design the collaborative, and CWRU School of Law was one of the first institutions to provide a multi-year grant to support the CLC. When it launched over the summer, three CWRU School of Law alumni—**Tyler Portner (LAW ’19)**, **Joe Javorsky (LAW ’24)** and **Abby O’Leary (LAW ’23)**—made up the first class of fellows.

Portner, who manages his own negotiation-focused practice, was drawn to the CLC because of its mission and the opportunities it provides to its fellows.

“I was eager to be on the front end of something new and necessary,” he explained, noting his interest in increasing



*The first class of fellows, left to right: Tyler Portner, Abby O’Leary and Joe Javorsky*

access to justice in the community. The fellowship also offered support and referrals for his practice, an invaluable resource for a new and growing firm.

Javorsky took on the fellowship to better understand the community he intends to serve in his career: those who cannot afford legal representation. Now a licensed attorney with a newly opened practice of his own, he also found that the fellowship has helped him network within the legal community and explore various areas of law.

O’Leary enrolled in law school with the goal of one day helping those who could not afford legal services, so the fellowship was a perfect fit. Like Portner and Javorsky, she hopes to open her own practice. But she’s not just feeding her passion; in her daily work at the CLC, she’s developing skills in real time.

“[I’ve been able to] rapidly build my issue-spotting, problem-solving, empathy and communication skills to an extent that would not have been possible without this fellowship,” she said.

And in the meantime, O’Leary is able to explore different areas of the law so she can plan the next step of her career.

“The legal community has been encouraging and supportive,” O’Leary said. “Because of this, I have some optimism that this program is going to put me in a position to continue to help people and be excited by my work.”

# The latest in law

With a reputation for exceptional expertise, Case Western Reserve University School of Law faculty are often tapped for their insights on the legal news of the day. Read on to see how some of the most well-known media outlets captured their thoughts.



“I realized right away that this time—and this crime—was different, that the judge was actually going to hold [Sam Bankman-Fried] accountable for his actions. In [his] case, the sentence was more than double.”

—Anat Alon-Beck, associate professor, to *CBS News* about the sentencing of former cryptocurrency billionaire Sam Bankman-Fried for one of the largest financial fraud crimes in U.S. history



“[Historically], Democrat presidents tended to appoint Democrats and Republican presidents tended to appoint Republicans. What’s changed is that the parties themselves have become more polarized.

... So it’s much more contentious than it used to be.”

—Jonathan Entin, the David L. Brennan Professor Emeritus of Law, to *BBC* about the political dynamics on the U.S. Supreme Court

## CWRU law faculty are quoted an average of 750 times per year in major media outlets, including:

ABC News	Newsweek
Associated Press	NPR
BBC News	Parents
Bloomberg	PBS News
Business Insider	Politico
CBS News	The Atlantic
CNBC	The Guardian
Huffington Post	The Hill
Fast Company	The New York Times
Forbes	Time
Inc.	USA Today
Independent	U.S. News & World Report
International Business Times	Vox
Los Angeles Times	The Wall Street Journal
Ms.	Washington Examiner
MSNBC	The Washington Post
NBC News	Wired



“China wants to escape the middle-income trap, a situation in which countries like Brazil, Turkey and Mexico developed somewhat but don’t manage to leave that stage

because they’re always catching up. And one way to do that is through state-managed trade expansion.”

—Juscelino Colares, PhD, the Schott-van den Eynden Professor of Business Law, to *The Independent* about the rise of China’s economy



“Now the Supreme Court has sent [the Trump presidential immunity case] back to the lower court to [determine] what were his official acts, versus what could be his private conduct for which he could get prosecuted. It doesn’t end his criminal liability, but it certainly moves the case forward.”

—**Atiba Ellis**, the Laura B. Chisholm Distinguished Research Scholar and professor of law, to *Spectrum News* about the Supreme Court’s ruling that presidents have immunity from criminal prosecution for official acts while in office



“This decision will make it more difficult for future administrations to change policy without going to Congress. If there is a second Trump administration, they will find out what it’s like to get what they wished for, because in a lot of contexts, it will be hard to dramatically change the way various federal statutes are implemented.”

—**Jonathan Adler**, the Johan Verheij Memorial Professor of Law, to *NPR* about the United States Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Chevron USA v. National Resources Defense Council*



“These century-old laws are really having a tangible impact on women’s lives today. And they’ve really contributed to the post-Dobbs uncertainty across America.”

—**Jessie Hill**, the Judge Ben C. Green Professor of Law, to *Associated Press* about Arizona’s reinstatement of an 1864 law that prohibits nearly all abortions in the state



“Deciding whether to file for bankruptcy and what type of bankruptcy to file are serious considerations. Successfully completing a Chapter 7 bankruptcy can provide much-needed debt relief, but the Chapter 7 bankruptcy can remain on a credit report for up to 10 years.”

—**Matthew Salerno**, assistant professor, to *Business Insider* on the complex nature of bankruptcy procedures

# Scholarly impact and recognitions

Faculty at Case Western Reserve University School of Law have written and edited books, chapters, journal articles and briefs in their respective areas of legal expertise. Here are some of their works that have been published over the past year, along with special honors they've received along the way.

**Bryan L. Adamson**  
**David L. Brennan**  
**Professor of Law**



- “Advancing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Legal Education, the Legal Profession, and Under the Law,” 75 *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy* (2024).

**Jonathan H. Adler**  
**Johan Verheij Memorial**  
**Professor of Law**



- “The Delegation Doctrine,” *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy Per Curiam* (2024).
- “Speech Regulation and Tobacco Harm Reduction,” *The Journal of Free Speech Law* (2024) (with Jacob James Rich).
- “Standing without Injury,” 59 *Wake Forest Law Review* 1 (2024).
- “Tarnished Gold: The Endangered Species Act at 50,” 18 *F.I.U. Law Review* 385 (2024).

**Anat Alon-Beck**  
**Assistant professor**



- “Board Observers,” *Illinois Law Review* (forthcoming 2024) (with Nizan Packin).
- “Interlocking Directorship: Evidence from a Natural Experiment by Israeli Competition Law,” in *A Research Handbook on Competition and Corporate Law* (Anna Tzanaki and Florence Thépot, ed.) (forthcoming 2024) (with Moran Ofir).

**Eric C. Chaffee**  
**Professor**



- *Securities Regulation in Cyberspace* (4th ed. 2018) (with Howard M. Friedman) (2023 & 2024 updates).
- “Securities Regulation by Survey,” 65 *Boston College Law Review* 601 (2024).

- “Securities Regulation and Administrative Deference in the Roberts Court,” 48 *Seattle Law Review* 965 (2024).
- “(Un)Conscious Capitalism,” 18 *Ohio State Business Law Journal* 141 (2024).
- “Corporate Law and Private Ordering,” 74 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 1 (2024).
- *Lost in Translation: A Global View of Insider Trading Regulation*, in *Research Handbook on Insider Trading* (Stephen M. Bainbridge ed., 2d ed., forthcoming 2024).
- *NFTs and State Laws Governing Securities Regulation, Virtual Currency, and Money Transmission*, in *Cambridge Handbook on Law and Policy for NFTs* (Nizan Geslevich Packin ed., 2024).
- *Securities Regulation and Artificial Intelligence: Regulating Robo-Advisers*, in *Cambridge Handbook of Private Law and Artificial Intelligence* (Ernest Lim & Phillip Morgan eds., 2024).

**Jennifer Cupar**  
**Professor**



- “Using Advanced Writing Courses to Teach the Next [Gen]eration of Lawyers,” 31 *Perspectives* (forthcoming 2024) (with Matthew Salerno and Colleen Settineri).
- “Want to Improve Your Writing? Take These Style Cues from Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart,” *Cleveland Metro. Bar J.* 14 (April 2023).

