

Case Law-Med

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The Law-Medicine Center at Case Western Reserve University

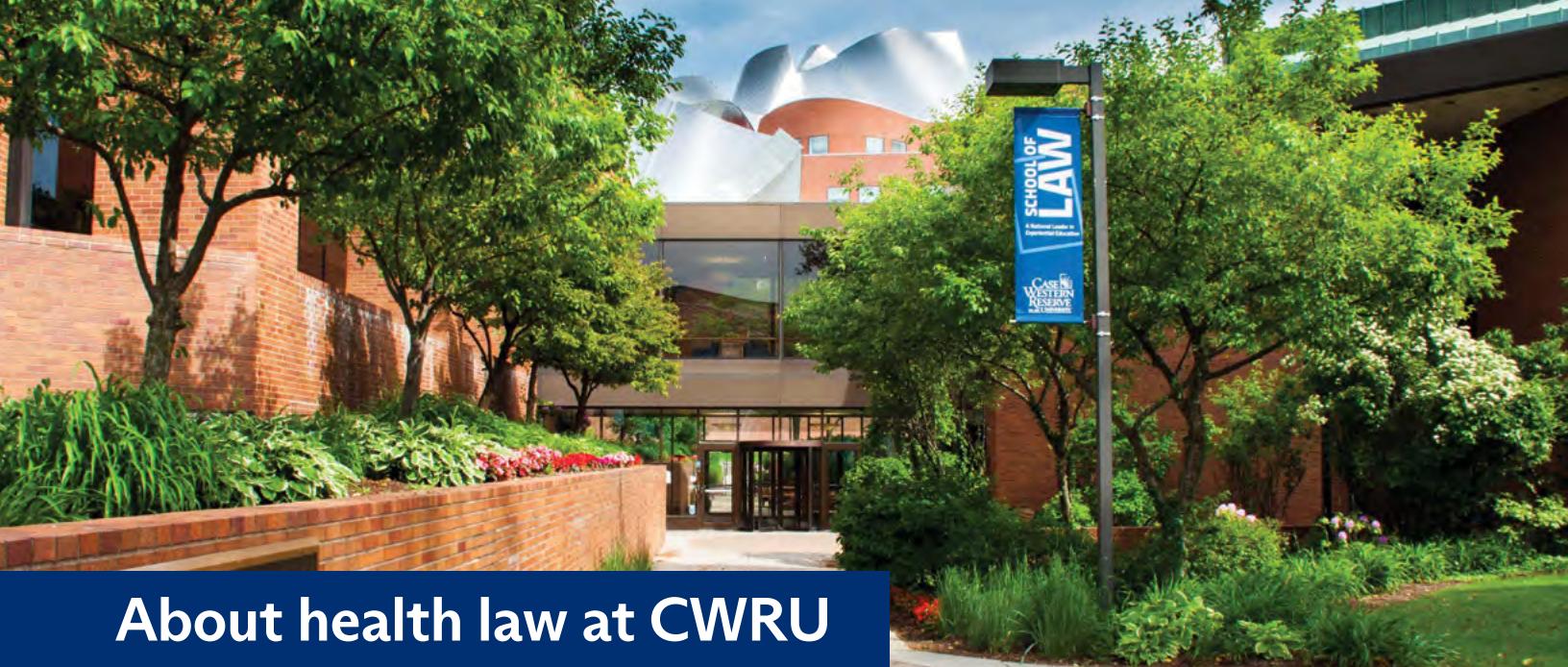
Equipped to Manage Risk



**CWRU School of Law's
Compliance and Risk
Management program
prepares students for
high-demand jobs**



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE
UNIVERSITY
School of Law**



About health law at CWRU

The field of health law effectively began with the creation of Case Western Reserve University's Law-Medicine Center in 1953. Home to the oldest health law program in the country, the Law-Medicine Center is uniquely positioned at the intersection of medical and legal scholarship. Since the creation of the Center 72 years ago, CWRU has offered students hands-on opportunities to engage in emerging areas of health law.

