

In Brief

The Magazine of Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Leading with Purpose

A New Era for Business Law at CWRU



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
School of Law

Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2025

Come back to Case Western Reserve School of Law this fall to reconnect with classmates, engage with students and faculty, celebrate milestone anniversaries and much more.

Join us on campus Oct. 9-11, 2025.

And don't miss the performance of the Law School Faculty/Student Band, "Razing the Bar," at Freiburger Field (above the Severance parking garage) from 7:00-7:45 PM on Thursday, Oct. 9.

Visit case.edu/law/homecoming for more information.



CASE WESTERN RESERVE
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In Brief

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ON THE COVER:

The leaders of our Business Law specialty,
with the Law School and Business School
in the background, from left to right:
Kathryn S. Mercer, Robert Rapp, Matthew
A. Salerno, Paul Rose, Matthew Rossman,
Theodore Russell, Eric C. Chaffee, Juliet
P. Kostritsky, Charles Korsmo, and Anat
Alon-Beck. (Photo by Matt Shiffler)

If you have a story to share,
don’t hesitate to contact us at
lawalumni@case.edu.
We’d love to hear from you.

Connect with us:



From the Dean

Dear CWRU Law Alumni,

It's been an exciting year at the law school, marked by significant progress, renewed focus, and meaningful change. I'm proud to share that we're building real momentum across every area of our student-centered mission.

This past year, we've made strategic changes that are already delivering strong results. Working closely with our career development team, we augmented our efforts in employment support, leading to a dramatic increase in our employment rate from 86% to 96%. At the same time, we are launching a new post-graduate in-house fellowship program, providing job opportunities for our graduates while strengthening ties with local corporate employers.

We've also taken major steps to support student success, both in law school and beyond. Our faculty led a comprehensive overhaul of our bar preparation program—including changes to curriculum, student support, and academic standards—all aimed at giving every student the best possible chance to pass the bar on their first attempt.

Innovation continues to shape our academic offerings. This past year, we were the first law school in the country to introduce an AI certification program for all current and incoming students, ensuring they are equipped to engage with one of the most transformative technologies in law. We also launched a new online master's degree in compliance and earned Compliance Certification Board certification for our risk management and compliance program.

Case Western Reserve University School of Law continues to stand out for the strength of its faculty and its specialty programs. Our faculty are nationally recognized for both their teaching and scholarship, earning strong, top-40 placements in recent citation and academic impact studies. We were also once again named among the top law schools for practical training by preLaw Magazine, reflecting our commitment to experiential learning. And, in the 2025-26 U.S. News specialty program peer assessments, our International Law and Health Care Law programs were each ranked 13th in the nation, making us the top law school in Ohio in those fields, as well as in Environmental Law. Our programs in Trial Advocacy, Legal Writing, and Business/Corporate Law also received strong peer recognition, and we are proud to be seen as an institution on the rise across multiple areas of legal education.



Photo by Roger Mastroianni

We're energized by the progress we've made, and even more excited about what lies ahead. As alumni, you are an essential part of our success. You can make a real impact by helping current students find meaningful employment, whether it's working in a public defender's office, externing for a judge, through mentoring, networking, or opening doors at your organizations. And if you're in a position to give, your financial support helps us invest in the next generation of legal leaders. Together, we can continue to elevate CWRU Law and the future of our profession.

Thank you for being a vital part of our community.

Warm regards,

Paul Rose

*Dean and Professor of Law,
Case Western Reserve University School of Law*

CWRU School of Law specialty programs ranked highly by *U.S. News*

The new 2025-26 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Graduate Schools listing include the rankings for 13 specialty programs at 196 law schools, with Case Western Reserve University School of Law earning top rankings in multiple areas of concentration.

The law school has achieved impressive specialty rankings in multiple areas: #13 in Healthcare Law (up two), #13 in International Law (same as last year), #30 in Environmental Law (up six), and #55 in Business/corporate law (up nine).

The Law School's dedicated academic centers bring in local, national and global leaders to the law school lectures and conferences. In addition, the centers offer our students experience and internships across the nation and around the world in their chosen area of study.

The Law-Medicine Center is the oldest health law program in the country, offering a wealth of courses, experiential

learning opportunities, several graduate programs, outstanding faculty, extracurricular activities, experiential learning opportunities, job placement assistance and more.

The Cox International Law Center serves as the hub of the law school's international law program, which includes The Canada-U.S. Law Institute, Institute for Global Security, Law and Policy, Henry T. King, Jr. War Crimes Research Office, Yemen Accountability Project and Talking Foreign Policy radio program. The Law School was selected to host the 2025 American Society of International Law Midyear Meeting from September 25-27, 2025.

In 2019, the Law School launched the Burke Center for Environmental Law with a transformative gift from **Coleman P. Burke (LAW '70)**. The Burke Center now hosts a variety of lectures and conferences, most recently

including Kati Kovacs, Jay Pendergrass and David B. Spence as well as the upcoming Junior Environmental Law Scholar Workshop.

The mission of the Center for Business Law (featured as the cover story on page 20) is to prepare future leaders to understand business issues facing business entities, engage in research on the role and impact of government in the regulation of business and foster public debate regarding the role of government in the regulation of businesses.

"Specialties have become increasingly important to the field of law, and we are proud to be recognized for the quality of our programs," said Dean **Paul Rose**. "CWRU School of Law continues to be recognized for our practical training programs as well, earning an A+ rating by *National Jurist*. This recognition is a testament to our sustained investment in experiential education."

CWRU's 2024-2025 *preLaw Magazine* Specialty Rankings:

A+

Business & Corporate Law
Criminal Law
Health Law
Human Rights Law
Intellectual Property Law
International Law
Practical Training
Tech Law

A

Environmental Law
Entertainment Law

A-

Public Policy
Racial Justice
Trial Advocacy and Litigation





Case Western Reserve School of Law becomes first law school in the U.S. to require legal AI education certification for all first-year law students

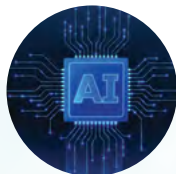
While other law schools have courses involving artificial intelligence, CWRU's is the first to require all first-year students to be certified by passing a program integrated into the foundational curriculum, said professor **Avidan Cover**, then associate dean for academic affairs at the school.

Held for the first time in February 2025, "Introduction to AI and the Law" immersed students in the fundamentals and ethics of using AI in the legal profession's workaday world. It detailed how rapidly state laws involving AI are changing, the absence of federal regulations and what could be on the horizon.

"We're not just keeping pace with innovation, we're setting the standard for the future of legal education,"

"It will be helpful to have that tool in my toolbox going out into the job market. I don't think most law students [at other schools] have that background."

Eun Taek (Peter) Kim



Cover said. "Our AI curriculum not only addresses the demands of a rapidly evolving legal landscape but also empowers our students with the tools and knowledge they need to navigate and lead in a technology-driven profession."

The program is open to students in their second and third years as well as faculty. Sessions covered:

- **Understanding AI Fundamentals:** Students gain the ability to define and explain key concepts and technologies related to AI and LLMs, including their development, architecture, and functionality.
- **Practical Applications in Legal Practice:** Students explore how AI and LLMs are being utilized in various areas of legal practice,

including legal research, document review, and case outcome prediction. They also examine how law firms and practitioners are adopting AI to enhance their workflows.

- **Ethical and Regulatory Guidelines:**

Students review guidance from the American Bar Association (ABA) and state bar ethics opinions on the ethical use of AI in legal practice. Key topics include competence, confidentiality, supervision, and the obligation to stay informed about emerging technologies.

- **Best Practices for Data and Client Management:**

Students learn and apply best practices for managing data and client information when using AI tools, with a focus on ensuring security, accuracy, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- **Driving Innovation and Addressing Legal Challenges:**

Students assess how AI can foster innovation in legal and business services while examining emerging regulatory trends and societal challenges, such as intellectual property issues, liability frameworks, and access-to-justice initiatives.

For first-year law student **Eun Taek (Peter) Kim**, the sessions provided a better understanding of AI, hands-on experience with generative AI platforms created for the legal community—and a certification that could provide an edge when applying for jobs.

“It will be helpful to have that tool in my toolbox going out into the job market,” said Kim, who wants a career focused on intellectual-property

litigation. “I don’t think most law students [at other schools] have that background.”

Third-year student **Léa Cazaudumec Lucas** participated to learn more about a technology that has become ubiquitous in society and the workplace. As she prepared to graduate, Lucas said the program “made me more comfortable” and “ready to incorporate [AI] into my legal profession.”

The law school developed the certification program in partnership with Wickard.ai, which provides legal

AI education and training. The recent training was led by lecturer Oliver Roberts, JD, co-head of the AI Practice Group at the Holtzman Vogel law firm in Washington, D.C., and the founder and CEO of Wickard.ai.

“With AI increasingly used in the workforce by law firms ... it is important for law students to understand how to use the tools and understand the ethical considerations as well,” said Roberts, also editor-in-chief of the “AI and the Law” newsletter at *The National Law Review*. “CWRU is leading the way.”



“Our AI curriculum not only addresses the demands of a rapidly evolving legal landscape but also empowers our students with the tools and knowledge they need to navigate and lead in a technology-driven profession.”

—Avidan Cover

Curricular Enhancements

CWRU Launches New International Development Law Lab

CWRU School of Law is known for the strength and breadth of its experiential offerings. *PreLaw Magazine* ranks the Law School in the top fifteen in practical education. In addition to the law school's endowed Immigration Clinic and nine other legal clinics, CWRU also offers a variety of "labs" to 2Ls and 3Ls, including the Death Penalty Lab, the Reproductive Rights Lab, the Human Trafficking Lab, and the Community Development Lab.

Our labs provide law students invaluable hands-on experience assisting non-profits and NGOs on high-profile and exciting cases. A few years ago, CWRU's War Crimes Research Lab, currently directed by Professor **James Johnson**, Chief Prosecutor of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Starting in the fall of 2024, the Law School now offers a lab for students interested in the important field of International Development Law. Taught by Adjunct Professor **Rumu**

Sakar, the International Development Law Lab (the "IDL Lab") is focused on social impact investing in the Global South. It currently has two anchor pro bono partners, one headquartered in Singapore and the other in India. The Law students are working on White Papers, policy guidelines, toolkits and legal templates that respond to the needs of the partner institutions under the direction of Sarkar.

Sarkar joined the Law School's adjunct faculty in 2022 to teach a new course on International Development Law. She is the author of two leading textbooks in the field—*International Development Law* (Oxford University Press) and *Transnational Business Law* (Kluwer Law International)—and she has taught as an adjunct law professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, and has served as General Counsel and Assistant General Counsel to several organizations including the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC).



Professor Sarkar with International Development Lab students Emmanuella Naon and Yuqi Sun.

“These international NGOs and private equity funds are doing vitally important work in the Global South to alleviate poverty, and empower woman entrepreneurs and other underserved communities,” Sarkar said of the lab’s partners. “The lab has just launched, but my students are already beginning to understand the legal complexities in using loan instruments and equity investments in creative ways to address the needs of the downstream end-users of this sophisticated financing.”

CWRU School of Law establishes spring break in the Hague program (open to alumni)

CWRU School of Law is pleased to announce the establishment of a spring break in the Hague program, recently approved by the faculty. The 2-credit program, to be run by professors **Michael Scharf** and **Laura McNally**, will provide 20 students and alumni the opportunity to spend a week in the Hague, Netherlands, visiting the world’s International Courts and meeting with their officers.

The Hague is known as the International City of Peace and Justice. During the program, to launch March 9-13, 2026, participants will visit the International Court of Justice, the Permanent International Court of Arbitration, the International Criminal Court, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the Residual Special



Spring Break in The Hague

Court for Sierra Leone, and the Kosovo Specialist Chambers. Additional field trips include a visit to the Anne Frank house/museum and a canal cruise in Amsterdam.

CWRU School of Law is known for the strength of its international law program, currently ranked #13 in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*. Its faculty include the President of the American Branch of the International Law Association, an arbitrator on the US-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement Arbitration Panel, the Chief Prosecutor of the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, and many of its alumni serve at international institutions around the world. Building on this strength, this exciting program will provide students and alumni an opportunity to visit the international institutions and meet the officers who are making international law on a daily basis.

Alumni interested in participating in this program should contact Michael Scharf at: mps17@case.edu.

CWRU School of Law Expands Concurrent Degree Program to two additional Foreign Law Schools

One of the reasons CWRU School of Law’s International Law Program is ranked so highly is the school’s unique Concurrent Degree Program. A decade ago, CWRU School of Law established three Concurrent Degree Partnerships—with Middlesex University in London, Université Paris-IX Dauphine and Comillas Pontifical University in Madrid. CWRU is happy to announce the expansion of the program to two additional foreign law schools.

Every year, CWRU sends two law students to each of the three prestigious partner universities to obtain their LLM degree. CWRU counts that year abroad as the third year of the JD at CWRU, so the students graduate in three years with the foreign LLM and the CWRU JD degree at no extra tuition cost. For the past few years, a generous alum, **Lew Winarsky (LAW ’72)**, has been providing funds to support our outbound Concurrent Degree students’ travel and living expenses.

At the same time, each of these partner schools sends two students a year to attain the CWRU LLM Degree, bringing stellar foreign students to our program. After graduating, several of these foreign students have elected to take a

Curricular Enhancements, continued



U.S. Bar exam and practice law in the United States; others return to practice in their home countries.

Several of the CWRU graduates of the program have obtained jobs in the foreign countries where they received their Concurrent LLM degrees, including at foreign law firms (**Jessica Turner, LAW '19**), foreign branches of US law firms (**Garo Yaghseizian, LAW '19**), NGOs (**Mackenzie Kern, LAW '22**) and even teaching at a French university (**Clare Shin, LAW '21**). Others, such as **Kristina Moore (LAW '17)**, **Douglas Pilawa (LAW '19)** and **Teresa Azzam (LAW '20)**, have leveraged their foreign degree and experience to help them obtain jobs at U.S. firms such as Jones Day and Squire Patton Boggs that specialize in international business or international arbitration.

In Jan. 2025, CWRU expanded this popular program when it entered into two new Concurrent Degree partnerships with Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Lille Catholic University School of Law in France.

CWRU School of Law has a special relationship with Canada, having established the Canada-U.S. Law Institute in 1976. CWRU Law School's most notable Canadian alumni is

Francois-Philippe Champagne (LAW '94), who has served as Canada's Foreign Minister and Minister of International Trade and is currently the Canadian Minister for Innovation, Science, and Industry. So, Dalhousie University Schulich School of Law was an ideal partner for the expansion of CWRU's Concurrent Degree Program. Founded in 1883, Schulich is the oldest university-based common law school in Canada. It is ranked as the 6th best law school in Canada out of the 24 Canadian law schools and has several outstanding specialty areas and is especially known for its expertise in Marine and Environmental Law.

University of Paris—Dauphine has been one of our most popular Concurrent Degree destinations because many CWRU Law students want to build on their fluency in French. Consequently, adding another prestigious French partner university was a priority. Lille Catholic University School of Law, located in the north of France about an hour from Brugges, Belgium, was founded in 1875. Its faculty of law is ranked the 11th best in France out of 59 French law schools. Like our partnership with Dauphine, most of Lille's courses are taught in English, but the immersion in French culture is the draw.

The School of Law welcomes four outstanding new faculty members

The School of Law is excited to welcome four new faculty members beginning in the 2025-26 school year. These hires reflect the law school's continued investment in academic excellence across our top-ranked Health Law program, our Bloomberg award-winning legal writing program, and our innovative new online JD program.

Yaron Covo

Yaron Covo joins CWRU as an Assistant Professor on the tenure track. Dr. Covo earned an LLB from Tel Aviv University Law School, and LL.M. and J.S.D. degrees from Columbia Law School. He is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School and a Fellow at Harvard Law School's Project on Disability. Covo has focused his research on disability rights, and his scholarship has appeared in prestige publications such as the *Columbia Law Review* and the *Stanford Law Review*. His most recent article, "The Contractualization of Disability Rights Law," is forthcoming in the *University of Chicago Law Review*.