**Joseph A. Custer**  
**Associate professor**



- “Cancel Culture is More Toxic than Censorship,” 101 *University of Detroit Mercy Law Review* (forthcoming 2024).
- “Recent Enhancements Transforming Federal Legal Research Landscape,” *Cleveland Metro. Bar J.* 26-27 (May 2024).
- “Lions, and Tigers, and Bears, Oh My!” *Cleveland Metro. Bar J.* 24-25 (Feb. 2024).

**Joseph A. Custer** was named a Pinnacle Life Professional by the membership organization Continental Who’s Who for his dedication, expertise, service and leadership in academic law librarianship.

**Atiba R. Ellis**  
**Laura B. Chisholm**  
**Distinguished Research**  
**Scholar and**  
**Professor of Law**



- *Race, Racism and American Law* (Aspen Publishing, forthcoming 2024) (with Cheryl I. Harris, Justin Hansford, Audrey G. McFarlane, and Amna A. Akbar).
- “Democracy and the Common Good: Perils and Possibilities for a Multiracial Twenty-First Century America,” 101 *University of Detroit Mercy Law Review* (forthcoming 2024).
- “Voter Registration” in *Oxford Handbook of American Election Law* (Eugene Mazo, ed., forthcoming 2024).

**Jonathan L. Entin**  
**David L. Brennan**  
**Professor Emeritus**  
**of Law**



- “Court Packing and Judicial Independence: An American Perspective,” in *Judicial Independence: Cornerstone of Democracy* 382 (Shimon Shetreet & Hiram Chodosh eds., 2024).
- “Kinship and Recusal,” *The Federal Lawyer* (forthcoming 2024).
- “Judicial Ethics and Judicial Competence,” 74 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* (forthcoming 2024).

**Victor Flatt**  
**Professor**

- “Legal Protection of the Environment (5th Ed.)” (West Publishing, forthcoming 2024) (with Craig Johnston).
- “The New NEPA? - A Case Study in Congressional Frustration,” 75 *Case Western Reserve L. Rev.* (forthcoming 2025).



Adjunct Professor  
**Susan Hatters-Friedman** was awarded the Seymour J. Pollack Distinguished Achievement Award by the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law for her contributions to the teaching and educational functions of forensic psychiatry.



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

- “The Right to Life and Medical Authority,” 104 *Boston University Law Review Online* 67 (2024).



**Jessie Hill** was elected to the American Law Institute, which aims to clarify, modernize or otherwise improve the law to promote the better administration of justice.

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

- “Employers and the Privatization of Public Health,” 65:7 *Boston College Law Review* (forthcoming 2024).
- “Patient Autonomy, Public Safety, and Drivers with Cognitive Decline,” 15 *UC Irvine Law Review* (forthcoming 2025) (with Cassandra Robertson).



- “Balancing Autonomy and Public Safety: A Call for Medical and Regulatory Oversight of Drivers with Cognitive Decline,” *Health Affairs Forefront*, Jan. 2, 2024 (with Cassandra Robertson).

**Daniel A. Jaffe**  
**Professor**

- *Ohio School Law* (2023-2024 ed.) (with Michael L. Sharb and W. Michael Hanna).



**Erik M. Jensen**  
**Coleman P. Burke**  
**Professor Emeritus**  
**of Law**

- “Is Realization Necessary to Have Taxable Income? The Supreme Court Might Tell Us,” 40(4) *Journal of Taxation of Investments* 39 (Summer 2023).
- “The Commerce Clause Doesn’t Override Rules Governing the Taxing Power,” 182 *Tax Notes Federal* 1603 (2024); 113 *Tax Notes International* 1169 (2024).



**Juliet P. Kostritsky**  
**Everett D. & Eugenia S.**  
**McCurdy Professor of**  
**Contract Law**

- “The Hidden Cost of Contracting for ESG: A New Perspective on Private Ordering,” 74 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* Vol. 74 (forthcoming 2024).
- “Discriminating Alignment in the Innovation Sphere,” *University of Pennsylvania Business Law Journal*, forthcoming 2025).



**Cathy Lesser Mansfield**  
**Senior instructor**

- “It Takes a Thief.... and a Bank: Protecting Consumers From Fraud and Scams on P2P Payment Platforms,” 57 *University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform* (2024).



**Maxwell J. Mehlman**  
**Arthur E. Petersilge**  
**Professor of Law**

- “Defusing the Legal and Ethical Minefield of Epigenetic Applications in the Military, Defense, and Security Context,” 10 *Oxford Journal of Law and the Biosciences*, July-December 2023 (with Dalpe and others).



**Dale A. Nance**  
**Albert J. Weatherhead**  
**III and Richard W.**  
**Weatherhead Professor**  
**in Law and Criminal**  
**Justice**

- “Corroboration Confusion: Toward a Purposive Understanding of Corroboration Requirements,” 92 *Tennessee Law Review* (forthcoming 2025).



**Craig Nard**  
**Galen J. Roush**  
**Professor of Law**

- “Brexit and the Legal Legitimacy of the Unitary Patent Court,” 73 *Journal of European and International IP Law* (2024) (with Nicolas Binctin).



**Andrew S. Pollis**  
**Professor**

- *Ohio Appellate Practice* (2023-2024 ed.) (with Mark P. Painter).



**Cassandra**  
**Burke Robertson**  
**John Deaver Drinko-**  
**BakerHostetler**  
**Professor of Law**

- *Professional Responsibility in the Life of the Lawyer* (3d ed. 2024, with Alex B. Long and Paula Schaefer).
- “Litigating Partial Autonomy,” 109 *Iowa Law Review* (forthcoming 2024).
- “Balancing Autonomy and Public Safety: A Call for Medical and Regulatory Oversight of Drivers with Cognitive Decline,” *Health Affairs Forefront*, Jan. 2, 2024 (with Sharona Hoffman).



## Scholarly impact and recognitions, continued

- “Patient Autonomy, Public Safety, and Drivers with Cognitive Decline,” *15 UC Irvine Law Review* (forthcoming 2025) (with Sharona Hoffman).

### Matthew J. Rossman Professor



- “Assessing the Performance of Place-Based Economic Development Incentives: What’s the Word on the Street?,” *Washburn Law Journal* (forthcoming 2024).

### Matthew A. Salerno Assistant professor



- “Mindfulness Matters: The Experience of Mindfulness Activity Facilitation by Faculty,” *Building Healthy Academic Communities Journal* (forthcoming 2024) (with Jesse Honsky, Marjorie N. Edguer, Elizabeth R. Click, Suzanne Rusnak, Barbara Burgess Van Aken, and Kristen A. Berg).
- “Using Advanced Writing Courses to Teach the Next [Gen]eration of Lawyers,” *31 Perspectives* (forthcoming 2024) (with Jennifer Cupar and Colleen Settineri).
- “The Journey to Meaningful Contract Feedback,” *Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal*, at 36 (September 2023).

### Michael P. Scharf Joseph C. Hostetler - BakerHostetler Professor of Law



- “Will Climate Change be the Next Grotian Moment,” *56 Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 9-30 (2024).
- “Foreword: Climate Change and International Law at a Crossroad,” *56 Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 1-8 (2024) (with Amanda Price).

### Katharine A. Van Tassel Professor



- *Food and Drug Administration* (4th, forthcoming 2023-2 ed.).



**SaraJean Petite (LAW '18)**, reference librarian at the Judge Ben C. Green Law Library, **Lauren Beninger (LAW '23)** and **Jessica Edelstein**, a fellow at the Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic, were added to the Association of American Law Schools’ Pro Bono Honor Roll for supporting their law school community in providing pro bono legal services.

# Honoring educators

CWRU School of Law commemorated the contributions of several faculty members at its 10th annual Celebration of Faculty by bestowing awards, professorships, chairs and directorships. Here's a look at who was recognized.