Through several graduate programs, experiential learning opportunities, extracurricular activities, dual degrees and more, health law students collaborate with faculty and industry experts to gain practical experience. Our students play a pivotal role in researching legal, ethical and policy issues raised by advances in human genetics, electronic medical records, artificial intelligence, biomedical research, novel threats to public health, new reproductive technologies and historic changes in the regulation of government and private healthcare programs.

Outstanding campus resources support CWRU's top-ranked health law program. Case Western Reserve University is a leading research institution housing a top 25 medical school and renowned health policy and bioethics programs. Collaborations with CWRU's graduate schools of medicine, social sciences and management include shared courses, lectures, symposia and multidisciplinary research teams.

Located in close proximity to several major hospital systems—including Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, MetroHealth Medical Center and Summa Health—CWRU's Law-Medicine Center provides unmatched partnerships enabling students to work and learn in hospital legal environments.

By providing ample research and educational opportunities, CWRU's Law-Medicine Center equips health law students to tackle today's toughest legal challenges and transform the future of the health law field.

Health Matrix: Journal of Law-Medicine

Students gain experience writing, editing and publishing scholarly work for *Health Matrix*, a top-ranked student-run journal of legal scholarship focused on the intersection of law, ethics, medicine and policy. Each issue of *Health Matrix* features articles by national scholars alongside student notes written under the guidance of faculty members. The journal also includes articles derived from a symposium on a timely health law topic such as corporate wellness programs, reproductive rights, health disparities and medical big data.

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Learn more
about the
Law-Medicine
Center



Read the
current issue of
Health Matrix

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MESSAGE FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS



Photo by Angelo Merendino

Co-Directors of the Law-Medicine Center, Sharona Hoffman and Maxwell Mehlman

As Case Western Reserve University prepares to celebrate its bicentennial, we are proud to be part of a nationally-recognized institution that has been committed to innovation in education and research for 200 years. At the Law-Medicine Center at CWRU School of Law, we mirror this tradition of curiosity and collaboration as we chart an ambitious course for the future of health law.

The Law-Medicine Center has been blazing trails since it was established in 1953 as the first health law program in the country. Now, 72 years later, we continue to break new ground as we prepare our students to be leaders in emerging areas of law. One prominent example is our cutting-edge program in Compliance and Risk Management with a specialty in health law. As you'll read in this issue's cover story, this program builds on CWRU's longstanding expertise and responds to evolving market demands by equipping students to excel in this exciting field.

Leveraging CWRU's outstanding reputation as a leading research institution and its location in one of the world's preeminent healthcare hubs, our students are surrounded by opportunities to collaborate with experts within the university and beyond. Our faculty members play a pivotal role in shaping future health law leaders through practical education and scholarship. As you'll see highlighted in this issue, our faculty members have been quoted in hundreds of media outlets, and their scholarly work has been published in a long list of renowned legal journals.

We are proud to continue shaping the field of health law and equipping its next generation of leaders. We hope you'll enjoy reading about the Law-Medicine Center and its accomplishments in this issue of *Case Law-Med*.

Sharona Hoffman

Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law
Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center

Maxwell Mehlman

Distinguished University Professor
Arthur E. Petersilge Professor of Law
Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center

NEWSFLASH

CWRU Law School Faculty are frequently featured in regional, national and international media outlets—including *U.S. News & World Report*, *Bloomberg*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today* and more—showcasing their legal expertise on timely health law issues. Here are some quotable insights recently attributed to our faculty.



Sharona Hoffman

New York Times

“You don’t need such granular patient information for purposes of oversight. You have to worry: Is the government actually trying to get information about reproductive care or transgender care or mental healthcare?”

—*Sharona Hoffman, Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center, in response to Florida’s insurance regulator demanding detailed prescription data from pharmacy benefit managers*

Law.com

“The Trump administration is going to be very interested in fraud and abuse cases... because the more they can show that there’s fraud in Medicare and so on, the more it might justify some cuts.”