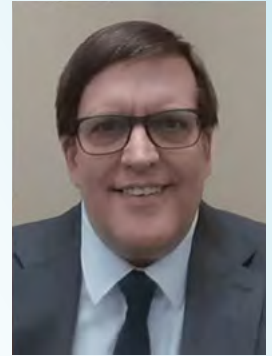
Stacey Bergstrom

Stacey Bergstrom joins CWRU as an Assistant Professor of Lawyering Skills in the Legal Writing, Leadership, Experiential Education, Advocacy and Professionalism ("LLEAP") program. She earned her JD from The George Washington University Law School. Bergstrom previously taught Legal Writing, Criminal Justice Drafting and Introduction to the Study of Law at the University of Alabama School of Law, where she also coached the Bruce Siegal Intellectual Property Moot Court Team. Before entering academia, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in both the Southern District of Florida and the Eastern District of Virginia. Previously, Bergstrom worked as Investigative Counsel for the New York Offices of the State Inspector General and was an Assistant Attorney General in Virginia, where she specialized in computer crime and child exploitation offenses.



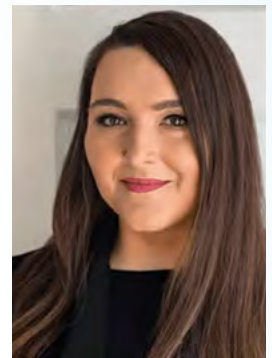
Jim Madigan

Jim Madigan joins CWRU as a Visiting Assistant Professor, teaching Legislation and Regulation to in-person JD students and Property to online JD students. He earned his JD, cum laude, from the University of Chicago Law School. After graduation, he served as a Harry A. Bigelow Teaching Fellow and Lecturer in Law at the University of Chicago. Most recently, Madigan clerked for the Honorable Bridget Meehan Brennan of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and supported underrepresented students in the Writing Center at Stark State College. His prior experience includes practicing complex commercial and bankruptcy litigation as a partner at Greenberg Traurig, serving as a staff attorney at Lambda Legal, and running his own litigation practice.



Jenna Hosier

Jenna Hosier joins CWRU as a Visiting Assistant Professor in our LLEAP program. She earned her JD, cum laude, from the University of Dayton School of Law, where she served on the Law Review Editorial Board. Hosier has taught academic support and skills courses at Cleveland State and the University of Dayton, with a focus on legal analysis, writing and bar exam preparation. Hosier currently serves as the Director of Bar Preparation at Cleveland State University College of Law, where she has designed bar success programs and guided students through the bar exam application and preparation process. She previously served as a staff attorney for the Twelfth District Court of Appeals.



Scholarly impact

The faculty members of Case Western Reserve University School of Law frequently publish books, chapters, and journal articles across their areas of law expertise, and are ranked among the top law faculty for the impact of their scholarship as measured by citations in court cases and journals. Here are some of their published works that have appeared over the past year.

Bryan L. Adamson

David L. Brennan
Professor of Law

- “Case Western Reserve University School of Law’s Academy for Inclusive Leadership Development: A New Pedagogy Integrating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Belonging into Legal Education,” 75 *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy* 1 (2024).



- “Incorporating Unicorns: An Empirical Analysis,” 62 *Houston Law Review* 891 (2025)
- “Delaware Beware,” 2025 *Illinois Law Review* 363.
- “Unraveling the Web: Big Tech Directors, SPACs, and Antitrust Evasion Tactics,” 26 *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law* 634 (2024) (with John Livingstone, Moran Ophir and Miriam Schwartz-Ziv).
- “Interlocking Directorship: Evidence from a Natural Experiment by Israeli Competition Law,” in *A Research Handbook on Competition and Corporate Law* 310 (Anna Tzanaki and Florence Thépot, ed.) (2025) (with Moran Ofir) (book chapter).

- *Securities Regulation and Artificial Intelligence: Regulating Robo-Advisers*, in *Cambridge Handbook of Private Law and Artificial Intelligence* (Ernest Lim & Phillip Morgan eds., 2024) (book chapter).

Juscelino F. Colares Schott-van den Eynden

Professor of
Business Law

- *Restructuring Trade Agreements* (Wolters Kluwer 2d. ed. forthcoming 2026) (with Mustafa Durmus)
- “Trump’s Constraints and Leverage in Renegotiating Tariffs and Non-Tariff Barriers,” remarks to the 49th Canada-United States Law Institute Conference, 50 *The Canada-United States Law Journal* (forthcoming, Spring 2026).
- “Misguided Insurance and Government Policies in the Opioid Epidemic—A Chart Review and Narx Score Analysis,” 36 *Journal of International Risk and Safety in Medicine* (forthcoming, fall 2025) (with Richard Ancowitz, Sanford Lefkowitz, Faina Linkov and Leon Margolin)



Jonathan H. Adler

Johan Verheij Memorial
Professor of Law

- (moved to William & Mary in July 2025)
- “Is the Business of the Court Still Business?” *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (2025, forthcoming)
- “Climate Liberalism and Decarbonization,” 110 *Iowa Law Review* (2025, forthcoming)
- “Climate Change and Constitutional Overreach,” 72 *Drake Law Review* (2025, forthcoming)
- “Permitting the Future” 75 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 1 (2025)
- “The Delegation Doctrine,” 12 *Harvard Journal of Law & Public Policy Per Curiam* (Summer 2024).
- “Speech Regulation and Tobacco Harm Reduction,” *The Journal of Free Speech Law* 103 (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).



Eric C. Chaffee

John C. Hutchins
Professor of Law

- *Cyberlaw and Digital Property* (6th ed. Forthcoming 2025).
- *Securities Regulation in Cyberspace* (4th ed. 2018) (with Howard M. Friedman) (2024 & 2025 updates).
- “The New Old SEC,” 85 *Maryland Law Review* (forthcoming 2025).
- “Insider Trading and Moral Luck,” *Journal of Markets & Morality* (forthcoming 2025) (peer reviewed).
- “Securities Regulation by Survey,” 65 *Boston College Law Review* 601 (2024).
- “Justifying Business Trusts,” 64 *Boston College Law Review* 523 (2023).
- “Securities Regulation and Administrative Deference in the Roberts Court,” 48 *Seattle Law Review* 965 (2024)
- *Lost in Translation: A Global View of Insider Trading Regulation*, in *Research Handbook on Insider Trading* (Stephen M. Bainbridge ed., 2d ed., 2025) (book chapter).
- *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) (book chapter).



Yaron Covo

Assistant Professor

- “Inverse Integration and the Relational Deficit of Disability Rights Law,” 124 *Columbia Law Review* 563 (2024)



Jennifer Cupar

Professor

- “Using Advanced Writing Courses to Teach the Next [Gen]eration of Lawyers,” 31 *Perspectives* 17 (2024) (with Matthew Salerno and Colleen Settineri).



Anat Alon-Beck

Professor of Law

- “Board Observers,” *Illinois Law Review* (forthcoming 2024) (with Nizan Packin).



Joseph Custer
Professor

- “Cancel Culture and Censorship Effects Before and After the Introduction of Social Media,” 101 *University of Detroit Mercy Law Review* 51 (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).



Atiba R. Ellis
Professor

- *Race Racism and American Law* (7th ed., Forthcoming 2025) (with Cheryl I. Harris, Justin Hansford, Audrey G. McFarlane, and Amna A. Akbar).
- *Race Racism and American Law: Leading Cases and Materials* (Aspen Publishing 2023) (with Cheryl I. Harris, Justin Hansford, Audrey G. McFarlane, and Amna A. Akbar).
- “The Perils and Possibilities for a Multiracial Twenty-First Century America,” 101 *University of Detroit Mercy Law Review* 1 (2024).



- “Unequal Access: The Perpetual Struggle for Voting Rights and the Case of Wisconsin,” 3 *Fordham Law Voting Rights and Democracy Forum* 1 (2024) (with Benjamin Edelstein and Mark L. Thomsen).
- “Voter Registration” in *Oxford Handbook of American Election Law* (Eugene Mazo, ed., 2024) (book chapter).

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

- “Why the Federal Government Failed to Prosecute the Killers of Emmett Till,” 94 *Mississippi Law Journal* (forthcoming, 2025).
- “Using Common Law Property Doctrine to Advance Social Justice,” 25 *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal* (forthcoming, 2025).
- “The Ohio Birth Certificate Fiasco: A Case of Institutional Failure,” 25 *Journal of Appellate Practice and Process* (forthcoming, 2025).
- “The Contested Legacy of John Adams,” 60 *Real Property, Probate and Trust Law Journal* (forthcoming, 2025).



- “The Decline of Representation Reinforcement in the Supreme Court: Increasing Deference to the Political Process,” 73 *Cleveland State Law Review* 41 (2024).
- “Judicial Ethics and Judicial Competence,” 74 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 955 (2024).
- “Taxing Remote Workers: The Pandemic and Its Implications,” 41 *Journal of Taxation of Investments* (Summer 2024), at 23.
- “The Last Word on the Ohio Constitution,” 73 *Cleveland State Law Review Et Cetera* 1 (2024).
- “Court Packing and Judicial Independence: An American Perspective,” in *Judicial Independence: Cornerstone of Democracy* 382 (Shimon Shetreet & Hiram Chodosh eds., 2024) (book chapter).

Victor Flatt
Coleman P. Burke Chair
in Environmental Law

- “Legal Protection of the Environment (5th Ed.)” (West Publishing, forthcoming 2024) (with Craig Johnston).



School of Law Ranked Among Top 50 for Faculty Scholarly Impact

Case Western Reserve University School of Law has earned recognition as one of the top 50 law schools in the nation for faculty scholarly impact. According to the 2024 Sisk/Leiter study, the school’s faculty ranks 43rd in the country based on citations to law journals over the past five years and 37th in mean number of citations—a testament to their exceptional contributions to legal scholarship.

Our faculty consists of leading scholars whose work has been widely recognized and cited by some of the most prestigious courts in the world, including the U.S. Supreme Court, the International Court of Justice and various International Criminal Tribunals. Beyond their contributions to legal academia, our faculty members are regularly called upon to testify before Congress and are frequently featured in the media for their expertise.

While their scholarly impact is significant, the faculty’s first priority remains the success of the students. The 2025 *Princeton Review* study ranks Case Western Reserve University School of Law 27th in the nation for the quality of



teaching, reflecting the faculty’s commitment to providing an exceptional legal education.

This ranking highlights the school’s dedication to fostering an environment where cutting-edge scholarship and student success go hand in hand, ensuring that the next generation of School of Law graduates are well-prepared to make their mark on the world.

Media Mentions

In what has become a regular occurrence, faculty members at the School of Law at Case Western Reserve are often the first contact for journalists trying to make sense of a news story.

Perhaps more meaningful, these researchers' important work often creates the headlines. From business law and the Supreme Court to the presidential election and abortion-related legal issues, the expertise and insight of law school faculty were at the forefront of the stories making headlines this year.

In the past two years, CWRU Law faculty were quoted or appeared 1,203 times in the news media, including in *The New York Times*, *CNN News*, *The Financial Times*, *NBC News*, *Politico*, *The Guardian*, *Bloomberg*, *The Washington Post*, *International Business Times*, *BBC News*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *BBC News*, *Associated Press*, *CBS News*, *Consumer Affairs*, *Business Insider*, *USA Today*, *CNBC News*, *Fortune Magazine*, *Wall Street Journal*, *NPR: All Things Considered*, *ABC News*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and *Newsweek*.



- “The New NEPA?—A Case Study in Congressional Frustration,” 75 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 93 (2024)
- “Smart Regulation To Enhance Wealth Creation and Sustainable Capitalism,” in *Sustainable Capitalism: Essential Work for the Anthropocene?* 199 (Inara Scott, ed.) (2024) (with Inara Scott) (book chapter).

Paul C. Giannelli
Albert J. Weatherhead III
and Richard W.
Weatherhead Professor
Emeritus of Law

- *Ohio Criminal Laws and Rules* (2024 ed.) (with Lewis R. Katz).



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

- “Recentring the Pregnant Body: Moving Beyond the Medicalized Framework in Abortion Advocacy,” 49 *Harvard Journal of Law & Gender* (forthcoming 2026).
- “Substantive Neutrality, Realism, and Government-Sponsored Religious Speech After Kennedy v. Bremerton School District,” *Journal of Law & Religion* (forthcoming 2025).
- “The Right to Life and Medical Authority,” 104 *Boston University Law Review Online* 67 (2024).
- “‘We’re Living in a Really Alternative Universe Right Now’: The Limits of Physicians’ Cultural Authority Pre-Dobbs and What That Means for a Post-Dobbs World,” in *When Roe Fell: How Barriers, Inequities, and Systemic Failures of Justice in Abortion Became Visible* (Katrina Kimport ed., forthcoming Rutgers University Press 2025) (with Danielle Bessett, Meredith J. Pensak, and Michelle L. McGowan) (book chapter).



Sharon Hoffman
Edgar A. Hahn
Professor of Law

- “Access to Primary Care and Health Care Fragmentation,” *University of Illinois Law Review* (forthcoming 2026) (with Ishani Ganguli).



- “Patient Reported Outcome Measures,” 38 *Journal of Law & Health* 1 (2024).
- “Employers and the Privatization of Public Health,” 65 *Boston College Law Review* 2405-55 (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).
- “Medical Data Privacy and Security in the AI Age,” in *ETHICS AND MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY* (Matthew Altman and David Schwan eds., Springer Nature, forthcoming 2025) (book chapter).

Daniel A. Jaffe

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



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

- “Moore’s Unrealized Potential,” *Law & Liberty* (June 26, 2024).
- “The Supreme Court Punts on the Realization Issue in Moore,” *Journal of Taxation of Investments*, Summer 2024, at 55
- “Why Endowments of Educational Institutions Shouldn’t Be Taxed,” *Civitas Outlook* (Feb. 27, 2025)
- “A Comment on Justice Thomas’s Commas,” 28 *The Green Bag* 2d 99 (2025)



Lewis R. Katz
John C. Hutchins
Professor Emeritus
of Law

- *Ohio Criminal Laws and Rules* (2024 ed.) (with Paul C. Giannelli).
- *Ohio Arrest, Search and Seizure* (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* 91 (2023) (with Jillian T. Fox and Blake Spiller).
- “Discriminating Alignment in the Innovation Sphere,” 27 *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law* (forthcoming 2025).
- “Introduction to 2024 Leet Symposium on Relational Contracting and Industrial Policy,” 76 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* (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* 351 (2024).

Kevin C. McMunigal
Professor



- “Ethics Penalties for Trump’s “Stop the Steal” Lawyers,” 40 *Criminal Justice* 40 (2025) (with Peter A. Joy).
- “Ethics Complaint Against Judge Howell,” 39 *Criminal Justice* 26 (2024) (with Peter A. Joy).
- “May a Defense Lawyer Cross-Examine a Former Client?” 39 *Criminal Justice* 48 (2024) (with Peter A. Joy).
- “Obligations When Receiving Flat Fees and Other Fees Paid in Advance,” 38 *Criminal Justice* 50 (2024) (with Peter A. Joy).

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* 425 (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* 191 (2024) (with Nicolas Binctin).

Andrew S. Pollis
Professor



- *Ohio Appellate Practice* (2025-2026 ed.) (with Mark P. Painter)

Robert N. Rapp
Louis C. Greenwood
Lecturer in Residence



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

Cassandra Burke
Robertson
John Deaver Drinko-
BakerHostetler
Professor of Law



- *Baldwin’s Ohio Practice: Civil Practice* (2024 ed.)
- *Professional Responsibility in the Life of the Lawyer* (3d ed. 2024, with Alex B. Long and Paula Schaefer)
- “Injunctive Restraint,” 62 *Harvard Journal on Legislation* (forthcoming, Winter 2025).
- “Can Speech Policy Protect Public Health?,” 2025 *Utah Law Review* (forthcoming, Fall 2025, with Irina D. Manta and Zoe Robinson)
- “Optimizing the Litigation Funding Ecosystem,” 66 *Boston College Law Review* (forthcoming, 2025).
- “Causation’s Due Process Dimensions,” 13 *Texas A&M Law Review* (forthcoming 2025) (with Charles W. “Rocky” Rhodes).
- “Public Health Policy as Public Choice Failure,” 24 *Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy* (forthcoming, 2025) (with Irina D. Manta and Zoe Robinson)
- “Patient Autonomy, Public Safety, and Drivers with Cognitive Decline,” 15 *UC Irvine Law Review* (forthcoming 2025) (with Sharona Hoffman)
- “Litigating Partial Autonomy,” 109 *Iowa Law Review* 1655 (2024).