**Eric Chaffee,**  
professor of law  
Faculty Extraordinary  
Service Prize



**Aleksandar Cuic,**  
director, Immigration  
Law Clinic  
Gwen and Austin Fragomen  
Distinguished Practitioner in  
the Immigration Law Clinic



**Victor Flatt,**  
professor of law  
Coleman P. Burke Chair in  
Environmental Law



**Andrew Geronimo**  
(LAW '10), lecturer  
Inaugural director of  
the Stanton First  
Amendment Clinic



**Robert Rapp**  
(ADL '69, LAW '72),  
visiting assistant  
professor of law  
Louis C. Greenwood  
Lecturer in Residence



**John Yirga,**  
adjunct professor  
of law  
Joseph Hubach and  
Colleen O'Connor  
Distinguished Practitioner  
in the Intellectual Property  
Venture Clinic



**Juliet Kostritsky,**  
Everett D. & Eugenia S.  
McCurdy Professor of  
Contract Law  
Faculty Distinguished  
Scholarship Prize



**Sharona Hoffman,**  
Edgar A. Hahn  
Professor of Law  
1L Professor of the Year



**Jack Turner,**  
professor of law  
LLM Professor of the Year



**Michael Benza**  
(WRC '86, LAW '92),  
professor of practice  
Teacher of the Year



**David Kutik**  
(LAW '80),  
adjunct professor  
Judge Richard M. Markus  
Adjunct Teacher Award

# Welcoming a legal luminary

## Leading corporate law scholar and celebrated professor takes helm

By Daniel Robison

**P**aul Rose came of age in rural Utah, where he milked cows before dawn and herded cattle by horseback.

It was an unlikely upbringing for one of the world's foremost experts in sovereign wealth funds and corporate finance law.

Over the last two decades practicing law and in academia—most recently as associate dean for strategic initiatives at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law—Rose has earned a reputation as an insightful and authoritative scholar and an approachable, patient teacher dedicated to student success.

As an academic administrator, he embraced a collaborative leadership style and expanded legal education options at Moritz College, among other notable initiatives.

Those—and many other—experiences were among the reasons Rose was named dean of Case Western Reserve School of Law this spring; he began his tenure July 1.

“I was immediately struck by the deep level of caring and commitment from staff and faculty for the students’ well-being and achievement,” said Rose. “Great leadership has positioned the school for continued success, and I’m honored to be trusted with the responsibility.”

### A new vision

Cassandra Burke Robertson, who served on the hiring committee for the position, said Rose stood out among “many exceptional candidates” from a national search.

“He’s thoughtful, data-driven, and has really done his homework on the school— understanding our strengths and needs, and providing a future direction,” said Robertson, the John Deaver Drinko - BakerHostetler Professor of Law.

Among Rose’s top priorities are to strengthen the employment pipeline for students and improve the bar passage rates among graduates. While both measures are near historic highs for the law school, Rose believes continued progress will help prepare graduates for successful law careers.





Photo by Roger Mastroianni

“We will compete for the best students and create strong outcomes for them,” said Rose. “In everything we do, we should aim to be a leader among our peers—in Ohio, regionally and nationally.”

At the same time, Rose underscores the importance of creating a strong sense of community among students, a necessity given the collaborative nature of the legal profession.

“It’s a team sport. I want our students to develop lifelong relationships and skills to work with anyone,” said Rose. “[The School of Law] will be a place where differences are respected, open conversations about difficult topics are encouraged and collaboration is the norm.”

Drawing on his experience designing degree and certificate programs at Ohio State, Rose also aims to increase the accessibility of law school offerings on campus and online.

“Law schools should be focused on preparing future lawyers, yes,” he said, “but also paths for law-adjacent careers.”

As Rose steps into his deanship, the law school is embarking on the launch of a fully online JD program, while strengthening its in-person version. This highly selective program—which received over 500 applications this year for 30 spots—allows students from across the country to participate without any visitation or in-person requirement.

Additionally, the school is expanding its Master of Compliance

## Career at a glance

1995

BA, philosophy,  
Brigham Young University



2001

JD, UCLA



2001–2005

Covington & Burling LLP,  
San Francisco, *Corporate and securities practice group*



2005–2007

Northwestern University  
School of Law, *Visiting assistant professor in securities and finance*



2007–2024

The Ohio State University Moritz  
College of Law, *Associate dean for strategic initiatives*

*Associate dean for academic affairs*

*J. Gilbert Reese Chair in Contract Law*

*Executive director of the Law, Finance and Governance Program*



2024–present

Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law, *Dean*

degree to introduce new tracks in intellectual property, environmental and business law.

“It’s tough for schools to survive on traditional JD revenue alone anymore,” said Rose. “Creating additional sources of revenue helps provide opportunities for more students and makes us a stronger institution.”

### Set up for success

Last fall, **Michael Scharf** and Jessica Berg announced plans to step down as co-deans after leading the law school since 2013.

During their co-deanship—the longest-ever at any U.S. law school—the duo restored trust and confidence in the institution. They stabilized its finances, sharply increased international enrollment, improved the credentials of entering students and expanded experiential education programs—an approach that has earned the law school a top-10 ranking in practical training by *preLaw* magazine for five years running.

“Jessica and I wanted to leave the law school in a position to attract a really great new dean to take us to the next level,” said Scharf. “Everybody is so excited we were able to hire Paul, and I don’t think we could have gotten someone of his caliber from outside the institution 10 years ago.”

As a member of Rose’s senior management team, Scharf will resume his pre-dean role as associate dean for global legal

studies. Berg is now dean of University of California, Davis School of Law.

“Jessica and Michael really helped set me up for success,” said Rose. “They did a fabulous job creating a sense of shared mission and a foundation for me to build upon.”

In particular, Rose hopes to continue the consensus-building and open communication that marked the last decade-plus of deanship. In his first weeks on the job, Rose started making inroads with “the local bench and bar”—it helps that many of his former Ohio State students practice in the Cleveland area, he said—and is focused on “keeping our momentum going in fundraising.”

“There’s an expression—when the dean sneezes, the faculty and staff catch a cold. So it’s important to be upbeat when problems arise,” said Scharf. “Paul is very level-headed, calm and genuine—all traits that will serve him well as dean.”

### Leader in law

Rose traces his initial interest in law to conversations with his late father, Gary Truman Rose, an electrical engineer who helped manage the construction and operation of the Intermountain Power Plant near Great Basin National Park in the 1980s.

“My dad and I talked a lot about how the law touches everything—environmental regulation, land and water rights, and funding agreements,” Rose said. “It piqued my curiosity about how laws shape the world we live in.”

Like his father, Rose attended Brigham Young University as an undergraduate. A philosophy major, he wrote his honors thesis on the Jewish theologian Martin Buber’s treatise “I and Thou,” a text, treasured by a range of religious faiths, that explores the nature of human relationships. (Like his siblings, Rose served a mission with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, spending two years in France. He’s since maintained an interest in service and has been a

*“I was immediately struck by the deep level of caring and commitment from staff and faculty for the students’ well-being and achievement. Great leadership has positioned the school for continued success, and I’m honored to be trusted with the responsibility.”*

—Paul Rose

court-appointed advocate for foster children in central Ohio since 2017—a role he intends to continue.)

After his first year of graduate studies in philosophy at Fordham University, Rose got a summer job on Wall Street through a temp agency.

“I loved it,” he said. “Pretty soon I didn’t want to go back to school in the fall.”

After a few years trading derivatives for Citibank, Rose and his growing family moved across the country so he could study law at University of California, Los Angeles.

“Raising young kids, studying, and working at the same time, I definitely learned how to manage my schedule,” he said, laughing. “It could get brutal, especially around finals.”

In his 3L year at UCLA, he served as chief articles editor for the law review and won the national Schramm World Affairs Writing Competition. He followed a “typical law professor path of practicing for a few years” in the corporate and securities group at Covington & Burling LLP, “where a lot of law professors come from,” he said.

### Talent for teaching

While Rose traded in his goals of becoming a philosophy professor for a finance and business law career, he never abandoned his passion for teaching. This dedication has become one of his signature strengths.

“I had this dream of becoming a professor,” he said. “I thought it would be such a cool job to research and teach the things I find interesting.”

Joining Ohio State in 2007, Rose earned tenure just four years later and went on to earn the law college’s top teaching award twice. In 2022, he was chosen among the university’s more than 7,700 faculty members for its Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.