—*Sharona Hoffman, Edgar A. Hahn Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center, in response to the Department of Justice targeting health insurers in the Medicare Advantage program under the False Claims Act*



Jessie Hill

Washington Examiner

“I don’t think we’ve had such a direct, passionate conflict between the states that has threatened our system of federalism since the era of fugitive slave laws... States are claiming they’re injured by the fact that people are just mailing this willy-nilly across state lines into their own states. It’s harming states’ sovereign interests in the enforcement of their own criminal abortion laws.”

—*Jessie Hill, the Judge Ben C. Green Professor of Law and Director of the Reproductive Rights Law Initiative, responding to a criminal case against a New York doctor for prescribing abortion pills to a patient in Louisiana*

Ohio Capital Journal

“(This) creates confusion for physicians who want to provide abortions in emergency situations because it’s no longer clear whether EMTALA permits that. Even in states like Ohio where abortion is protected, it could have some effect.”

—*Jessie Hill, the Judge Ben C. Green Professor of Law and Director of the Reproductive Rights Law Initiative, in response to the Trump Administration rescinding guidance on the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA)*



Jonathan Entin

WKYC Cleveland

“The question would be whether a federal abortion statute is constitutional... Supporters of these bills probably would rely on the commerce clause, which the Supreme Court has interpreted pretty broadly to allow Congress to pass laws that regulate persons or things that are in or affect interstate commerce.”

—*Jonathan Entin, David L. Brennan Professor Emeritus of Law, responding to proposed federal bills that include restrictions on abortion access*

Research roundup

The faculty at Case Western Reserve University School of Law are well-known and widely published in the field of health law. Here are some highlights of our recent publications and research grants over the last year.

“Nudging” in clinical trials

Maxwell Mehlman, JD, Distinguished University Professor, Arthur E. Petersilge Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center at CWRU School of Law and Professor of Bioethics at CWRU School of Medicine

In 2022, Professor **Maxwell Mehlman** received a \$1.6 million grant from the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences at the National Institutes of Health for a four-year study to investigate the use of “nudging” to encourage participation in clinical trials. Nudging refers to techniques that lead people to act in certain ways, often without their knowledge.

With assistance from the Department of Bioethics at CWRU School of Medicine and researchers at the University of Utah, Mehlman’s project is investigating which nudges are being used by clinical trial recruiters, how effective they are, how

participants view their use and whether they are ethical.

This fall, in the final year of the study, researchers will analyze the normative, legal and ethical aspects of recruitment nudging in clinical trials and propose recommendations. Some of the empirical results from Mehlman’s research will be detailed in an article, “Usage and Perceived Effectiveness of Recruitment Techniques Among Clinical Trials Recruiters,” authored with Jessica Berg and others, forthcoming in the *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics* in 2025.





Aging population

Yaron Covo, LLM, JSD, Assistant Professor at CWRU School of Law



Assistant Professor Yaron Covo co-authored a chapter with Yale Law Professor Abbe Gluck and Dr. Linda Fried, former dean of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, that was published in the book, *Law and the 100-Year Life: Transforming Our Institutions for a Longer Lifespan* (Cambridge University Press). The chapter, titled “The 100-Year-Old American and Our Health System,” explored how health law should accommodate increasing life expectancy.

Covo’s research suggests that health considerations for older adults should begin at a young age rather than waiting to address conditions as the population matures. He also argues that the American public health system is underfunded, and that there is a shortage of geriatricians needed to support longer lifespans.

Moving beyond medicalization

Jessie Hill, JD, Judge Ben C. Green Professor of Law and Director of the Reproductive Rights Law Initiative at CWRU School of Law



Professor Jessie Hill’s article, “The Medicalization of Abortion Rights,” is forthcoming in the *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender*. Hill argues that abortion rights advocates have treated abortion primarily as a medical issue, while minimizing its other dimensions in relation to gender equality and religious freedom.