The only Law School with a Foreign Policy Radio Program

Established in 2012, CWRU’s radio program, “Talking Foreign Policy,” is broadcast quarterly on Cleveland’s NPR Station, WKSU 89.7 FM and its syndicates. Hosted by Professor **Michael Scharf**, the program is streamed worldwide from Ideastream Public Media, and is available to listen to as a podcast anytime.

Recent episodes of the program have addressed such topical issues as “Trump’s Tectonic Changes to American Foreign Policy” (June 23, 2025), “Russian Environmental War Crimes in Ukraine” (March 3, 2025), and “Is Taiwan at Risk” (January 2, 2025).

In the past year, guests on the program have included the former Legal Advisor of the U.S. Department of State (Harold Hongju Koh), the President Elect of the American Society of International Law (Oona Hathaway), the head of the Scowcroft Group (alumnus Kevin Nealer), the President of the Public International Law & Policy Group (Paul Williams), former Assistant Secretary of Defense (Sandy Hodgkinson), Executive Director of the International Bar Association (Mark Ellis), and more.



Host Michael Scharf and guests on Talking Foreign Policy

- “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).
- *The United States Experience, in Research Handbook On Extraterritoriality In International Law* (Edward Elgar Publishing; Austen Parrish and Cedric Ryngaert, eds.) (2023) (book chapter).
- *The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (USA)*, Elgar Concise Encyclopedia of Extraterritoriality and the Law (forthcoming 2025, solicited contribution) (book chapter).

Paul Rose

Professor and Dean of the Law School

- “Dirty SOEs,” 71 *UCLA Law Review Discourse* 98 (2024).
- “State Venture Capital,” 49 *Journal of Corporation Law* 438 (2024).
- “Governing the Wealth of Nations: The Santiago Principles at Fifteen,” 57 *International Lawyer* 149 (2024).
- “The Impact of Tax Laws and International Treaties on Sovereign Wealth Funds,” in *The Palgrave Handbook on Sovereign Wealth Funds* (H. Kent Baker, Jeffery H. Harris & Gyiath F. Nkshbendi eds., 2024 ed.) (book chapter).
- “Sovereign Wealth Funds and Shareholder Activism: Corporate Governance and Public Policy Deliberations,” in *The Palgrave Handbook on Sovereign Wealth Funds* (H. Kent Baker, Jeffery H. Harris & Gyiath F. Nkshbendi eds., 2024 ed.) (book chapter).



- “Fan Fiction,” forthcoming in *Elgar Encyclopedia of Intellectual Property*, Peter Yu, Paul Torremans, Irini Stamatoudi and Justin Jutte, eds., 2023-25).
- “Copyright: Characters, and Adaptation,” in *Elgar Encyclopedia of Law & Literature* (Robert Spoo & Simon Stern, eds., 2025).
- “User-Generated Transformation: IP, Social Justice, and Fanworks,” in *Handbook on Intellectual Property and Social Justice* 339-361 (Lateef Mtima & Steven Jamar, eds., Cambridge University Press, 2024).

Matthew J. Rossman

Professor

- “Assessing the Performance of Place-Based Economic Development Incentives: What’s the Word on the Street?,” 63 *Washburn Law Journal* 325 (2024).
- “Cultivating the Skills of In-House Counsel in a Law School Clinic,” *Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal*, February 2023, at 36.



Matthew A. Salerno

Associate Professor

- “Mindfulness Matters: The Experience of Mindfulness Activity Facilitation by Faculty,” 9 *Building Healthy Academic Communities Journal* (2025) (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).

Michael P. Scharf

Joseph C. Hostetler—BakerHostetler Professor of Law

- *Ukraine and the Legal Accountability of Russia: The Emergence of a New Global Order* (Routledge, 2025) (with Y. Dutton, M. Sterio and P. Williams).
- “White Paper on The Need to Strengthen International Humanitarian Law to Address the Challenges of 21st Century Warfare,” 57 *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 7 (2025) (Prepared by the participants of the Cleveland Experts Meeting Chaired by Michael Scharf).
- “Talking Foreign Policy: 75th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions,” 57 *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 411 (2025) (transcript of radio show hosted by Michael Scharf).
- “Forward: The Geneva Conventions at 75: Need for Innovation,” 57 *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 1 (2025).
- “Criminal Accountability for AI-Generated War Crimes,” 57 *Georgetown Journal of International Law* (forthcoming 2025) (with Isabelle Bazzzy).
- “Universal Jurisdiction and the Principle of Subsidiarity,” 44 *Boston University International Law Journal* (forthcoming Spring 2026) (with Elise Manchester and Pilar Corso).



Betsy Rosenblatt

Tom J.E. and Bette Lou Walker Professor of Law

- “Legendary Houses: Trademarks, Transformation, and The Ballroom Scene,” 58 *Akron Law Review* (forthcoming, in, 2025).
- “Judicial Legitimacy: Come For the Ethics, Stay for the Transparency” (symposium foreword), 74 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 895 (2024).
- “Review of The Game That Never Ends: How Lawyers Shape the Videogame Industry” by Julien Mailland, (forthcoming in *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PLAY*, 2025).



Photo by Annie O'Neill

Law School Celebrates Faculty Achievements and Contributions

In May 2025, CWRU School of Law held its eleventh celebration of faculty, an annual event to recognize the achievements and contributions of faculty members during the previous school year.

The celebration included the presentation of endowed chairs to two faculty members, **Eric Chaffee** and **Betsy Rosenblatt**. Chaffee was appointed the John C. Hutchins Professorship, with Dean **Paul Rose** citing his prolific publications, activity and leadership in various legal professional organizations. The Tom J.E. and Bette Lou Walker Professorship, previously held by **Jessica Berg**, was granted to **Betsy Rosenblatt** in recognition of her vast experience in intellectual property litigation, entertainment, copyright, trademark and patent law.

In addition to the presentation of endowed chairs, Dean Rose announced that **Anat Alon Beck** has been

promoted to full professor with tenure, **Jaime Bouvier** and **Joe Custer** have been promoted to full professor and **Liam Dunn** has been promoted to associate professor.

Sharona Hoffman and **Jennifer Cupar** were jointly presented with an Outstanding Faculty Service Award in recognition of their contributions this academic year. The Distinguished Research Prize was granted to **Cassandra Burke Robertson**.

Avidan Cover presented the Judge Richard M. Markus Adjunct Award for Excellence in Teaching to **Stacy Cozart Martin**, who was also recognized for five years of service. Adjunct professors **Rita Bryce**, **Deena Calabrese**, **Aaron Caputo**, **Ashlyn Carroll**, **Collin Jennings**, **Angela Lydon**, **Beth Nagusky**, **Sarah Polly** and **Kyleigh Weinfurter** were also recognized for five years of service. **Theodore Parran III** was recognized for 10 years of service to the law school, and **Marvin Sicherman**, who is still

teaching at 90 years of age, received a round of applause for his long-standing commitment to CWRU Law.

Andrew Pollis was voted Teacher of the Year by the student body, while **Jack Turner** was granted with LLM Professor of the Year. **Craig Nard** was named 1L Professor of the Year.

To end the ceremony, **Victor Flatt** recognized **Jonathan Adler's** years of service to CWRU Law as director of the Environmental Law Center as Adler prepares to depart the faculty this summer for William and Mary Law School. **Jenn Cupar** and **Leilani Marshall** jointly recognized **Avidan Cover's** six years serving as associate dean for academic affairs as he prepares to return to teaching, while **Jenn Cupar** takes up the role of Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. **Ayesha Bell Hardaway** presented **Bryan Adamson** with an award recognizing his previous years of service as associate dean for diversity and inclusion.



2024-2025 Conferences and Lectures Roundup



This past year, CWRU School of Law hosted 42 Conferences and Distinguished Lectures with events ranging from a conference on updating the Geneva Conventions to a conversation with the U.S. Solicitor General. For most events, discounted fees for CLE credit are available to alums. In addition, most events were recorded and are available online for CLE viewing anytime. For more information about obtaining CLE credit, visit: case.edu/law/our-school/events-lectures/continuing-legal-education-cle

August 25-27, 2024: The Cox International Law Center presented “The Cutting Edge of International Humanitarian Law in 2024 The 16th Annual International Humanitarian Law Roundtable” at the Chautauqua Institute.

August 28, 2024: The Cox International Law Center presented the Bruce Klatsky Endowed Lecture in Human Rights, featuring Andrew Cayley, lead prosecutor at the International Criminal Court and former Chief Prosecutor of the UN Cambodia Genocide (1 Hour CLE).

September 3-6, 2024: The Center for Law, Technology and the Arts hosted “17th Transatlantic Intellectual Property Summer Academy: TRIPS at Age 30: A Major Success Story.”

September 4, 2024: The Law School presented the Sumner Canary Memorial lecture “Representing the United States in the Supreme Court,” with U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth B. Prelogar” (1 hour CLE).

September 17, 2024: The Business Law Center presented “Securities Law in the Supreme Court,” with Adam C. Pritchard and Robert B. Thompson, authors of the book, *A History of Securities Law in the Supreme Court*, (1 hour CLE).

September 18, 2024: The Burke Environmental Law Center presented “Regulating Energy and Land Management at the Department of the Interior,” with Kathryn Kovacs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management at the U.S. Department of the Interior (1 hour CLE).

September 20, 2024: The Law School presented a conference on “Defending Tomorrow’s Democracy: The Future of Elections in the Era of Advanced Technology,” (4 hours of CLE).

September 23, 2024: The Business Law Center presented “Sunk Costs and Exploding Offers” with UVA Law Professor and former Dean of University of Chicago School of Law, Saul Levmore (1 hour CLE).

September 26-27, 2024: The Cox International Law Center presented a two-day conference, “The Geneva Conventions at 75: Need for Innovation” (5.5 hours of CLE).

September 30, 2024: The Law-Med Center presented “Physicians Spreading Medical Misinformation: The Suitability of Regulation” with Richard Saver, Arch T. Allen Distinguished Professor of Law at University of North Carolina Law School. (1 hour CLE).

September 30, 2024: The Law School presented “The First Amendment and Freedom of Expression on College Campuses” with CWRU Law Professors Jonathan Adler and Bryan Adamson (2 hours CLE).

October 2, 2024: The CWRU First Amendment Clinic presented “Staying Real: The War on Truth—and How to Win It” with Jonathan Rauch, Senior fellow of the Brookings Institution (1.5 hours CLE).

October 9, 2024: The Business Law Center presented “The Public Benefit Corporation: Panacea or Pipe Dream?” with Michael Dorff, the Executive Director of the Lowell Milken Institute for Business Law and Policy at UCLA School of Law (1 hour CLE).

October 14, 2024: The Law-Med Center presented “Equal Rights and Protections in Human Subjects Research—A Call to Action” with Leslie E. Wolf, the Ben F. Johnson Jr. Chair in Law, Distinguished University Professor, and Director of the Center for Law, Health & Society at Georgia State University’s College of Law (1 hour CLE).

October 24, 2024: The Law-Med Center presented “A lawyer with an entrepreneurial spirit or an entrepreneur with a law degree? How a law degree provides skills that can make you rich” with University Trustee Charles E. Hallberg (1 hour CLE).

October 25, 2024: The Business Law Center hosted the Ohio Division of Securities Conference, “Insights, Innovations and Implications: Securities Law and Industry in 2024 and Beyond” (6.5 hours CLE).

October 29, 2024: The Canada-U.S. Law Institute presented “The 2024 Canada-US Legal Symposium—Artificial Intelligence Regulation, Governance, and Liability.

October 30, 2024: The Burke Environmental Law Center presented “Misunderstanding the Politics of the Energy Transition” with David B. Spence, the Rex G. Baker Centennial Chair in Natural Resources Law at the University of Texas School of Law (1 hour CLE).



November 8, 2024: The Business Law Center presented the “2024 LEET Symposium—Relational Contracting in the New Industrial Policy” (6 hours CLE).

November 11, 2024: The Social Justice Law Center presented an expert panel “Honoring Tanisha Anderson: Addressing Police Accountability and Mental Health Crisis Solutions” (1 hour CLE).

November 19, 2024: The Law School presented “Digital Assets and Cybersecurity” with Sanjeev Bhasker, Deputy General Counsel with the Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD), the White House (1 hour CLE).

November 20, 2024: The Law-Med Center presented “Physician Unions in the Medical Industrial Revolution” with Dr. Stuart Bussey, President of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists (1 hour CLE).

November 21, 2024: The Cox International Law Center presented the “Ninth Trade Law Fall Update: Investment, Industrial Policy, National Security and Trade Law Beyond 2024” (3.5 hours CLE).

November 22, 2024: The Law School hosted the Court of Appeals for Cuyahoga County and Eighth Appellate District’s “Advanced Appellate Advocacy Seminar 2024” (6.25 hours CLE).

February 4, 2025: The Business Law Center presented “Purpose and Nonprofit Enterprise” with UVA Law Professor Cathy Hwang (1 hour CLE).

February 6, 2025: The Business Law Center presented “Negotiations: A Mindset and Framework” with Pantea Stevenson, Deputy General Counsel at Upside (2 hours CLE).

February 12, 2025: The Reproductive Rights Law Initiative presented “The State of Reproductive Rights after Dobbs” with CWRU Law Professor Jessie Hill (1 hour CLE).

February 13, 2025: The Business Law Center presented a panel of experts on “Powers and Pitfalls: Governance Structure and Disputes Involving Alternative Entities” (1 hour CLE).

February 21, 2025: The Law-Med Center presented a national forum for medical students, “Starting a Career in Medicine—Threats to Healthy Doctor-Patient Relationships” (10 hours of CLE).

February 25, 2025: The Business Law Center presented “The Renewed (and Wild) Race in Corporate Law,” with Eric Talley, Co-Director of the Ira M. Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership (1 hour CLE).

March 19, 2025: The Law-Med Center presented “Evaluating Hospital Procedures for Authorizing Emergency Abortion” with Nadia Sawicki, Co-Chair of the Beazley Institute for Health Law & Policy at Loyola University Chicago School of Law (1 hour CLE).

March 28, 2025: *The Journal of Law, Technology, and the Internet* presented a conference, “The Business World, Artificial Intelligence and the Law” (5 hours CLE)

April 1, 2025: The Law-Med Center presented “Coordination, Not Competition: Achieving Value-Based Care Through Shared Governance” with Jessica Mantel, Co-Director of University of Houston’s Health Law & Policy Institute (1 hour CLE).

April 2, 2025: The Business Law Center presented “The Power of Resisted Temptation,” with Yale Professor and Forbes columnist, Ian Ayres (1 hour CLE).

April 4, 2025: The Reproductive Rights Law Initiative presented a day-long conference, “Radical Inclusion at the DisCo: Reproductive Justice is Disability Justice,” (6.5 hours of CLE).

April 10, 2025: The Burke Environmental Law Center presented “Can free enterprise solve climate change?” with former Congressman Bob Inglis, the Executive Director of republicen.org (1 hour CLE).

April 10-11, 2025: The Canada-U.S. Law Institute presented its 49th annual Conference, “The North American Crisis—Dismantling the World Trading Order?” (4.75 hours CLE).

April 14, 2025: The Social Justice Law Center presented “The legal profession must confront its role in slavery” (1 hour CLE).