“He’s charismatic—and has an unmatched ability to connect and empathize with students,” said Diego De La Vega, a 2024 graduate of Moritz College of Law. “He gets information to students as efficiently and as effectively—and as easy to understand—as possible.”

As a teacher, Rose emphasizes the substance of the law as well as the essential soft skills needed to navigate the legal profession. He also earned a reputation for making complex subjects more digestible and engaging, often using pop culture references, including from the Harry Potter series.

“He’s very chill, laid-back and funny,” said Cameron Justice, a 2024 Moritz College of Law graduate. “He never made anyone feel embarrassed or uncomfortable if they did not understand a concept, which created a safe learning environment.”

Rose also volunteered as a moot court coach—guiding teams to four national championships—and as a faculty advisor to several student organizations.

In his 17 years at Ohio State, Rose also taught in China and Qatar and served as a faculty affiliate at universities in Madrid, Milan and several other institutions around the world. This wide-ranging experience “challenged me to think and communicate ideas in new ways,” he said.

At the School of Law, Rose plans to teach, but not immediately.

“The faculty are so strong,” he said. “I’ll teach where I can best add to what is already a great lineup of courses.”

### **Strong scholarship**

Rose’s scholarly contributions have established him as a go-to expert in sovereign wealth funds, corporate governance, securities regulation and related subjects.

“Topics at the intersection of finance and politics have always been interesting to me,” said Rose.

*“He’s very chill, laid-back and funny. He never made anyone feel embarrassed or uncomfortable if they did not understand a concept, which created a safe learning environment.”*

*—Cameron Justice*

As an author or contributor to 10 books, Rose has also published dozens of law review articles and essays in top academic journals, including the *Stanford Law Review*, *Vanderbilt Law Review*, *Harvard Business Law Review* and others.

His scholarship has also led to his testimony before the U.S. Senate Committee

on Banking, Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission and other governmental bodies.

Maintaining the law school’s strong standing in scholarship will also be among Rose’s areas of emphasis as its leader.

“Deans set the scholarly expectations for the law school faculty,” said Robertson. “Having a leading scholar as dean encourages faculty productivity and sets the tone.”

As a faculty member, Rose joins a business law program that is considered the best in the state, with a wide-reaching range of expertise.

Professor **Eric Chaffee** has known Rose for 15 years—often frequenting the same academic and scholarly circles in business law.

“Paul is very thoughtful about how legal research influences education and shapes policy in the real world,” said Chaffee, also the co-director of CWRU’s Center for Business Law. “He will carry the torch for scholarship very well at our school.”

This summer, Rose and his family settled in Chesterland, drawn to the area’s opportunities for hiking and biking—and a short drive to campus and the city’s music and arts scene.

“Cleveland’s a special place,” he said. “And very welcoming—I already feel at home.”

While he’s just getting started, Rose hopes his tenure at the law school will be marked by “our care for students, pursuit of big goals, and not being afraid to embrace challenges,” he said. “That’s the example I want to set every day.”



# Pro bono pathways

Law clinics foster legal and community reform

By Jennifer A. Miller

**A**fter being convicted of conspiracy to traffic narcotics, a man sought support from students in Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Appellate Litigation Clinic.

During sentencing, he explained, the judge applied enhancements that introduced two charges the prosecution had never brought forth during the case: one for the client playing a managerial role in the crime, and another for a handgun that was found near the client's property.

"The judge concluded by a lower standard of proof that [the gun] belonged to [our client]," said **Michael O'Donnell (LAW '24)**. That second enhancement added more than two years to the client's sentence.

Students in the Appellate Litigation Clinic took the case all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States—one of two that CWRU students took to this level last year.

The other case was for a client who fired his attorney after his trial because he felt the lawyer was not working in his best interest—but he did so before sentencing. When asked if he wanted to go ahead without representation, he said yes, but without fully understanding the possible



*Appellate Litigation Clinic students (front row, from left) Kory Roth, Michael O'Donnell, Francesca Veres, Hunter Cyran; (middle row, from left) Spencer Luckwitz, Olivia Kuenzi, Kayla Tharp, Addie Griffey; and (back row) clinic director Andrew Pollis*



*From left: Intellectual Property Venture Clinic students Christeena Sebastian, Sarah Scott, Asia Moore, Akua Oppong, Jorge Monzon Diaz, Victoria Bonds, Amanda Hays, Meng Li and John Yirga*

implications of such a decision. He was then sentenced to the higher range of sentencing guidelines.

“They didn’t give him any kind of warning about the dangers of not having counsel,” said **Olivia Kuenzi (LAW ’24)**.

While the court ultimately declined to hear both cases, **Andrew Pollis**, director of the Appellate Litigation Clinic, said bringing them that far was well worth the effort. “There are many areas in which the law is confusing or outdated, and we advocate aggressively for progress,” said Pollis.

The Appellate Litigation Clinic is one of nine pro bono clinics in the Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic, where law students help shape the local and national legal landscapes.

“Being in a clinic that works pro bono is a privilege because if someone who’s facing the system broadly has a team of enthusiastic legal minds working on their case for free, that helps turn what can be a one-way system ratcheted toward injustice just a little bit closer to justice,” O’Donnell said. “It sparks conversations about the flaws in the criminal justice system, which can prompt reform and change.”

### **Setting up for success**

Joe Black, an activist in Cleveland, works to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the local community. Through his budding nonprofit, Reverse RideAlong, Cleveland police cadets and other professionals take immersive tours in the low-income neighborhoods where they work to

strengthen their connection to the residents they serve. They listen to their stories, concerns, hopes and fears related to interaction with law enforcement.

Students in CWRU’s Community Development Clinic worked with Black to set up his nonprofit organization, establish a board of directors and apply for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, which enables tax-deductible donations and makes it easier for the organization to apply for grants. The application, according to Professor **Matthew Rossman**, who oversees the



*Matthew Rossman*

*“In helping our community, CWRU law students are gaining valuable experience in real-life situations, which will play out in whatever law careers lie ahead.”*

*—Michael Scharf*

students’ work, was approved by the IRS in just over a week, due to what he assumes was their clear, concise, high quality of work.

“In all my years doing this work, I’ve never seen a determination letter come back this quickly,” Rossman said. “Usually it takes at least a few months.”

Students also advised Black on legal issues surrounding a recent documentary filmed about Reverse RideAlong, including preparing written consent forms for people who appeared in the film and a production agreement between Black and the filmmaker.

Not only did **Kayla Depalma (LAW ’24)** hone her skills on contract drafting and transactional law, she also learned from her client how to impact and influence others. Watching Black talk to people was inspiring, she said, because he “treated them as peers and equals, acknowledging each individual person. You see how much they respected him and bought into what he was doing.”

### **Patent pending**

Helping people bring their ideas to fruition isn’t just the work of the Community Development Clinic. In the Intellectual Property Clinic, students worked with a father-son duo who had invented a new kind of bicycle to help the son's mother, who

is unable to ride a traditional bicycle due to physical challenges. The son designed a reverse tricycle with two wheels in the front and one in the back and a "bicycle fork" to hold the front wheels and improve stability.

The students helped them apply for a patent for the bicycle fork. They weren’t just filling out paperwork, said **Christeena Sebastian (LAW ’24)**; they had to discover what could and could not be patentable. This meant Sebastian had to brush up on her geometry skills, as things like measurements and angles were key in making those determinations. Thanks to her efforts, the patent is now pending, and the clients are working

with a bicycle design expert to enhance their prototype and fabricate a market-ready version of the fork.

“Our student clinics are helping people across the Cleveland area, whether that’s petitioning the Supreme Court in defense of someone’s civil rights or helping budding inventors on the path to entrepreneurship,” said **Michael Scharf**, the Joseph C. Hostetler - BakerHostetler Professor of Law. “In helping our community, CWRU law students are gaining valuable experience in real-life situations, which will play out in whatever law careers lie ahead.”