Hill suggests that advocates looking to re-establish abortion rights in the wake of the Supreme Court’s Dobbs decision should consider broadening the framework in which they speak and litigate about abortion rights beyond the medical lens, in part by bringing different kinds of constitutional claims with different kinds of plaintiffs.



Faculty briefs

The Law-Medicine Center faculty continually publish scholarly articles, briefs, chapters and books that help shape the field of health law.

Here are some of our most recent publications.



Yaron Covo **Assistant Professor**

- “Pro Sports Leagues Should Do Away with Injury Reports,” *STAT 10*, Sept. 21, 2025 (with Trevan Klug and Mihir Gupta)
- “The Contractualization of Disability Rights Law,” *92 University of Chicago Law Review* (forthcoming 2025)
- “It’s Not ‘Personal’: Health Information Disclosure and the Physical-Mental Distinction” *Columbia Journal of Law & Arts* (forthcoming 2026) (with Mihir Gupta, Trevan Klug, Melisa Olgun, Mohamed Ahmed Ramy and Rayyan Darji)
- “The 100-Year-Old American and Our Health System,” in *Law and the 100-Year Life* (Alstott, Gluck & Rusyn eds., 2025) (Cambridge University Press) (with Abbe Gluck and Dr. Linda Fried)



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

- “The Medicalization of Abortion Rights,” *49 Harvard Journal of Law and Gender* (forthcoming 2026)
- “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., Rutgers University Press, forthcoming 2025) (with Danielle Bessett, Meredith J. Pensak and Michelle L. McGowan)
- “The Right to Life and Medical Authority,” *104 Boston University Law Review Online* 67 (2024)



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

- “Addressing the Challenges of Cognitive Decline in the Physician Workforce” in *Law, Health Care, and the Aging Brain and Body* (I. Glenn Cohen, Francis Shen, Nina A. Kohn, and Susannah Baruch eds. (Cambridge University Press) (forthcoming 2027)
- “Access to Primary Care and Health Care Fragmentation,” *University of Illinois Law Review* (forthcoming 2026) (first author with Ishani Ganguli)
- “Patient Autonomy, Public Safety, and Drivers with Cognitive Decline,” *15 UC Irvine Law Review* (forthcoming 2025) (first author with Cassandra Burke Robertson)
- “Employers and the Privatization of Public Health,” *65 Boston College Law Review* 2405-55 (2024)
- “Medical Data Privacy and Security in the AI Age,” in *Ethics and Medical Technology* 261-81 (Matthew Altman and David Schwan eds., Springer Nature, 2025)
- “Edited Transcript: Patient Reported Outcome Measures,” *38 Journal of Law & Health* 1-9 (2024)



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

• “Usage and Perceived Effectiveness of Recruitment Techniques Among Clinical Trials Recruiters,” *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics* (forthcoming 2025) (with Jessica Berg and others)



Cassandra Burke Robertson
John Deaver Drinko-
BakerHostetler
Professor of Law

- “Can Speech Policy Protect Public Health?” *Utah Law Review* (forthcoming 2026) (with Irina D. Manta and Zoe Robinson)
- “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,” *Houston Journal of Health Law & Policy* (forthcoming 2025) (with Irina D. Manta and Zoe Robinson)

Legal insights

Showcasing a wide range of legal insights from experts around the country, the Law-Medicine Center hosts a series of seminars, symposia and educational events throughout the year. Covering timely topics in health law—including value-based payments, emergency abortions and physician unions—these ongoing lectures advance legal dialogue by diving deeper into current issues.

Here are some highlights of the presentations that took center stage at the Law-Medicine Center this year.

NSF-Funded Workshop (June 8-10, 2025)

Employing Public Interest Technologies to Promote Access in Education and Employment for People Who Have Physical Disabilities

Professor Cassandra Burke

Robertson, JD, MA, MPA, received a \$74,999 grant from the National Science Foundation to host a conference exploring disability access through innovation. The workshop welcomed a diverse group of researchers, policymakers, disability advocates and other experts to discuss how Public Interest Technologies—innovations designed to serve the public good—can transform education and employment opportunities for people with physical disabilities.