April 15, 2025: The Burke Environmental Law Center presented “Building Authentic Pathways for Environmental Justice Advocacy” with Abre L. Conner of the NAACP (1 hour CLE).

April 21, 2025: The Compliance and Risk Management Institute presented “Compliance Updates with Tom Fox,” founder of the Compliance Podcast Network.

July 25, 2025: The Reproductive Rights Law Initiative presented a webinar on “Mandatory Reporting in Ohio: Advocating for Substance Affected Infants & Birthing People.”

September 26-27, 2025: The Cox Center presented “Turning Points and Paradigm Shifts in International Law,” the ASIL Midyear Meeting held at CWRU School of Law, featuring thirty panels.

Leading with A New Era for Business

Katy Mercer

Robert Rapp

Matthew Salerno

Paul Rose

Matthew Rossman



Purpose

Law at CWRU

Theo Russell



Eric Chaffee



Juliet Kostritsky



Charles Korsmo



Anat Alon-Beck

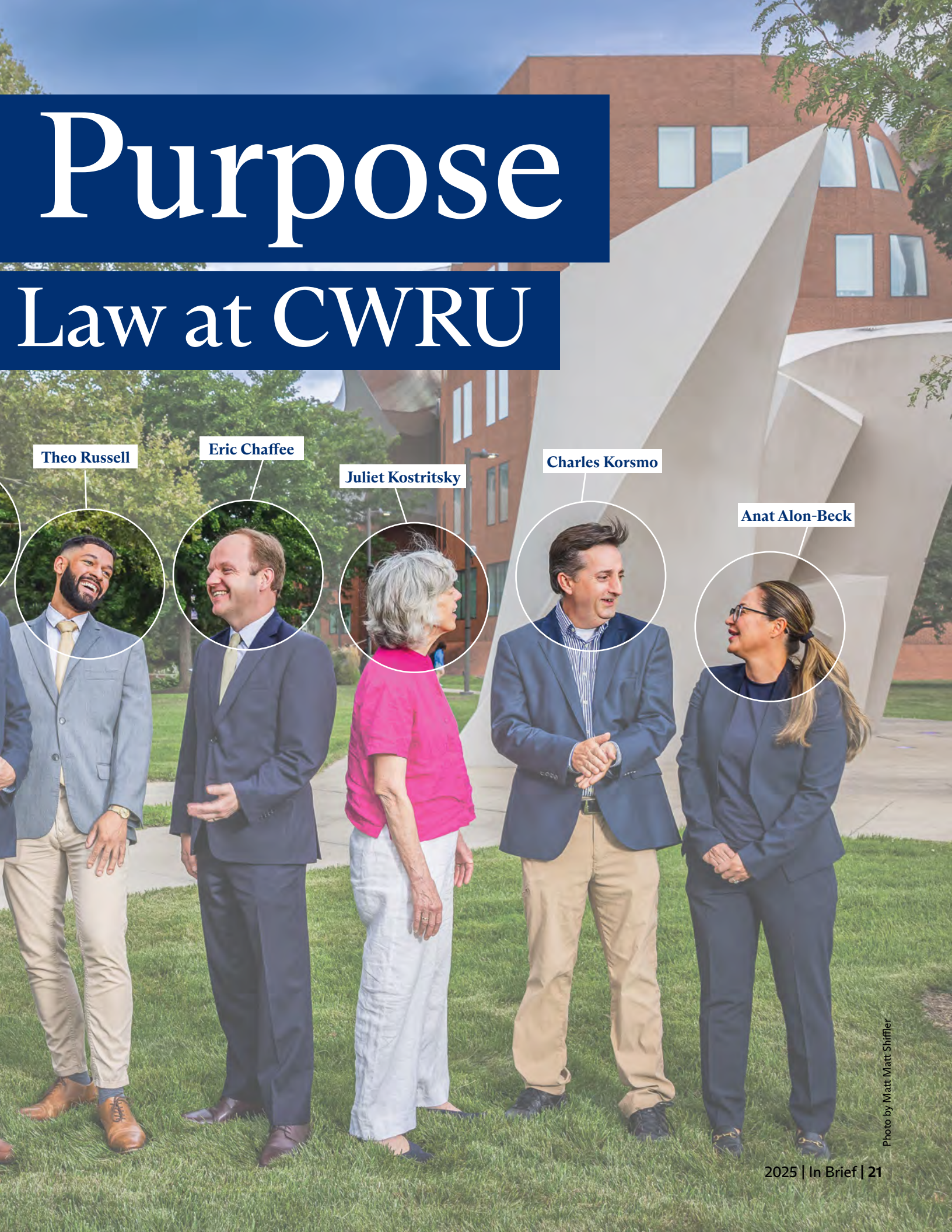


Photo by Matt Matt Shiffler



CWRU School of Law has long been recognized for its strength in Business Law, but with the arrival of Dean Paul Rose in 2024 this specialty area is ascending to new heights. This year, *preLaw Magazine* gave CWRU the coveted A+ grade for its Business Law program, and the program climbed 9 spots in the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking.

So, what makes CWRU School of Law's Business Law program stand out?

Innovative offerings

CWRU School of Law's Business offerings are unique in six ways.

First, CWRU offers an intensive upper-level writing course devoted to transactional business agreements as part of its three-semester required LLEAP writing program. In this hands-on course, students draft several discrete contract provisions, write a letter of intent, undertake a due diligence review, learn to read basic financial statements, research and write a client-advice letter on regulatory compliance, lead a client discussion regarding pending issues so as to devise an action plan, negotiate and then transform an oral agreement into a binding written contract, and close the deal.

Second, CWRU has pioneered a Business Law Colloquium that provides students the opportunity to interact with panels of experts in the corporate arena including law firm partners, general counsels, business leaders, and law and business school professors. Students in the course write a paper on business topics, such as corporate governance,

executive compensation, business ethics, the role of the board of directors, the rise of environmental social governance, and business regulation.

Third, the Law School's extensive Business Law curriculum includes courses on corporate finance, business associations, tax, mergers and acquisitions (M&A), and law, theory and practice in financial markets. In addition, the law school has expanded its international business law offerings in recent years, with courses ranging from International Commercial Arbitration to International Business Transactions and International Tax—each taught by leading experts in these fields.

Fourth, upper class law students can participate in CWRU's Fusion program, an interdisciplinary certificate program that teams law students with business and engineering students across the Case Western campus to simulate the commercialization of emerging technologies.

Fifth, the law school has two clinics where third-year students sit "first chair" in representing business clients. In the Community Development Clinic, students represent

local business and nonprofit entities in the formation of their businesses, obtaining tax-exempt status and serving as general counsel. In the IP Venture Clinic, students represent entrepreneurs to launch an early-stage venture and protect their intellectual property.

Sixth, CWRU law students can earn a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the Weatherhead School of Management and a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from the law school simultaneously under our Dual Degree Program. In addition, they can earn a Master in Compliance and Risk Management (MCRM) at the law school from a program that boasts a one hundred percent employment rate. The law school also offers concurrent degree programs in international business law with prestigious partner schools in England, France, and Spain, enabling students to earn both a JD and a Master of Laws (LLM) degree in international business law in just three years for the same price as the JD degree alone.

Award Winning Commercial Arbitration Team

The strength of the curriculum has a direct effect on our students. In the Vis International Commercial Arbitration competition, CWRU team members have brought home the Honorable Mention Award given to the top 20 oralists in the world-wide competition in Vienna in 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, and 2025.

Top-ranked business faculty

CWRU's Business Law Faculty—**Anat Alon-Beck**, **Eric Chaffee**, **Juscelino Colares**, **Charles Korsmo**, **Juliet Kostritsky**, **Robert Rapp**, **Paul Rose**, **Matthew Rossman**, and **Matt Salerno**—are experts in the Business Law area with wide experience as prior law firm attorneys who publish prodigiously on cutting-edge topics and regularly appear in major conferences on corporate and securities law. Together, their scholarship in this area outpaces all but a select few law schools. Three of our business law faculty members—Chaffee, Kostritsky, and Rose—are also elected members of the American Law Institute.



Professor Beck, who was promoted to full professor with tenure this year, has a weekly column in *Forbes* and is the nation's leading expert on unicorns—privately held companies exceeding \$1 billion.



Professor Chaffee, who received a chaired professorship this year, serves as Director of the Compliance, Risk Management, and Financial Integrity Institute and Co-Director

of the Center for Business Law, and is one of the nation's top experts on securities regulation in cyberspace.



Professor Colares is an expert on international business transactions and serves on the roster of arbitrators for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Free Trade Agreement dispute mechanism.



A former Hollywood actor, **Professor Korsmo** is one of the most cited authors in the areas of stockholder litigation and appraisal arbitration.



Professor Kostritsky serves as Director of the Business Law Center and writes on business contracts and environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues as well as biopharmaceutical alliance contracts.



Professor Rapp, who recently traveled to Saudi Arabia to lecture to the judges of the Saudi Administrative Court, writes on a wide range of federal and state securities law topics and financial market regulation.



An expert in corporate governance, securities regulation, and international business law, **Dean Rose** recently served as a senior legal consultant at the World Bank, and worked as a derivatives trader at Citibank and as a corporate and securities lawyer at Covington & Burling before entering academia.



Professor Rossman heads the Community Development Clinic where students get practical experience advising businesses and non-profits.



Professor Matt Salerno is the Co-Director of the Law School's Writing Program (LLEAP) and teaches the second-year writing course focused on business transactions.



Theo Russell serves as Administrative Director of the Institute for Compliance, Risk Management & Financial Integrity—an important component of our Business Law program.



In addition, joining our Business Law and Health Law Faculty this year as an Assistant Professor is **Yaron Covo** (LLB Tel Aviv University Law School, SJD Columbia Law School).

New Mentorship program for students awarded a Sugarman Scholarship

Highly qualified incoming students interested in Business Law are awarded the prestigious Sugarman Scholarship. The Center for Business Law offers Sugarman Scholars the opportunity to participate in a new mentorship program which pairs current law students with law practitioners. Students and mentors meet twice each semester either virtually or in-person. Mentors offer students invaluable insights about the practice of law in the business setting. The faculty associated with the Center for Business Law also offer a monthly lunch to meet with the Sugarman Scholar cohort.

Lectures and symposia

CWRU School of Law offers a continuing series of lectures and symposia in the business law area. This past year, the school co-hosted the 51st annual Ohio Securities Conference with the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Securities. The Law School also hosted the George A. Leet Business Law Symposium on Relational Contracting in the New Industrial Policy. In addition, University of Michigan Law Professor Adam Pritchard and Georgetown Law Professor Robert Thompson spoke about their new book on Securities Law in the Supreme Court; Columbia Law School Professor Eric Talley presented “The Renewed (and Wild) Race in Corporate Law”; and University of Chicago Law Professor Saul Levmore lectured about Law and Economics, among others.

Employment

Business law remains one of the strongest areas of employment for law graduates. This should come as no surprise, as business law expertise has evolved into a strategic business asset that can be leveraged to create value in the marketplace. Business law training is critical for lawyers advising companies and directors in the boardroom. Indeed, CWRU law school graduates concentrating on business law have found employment all over the world.

CWRU’s Pipeline into “Big Law”

While CWRU School of Law has several recognized strengths including in public interest law, many students are attracted to its pipeline into the nation’s large law firms, where NALP reports that first year starting salaries now average \$215,000.

Cleveland is home to some of the largest and most prestigious law firms in the country and Case Western Reserve University School of Law, with its strengths in business law and litigation, has a history of extraordinary success in placing its grads in major law firms in Cleveland, as well as other large cities across the country. In addition to Business Law, these firms practice every kind of law imaginable.

This past year, 34 members of our Class of 2024 obtained associate positions at large national law firms, including seven at Jones Day, the fifth largest firm in the United States, with 2,500 attorneys in forty cities around the globe. Fifty-four Jones Day attorneys in Cleveland, New York and Washington, D.C. are CWRU graduates, including the partner in charge of the Cleveland office, **John Saada (LAW ’93)**.

Twenty-three graduates of CWRU are attorneys at Squire Patton Boggs, the sixteenth largest law firm in the U.S, with 1,500 attorneys in forty-seven cities around the globe. The global managing partner of the firm, **Michele Connell (LAW ’03)**, is a CWRU graduate. This year, Squire hired four 2024 CWRU Law grads as associates.

Forty-six CWRU graduates are attorneys at BakerHostetler, the seventy-third largest law firm in the world, with 1,000 attorneys in 18 cities. BakerHostetler hired two CWRU graduates this year. CWRU grad **Hewitt Shaw (LAW ’80)**, served as Baker’s managing partner from 2005-2020.

Thirty-seven CWRU graduates are attorneys at Thompson Hine, the 134th largest law firm in the U.S., with 400 lawyers in nine cities. Five members of the CWRU class of 2024 began working there this year.

Other large firms in Cleveland with a significant number of CWRU attorneys include Tucker Ellis (41 CWRU grads), Benesch Friedlander (39 CWRU grads), UB Greensfelder (29 CWRU grads), Calfee Halter (25 CWRU grads), Taft (23 CWRU grads); McDonald Hopkins (23 CWRU grads), Hahn Loeser (23 CWRU grads); Reminger Co., LPA (17 CWRU grads) and Vorys (17 CWRU grads).

CWRU is a national law school, with many of its alums employed in large firms across the country, with large concentrations of

54

CWRU graduates at
Jones Day

alums in New York, D.C., LA, Atlanta, Miami, and Chicago. In addition to placements in Cleveland, several members of the class of 2024 obtained associate positions at large national firms such as Dinsmore & Shoh (Cincinnati), Greenberg Traurig (New York), Jackson Lewis (New York), McGuireWoods (Richmond, VA), WilmerHale (D.C.), Wilson Sonsini (Palo Alto), and Kirkland & Ellis (Chicago).

In addition, many CWRU grads have gone from Big Law to become general counsel in corporations throughout the U.S. and around the world. Notable examples include **Jeff Barlow**, general counsel at Momentive Technologies; **Colleen Batcheler**, general counsel at Hormel Foods; **Sandip Beri**, former general counsel—South Asia at Citibank; **Christopher Chan**, general counsel of JLL

23

CWRU graduates at
Squire Patton Boggs

46

CWRU graduates at
BakerHostetler

37

CWRU graduates at
Thompson Hine

Technologies; **William Gaertner**, general counsel of Leonardo Helicopters; **James Graham**, general counsel of Cleveland Cliffs; **Arjun Kampani**, general counsel of Rocket Lab; **Randa Payne**, general counsel of Adena Corporation; **Laura Quatela**, former chief counsel of Lenovo Corp.; **Jennifer Souza**, general counsel of Westfield Ins.; **Steven Strang**, general counsel at State Industrial Products; **Leila Vespola**, former chief legal officer of First Energy Corp.; and **Adam Zangerle**, general counsel at STERIS Corporation.

Meanwhile, CWRU's pipeline to Big Law continues, with 30 rising 3Ls from CWRU working as summer associates at large firms across the United States in the summer of 2025.



Meet the JD Class of 2028

As this publication went to press, the new In Person JD class had just arrived. In August, 144 exceptional individuals joined the law school as In Person JD students, bringing a rich tapestry of backgrounds and experience. Another 36 new JD students joined our Online JD Program as well for a combined total of 180 new JD students.

- Their median LSAT was **162**, the highest in the law school's history
- Their median GPA was **3.76**, the highest in the law school's history

For the In Person JD students:

- **37%** come from out of state
- **62%** identify as women; **36%** as men
- **22%** are from underrepresented minority groups
- **4%** are from foreign countries
- **58%** took some time off after college, **31%** took 2 or more years off with the longest period away being **9** years
- **9%** are first generation college grads
- **32%** are first generation Grad/Professional School students

- Their average age is **23**
- They went to **73** different colleges and had **41** different majors
- They have **9** graduate degrees
- They come from **25** different U.S. states & territories and **4** foreign countries
- **5** of them are married; none have children

Professionally, the class boasts a wide array of experiences. From public service roles and teaching to careers in the corporate and healthcare sectors, many of our newest students have already made significant contributions in fields such as government and public administration, education, health care and accounting.