*From left: Community Development Clinic students" before "Joel Joel Shambaugh, Kayla DePalma and Maria Kargbo*

# Destined for success

Members of the Class of 2024 step into their legal careers

Case Western Reserve University School of Law released a new generation of legal professionals into the field after commencement in May. Graduates and their families and friends gathered at the Veale Convocation, Recreation and Athletic Center to mark their transition from law students to alumni.

Here are a few of the memories captured that day.



*“In our legal careers, we will have the opportunity to change the hearts and minds of our colleagues, judges, lawmakers and, most importantly, [...] our clients. If we’re lucky, those people and those experiences will also change us. And if we’re really lucky, they’ll change us for the better.”*

—Kayla Tharp (LAW '24), student graduation speaker

**Class of 2024,  
by the numbers**

**234**

graduates from

**27** & **13**  
states & countries

**151**  
JD

**20**  
Master's

**42**  
LLM

**21**  
SJD

Watch the 2024  
diploma ceremony:



*“Keep being the master of your fate, keep being the captain of your soul, keep doing great things and keep making us all so very proud of you.”*

—Charles Fleming (LAW '90),  
U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Ohio,  
during his commencement speech to the Class of 2024



Photos by Matt Shiffler



# Society of Benchers 2024

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:



Lawrence Apolzon  
(LAW '82)



James Bildner  
(LAW '79)



Jennifer Cupar  
(LAW '98)



Timothy F. Geisse  
(LAW '84)



Kelly Grigsby Jones  
(LAW '95)



Jeffrey Herman  
(LAW '85)



Steven Kaufman  
(LAW '75)



Charles Kowal  
(LAW '78)



Mark Kramer



Nancy Marcus  
(LAW '97)



Karen Greve Milton  
(LAW '81)



Jacqueline Nance  
(LAW '92)



Dean Paul Rose



James Willis  
(LAW '52)

# Campus comeback

Last year's Homecoming and Reunion Weekend brought together alumni from across the country to reconnect and reflect on their time at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Alumni were inducted into the Society of Benchers, the Black Law Students Association celebrated its newest inductees over brunch in the George Gund Hall rotunda and the Class of 1973 held its 50th reunion. Take a look at a few of the memories made that weekend.



*Benjamin Collado and his parents celebrating his induction into the Black Law Students Association*



*From left: Cheryl Lauderdale and Adrienne Allotta*



*The Class of 1973 celebrating their 50th reunion at the home of Chuck and Lucy Weller*



*Top row, from left: Sara and Charles Fleming; bottom row: Norma Fleming*



*Douglas Charnas (center) celebrating his induction into the Society of Benchers with his family*



*The 2023 inductees of the Society of Benchers*



*2023 Benchers Student Award recipient Andrew Thompson with his wife, Kelly Thompson*



*Colleen and Mike Lear*



*Guests attending the Black Law Students Association induction ceremony*



*Alumni at the 2023 Golden Barristers Circle Brunch*



*From left: Rita Maimbourg and Kevin Young*



*From left: Michael Scharf, Audrey and Ed Kancler, Marilyn and David Elk*



*Susan Winarsky, Lew Winarsky, Gerald Jackson, Joe Allotta, Phyllis Hall and Marilyn E. Sheastonum*



*Bryan Adamson and Jessica Berg at the Black Law Students Association induction ceremony*



*Members of the Black Law Students Association at the induction ceremony*

# LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD 2023–24

## OFFICERS

### President

Nicole Braden Lewis (LAW '01)

### Vice President

Matthew O'Connell (LAW '83)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Rhonda Baker Debevec (LAW '97)

### Past President

Eric B. Levasseur (LAW '02)

## MEMBERS

Ahmed Abonamah (LAW '08)

Carly C. Barnes (LAW '21)

Victoria Bonds (LAW '24)

David B. Cupar (LAW '99)

Kyle Cutts (LAW '08)

Ethan Dunn (LAW '06)

Lauryn B. Durham (LAW '21)

Craig Elkins (LAW '08)

Anne Lederman Flamm (LAW '95)

Laura B. Friedman (LAW '13)

Matt Grashoff (LAW '13)

Margaret "Maggie" J. Grover (LAW '83)

Ed Kancler (LAW '64)

Morgan Kearse (LAW '15)

Yao Liu (LAW '14)

Heather Ludwig (LAW '11)

Bonnie McNee (LAW '17)

Thomas Mester (LAW '69)

Mark Mikhael (LAW '13)

Ronald J. O'Leary (LAW '97)

James Pasch (LAW '10)

Stephen Schlegelmilch (LAW '00)

Melanie Shakarian (LAW '03)

Jay Shapiro (LAW '80)

Judith Steiner (LAW '87)

Myra Barsoum Stockett (LAW '99)

Brooke Tyus (LAW '18)

Richard Wortman (LAW '87)

Diandra "Fu" Debrosse Zimmerman  
(LAW '04)

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## DEAN'S CABINET FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Tariq Areej

Angela Bennett (LAW '96)

Justin Hill (LAW '21)

Laura Kingsley Hong (LAW '85)

Valissa Turner Howard (LAW '07)

Olivia Kuenzi

Christopher Lemus

Kimya Johnson (LAW '02)

Milton Marquis (LAW '84)

Capricia Penavic Marshall (LAW '90)

Tanya Miller (LAW '99)

Victor R. Perez (LAW '99)

Ji "Henry" San Hang

Luke Tillman (LAW '11)

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## DEAN'S CABINET FOR GLOBAL LEGAL STUDIES

Omar Alyousef (LAW '19)

Steve Anway

Craig Chapman (LAW '80)

Dan Bar (LAW '85)

John Eastwood (LAW '96)

Gwen and Austin Fragomen Jr. (LAW '68)

Michelle Gon (LAW '85)

Steve Harnik (LAW '78)

Su He (LAW '09, '13)

Chris Hunter (LAW '89)

Bruce Klatsky (ADL '70)

Sehmus Kurtulus (LAW '13, '15)

Swithin Munyantwali (LAW '92)

Kevin Nealer (LAW '79)

Rick Newcomb (LAW '73)

Steve Petras Jr. (LAW '79)

Laura Quatela (LAW '82)

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

Tanakrit Tangburanakij (LAW '98)

Lewis Winarsky (LAW '72)

Margaret Wong

Richard Wortman (LAW '87)

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## DEAN'S CABINET FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Angela Bennett

Susan Choe

Luke Dauchot (WRC '83, LAW '86)

Ndubisi A. Ezeolu (LAW '07)

Matt Herndon (LAW '92)

Matt Kades (LAW '96)

Mark Kramer

James Lewis (LAW '79)

Laura McNally

# Class notes

Includes updates reported to Case Western Reserve University School of Law from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

## 1973

**Gregory P. Szuter** was honored by *Marquis Who's Who* for Excellence in Arbitration.



## 1975

**Steven Kaufman**, counsel at Ulmer and Berne in Cleveland, was named to the 2023 class of Difference Makers by the *Cleveland Jewish News*.



**Kenneth Spanagel** retired as a judge from Parma (Ohio) Municipal Court.



## 1976

**Patrick Guida** is president-elect of the Rhode Island Bar Association.



**Warren Rosman** wrote two articles that were published in the January 2023 *Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal* in a series commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.



## 1978

**Douglas Charnas** received the 2024 Burton Award for Distinguished Legal Writing during *Law360's* 25th anniversary celebration at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., in May.



## 1980

**Stewart Hastings** was named director of law for the city of Sandusky, Ohio.

## 1982

**Stephen Hilger**, of counsel at Hilger Hammond, was accepted into the *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* Hall of Fame.

## 1984

**Paula Bruening** joined Wuersch & Gering in New York as senior counsel in the firm's data privacy department.

## 1985

**Brent Ballard** was elected chair of the board of trustees at Playhouse Square in Cleveland.



**Erich Spangenberg** was appointed board chair at Spectral AI Inc., an artificial intelligence company in Dallas that develops predictive medical diagnostics.