To gain a deeper understanding of these issues, the organizers convened a FAIR2 Data Chat with community members who have lived experience of physical disabilities, leveraging their real-world insights to shape the discussion.

Over three days, participants examined challenges such as fragmented transportation systems that stop at county lines, neuro-technologies abandoned when clinical trials end, and autonomous vehicles designed without accessibility in mind. Ultimately, the workshop underscored the need for systemic change, sustainable funding and partnerships that value community expertise—emphasizing that accessibility must be embedded into innovation as a foundation rather than an afterthought.



The Elena and Miles Zaremski Law Medicine Forum (April 1, 2025)

Coordination, Not Competition: Achieving Value-Based Care Through Shared Governance

As an alternative to volume-based reimbursement, value-based payment (VBP) systems incentivize providers to improve patient outcomes and reduce costs through better care coordination, preventative strategies and increased efficiency. Yet many organizations struggle to achieve measurable results with this approach.

To examine the reasons behind this limited progress, Professor Jessica Lind Mantel, JD, MPP, discussed the regulatory barriers and misaligned payment policies that impede implementation of VBP models. Mantel, Co-Director of the Health Law & Policy Institute at the University of Houston Law Center, advocated for value-based governance as an alternative approach that emphasizes collaboration among government agencies, payers, providers, patient advocates and other stakeholders.

As part of CWRU's Zaremski Law Medicine Forum, Mantel explained how value-based governance can create shared responsibility and public-private coordination to successfully transform healthcare delivery.



Watch the
webcast

**The Elena and Miles Zaremski Law Medicine Forum
(March 19, 2025)**

Evaluating Hospital Procedures for Authorizing Emergency Abortion

States that have banned or restricted abortion following the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* offer exceptions for emergency abortions that are medically necessary to save a patient's life. However, the internal procedures for reviewing and approving requests for emergency abortions can vary drastically.

As part of CWRU's Zaremski Law Medicine Forum, Professor Nadia Sawicki, JD, the Beazley Co-Chair in Health Law at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, offered insights into these decision-making processes. Her presentation examined issues including patient safety, clinical standards of care, medical ethics and legal risk. Ultimately, she encouraged hospital attorneys and healthcare providers to design thoughtful approaches that best meet their patients' needs for emergency abortions.

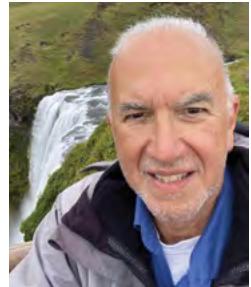


Watch the webcast

**The Oliver C. Schroeder Jr. Scholar-in-Residence Lecture
(November 20, 2024)**

Physician Unions in the Medical Industrial Revolution

From medieval guilds and apprenticeships to modern-day associations, labor unions have evolved drastically through the centuries. In the most recent Shroeder Lecture, Stuart Bussey, MD, JD, outlined this evolution as he discussed the development of the modern medical profession.



Bussey, the president of the Union of American Physicians and Dentists, highlighted the parallels between 19th century factory workers and 21st century physicians as he traced the progression from the Golden Age of Medicine into the current medical industrial paradigm. He presented specific legal contract articles and collective bargaining strategies as examples, offering unionization as an option to level the playing field with medical industrialists.



Watch the webcast

National Forum for Medical Students (February 21-22, 2025)

Starting a Career in Medicine: Threats to Healthy Doctor-Patient Relationships

As medical students prepare to start their careers in the healthcare industry, they may face threats that could interfere with their ability to properly care for patients. These threats include retaliation by hospital employers against physicians who advocate for their patients' needs or raise concerns about quality of care, as well as pressures from health insurers to refrain from ordering costly—yet medically necessary—care.