Beyond their professional achievements, these students are defined by unique hobbies and interests. Some are passionate about activities like singing, acting, dancing, playing tennis, hiking, fly-fishing and canoeing, while others are involved in more specialized pursuits such as

theater directing, videography, fashion design, and yoga instruction. The class even includes enthusiasts of trick skateboarding, equestrian show jumping, and ballet dancing, reflecting a wide range of talents and creative outlets.

"We are thrilled to welcome the Class of 2028 to campus," remarked Dean **Paul Rose** at their orientation session. "This class has a demonstrated record of success and we are excited to see what they can achieve, both in their studies and beyond."

In addition to the JD students, the school welcomed 25 new foreign LLM students, 5 foreign SJD students, and 2 foreign exchange students, as well as 12 Master of Compliance and Risk Management students, 2 Master of Patent Practice students, and 3 Master of Laws students. This diverse and accomplished group is poised to make a lasting impact on the legal community and the world beyond.



Balancing Life and Law

The Inaugural Cohort of CWRU's Online J.D. Program

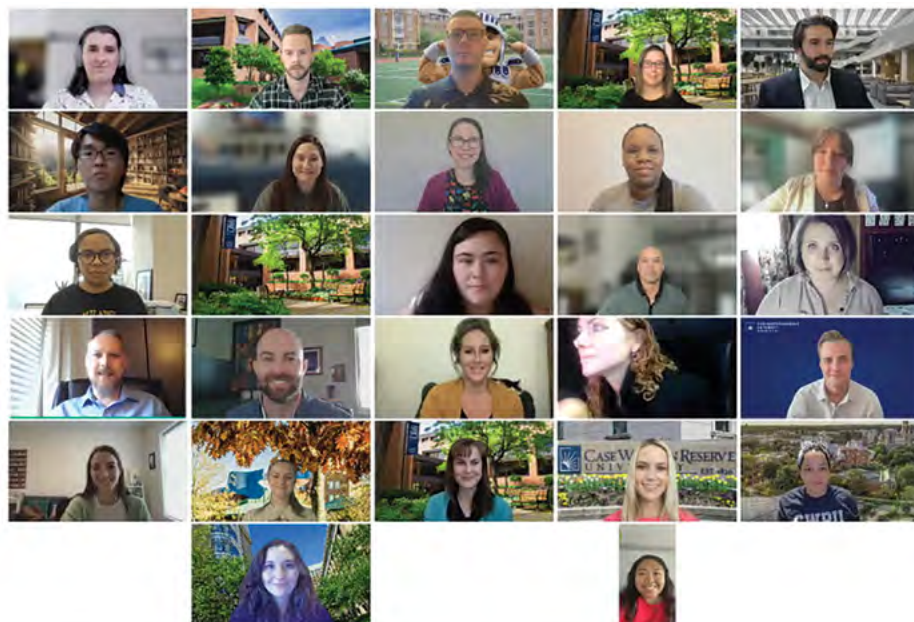
In August 2024, CWRU School of Law launched its inaugural fully online, part-time J.D. program, welcoming 32 students from 17 states across the nation. Selected from hundreds of applicants, they had impressive LSAT scores and GPAs, and brought a wide range of professional experiences, making this cohort uniquely qualified and dynamic.

The program is specifically designed for working professionals and those unable to relocate. Among the group are a chemical engineer, paralegal, intelligence and financial analysts, an entrepreneur, a vice president of an American multinational finance company, a physician partner, a Broadway actor and parents (including two fathers of four, a working mother of six and another mother juggling both a six-month-old and a two-year-old).

“These students are motivated by family, lifelong dreams, career ambitions and a genuine interest in law.”

—Jarienn James

These inspiring students have already developed a tremendous bond and are ecstatic about the opportunity to pursue their law degree. In their limited free time, they pursue a variety of hobbies: photography, flag football,



football, hiking, ice hockey, participating in professional Pokémon competitions and needlepoint.

The students began by diving into their first two courses, Criminal Law and LLEAP 1, CWRU's innovative program focused on legal writing, research, analysis and professionalism. Their LLEAP professor, **Katy Mercer**, notes that this cohort is engaged in learning and that it is fun to teach a group with such varied backgrounds and experiences. She admires their professionalism and collaboration, and she looks forward to supporting them in LLEAP 2 next spring. Criminal law professor **Liam Dunn** added that the students' diverse backgrounds lead to robust discussions during class. He's been impressed with how readily students get involved in those discussions, given that most are coming straight to class after a long workday.

The students are also working with adjunct professor **Rachael Andersen-Watts**, who is teaching effective learning strategies needed for studying and practicing law. Anderson-Watts enjoys working with this engaged group and looks forward to providing on-demand content, one-on-one coaching, and more, to meet the needs of this unique, tenacious group.

As noted by Assistant-Dean of Academic Affairs, **Jarienn James**, who manages the online, part-time J.D. program, “These students are motivated by family, lifelong dreams, career ambitions and a genuine interest in law. We are eager to guide them on their mission to enhance their personal lives, professional environments and immediate communities.” As CWRU School of Law adapts to the evolving demands of modern legal education, it is thrilled to welcome new voices and experiences that will enrich the entire student body.

News from the Kramer Law Clinic

Case Western Reserve's Kramer Law Clinic nationally recognized for impactful legal advocacy

Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Kramer Law Clinic has been recognized in a national analysis of law school clinics for its significant contributions to legal advocacy and public interest law. The study, published by Legalytics in "Breaking Down Data on Law School Clinics from the Past Year," ranks the Kramer Law Clinic among the most frequently cited in court opinions across the country from April 2024 to April 2025.

The article highlights the growing role of law school clinics in shaping litigation outcomes, influencing legal precedent and expanding access to justice. Drawing on a comprehensive dataset of court opinions, Legalytics identifies law school clinics that are repeatedly mentioned by name in judicial decisions—a mark of both influence and trust from the judiciary.

With seven court opinions citing its work, the Kramer Law Clinic stands out as one of the top-performing clinical programs in the country—surpassing individual clinics at some of the nation's most elite law schools. The Clinic was cited four times by the Ohio Court of Appeals and three times by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, demonstrating its strong presence in both state and federal courts.

"This recognition reflects the strength of our clinical faculty, the commitment of our students, and the deep community engagement that defines our approach to legal education,"

said **Laura McNally**, Associate Dean for Experiential Education. "Our students are not only learning to practice law—they are practicing it at a high level and making a meaningful impact in real people's lives."

The Kramer Law Clinic encompasses ten distinct clinics—including the Appellate Litigation Clinic, First Amendment Law Clinic, Health Law Clinic and IP Venture Clinic—through which students handle real cases under faculty supervision. The Clinic's work covers a wide range of legal issues, from public health and reentry support to constitutional and appellate advocacy.

The Legalytics article emphasizes the "repeat-player" role that clinics like Case Western's play in shaping the legal landscape. Rather than episodic involvement, these clinics are developing sustained relationships with courts, becoming recognized contributors to the legal process, and building lasting institutional credibility.

Case Western Reserve's inclusion alongside institutions like Harvard, Stanford and Georgetown underscores the national impact of its clinical program and the school's longstanding commitment to experiential legal education.

Continue reading to discover some of our recent Clinic success stories.



Case Western Reserve's Kramer Law Clinic is nationally recognized for impactful legal advocacy.



Niko Tomic (3L), Sarah Tibbitts (3L), Sarah M. Polly, Michael Amadio (3L), Chris Savaglio (3L) and Macie Mancuso (3L) at the McDonnell Center, a local correctional facility. Not pictured is Obasi Ndukwe (3L), who along with the students pictured created the presentation given to the inmates at the facility.

Second Chance Reentry Clinic students engage with community

The Second Chance Reentry Clinic, which is funded by the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry, spent a lot of time out in the community in the Spring semester. The clinic was one of several legal service providers that met with community members in February seeking to get their records sealed or expunged at an event co-sponsored by the Men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Cleveland Alumni Chapter and the Cuyahoga County Office of Reentry. The Clinic gained some new clients as a result of the event and provided advice to many others.

A few days later, Reentry Clinic students gave a presentation to offenders at The McDonnell Center, a community corrections facility, on laws and procedures surrounding record sealing and expungement and other legal remedies for people facing barriers as a result of their involvement in the justice system. Students shared a 30-minute presentation and then answered questions from the inmates.

To round out a busy week, students then visited the Northeast Reintegration Center, a minimum security prison in Cleveland that houses female inmates and seeks to help prepare them for a successful transition from custody back to society. The

visit was organized by the Frederick Douglass Project for Justice, which “facilitates structured meetings and respectful conversations between members of free society and incarcerated people, so that they can learn from each other, form powerful human connections and transform both their own lives and society at large.” This is the second semester the Reentry Clinic has participated in this program.

“Visiting and engaging with inmates at the center provides a window to a population of human beings with whom most of our students have not typically interacted, and ideally leads to greater understanding of and empathy for incarcerated individuals,” said **Sarah M. Polly**, managing attorney of the Kramer Law Clinic, who is co-teaching the Reentry Clinic with Associate Dean for Experiential Education **Laura McNally** this year. Polly noted that they were encouraged to come back again, and bring others who may feel less inclined to find understanding with those who are incarcerated.

All of this community engagement was on top of the client representation, new client analysis and numerous court hearings the nine Reentry Clinic students handled in the Spring!

News from the Kramer Law Clinic, continued

Law Clinic students help launch Latino vendor market and community space in Clark-Fulton neighborhood

Nestled on Cleveland's West Side, the Clark-Fulton neighborhood plays host to a vibrant Hispanic community, making it the perfect home for CentroVilla25. A new Latino market and food hall, CentroVilla25 isn't just a place to shop and dine—it's a cultural hub designed to cultivate community, celebrate heritage and create new opportunities for the people who call this neighborhood home.

Before all of this, it was just an idea—one that law students in Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic helped get off the ground. They came on board when **Ezequiel "Zeke" Rodriguez (MGT, LAW '03)**, a board member for the project's driving organization Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development (NEOHCED), reached out to **Matthew Rossman**, director of the law school's Community Development Clinic (CDC).

"Zeke saw a news story about work that we did for a similar organization and reached out to the clinic for help," said Rossman. "This was around two and half years ago, and we're now on the third team of students working with CentroVilla25."

Hands-on legal support

Clinic students work with a high level of autonomy, conducting client meetings, research, drafting paperwork and memos, and communicating with the CentroVilla25 representatives independently. According to **Sophia Cromwell**, one such student working with CentroVilla25 this academic year, preparation is key to this process.

"We have access to a ton of information that past teams in the clinic have worked on," she explains. "We even did a run-through of the initial client meeting with Professor Rossman. We were really well-prepared for the work we would be doing, and it helped us feel very supported."

This due diligence helped Cromwell and fellow intern **Xavier Pei** understand the project's goals before making contact with their clients.

"We spent the fall semester working on the property tax exemption application," Pei said. "Most of the work is looking historically at prior applications, or using statutes in case law to justify each section of the application. A lot of our work involved condensing research into shortened memos. The client is very busy and doesn't always have time

to review 10 pages of legal research, so we had to work hard to cut that down to a three-paragraph email, for instance. It was definitely a learning curve!"

A multitiered process

For the law students involved in CentroVilla25—which consists of 13 different parcels that were acquired and consolidated—there's been no shortage of work to be done.

"The students had to trace how [the parcels] were deeded to the organization and why each qualified for a charitable use exception from local property taxes," Rossman explained. "That process can be really complicated with a multipurpose space like this; at the same time, it is a tremendous opportunity to learn about the care lawyers devote in assembling a strong application to a government agency."



Left to right: Xavier Pei, Chloe LaFaille and Sophia Cromwell with Soly Marengo, director of operations for Northeast Ohio Hispanic Center for Economic Development and CentroVilla25.

“It’s a bit of a beast,” Cromwell added. “Every question on the application leads to subsequent questions, and each subsequent question requires more research.”

Despite the complicated nature of the application, Cromwell and Pei were able to submit it in late December, just a few weeks after CentroVilla25 held its soft opening. After their first visit to the construction site in September, the students were invited to visit the partially opened space in January.

“We’ve been able to actually see the project come to life in a very tangible way,” Cromwell said. “The space is gorgeous and the vendors are amazing. We were able to get coffee from Café Roig, try a street corn taco from Flying Pig and sample empanadas from Tumbao58.”

“We have access to a ton of information that past teams in the clinic have worked on. We even did a run-through of the initial client meeting with Professor Rossman. We were really well-prepared for the work we would be doing, and it helped us feel very supported.”

—Sophia Cromwell

CentroVilla25 was designed to emulate the vibrant streets of Puerto Rico, bringing life and color to the streets of Clark-Fulton. Active vendors include jewelry stores, bakeries, estheticians, a perfumery and boutiques alongside a variety of cuisine offerings, with more to come. While they aim to completely open by summer, the space is already hosting events and courses for small business owners, and many of the vendors are open for business.

Cromwell and Pei are continuing their work with the space in the spring semester, with Pei now undertaking a commercial kitchen agreement and Cromwell helping them obtain licenses.

“I’ve made such great personal connections with the people involved in CentroVilla25,” Pei reflected. “I am proud to be representing them and I want others to see what a great space it is.”

“It’s really beautiful that this community in Cleveland now has a space where they can showcase their culture and heritage,” Cromwell said. “It’s going to be a pillar for the community as a whole.”



Maya Simek

CWRU Human Trafficking Clinic Director Honored for her Work

Alarming, the State of Ohio ranks 5th in the nation for incidents of human trafficking, many involving women and girls trafficked from abroad. CWRU School of Law established the Human Trafficking Clinic in 2018 to provide legal services for victims of trafficking and provide students hands-on experience in this field.

We are pleased that our efforts have been recognized: Professor **Maya Simek**, Director of the Human Trafficking Law Clinic, was the recipient of the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking’s “Inspire Change Award” last fall in recognition of Simek’s outstanding work and dedication to advocating for victims of human trafficking and developing an innovative, holistic model for legal and social services.

Since its opening, the Human Trafficking Law Clinic has become a vital resource for survivors of human trafficking in Northeast Ohio. Under Simek’s leadership, the Clinic has served over 1000 individuals, providing crucial civil legal representation on issues such as expungement, social security benefits, and child support modification. One compelling success story from the Clinic involves securing asylum for a labor trafficking survivor from The Gambia. Over the course of six years, the clinic supported this survivor through her asylum process, and the team is now working on her U.S. citizenship.

News from the Kramer Law Clinic, continued

Case Western Reserve Law student argues case in Ninth District Court of Appeals

Case Western Reserve University law student **Robert Read** recently made an oral argument in front of the Ninth District Court of Appeals in Summit County, presenting a case for a client charged with criminal damaging of a window. Read argued that the evidence presented was circumstantial, unrelated to the damaged window, and failed to establish the mental state necessary for a conviction.

The case centered around an incident at the home of the client's ex-girlfriend, where a single window was broken. The client was accused of knowingly causing or risking harm to property, which the Akron City Code requires for criminal damaging. The State's case relied entirely on contemporaneous circumstantial evidence, focusing on events that took place earlier that same evening rather than direct evidence of the client's intent at the time the window was broken. According to Read, the prosecution

“The preparation was intense but incredibly rewarding. Because I argued on the second day of classes, I had to be ready before the semester even started.”

—Robert Read

failed to prove that his client acted “knowingly” in causing the damage. He argued instead that the incident was an accident: his client had unintentionally bumped the window while moving furniture out of the house.

In preparation for the argument, Read spent weeks over the summer poring over trial documents, transcripts, and visual evidence. He also practiced extensively with law professor **Andrew Pollis**, running multiple moot arguments to refine his approach.

“The preparation was intense but incredibly rewarding,” Read said. “Because I argued on the second day of classes, I had to be ready before the semester even started.”

What made the experience even more unique was that the City of Akron was represented by another legal intern, making the argument a showcase for the skills of two law students. Read described the atmosphere as invigorating.