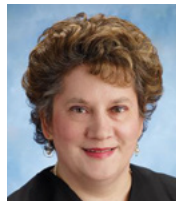
## 1986

**Stephen Hughes Kehoe** was appointed as judge to the Maryland Appellate Court.

**Michael Sholley** honored by Lewisburg High School in Pennsylvania during its annual homecoming festivities.

## 1989

**Lynn McLaughlin-Murray** was promoted to chief magistrate of the Cleveland Municipal Court.

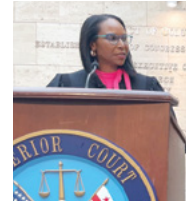


## 1990

**Joseph T. Burke** was elected judge of the Rocky River Municipal Court in Ohio.



**Leslie Meek** was confirmed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia as an associate judge.



**Susan Seah** has joined Latitude, a legal talent company, as leader and partner of the corporate office in Seattle.

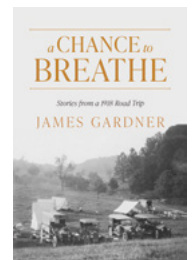
**Elicia Pegues Spearman** is chief executive officer of Girl Scouts of Connecticut.

## 1991

**Paula Christ** was named to the board of directors for Leadership Akron, a nonprofit whose mission is to inspire, strengthen and empower leaders in the greater Akron area.



**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.



## 1993

**Elizabeth Kelley** was featured in the *ABA Journal* for her work building a criminal defense practice for clients with mental disabilities, autism and dementia.

## 1994

**Kristen Stamile Kinkopf** was recognized by Pope Francis as requested by Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore for her professional and philanthropic dedication to the Roman Catholic Church.

## 1996

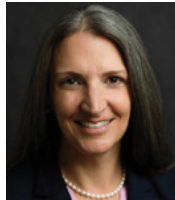
**Karen Skarupski** was promoted to senior vice president of human resources at Erie Insurance in Pennsylvania.

## 1997

**Neely Agin** rejoined Norton Rose Fulbright as head of the antitrust department in Washington, D.C.

## 1998

**Colleen Batcheler** joined Hormel Foods in Austin, Minnesota, as senior vice president of external affairs and general counsel.



**Joy Kosiewicz** was promoted to associate general counsel at Akron Children's Hospital in Ohio.

## 2000

**Molly Brown** was named partner at Brouse McDowell LPA in Cleveland.

## 2001

**Dennis McGuire** was appointed to Colorado's 4th Judicial District Court by Gov. Jared Polis.

### Sean Franco Mellino

joined McDonald Hopkins in Cleveland as an attorney.



### Patricia Ritzert

joined Mansour Gavin LPA in Cleveland as an attorney.



## 2002

**Richard Batson** was promoted to rear admiral and appointed to be judge advocate general and chief counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard.



**Junxia "Jackie" Jernejcic** was inducted to the 2024 class of Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows.

**Christopher J. Korff** joined Sand, Sebolt & Wernow in Canton, Ohio, as a patent attorney.



**John Merriam** joined West Point's Lieber Institute—which facilitates and contributes to the global dialogue on complex law-of-war issues—as a guest author.

**Todd Schebor** was elected chair of the environmental law section of the State Bar of Michigan.



## 2003

**Amanda Raines Lawrence** was promoted to partner at Buckley LLP in Washington, D.C.

**Mike Lebowitz** published "What Happens When the Packets Go Away? How the Quantum Internet Will Diminish Government Electronic Surveillance Programs and Change Cybersecurity Forever" in *Journal of Science & Technology Law* and "Zombie Courts: Lessons Learned from a Guantanamo Bay Military Commissions System That Refuses to Die" in *American University International Law Review*.

## 2004

**Pejavar Rao** was promoted to associate general counsel, litigation and labor and employment at FirstEnergy, a privately owned electric utility headquartered in Akron, Ohio.



**Eddie Raychaudhuri** was named chief operating officer at Eckert Seamans, a law firm in Washington, D.C.



**Brian Young** was appointed director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission's whistleblower office in Washington, D.C.

## 2005

**Denise Bayer** was elected to the board of trustees of the Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County.

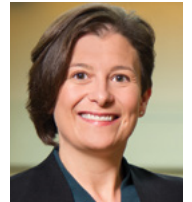
**Chris Knezevic** was promoted to partner at Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP in Cleveland.



**Leslie Murray** was recognized as Board Volunteer of the Year by Ohio Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs for volunteering with the organization for 18 years.

## 2006

**Emily Anglewicz** was certified as an appellate law specialist by the Ohio State Bar Association, becoming the second attorney in Summit County to hold the certification.



**Samantha Lynn Brutout** was recognized in *Pittsburgh Business Times'* list of "People on the Move."



**Lisa Levy** has joined the Commission on Ethics and Lobbying in Government in New York as associate counsel.

**Kelly Lipinski**, managing member of McGlinchey Stafford in Cleveland, was recognized by *Thomson Reuters* as a Stand-Out Lawyer.

**Tarsha Phillibert** joined Duane Morris LLP in Washington, D.C., as a trial partner.

## 2007

**Brian Field** was promoted to partner at Schaerr Jaffe LLP in Washington, D.C.



## 2009

**Merisa Bowers** was inducted to the 2024 class of Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows.

**Philip Hadji** was appointed to the United States Court of Federal Claims by President Joseph R. Biden.



**Chris Schmitt** is the CEO of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.

## 2010

**Justin Piccione** joined McLaughlin & Stern LLP in New York as a partner in the trust and estates practice group.

**Lindsey Sacher** was promoted to partner at Tucker Ellis LLP in Cleveland.



**Sung Hee Yu**, partner attorney at Sarmiento Immigration Law Firm in Cleveland, was included in *Marquis Who's Who*.



## 2012

**Nelson Dunford** was appointed as the presiding municipal judge for the city of Pueblo, Colorado.

**Diana Feitl** was appointed as practice group manager of the public law, regulatory and finance group at Roetzel & Andress LPA in Cleveland.

**Molly Lovedale** was promoted to partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP in Davidson, North Carolina.

## 2013

**Su He** joined Porter Wright in Cleveland as a member of the labor and employment department and immigration practice group.



**Diana Jia** was promoted to senior associate at Porter Wright in Cleveland.



**Emily Spivack** joined Gingo & Bair Law LLC in Cleveland as a partner.



## 2014

**Jordan Ryan Wolfe** joined O'Connor, Acciani & Levy in Cincinnati as an associate.



## 2015

**Henry "Butch" Bailey Jr.** joined Morris, Manning & Martin LLP in Atlanta as a partner in the real estate practice.



**Pooja Patel** joined Zaller Law Group in Cleveland as an associate.

## 2016

**Maral Arjomandi** joined Barnes & Thornburg in Salt Lake City.

## 2017

**Rachel Hazelet** joined Hahn Loeser & Parks in Cleveland as an associate.



**Kathryn Imeli** was promoted to senior associate attorney at Renner Otto in Cleveland.

**Rohmah Javed** joined the Legal Aid Justice Center as the legal director of the Immigrant Justice Program.



**Spencer Krebs** was promoted to counsel at Tucker Ellis LLP in Cleveland.



**Cauley Simmons Oliver** was selected to join the 2024 class of Federation of Defense & Corporate Counsel's Ladder Down Cleveland, a yearlong program dedicated to leadership empowerment, business development and mentoring for women lawyers.



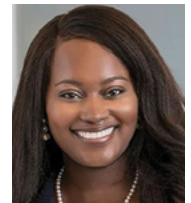
## 2018

**Essber Essber** won the Dean's Gold Key Award for exceptional contributions to the Osgoode Law School in Toronto.

## 2019

**Byers Emmerling** joined the Public Records Unit at the Ohio Attorney General Constitutional Offices Section.

**Allison Smith Newsome** was named to the *Crain's Cleveland Business* list of "Notable Women in Law 2024."



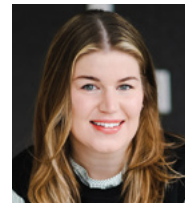
## 2020

**Alayna Bridgett** joined Benesch in Cleveland as an associate in the litigation practice group.

**Daniel Lonergan** joined Gallagher Sharp LLP in Cleveland as an associate.

**Devina Patel** was accepted into the seventh cohort of Engage! Cleveland's Women's Mentorship Program.

**Abby Peabody** joined Much Shelist PC in Chicago as an associate in the commercial litigation group.



## 2021

**Kristina Aiad-Toss** was inducted to the 2024 class of Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows.

**William Estes** joined Taylor Day Law in Jacksonville, Florida, as an attorney.

**Christopher Glass** joined Gallagher Sharp LLP in Cleveland as an associate in the general litigation and insurance practice groups.