“It was exciting to see both sides presented by legal interns,” he said. “The argument itself went by quickly, but it was a neat experience, and I enjoyed every minute. I’m looking forward to the potential to argue another case as part of the clinic, if the opportunity arises.”



Robert Read with Andrew Pollis

Students Making a Difference Locally and Globally

Many law students go to law school because they want to use their degree to have a positive impact on society. At CWRU, students don't have to wait until they graduate to do so. We are happy to tell you about two student initiatives that have helped change the city and the world.

Law students help introduce Tanisha's Law to Cleveland City Council

A decade after Tanisha Anderson was killed after being restrained by Cleveland police during a mental health crisis, Case Western Reserve University School of Law students are working to change local policy to honor her memory—and prevent such tragedies from happening again.

Members of the Student Legislative Initiative of Cleveland (SLIC), a dedicated group of CWRU law students who are committed to introducing impactful local policy, worked

with Anderson's family to introduce Tanisha's Law to Cleveland City Council.

Tanisha's Law aims to equip Cleveland police with improved protocols and training for responding to individuals in mental health crises. The CWRU law students spent the last two years working with Tanisha's family on research and drafting the law.



From left to right: Yaninna Sharpley-Travis, Councilwoman Stephanie Howse-Jones, Michael Anderson, Councilwoman Rebecca Maurer, Bobby Read.

Students Making a Difference Locally and Globally, continued

“We were introduced to Mr. [Michael] Anderson, Tanisha’s uncle, through Professor **Ayesha Bell Hardaway**, who organized a visit for Mr. Anderson to the law school in March of 2023,” said **Yaninna Sharpley-Travis**, one of the students involved in SLIC. “He spoke to the interested students about his goal of memorializing Tanisha through a law that would offer community members experiencing a mental health crisis an alternative to traditional police response.”

Over the next year, law students, led by **Michael O’Donnell (LAW ’24)** and **Alexandra Mendez-Diez (LAW ’24)**, researched the legal issues as well as various mental health crisis response models, working to ensure that the proposed legislation reflected the goal of meaningful change in crisis response. The students researched the efficacy of co-response programs, in which a specially trained police officer works together with a mental health expert, and care response models, which call for an unarmed mental health expert to respond without the presence of police. Their work ultimately led to a draft of the law that includes both co-response and care response models.

“These models aim to encourage a more compassionate, safer and comprehensive mental health crisis response to aid our community members in need,” Sharpley-Travis said. “We truly believe that the city’s commitment to adopting these measures would go a long way in reducing and preventing the harm that community members in crisis face when intervention is needed.”

Case Western Reserve University hosted a press conference in its Moot Courtroom to inform the public about the legislation, which is co-sponsored by council members Stephanie Howse-Jones, Rebecca Maurer and Charles Slife. During the press conference, Michael Anderson recognized the council members’ support for the law, as well as the students’ pivotal role in creating the proposed draft. He also commended the law school and the university’s commitment to social justice, applauding the efforts of Bell Hardaway, who serves as director of the Social Justice Institute and Social Justice Law Center.

“These models aim to encourage a more compassionate, safer and comprehensive mental health crisis response to aid our community members in need.”

—Yaninna Sharpley-Travis

“The collaboration between our students, Mr. Anderson, and community members on this endeavor has been gratifying to observe,” said **Bell Hardaway**. “The reciprocal learning and supportive advocacy between the stakeholders was readily apparent. A possible legislative solution for crisis response is an important opportunity for those who live, work and visit Cleveland.”

Yemen Accountability Project publishes Red Sea Task Force White Paper

The Yemen Accountability Project (YAP) is proud to announce the publication of its seventh white paper, “Assessing the Legal Implications of the Military Response to Houthi Attacks in the Red Sea.” This paper marks a pivotal expansion of YAP’s work, documenting not only atrocities committed within Yemen, but also the international legal implications of the unfolding Red Sea conflict.

The report analyzes the legality of military responses by the United States, the United Kingdom, and coalition partners to Houthi attacks on commercial and military vessels between October 2023 and January 2025. The paper evaluates these events under international law governing self-defense, counterterrorism, and piracy, concluding with a discussion on the use of force against non-state actors. It provides

critical insights into the legality of Operation Prosperity Guardian and explores the complex intersection of maritime security and international humanitarian law.

“This project was an enriching opportunity to explore how international law responds to real-world conflicts, particularly in the Red Sea where there have constantly been belligerents entering and exiting the situation, and most alarmingly civilian objects being the subject of military operations,” said **Jessica Chapman**, who led the student team that prepared the White Paper. “We looked at the attacks in the Red Sea through the lenses of self-defense, counterterrorism, and piracy to help us better understand how governments justify military operations, and specifically the responses taken to such actions. It was rewarding to



Professor Johnson (top row, second to left) and the student leaders of the Yemen Accountability Project.

“This project was an enriching opportunity to explore how international law responds to real-world conflicts, particularly in the Red Sea where there have constantly been belligerents entering and exiting the situation, and most alarmingly civilian objects being the subject of military operations.”

—Jessica Chapman

connect the legal principles to such an urgent, evolving situation, and to think critically about how policy and law interact on the global stage. For a continuing study of this conflict, it would be important to expand our understanding of the situation to the legal context of the larger conflicts of the Middle East and beyond.”

YAP is a student-led initiative at Case Western Reserve University School of Law founded in 2018 as a cooperative effort between legal scholars, non-governmental organizations, students, and other stakeholders. Funded by a generous grant from **Timothy Geisse** and directed by Professor **Jim Johnson**, YAP investigates open-source materials related to the Yemen conflict with the goal of facilitating future prosecutions of war crimes and crimes against humanity in domestic or international courts. Its seven White Papers are available at: case.edu/law/centers-institutes/cox-international-law-center/yemen-accountability-project

Building on a Winning Tradition

2025 was a Banner Year for CWRU's Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team and CWRU's three International Law Moot Court Teams

Like an NCAA basketball or football powerhouse, CWRU School of Law has long been known for the strength of its Mock Trial and Moot Court programs. 2025 was another banner year.

Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team Repeats as National Finalist

On the heels of their 2024 national title, Case Western Reserve University School of Law's Black Law Student Association (BLSA) Mock Trial team program reached a new milestone at the 2025 Constance Baker Motley National Mock Trial Competition. For the first time in this program's history, two teams advanced to the national stage, an unprecedented achievement that reflects the depth, preparation, and talent of this year's competitors. One of those teams went on to finish as the National Runner-Up after a series of standout performances, winning four out of their five rounds.



Black Law Students Association Mock Trial Team

The championship team (2Ls **Lydia Abraham** and **Jordyn Dawson**, and 3Ls **Obasi Ndukwe** and **Yannina Sharpley-Travis**) stormed through the national competition composed of 15 elite teams from the several regional competitions. The Defense team of Ndukwe and Sharpley-Travis opened the tournament with a victory over Southern University, while the Prosecution team of Abraham and Dawson followed up with a win against Texas Law. In the elimination rounds, the Defense team carried the baton, advancing to the quarterfinals with a decisive win over the University of Alabama, then defeating UCLA in a hard-fought semifinal. In the final round, they once again represented the Defense against Texas Law in a gripping championship match, ultimately finishing as National Runner-Up.

This year also marked a milestone for the program's depth and talent: after placing first and third at the regional level, both Case Western Reserve teams earned their spots at nationals. The second team (2Ls **Caren Teague**, **Angelina Booher**, **Karthi Srikanth** and **Mykilah Lewis**) competed with heart, passion and resilience, leaving it all on the courtroom floor.

"This achievement is a testament to the countless hours our team poured into preparation," said Dawson. "From late nights to early mornings, we worked tirelessly to perfect our case theory and build our advocacy skills. The growth we've experienced together has been extraordinary."

Beyond the courtroom, the success of the BLSA Mock Trial program reflects a broader collective effort. The full Mock Trial class, including 2Ls **Raheal Neequaye** and **Iris Rodriguez**, played a crucial role, assisting as witnesses, conducting legal research and offering strategic support. Together, the team has forged a powerful sense of camaraderie and sharpened their advocacy through collaboration.

"This historic run would not have been possible without the tireless dedication of our coaches, Professor **Diane Russell** and **Russell Tye**," said the BLSA Mock Trial team. "Their mentorship, passion for advocacy and unwavering support shaped us not just into better competitors but into better advocates and future attorneys. As a team, we are endlessly grateful for their guidance, wisdom and belief in our potential every step of the way."



The International Law Moot Court Team Members

International Law Moot Court Teams Among the Best in the World

Every year, CWRU School of Law participates in the world's three premier international law moot court competitions: Jessup, ICC, and Vis. CWRU is one of the few law schools to allow students to try out for these teams in the fall of their 1L year, and CWRU 1Ls have an extraordinary track record of success, including winning the award for Best Oralists in the World in 2022.

Traditionally, CWRU fields one of the best Jessup teams in the world, having been a finalist in the U.S. competition

and thereby earning a berth in the international rounds ten times in the past twenty years, and winning the World Championship in 2008, the Best Brief in the World Award in 2011, and the Best Oralists in the World Award in 2022 and in 2023.

In the International Criminal Court Moot Court, CWRU has won Best Speaker awards, Best Brief awards, and in 2021, 2023, and 2025, CWRU made it to the America's Regional Final Round, earning a berth in the IBA International Rounds in The Hague.

In the Vis International Commercial Arbitration competition, the CWRU team has won numerous regional pre-moots in years past, and CWRU team members have brought home the Honorable Mention Award given to the top 20 oralists in Vienna in 2017, 2018, 2021, 2022, and 2025.

CWRU Jessup Team Emerges as a Top Team at Nationals

Defending their 2024 national title, the CWRU Jessup International Law Moot Court team (3L **Ellie Buerk**, 3L **Brianna Schmidt**, 3L Naomi Matthusen, 2L **Patricia Taylor**,



CWRU Jessup Team emerges as a top team at Nationals West, earning a berth in the World Championship Rounds in DC

and 1L **Pilar Corso**) competed against 40 other law schools in Portland, Oregon in February 2025, for the privilege of representing the United States in the Jessup World Championship Rounds in Washington, DC in April.

CWRU went 4-0 in the preliminary rounds, beating Marquette, Northern Illinois, Kansas and Loyola Chicago, and then defeated St Louis University in the Sweet 16. The best six teams from Portland earned a berth in the World Championship Rounds, and CWRU made it through along with Washington University, Denver, California Irvine, Wayne State and Arizona State. In addition, CWRU won the award for the 2nd Best Brief in the competition and captured three of the top ten speaker awards (**Patricia Taylor** was 5th Best Speaker, **Brianna Schmidt** was 9th Best Speaker and **Ellie Buerk** was 10th Best Speaker).

The Jessup team is coached by Professor **Michael Scharf** and alumni and Squire Patton Boggs attorneys **Liz Safier (LAW '21)** and **Will Baker (LAW '24)**.

ICC Moot Court Team Reaches National Finals, International Quarter Finals

The International Criminal Court (ICC) Moot Court team had its best performance ever this year, reaching the Finals at the National Competition held in New York in March 2025, and then making it to the Quarter Finals at the International Rounds in The Hague in June.

The ICC team was made up of **Rose Lekan** (3L, Defense Counsel), **Kaylara Benfield** (2L, Prosecution), **Teresa Lebowitz** (2L, Victims' Counsel), and research and writing team members **Oliver Bates** (1L) and **Maria Blough** (1L). To enable Lekan to focus on summer Bar Exam studies, Blough replaced her as an oralist in the International Rounds, where universities from 85 countries competed.

At the National Competition, **Kaylara Benfield** was awarded Best Prosecution Oralist and **Rose Lekan** was awarded Second Best Defense Oralist at the competition. The



ICC Moot Court Team reaches finals at the National Competition in New York



Vis International Moot Court team

“To have excelled at a global level is a testament to the talent, dedication, and professionalism of all of the members of the Vis team.”

—Jim FitzGibbon

team also received Best Defense Brief award, Second Best Prosecution Brief and Best Victim Brief.

The ICC team is coached by professor **Michael Benza**, and adjunct professors **Denakpon Tchobo** and **Caroline Ford**.

Vis International Arbitration Team Excels in Vienna

After extraordinary successes in the Pre-Moots at Harvard and Chicago, the CWRU International Commercial Arbitration Moot Court team had its best showing at the Vis international commercial arbitration competition in Vienna in 2025, reaching the elimination round of 32 (out of 400 competing teams) for the first time in school history. The team was tied as the final remaining American school in the competition.

The Vis team was comprised of **Joel Berg** (2L), **Nathaniel Sommers** (3L Co-Captain), **Matthew Matolka** (2L), **Vanessa Pilatova** (2L), **Daniel Radigan** (2L), **Ashley Nelson** (1L), **Tara Czekner** (1L) and **Jim FitzGibbon** (3L Co-Captain).

CWRU was awarded an honorable mention for the Eric E. Bergsten Award for Best Team Orals. CWRU also had three oralists, FitzGibbon, Pilatova and Sommers, awarded an honorable mention for the Martin Domke Award for Best Individual Oralist, of which only approximately 100 out of 2500 oralists are awarded. CWRU was one of only four schools worldwide which had three speakers win an honorable mention.

“To have excelled at a global level is a testament to the talent, dedication, and professionalism of all of the members of the Vis team,” said co-captain **Jim FitzGibbon**. “After early successes in the Harvard and Loyola of Chicago Pre-Moots in the United States, the team was able to translate that success to the world stage and make CWRU history in Vienna. I am so proud of the team and what they have accomplished, and I know that they are already looking forward to next year’s competition!”

Alumni Spotlights

Alumnus Elected to be a Judge of the African Court on Human Rights

CWRU Law alum **Duncan Gaswaga (LL.M '13)** was elected in July 2024 as a Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights. Like the European Court of Human Rights in France and the Inter-American Court for Human Rights in Costa Rica, the Africa Court in Tanzania serves as the supreme human rights judicial institution for the African continent. Justice Gaswaga is one of eleven judges on the Court, serving for a six-year term (renewable once).

Justice Gaswaga has held a variety of high-profile judicial positions in the Seychelles and Uganda. A decade ago, he presided over a series of trials of Somalia pirates and most recently he tried the groundbreaking case of Thomas Kwoyelo, a former child abductee who rose to be a commander of the Lord's Resistance Army. Charged with crimes against humanity, Kwoyelo was the first case of its kind in Africa to be conducted under the complementary principle of the International Criminal Court.

"We are incredibly proud of our alum Duncan Gaswaga," former Dean (2013-2024) **Michael Scharf** said. "He has done so much for international justice and his election to the African Court of Human Rights will inspire the next generation of our students who seek to leave their mark in the field," Scharf said.



Duncan Gaswaga

From Gund Hall to the Security Council

A native of Sierra Leone who enrolled in CWRU School of Law "because of its strong international law programs and excellent reputation," **George Shadrack Kamanda** graduated from CWRU School of Law School in 2022 while simultaneously earning a Master's Degree in Public International Law from Oxford University in the U.K. Just a few months after graduating and passing the Bar, George had obtained his dream job as a diplomatic and legal affairs officer at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations. A year later he was promoted to be a Legal Adviser of the Permanent Mission.



George Shadrack Kamanda

As one of the Legal Advisers at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, Kamanda represents Sierra Leone on the UN's Legal (Sixth) Committee. In addition, he acts as the case expert on the International Criminal Court and supports the Mission on matters involving the International Court of Justice, international tribunals, humanitarian law, conflict resolution and human rights. In addition, he offers specialized legal guidance on sanctions, advising on listing and delisting criteria and their legal implications. He also provides expert opinions on UN resolutions and other official documents, frequently collaborating with colleagues on cross-regional issues where legal considerations intersect. His role includes drafting statements, preparing talking points and interventions, and producing legal briefs, memos and advisory opinions. Kamanda says: "My work is integral to advancing Sierra Leone's diplomatic and legal objectives at the UN, ensuring

our mission adheres to international standards and aligns with strategic priorities.”