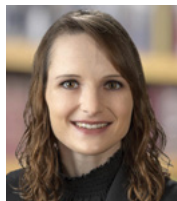


## 2022

**Ariba Ahmad** joined Foley & Lardner LLP in Chicago as an associate.



**Katherine R. Ham** joined Hahn Loeser & Parks in Cleveland in the trusts and estates practice.



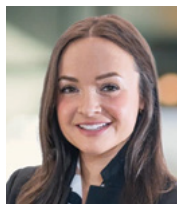
**Jordyn Parks** joined Dicello Levitt in Cleveland as an associate.

**Alexandra Raleigh** joined the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights as a staff attorney on the Racial Justice Team.

## 2023



*Sydney Bell*



*Rebekah Paul*

**Sydney Bell** and **Rebekah Paul** joined McDonald Hopkins in Cleveland as associates.

**Elena Barone** joined Frantz Ward LLP in Cleveland as an associate.

**Reece Disney** joined the New York City Law Department as assistant corporation counsel in the Commercial and Real Estate Litigation Division.

**Joan Reardon** joined Brouse McDowell LPA in Cleveland as an associate.



**Rebecca Singer-Miller** joined Zashin & Rich in Cleveland as an associate.

**Zachary Tomi** joined Benesch in Cleveland as an associate.

## 2024

**Dave Walters** joined Benesch's litigation practice group in Cleveland.



# Congratulations

## to Case Western Reserve University School of Law alumni named to these prestigious lists in 2024:

### *Ohio Super Lawyers*

Gary S. Desberg (LAW '83)	Benjamin C. Sassé (LAW '00)
Laura Kingsley Hong (LAW '85)	Paul J. Singerman (WRC '80, LAW '83)
Rita Maimbourg (LAW '81)	John P. Slagter (LAW '91)
John F. McCaffrey (LAW '87)	Kevin M. Young (LAW '85)
Jennifer L. Mesko (LAW '11)	
Susan L. Racey (LAW '89)	

### *Ohio Super Lawyers "Rising Stars"*

Madeline B. Dennis (CWR '11, LAW '14)	Craig T. Haran (LAW '00)
James Oliver (LAW '17)	Matthew F. Kadish (LAW '87)
Lindsey E. Sacher (LAW '11)	Edmund G. Kauntz (WRC '84, LAW '87)
Daniel L. Schiau (LAW '18)	Christopher G. Keim (LAW '96)
Brandon A. Wojtasik (LAW '18)	Christopher C. Koehler (LAW '92)
Best Lawyers in America	Christina E. Niro (LAW '10)
Stephen L. Byron (LAW '91)	Christopher O'Connell (LAW '02)
Douglas W. Charnas (LAW '78)	Paul J. Singerman (WRC '80, LAW '83)
George S. Coakley (LAW '75)	Michael E. Smith (LAW '89)
Gary S. Desberg (LAW '85)	Ronald J. Teplitzky (LAW '87)
Jeffrey W. Gallup (LAW '03)	David G. Weibel (LAW '80)
Jeffrey A. Gorski (LAW '94)	

### *Best Lawyers in America "Ones to Watch"*

Angela D. Lydon (LAW '11)	Bradley N. Ouambo (LAW '17)
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# In memoriam

Includes names of deceased alumni reported to Case Western Reserve University School of Law from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

## 1950s

John M. Stickney (ADL '48, LAW '51)  
Sam L. Rose (CLC '49, LAW '51)  
Robert R. Risman (LAW '53)  
Carl E. Chancellor (LAW '54)  
Melvin J. Strouse (ADL '51, LAW '54)  
John J. Filak (LAW '56)  
David L. Freeman (LAW '56)  
Jack Kaufman (LAW '56)  
Vern T. Kraushaar (LAW '56;  
GRS '62, education)  
Anthony J. Nuccio (LAW '56)  
Samuel Nukes (LAW '56)  
Howard S. Stern (LAW '56)  
Ronald A. Gold (LAW '57)  
William A. Minnich (LAW '57)  
Henry B. Bruner (LAW '58)  
Robert T. Rosenfeld (LAW '58)  
Jack D. Shoffner (LAW '58)  
Daniel P. Batista (LAW '59)  
Gerald E. Fuerst (ADL '56, LAW '59)  
Garrett J. Murray (LAW '59)

## 1960s

Donald W. Perkal (ADL '58, LAW '60)  
Robert N. Gudbranson (LAW '61)  
Donald N. Jaffe (ADL '59, LAW '61)  
James E. Thomson (LAW '61)  
Fredric E. Kramer (LAW '62)  
Kenneth D. Deyo (LAW '63)  
Ronald L. Humphrey (LAW '64)  
Ritchie T. Thomas (LAW '64)  
John C. Fazio (ADL '61, LAW '65)  
Paul Brickner (LAW '66)  
John A. Hallbauer (LAW '66)  
John Mathew Haas (LAW '67)  
Carmen Frank Lamancusa (LAW '67)  
Ronald Suster (ADL '64, LAW '67)  
James E. Zimmerman (LAW '67)  
Alan Barry George (LAW '68)  
Gerald R. Lublin (ADL '66, LAW '69)  
Richard H. Schwachter (LAW '69)

## 1970s

Roger D. Morris (LAW '70)  
David Alan Snow (LAW '73)  
Ronald E. Stocker (LAW '73)  
Lillian J. Greene (FSM '70, LAW '74)  
George B. P. Haskell (LAW '75)  
Scott P. Kenney (LAW '75, MGT '90)

Robert V. Traci (LAW '75)  
Joseph Wayne Hull (LAW '76)  
Patricia Hess Plotkin (FSM '53, LAW '76)  
James M. Timonere (LAW '76)  
Marian C. Broder (LAW '77)  
Pearl Kisner Polifka (LAW '77)  
Hugh J. Bode (LAW '78)  
Stephen Corcoran Foley (LAW '78)

## 1980s

Jean C. Kalberer (FSM '55, LAW '81)  
Trafford Dick (LAW '82)  
David Daniel De Angelis (LAW '83)  
David Steele Marshall (LAW '83)  
David John Tocco (LAW '86)

Marc J. Frumer (LAW '88)  
David Joseph Rossi (LAW '88)  
Pamela Zarlino (LAW '88)  
Julie Mae Larson (LAW '89)

## 1990s

Michael R. Shanabruch (LAW '93)

## 2000s

Laura Pizmoht (LAW '04)  
Andrew Henry Vachss (ADL '65, LAW '04)  
Fredrick L. May (LAW '05)

## 2020s

Alan Francis Dowling (LAW '22)

## Admired teacher, treasured colleague

An attorney who emphasizes settling disputes without conflict or destructive litigation might be a rarity in the legal field. But that's precisely who **Calvin Sharpe** was.

Sharpe, the Galen J. Roush Professor Emeritus of Law at Case Western Reserve University, died May 12 after a long illness.

After earning degrees from Clark University, Northwestern University and Chicago Theological Seminary, Sharpe began his legal career as a clerk for U.S. District Judge Hubert L. Will. He then practiced law in Chicago, spent four years as a trial attorney with the National Labor Relations Board and taught in Virginia before coming to CWRU School of Law in 1984.

Sharpe played various roles at the law school: professor, chair, associate dean for academic affairs and founding director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Study of Conflict and Dispute Resolution. He taught students and legal professionals alike to incorporate concepts from other disciplines—psychology, sociology, anthropology, biology, philosophy, medicine, economics and religion—to resolve conflicts.