Few lawyers have gone straight from law school to the United Nations. “I obtained my position through active engagement and professional networking. I visited the permanent mission several times to express my interest in joining the team and submitted my qualifications,” Kamanda explained. He credits his preparation at CWRU for making this possible. “CWRU provided me with a solid foundation in international law and humanitarian law. The rigorous academic curriculum honed my analytical skills and deepened my understanding of complex legal frameworks. Additionally, the school’s emphasis on practical experience through externships allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings. Furthermore, the mentorship I received from faculty was invaluable in guiding my career path.”

Steven Petras (LAW ’79) Establishes First Endowment for the Canada-United States Law Institute

In a remarkable moment for international legal education, Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Law has received a generous \$100,000 gift from **Steven Petras (LAW ’79)**, a respected attorney, professor, and longtime supporter of cross-border cooperation. This generous gift establishes the inaugural endowment for the Canada-United States Law Institute (CUSLI), ensuring a lasting foundation for one of North America’s most unique and vital centers for binational legal dialogue.

Petras, known not only for his legal acumen but also for his unwavering commitment to public service and diplomacy, has long been a champion of the Institute’s mission. His gift is more than just a financial contribution, it is a declaration of faith in the power of legal collaboration to shape a more interconnected, peaceful, and prosperous world—bridging nations through law

Founded in 1976, CUSLI is a bi-national, academic think tank and forum co-sponsored by Case Western Reserve and the University of Western Ontario Faculty of Law. It plays a pivotal role in examining legal issues affecting the Canada-U.S. relationship such as trade, security, energy, and environmental policy. In an era of increasing global



Steven Petras

interdependence, the work of CUSLI has never been more relevant.

Steven Petras has served as CUSLI’s U.S. Director the past decade and has been a tireless advocate for strengthening the rule of law across borders. Through his leadership, the Institute has expanded its influence, organized annual conferences and experts meetings that draw leaders from government and industry, and provided meaningful learning opportunities for law students from both nations.

Petras’s \$100,000 gift marks the establishment of CUSLI’s first-ever endowment, an enduring source of funding that will support its research, programs, and student engagement for generations to come. “As CUSLI reaches its 50th Anniversary in 2026, this gift is about creating permanence for a vision I deeply believe in,” said Petras. “By educating future leaders and fostering dialogue, CUSLI ensures this relationship continues to thrive.”

Dean **Paul Rose** praised the gift noting that “Steven Petras has not only guided CUSLI through decades of service but now ensures its future through this remarkable act of generosity. This endowment is a testament to his leadership and his belief in the power of education to unite nations.”

Steve Kaufman (LAW '75) Endows Anatomy of a Trial Lecture Series

In the 50 years since he graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law, **Steve Kaufman (LAW '75)** has built a reputation as a top trial lawyer in state and federal courts across the U.S.

Now, with a passion for educating future generations, Kaufman seeks to make an impact at his alma mater with a \$500,000 commitment to launch the Steven S. Kaufman Family Anatomy of a Trial Lecture Series, an ambitious, six-part program designed to elevate trial advocacy skills for law students and practicing attorneys alike.

“Trial lawyers play a unique role in our society and in our system of government,” said Kaufman, who was inducted in the law school’s Society of Benchers in 2024. “We need strong trial lawyers to protect democracy and defend the rule of law. With this program, I can help inspire the next generation to take on that mantle.”

The gift was made in honor of his late wife, **Loretta Catherine Quade (LAW '75)**, and the name pays tribute to his family’s enduring support, particularly his daughters Sara Lewis, MD, and Leah Pike, JD, as well as his parents Jess and Selma Kaufman, who supported him in his law school journey.

“Case Western Reserve grounded me with a great education, and many professors became my role models—they taught me the ethics and high standards of practicing law,” said Kaufman. “This gift allows me to show my gratitude to the school, and leave a legacy for my family that is lasting and meaningful.”

The endowment ensures that this innovative program will remain a fixture at CWRU Law for generations, providing a direct pipeline between students and some of the nation’s most accomplished litigators. It’s an investment not only in the professional growth of our students, but also in the strength of the broader legal community.

“This exceptional endowed series is a game-changer for our students and the legal community,” said **Laura McNally**, associate dean for experiential education. “It builds on the strong foundation of our classroom learning by bringing nationally recognized trial advocates directly to campus. Students gain a front-row view of strategy and technique in



Paul Rose (left) with Steve Kaufman

action—insights that deepen their understanding and sharpen the skills they’ll carry into the courtroom.”

The series will launch with three lectures in Fall 2025, each delving into a distinct and critical phase of trial practice:

- **September 29**—Trial Strategy, Persuasion & Storytelling, with W. Mark Lanier, founder of The Lanier Law Firm. Lanier, known for his groundbreaking verdicts, will guide participants through crafting a trial story that resonates with jurors from the first word. Attendees will explore how to identify themes, weave facts into

compelling narratives, and structure openings that frame the entire case.

- **October 29**—Mosaic Theory of Litigation; Direct and Cross-Examinations; Pretrial Evidentiary Motions; Depositions; Bench Trials, with John Villa, partner at Williams & Connolly LLP. Villa will offer a master class in managing the moving parts of trial. From pretrial motions that shape the battlefield to the art of cross-examination and the nuances of bench trials, this session promises tactical insight at every turn.
- **November 18**—Closing Arguments, with Luke Dauchot, partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP. Drawing on decades in high-stakes litigation, Dauchot will unpack how to deliver closings that not only summarize but persuade—turning complex facts into a clear, compelling path to the verdict you seek.

In the spring, the series will evolve into live demonstrations, with leading attorneys performing each phase of trial using a single case problem. Throughout, they will pause to explain strategic decisions, answer questions, and engage the audience in real-time analysis.

Each lecture is open to students, faculty, alumni, and local practitioners, with CLE credit available. A networking reception will follow every event, offering a rare chance to connect personally with the speakers.

Mark your calendars and prepare to immerse yourself in the craft of trial advocacy. This is not just a lecture series—it’s a front-row seat to the anatomy of a trial, taught by the people who have mastered it.

Society of Benchers 2025

Established over 60 years ago by the 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:



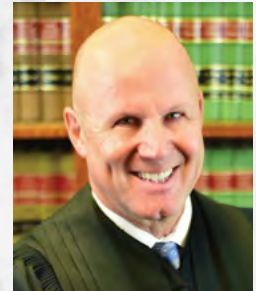
William W. Allport
(LAW '69)



James C. Chen
(LAW '91)



Angela Birch Cox
(LAW '87)



Judge William C. Fee
(LAW '80)



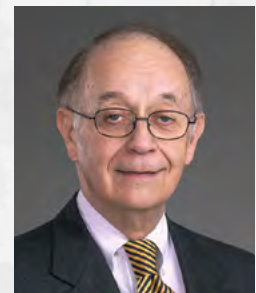
Judge Emanuella Harris Groves
(LAW '81)



Thomas I. Hausman



Paul Marcela
(LAW '81)



R. Richard Newcomb
(LAW '73)



Andrew S. Pollis



Judge Mary Jane Trapp
(LAW '81)
(Posthumously)



Robert B. Weltman
(LAW '65)

2025 Alumni and Faculty Scholarship Luncheon

On Wednesday, April 9, alumni, faculty and guests attended the CWRU School of Law's Alumni & Faculty Scholarship Luncheon, held at the Silver Grille in downtown Cleveland. From an era when shopping at a downtown department store was an event, for over fifty years, The Silver Grille located on the 10th floor of Higbee's was known for the quality of its food, its attentive staff and its unique Art Deco interior. It is now a restored event space managed by The Ritz Carlton and the perfect space for the law school to honor awardees for the: Distinguished Recent Graduate **Samantha Sridaran (LAW '18)**; Joan Gross '76 Annual Fund Professor **Robert Rapp (LAW '72)**; Distinguished Teacher Professor **Matthew Rossman**; and Centennial Medal recipient **James Willis (LAW '52)**.



CWRU School of Law Dean Paul Rose and Distinguished Recent Graduate award recipient Samantha Sridaran (LAW '18).



CWRU School of Law Dean Paul Rose and Distinguished Teacher award recipient Professor Matthew Rossman.



CWRU School of Law Dean Paul Rose and Centennial Medal recipient James Willis (LAW '52).



CWRU School of Law Dean Paul Rose & Joan Gross '76 Annual Fund award recipient Professor Robert Rapp (LAW '72).



CWRU School of Law alumni enjoying the Alumni and Faculty Scholarship Luncheon.



CWRU School of Law alumni enjoying the Alumni and Faculty Scholarship Luncheon.



Gabe Kaufman (LAW '23), Koko Etokebe (LAW '19), Maryam Mahboob (LAW '24) and Isra Ghanem (LAW '24).



Mohammed Yakoub, (LAW '25) Obasi Ndukwe (LAW '25), Candace Williams (LAW '25) & Dominique McIntyre



CWRU School of Law Dean Paul Rose and Distinguished Recent Graduate award recipient Samantha Sridaran (LAW '18).



Centennial Medal recipient James Willis (LAW '52) and family.



Law Alumni Association Board (LAAB) President Matt O'Connell (LAW '83).



Distinguished Teacher award recipient Professor Matthew Rossman and his wife Ursula.



Left to right: Professor Matthew Salerno (LAW '99), Professor Jonathan Adler, Professor Matthew Rossman, Ursula Rossman and Professor Michael Scharf.

Campus Comeback

Last year's Homecoming and Reunion Weekend brought together alumni from across the country to reconnect and reflect on their time at the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. The Black Law Students Association celebrated its newest inductees over brunch in the George Gund Hall rotunda, the Class of 1974 held their reunion at the Cleveland Skating Club while classes in '04 and '09 held a multi-class reunion at Gund Hall before the Class of 1974 was inducted into the Barristers Golden Circle, celebrating 50 years in the legal profession.



Left to right: Serpil Ergun '84, Diane Palos '84 and Carol Ruth Gedeon, '84



Class of 1984



Homecoming guests enjoying the class composite photos.



Class of 1974



2024 Black Law Students Association inductees



Judge Alison Floyd '88



Douglas Whitmire



Mohammed Yakoub and Benjamin Collado



Dylan Kemp and Dean Paul Rose



Ohemaa Nimo-Baffour and Raheal Neequaye

Barristers Golden Circle



Left to right: Hon. H.F. Inderlied '65, Barbara Inderlied, Douglas Kohrt '74, Joyce Kimbler, and the Hon. Jim Kimbler '74



Jim Roseman '72 and Joseph Allota '72



Left to right: Debbie Kalette, Loren Souers '74 and Stephen Kalette '74



Current law students with Richard Rosner '64



Lee Koosed with guests at Barristers' Brunch



Left to right: John Mulligan '74, Mark Katz '74 and Fred Wendel '74



Jerry Boswell



Stephen Kalette



Mark Katz



Judge James Kimbler



Andrew Kohn



Douglas Kohrt



Lee Koosed



Margery Koosed



Joanne Landfair



John Mulligan



David O'Loughlin



John Pyle



John Rayson



Edward Siegel



Lawrence Sykes



R. Bryson Wallace



Fred Wendell, III



Michael Westerhouse

LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD 2024-2025

OFFICERS

President

Matthew O'Connell (LAW '83)

Vice President

Rhonda Baker Debevec (LAW '97)

Secretary / Treasurer

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

Past President

Nicole Braden Lewis (LAW '01)

MEMBERS

Ahmed Abonamah (LAW '08)

Carly Cathlyn Barnes (LAW '21)

Robert Breetz (LAW '19)

McClellon "Don" Cox (LAW '19)

David B. Cupar (LAW '99)

Lauryn Durham (LAW '21)

Judge Michelle Early (LAW '99)

Craig Elkins (LAW '08)

Anne Lederman Flamm (LAW '95)

Laura Friedman (LAW '13)

Matt Grashoff (LAW '13)

Gabe Kaufman (LAW '23)

Morgan Kearse (LAW '15)

Yao Liu (LAW '14)

Heather Ludwig (LAW '11)

Adam Marshall (LAW '99)

Bonnie McNee (LAW '17)

Thomas Mester (LAW '69)

Mark Mikhael (LAW '13)

Karen Greve Milton (LAW '81)

Obasi Ndukwe (LAW '25)

James Pasch (LAW '10)

Stephen Schlegelmilch (LAW '00)

Jay Shapiro (LAW '80)

Melanie Shakarian (LAW '03)

Judith Steiner (LAW '87)

Myra Barsoum Stockett (LAW '99)

Brooke Tyus (LAW '18)

Andrew Young (LAW '99)

THE LAW SCHOOL VISITING COMMITTEE

Brent Ballard (LAW '85)

Colleen Batcheler (LAW '98)

Michele Connell (LAW '03)

Mara Cushwa (LAW '90)

Anthea Daniels (LAW '89)

Luke Dauchot (WRC '83, LAW '86)

Robert Downing (LAW '79)

Kelly Grigsby-Jones (LAW '95)

Joan Gross (LAW '76)

Ann Harlan (LAW '85)

Jim Koehler (LAW '73)

John Majoras (LAW '86)

Paul Marcela (LAW '81)

Kathleen O'Malley (LAW '82)

Geri Presti (LAW '88)

Thomas Welsh (LAW '03)

Adam Zangerle (LAW '91)



Class Notes

Includes updates reported to the Case Western Reserve University School of Law from July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025.

1974

Margery Koosed received the Schumacher & Ketchum LifeSaver Award from the Ohio Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (OACDL).

The Florida Bar recognized **William C. Phillippi** and **John C. Rayson** for fifty years of legal practice.

1976

Patrick A. Guida is now President of the Rhode Island Bar Association. His term runs from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Patrick is a partner at Duffy & Sweeney, a Division of Stevens & Lee and is part of the firm's banking and finance, business law, and real estate law teams.



1978

Douglas W. Charnas was recognized in the 2025 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*.

Probate judges from across Ohio's 88 counties elected Geauga County Probate Judge **Timothy Grendell** President of the Ohio Association of Probate Judges (OAPJ), for the 2025-2027 term, and he was sworn into office by Ohio Supreme Court Justice Patrick F. Fischer.



Timothy Grendell at his swearing in ceremony

1981

David Indiano published his book, *Diary of a Kid Lawyer: Vignettes from the Dupont Plaza Fire*, recounting his experience as one of the lead attorneys on the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee created after the 1986 San Juan Dupont Plaza Hotel fire.



1982

Debra D. Rosman, Assistant Director of Law for the City of Cleveland received the James H. Epps III Award for Longevity of Service to a Community from the International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) in Orlando, Florida.

1983

Hon. John J. McConnell, Jr., Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island, was the recipient of the 2025 *Chief Justice Joseph R. Weisberger Judicial Excellence Award*. He was nominated to the federal bench by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in May 2011.



1987

Amtrak has appointed **William "Byl" Herrmann** to the position of Executive Vice President and General Counsel, responsible for setting the long-term strategic vision, priorities, and annual operating plan for the department within the context of Amtrak's strategic and corporate plans and objectives.



1988

Vincent J. Tersigni has been recognized in the 2025 edition of *Chambers USA*, for his Labor & Employment practice. Vincent is the office managing principal in the firm's Cleveland, Ohio office.



1990

Thomas J. Griffith, a partner with Macala & Platt, LLC, has been named Vice President of the North Canton, Ohio law firm.

1991

James Gardner published his second book, *Finding our Grove: A Story About Life, Family and College Football*

John Slagter with Tucker Ellis LLP, has been named 2025 "Lawyer of the Year" in the Cleveland Market in the areas of Land Use and Zoning Law and Litigation—Land Use and Zoning by *Best Lawyers*.

1992

After serving as McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman's Managing Principal for six years, **Rob Glickman** assumed a new leadership role as Chairman of the firm's Board of Directors.



1993

Marilyn Sonnie joined Fox Rothschild in New York as Counsel in the Corporate Department.



1995

Mary Beth McConville has joined Frantz Ward LLP as Of Counsel.