Outside of the classroom, Sharpe became one of the nation's most sought-after and trusted arbitrators, being selected to handle disputes in major industries, the public sector and the sports industry, including the NFL and NBA.

When Sharpe retired in 2013, students and colleagues honored his legacy by publishing a special volume of *Case Western Reserve Law Review* dedicated to his impactful legal and academic career with tributes, and described him as “a thought leader, true mentor, [and an] institutional trailblazer.”

# HONOR ROLL B

Recognizing alumni and friends who made gifts to the law school from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

## LEADER

(\$100,000+)

Anonymous

Stanley Adelstein\* (ADL '41, LAW '46) and Hope Schwartz Adelstein\*

Susan Thompson Buffett Foundation

Coleman Susan Burke Foundation

Clinton\* and Margaret\* W. Dewitt

James C. Diggs (ADL '70, LAW '73) and Debra A. Diggs

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—**Colleen Batcheler (LAW '98)**, senior vice president, external affairs and general counsel, Hormel Foods



*"As someone who has worked to promote workers' rights, I want to encourage other CWRU law students to follow similar career paths [in social justice and equality]. Being from limited means, the scholarship I received enabled me to achieve my goals. I wanted to give back so other students could pursue their goals, which is why I created the Allotta Family Scholarship Fund."*

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legal career, which has been  
very fulfilling and enriching."*

**—Jan Roller (LAW '79), of  
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*"CWRU School of Law staff and alumni were instrumental in my legal studies and helped me flourish in my career. I have been honored to be an adjunct professor and member of the law school's Alumni Association board, and I remain committed to providing financial support for CWRU law students to pursue great accomplishments in their legal careers."*



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*“My father was pleased that I followed in his footsteps and that we both graduated from one of the best law schools in the country. It gave him great pride to see me and my colleagues practicing law, and I am honored to create a lasting tribute to him at the law school through the Marcy Newman (LAW '73) and Joseph Newman (LAW '40) Endowed Scholarship.”*



**—Marcy Newman (LAW '73),  
 family law attorney**



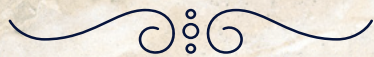
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**—Gregg Eisenberg, managing partner, Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP**



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## Donor Honor Roll Online



# Toasting tradition

## Alumni and faculty celebrate accomplishments

Great legal minds gathered in April to reminisce and honor special Case Western Reserve University School of Law alumni over lunch at Cleveland's Silver Grille. Several hundred faculty members and alumni applauded the award recipients selected by the School of Law Alumni Association, including:



**Distinguished Teacher Award**  
Ayesha Bell Hardaway (LAW '04), professor of law



**Distinguished Recent Graduate Award**  
Justin Bibb (LAW '18, MGT '18), mayor of the City of Cleveland



**Joan Gross '76 Annual Fund Award**  
John Krajewski (LAW '85), former managing partner of Stark & Knoll LPA, and  
Judy Steiner (LAW '87), former chief risk officer at Banner Bank



**Centennial Award**  
Mary Jane Trapp (LAW '81), judge, 11th District Court of Appeals

**SAVE**  
*the*  
**DATE**

**4.9.2025**

**Alumni and Faculty  
Scholarship Luncheon**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

# Law Firm Giving Challenge

The School of Law is grateful to the law firms and alumni volunteer representatives who annually participate in the Law Firm Giving Challenge (LFGC). With the assistance of participating alumni at their respective firms and firm support, the 2023–24 LFGC raised more than \$383,000 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  
Tucker Ellis LLP

### Second Place, Participation

McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman  
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### Third Place, Participation

Gallagher Sharp

### Total Giving

*Alumni and firm support combined*

1. BakerHostetler
2. Jones Day
3. Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff

## Participating Firms

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# Paving the way

## Alum gives back to help ensure diverse perspectives

As a child, **Jim Diggs (ADL '70, LAW '73)** would visit his mother's family in Alabama, a place that felt worlds away from his home city of Cleveland.

"We left Cleveland during the day, and at night we were forced to transfer to racially segregated cars after we reached the Mason-Dickson line," he recalled. "Traveling home by car, we packed lunches and stopped at the 'Colored Only' spots along the way."

Several years later, Diggs returned to the South, but this time, as a first-generation law student at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. He was among a group of students whose purpose was to recruit undergraduates from Morehouse College.

Even though Diggs had been to the South many times before, returning was still "a lot to absorb." But he soon realized the significance of his trip to the historically Black college: Black students would bring valuable perspectives to a campus that was predominantly white.

It was this sentiment that would later lead Diggs to establish an endowed scholarship for a member of the Black Law Students Association—an organization that was integral to his own experience at the School of Law, and helped shape his impressive law career, which included roles as assistant U.S. attorney for the Department of Justice in Cleveland, vice president and assistant general counsel of TRW Inc., and as senior vice president and general counsel of PPG Industries Inc.

In a recent conversation, Diggs—now retired—reflected on that experience, the importance of diversity among law school students and how he hopes to make a difference.

### **Q: Why is diversity in all forms important for the law school?**

**A:** Having students with diverse backgrounds and ethnicities [within the law school] provides a laboratory of sorts in which various views and perspectives of the law can be explored and challenged in a nurturing environment that enriches the education of the entire student body. It is misplaced to believe that only minorities benefit from these interactions. I have found, from my own experience, that white students also benefit from exposure to students of color and the experiences they bring to the table to help



**Jim Diggs**

solve legal problems. It is a symbiotic relationship that enhances the development of everyone involved, including the faculty, staff and administration.

### **Q: What was your involvement in the Black Law Students Association (BLSA) as a student, and why did you choose this organization on which to focus your endowment?**

**A:** During my years in law school, I found BLSA—and my participation in the organization—to be foundational to my ability to overcome the isolation I felt as a minority. We organized study groups and social events and we found other ways to support each other. Since leaving law school, I haven't remained as engaged as I could have been—but establishing an endowment is a first step moving forward in changing that.

### **Q: What advice would you give other first-generation college students heading to law school?**

**A:** Play an active role in seeking advice from mentors, not only from within the law school, but from the external legal profession as well. Being able to talk honestly and candidly to mentors about the difficulties you are facing—and being able to learn from them—can make all the difference in the world to your success.



# Keep swinging

Alum turned federal judge inspires through persistence

**Charles E. Fleming (LAW '90)** stepped onto the Federal District Court for the Northern District of Ohio in 2021 as a newly minted judge with a public defender's background. However, it was a lesson he learned as a Little League Baseball player that has guided him through his legal and academic careers.

"I learned then that you don't know if you're going to hit a home run unless you swing the bat," Fleming said.

It's a philosophy he passed on to students when he taught trial advocacy at Cleveland State University College of Law as well as while serving as an assistant public defender for the Northern District of Ohio in Cleveland from 1991 to 2021.

During that time, Fleming had applied for a U.S. magistrate judge position several times without success. And after three decades in the public defender's office, Fleming contemplated retirement—just as several U.S. District Judge positions became available.

"The other side of my brain thought, 'Wait a minute: Aren't you the one who's always saying to kids to never drop the bat?'" he recalled thinking.



*Charles E. Fleming*

"I didn't want to go into retirement regretting the fact that I never applied," Fleming said. "President [Joe] Biden had made it very clear that he wanted to hire people with more criminal defense backgrounds and not so much prosecutorial or big firm backgrounds. If I was going to apply, this was the perfect time to do it."

So he did.

That year, President Biden nominated Fleming to serve as one of 11 judges on the Federal District Court—a position that comes with a lifetime appointment.

"I was very close to giving up on myself and just going into retirement," he said. "And that one swing of the bat changed the whole landscape of my career."

Fleming reminded graduates of the importance of such persistence when he gave the 2024 commencement address at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.

"I told them: You don't give up," he said. "Swing the bat."

—*Lauren Dangel*

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