1999

Michael Makofsky was elected to serve as McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman's Administrative Principal and as a member of the firm's Board of Directors.



Ben Sasse with Tucker Ellis LLP, has been named 2025 "Lawyer of the Year" in the Cleveland Market in the area of Appellate Practice by *Best Lawyers*.



2003

John Paul Lucci has been appointed Partner-in-Charge for the Cleveland office of Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP. In his new position, Lucci will remain a practicing partner in all aspects of business and corporate law, while assuming the leadership of the Cleveland office.

Melanie Shakarian is now President of Just Action Advisors, LLC, a consultancy practice focused on business development and attorney coaching for the legal community.

2004

Katie Anderson has joined Hinshaw & Culertson as a partner in the firm's Health Care practice in their Springfield, Illinois office.



2005

Javier Pacheco of Bonita Springs to serve as judge on the Lee County Court in Florida. He has been a partner at Porter Wright Morris & Arthur since 2015.



Patrick O. Peters has been recognized in the 2025 edition of Chambers USA, for his Labor & Employment practice. Patrick is a principal and office litigation manager in the Cleveland, Ohio, office of Jackson Lewis P.C. and a co-leader of the firm's Manufacturing industry group.

2008

Susan M. Kornatowski was promoted to Principal at HW&Co. Susan is a member of the Private Business Advisory Department.



2010

Gretchen E. Woodruff has joined McGuireWoods as a partner in their Pittsburgh office.



2011

Allison A. Kretz was honored with the John Marshall Award for "Excellence in Litigation," by The U.S. Department of Justice for her work in the prosecution of Aimenn Penny for the 2023 firebombing of the Community Church of Chesterland, in Chesterland, Ohio.



2013

The African Court on Human and Peoples Rights has formally inducted **Justice Duncan Gaswaga** as a Judge of the African Continental Court, after he was elected Judge of the Court on July 19th, 2024 in Accra-Ghana during the 45th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council of the African Union.



Trevor J. Hardy, an attorney in the Cleveland office of Littler, has been elevated to shareholder.



2014

Madeline B. Dennis has been elected to partner at Tucker Ellis LLP.



Michigan Super Lawyers magazine added **Alyssa C. Kennedy** to its list of "Rising Stars" for 2024.



Yao Liu was promoted to Equity Shareholder at Cavitch Familo & Durkin.

2015

Megan Gardner has joined Kaufman Dolowich's Construction Law practice.



2016

As part of a bipartisan package, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro nominated **Alex Brown** to be a commissioner on the Worker's Compensation Appeal Board. The Pennsylvania State Senate confirmed his nomination in June of 2024.

2017

Mia L. Garcia has re-joined Frantz Ward LLP as Of Counsel.



2018

Holger Sontag was one of eight Assistant Attorneys General to be awarded the William V. Tanner Award by Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson to recognize their outstanding achievement early in their legal careers. The Tanner Award is named for the youngest Attorney General in Washington State history.

2023

In June of 2025, associate attorney at Roetzel and Andress, LPA, and children's author

Joan Reardon

proudly unveiled her highly anticipated second novel, *Dad Rock Dragon Quest*. Reardon wrote *Dad Rock Dragon Quest* during her last year of law school at Case Western Reserve University between classes at The Coffee House.



2024

The Academy of American poets selected **Daniel Moysaenko** as the winner of the 2025 First Book Award for his debut collection, *Overtakelessness*. The winning manuscript was chosen by Alberto Ríos, a past First Book Award recipient (1981) and Academy Chancellor (2013–18).

Kathryn A. Penick has joined Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C. (Knox Law).



George Workerger has joined the firm of Critchfield, Critchfield & Johnston Ltd. as an Associate.

Congratulations

to Case Western Reserve University School of Law alumni named to these prestigious lists in 2025:

Ohio Super Lawyers

Gary S. Desberg (LAW '85)

Paul J. Singerman (LAW '83)

Rob Glickman (LAW '92)

Ronald J. Teplitzky (LAW '87)

Michael Makofsky (LAW '99)

Best Lawyers in America "Ones to Watch"

Madeline Dennis (LAW '14)

Bradley N. Ouambo (LAW '17)

Spencer Krebs (LAW '18)

Daniel Schiau (LAW '18)

Best Lawyers in America

George C. Coakley (LAW '75)

Mark L. Rodio (LAW '92)

Michael C. Goler (LAW '77)

Jennifer Roth (LAW '02)

Craig T. Haran (LAW '00)

Lindsey Sacher (LAW '11)

Matthew F. Kadish (LAW '87)

Benjamin Sasse (LAW '00)

Christopher G. Keim (LAW '96)

Thomas Simmons (LAW '93)

Christopher C. Koehler (LAW '92)

John Slagter (LAW '91)

Laura Kingsley Hong (LAW '85)

Michael E. Smith (LAW '89)

Robert Loesch (LAW '91)

Rosemary Sweeney (LAW '87)

John McCaffrey (LAW '87)

Anthony Vacanti (LAW '06)

Jennifer Mesko (LAW '11)

Peter Voudouris (LAW '92)

Tariq Naeem (LAW '00)

Seth Wamelink (LAW '07)

Thomas Peppard (LAW '08)

John (Chaz) Weber (LAW '08)

Susan Racey (LAW '89)

David G. Weibel (LAW '80)

In Memoriam

Includes names of deceased alumni reported to Case Western Reserve University School of Law from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

1940s

Hugh Ellsworth Kirkwood (LAW '42)
Phyllis Mancino (LAW '48)
Thomas R. Mooney (LAW '48)
Joanne K. Paterson (LAW '48)
Thomas L. Stoffer (LAW '48)
Russel E. Vunderink (LAW '48)
Irving Martin Weiss (LAW '48)

1950s

Harold Russell Allison (LAW '50)
James S. Carnes (LAW '50)
William I. France (LAW '50)
Willard P. Stetzelberger (LAW '50)
John Alton Williams (LAW '50)
Richard G. Bell (LAW '51, LLB '61)
Donald J. Fallon (LAW '54)
Wayne E. Kaplan (LAW '54)
Harry P. Papouras (LAW '54)
Paul C. Wagner (LAW '54)
Alexander Kanareff (LAW '55)
James J. Schneider (LAW '55)
David C. George (LAW '56)
Robert A. Bostick (LAW '57)
Joseph G. Schneider (LAW '57)
Alan D. Greenberg (LAW '59)
Joseph Kalk (LAW '59)
Emanuel H. McGregor (LLB '47, LAW '59)
Robert Franklin Orth (LAW '59)

1960s

John B. Hammett (LAW '60)
Neal P. Lavelle (LAW '60)
Victor Sperling (LAW '60)
Lawrence M. Bell (LAW '61)
Michael T. Honohan (LAW '61)

Robert H. Jackson (LAW '61)
John O. Martin (LAW '61)
David L. Orosz (LAW '61)
Roger R. Ingraham (LAW '62)
Frederick M. Lombardi (LAW '62)
Frank Charles Manak (LAW '62)
John E. Eberly (LAW '64)
William George Blower (LAW '65)
Christ Boukis (LAW '65)
John Garver Morrisson (LAW '66)
James F. Sweeney (LLB '59, LAW '66)
David R. Williams (LAW '66)
Gerald C. Forstner (LAW '67)
Ronald John Herisko (LAW '67)
Ronald Olbrysh (LAW '67)
James Lee Parker (LAW '67)
Barry G. Roderman (LAW '67)
Robert J. Andrews (LAW '68)
Albert W. Hoguet (LAW '68)
John S. Roby (LAW '68)
David L. Rosenzweig (LAW '68)

1970s

Thomas Best Ackland (LAW '70)
Roger G. Lile (LAW '70)
Larry N. Sokol (LAW '71)
David Ted Rammler (LAW '72)
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2010s

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Law School Laments the Passing of an Alumni Luminary

The Case Western Reserve University School of Law community mourns the passing of the **Honorable Sara J. Harper (LAW '52)**, who died on July 8, 2025, at the age of 98. She was a trailblazer in every sense. As Judge Harper once recounted, "People would tell me, 'Oh you can't do that.' So, I did it anyway."

She was the first Black woman to graduate from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and went on to become one of the most respected jurists in Ohio. Over the course of her remarkable career, she served as a prosecutor for the City of Cleveland, was appointed in 1970 and later elected to the Cleveland Municipal Court, and served with distinction on the Eighth District Ohio Court of Appeals from 1990 to 1997.

She also broke barriers as the first female military judge in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, retiring with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1992, she became the first Black woman to serve on the Ohio Supreme Court. Beyond the bench, she served as president of the Cleveland NAACP, co-founded one of the nation's first victims' rights programs and devoted her life to advocacy for education, veterans and civil rights.

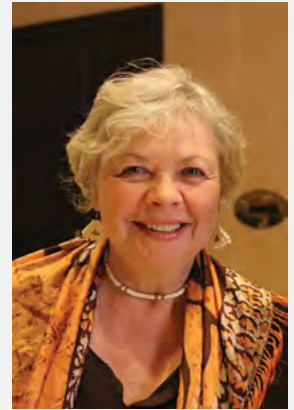
The School of Law community is proud of our decades of association with Judge Harper, whose large portrait, along with those of other alumni trailblazers Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Fred Gray, adorns the wall of the law school across from the Active Learning Classroom. She held leadership positions in our alumni association and was inducted into the Society of Benchers, our alumni Hall of Fame. We extend our deepest condolences to her family and all those whose lives she touched.



CWRU School of Law alumna and trailblazer Sara J. Harper (center, in red) appears near her portrait, which hangs in the CWRU School of Law.

CWRU School of Law Mourns the Passing of a Beloved Professor

The Case Western Reserve University School of Law community mourns the passing of retired law professor **Louise McKinney**, who died on Tuesday, March 18.



Louise McKinney

McKinney joined the clinical faculty in 1989 after serving as the Director of the Clinical Education Programme at the University of Botswana. She was the first member of the law school faculty to be named a Fulbright Scholar, and taught clinical methodology and co-sponsored a student-run legal aid project at the University of Nairobi in 1998-99 as a Fulbright Senior Scholar. From 1996 to 2000, McKinney served as a law school consultant for universities and colleges in Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania through the African Law Initiative-Clinical Partnerships Project of the American Bar Association. In 2007-08, McKinney was again named a Fulbright Scholar and spent the year at the University of Botswana in Gaborone.

McKinney began her legal career at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, first as a staff attorney and then as the director of the Bar Advocacy Project. She represented group homes and helped establish the right for disabled residents to move into neighborhoods with the highest quality of life. She participated in the lawsuit to address the conditions of the East Cleveland jail, again giving voice to the invisible and powerless.

At the law school, where McKinney joined the Case Western Reserve University Law Clinic, she championed loan forgiveness and worked to enable students with high debt to take public interest jobs. She worked with Eve Biskind to create the Biskind Fellowships, which also encouraged students to work in the public interest. She taught poverty law, making sure that focus was a prominent part of the curriculum. In recognition of her contributions, former students chose her for the Law Alumni Association's distinguished teacher award in 2006.

On her retirement in 2012, the *Law Review* published several tributes written by colleagues who described McKinney as an "advocate, activist, mentor" and commend "her grace, dedication, warmth, humor and humanity." Thomas F. Geraghty wrote that "Louise is known for her knowledge, skill and commitment and [we] are grateful for her generosity and friendship."

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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 2024-25 LFGC raised more than \$644,362 for the law school's annual fund

Congratulations to our challenge award winners:

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Diploma Day

Colleen Batcheler (LAW '98) delivers 2025 Commencement Address

The Senior vice president and general counsel of Hormel Foods, Colleen Batcheler (LAW '98), delivered the Law School's 130th graduation address on May 17, 2025.



**Colleen Batcheler
(LAW '98)**

Before introducing Batcheler, Dean Rose told the soon-to-be graduates: "Through hard work, determination, and integrity, you've earned one of the most powerful credentials in society. Take a moment to appreciate what this means: the law is the often-invisible architecture that supports our freedoms, resolves our conflicts, and binds our communities together. With your knowledge of the law and how to use it, you can be defenders of liberty, champions of justice, trusted counselors, and ethical leaders. This degree opens doors, but it also comes with responsibilities: to advocate with skill, to lead with clarity, and to serve with humility."

In his introduction of the graduation speaker, Dean Rose said, "Colleen Batcheler's professional story is one of sustained excellence across industries—health care, retail, transportation, and food—where she has been committed to advocating with integrity, strategic thinking, and effective leadership." Prior to her current position at Hormel, Batcheler previously served as executive vice president, general counsel and secretary for Hertz, the world's largest global vehicle rental company, overseeing legal, compliance and government affairs. Before her

tenure at Hertz, she was executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary at Conagra Brands, Inc., one of North America's leading branded food companies. Before joining Conagra, Batcheler held legal roles with Albertson's, Inc. and The Cleveland Clinic Foundation. She began her legal career at the global law firm Jones Day.

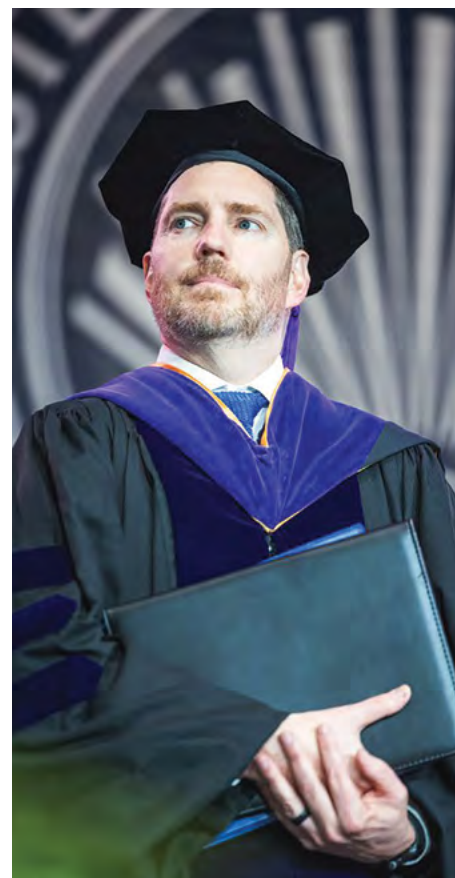
Batcheler focused her remarks on the theme of "beginnings." Commencement marks both the end of law school and more importantly the beginning of your legal career, she told the more than 200 JD, SJD, and Masters graduates of the Class of 2025. And there will be many more beginnings, she said. "Beginnings are thrilling. They are powerful. They are full of promise."

"If there's a throughline in my career, it's this—I have sought out and embraced beginnings," she recollected. "As a new associate, I knocked on doors, asked to be staffed, raised my hand—driven not by certainty but by curiosity and the desire to grow. When an exciting opportunity came up across the country, I took the risk and said yes. I joined nonprofit boards in unfamiliar communities. I stretched beyond the practice of law to learn finance, project management, people leadership—skills that would prepare me not just to do, but to lead."

"And now, decades into my career, I find myself beginning again—exploring how technology is reshaping our profession and how we, as lawyers and leaders, can shape that transformation with purpose and integrity," she

said. "You've come of age in an era that embraces the idea of a growth mindset—that we are not fixed, but ever-evolving; that mindset is not a destination—it's a compass. And I've come to believe that the most successful lawyers, the most impactful leaders, are those who never stop growing because they never stop beginning."

"So today, I'm not going to tell you how to build your future," she concluded. "But I encourage you to say yes to the unexpected role. To the challenge that scares you a little. To the community that needs you. Say yes to becoming more than what you planned—and exactly who you're meant to be."



Dean Paul Rose



"I've come to believe that the most successful lawyers, the most impactful leaders, are those who never stop growing because they never stop beginning."

—Colleen Batcheler
(LAW '98)





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\$1,000: Allows us to provide books for a 1L incoming student. In 2024, 65% of our incoming class received this book support.

\$2,500: Enables us to provide grants to support students undertaking unpaid public interest or social justice internships. Last year, nearly 50 students received these important grants.



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