To provide education about these issues, the Law-Medicine Center hosted a national forum for medical students featuring insights from physicians and legal experts. Through a combination of presentations and breakout sessions, the forum explored the legal protections that exist for physicians. The two-day event offered solutions to strengthen the doctor-patient relationship, minimizing these threats while simultaneously improving care.



Watch the webcasts

Awards & accolades

Consistently recognized as one of the top law schools in the nation, Case Western Reserve University School of Law is proud of its commitment to providing exceptional legal education while making a scholarly impact on a national scale.

Here are some recent achievements that celebrate the Law-Medicine Center's dedication to cutting-edge scholarship.



Top of the class

The Princeton Review recently ranked CWRU School of Law as one of the best law schools in the nation, recognizing its high quality of teaching based on student surveys.

A+ in practical training

CWRU School of Law recently earned an A+ rating from *National Jurist*, recognizing the quality of practical hands-on training offered through the university's Kramer Law Clinic and summer externship programs. "This recognition is a testament to our sustained investment in experiential education," said Dean Paul Rose.

Read more about the Law-Medicine Center's commitment to experiential education on p. 26.

Hoffman honored with Distinguished Service Award

Professor **Sharona Hoffman**, Co-Director of the Law-Medicine Center, received the 2025 CWRU School of Law Faculty Distinguished Service Award.



Law-Medicine Center Co-Directors appointed to JLME editorial board

Professors **Maxwell Mehlman** and **Sharona Hoffman**, Co-Directors of the Law-Medicine Center, were appointed to the editorial board of *The Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics* (JLME), a leading multidisciplinary peer-reviewed research journal. Published by Cambridge University Press, JLME serves as the flagship publication of the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics (ASLME) with approximately 8,000 subscribers.

Mehlman and Hoffman will serve a three-year term on the editorial board, which is responsible for managing submissions and collaborating with the editor-in-chief to maintain the journal's status as an authoritative source for health law teachers, practitioners, policymakers and other stakeholders concerned with the ethical delivery of healthcare services.



Sharona Hoffman and Maxwell Mehlman

Kramer Law Clinic recognized for legal contributions



Laura McNally

The Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic at CWRU was nationally recognized for its significant contributions to legal advocacy and public interest law. The study, published by Legalitics, ranks the Kramer Law Clinic among the most frequently cited in court opinions across the country. This highlights the role of law school clinics in shaping litigation outcomes, influencing legal precedent and expanding access to justice.

“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.”



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Mindi Week to present at American Public Health Association Annual Conference

CWRU law student **Mindi Week**, MPH, will be presenting a paper at the American Public Health Association’s 2025 Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., in November.



Week’s note, “Mostly Medical, Partly Punitive: Why the Legal Lens of Opioid Addiction Needs to Change,” explores the current legal framework applied to people with opioid addictions. Specifically, the paper critiques both the punitive model that arose from the War on Drugs and the medicalization of addiction that followed. Week proposes a shift in perspective to a disability justice informed model.

By examining the intersection of public health and drug enforcement policy to encourage a public policy informed by people with lived experience, Week’s paper is a natural fit for the theme of this year’s APHA conference, “Making the Public’s Health a National Policy.”

CWRU law students contend in National Health Law Moot Court Competition

CWRU law students **Vincent Romero** and **Kristen Mehalko** argued in the National Health Law Moot Court Competition in November 2024. This marks the first time that CWRU students have competed in this premier tournament, hosted by Southern Illinois University School of Law with support from the American College of Legal Medicine and the American Health Law Association.

In their argument, Romero and Mehalko tackled complex issues involving federal preemption of state law and the False Claims Act. Professor **Melissa Ghrist** coached the team, and law student **Caren Teague** served as the team’s coordinator.



Joining the team

Yaron Covo, health law researcher and disability law expert, joins CWRU faculty on tenure track

By Brooke Bily

As the newest tenure track assistant professor to join the Case Western Reserve University School of Law faculty, **Yaron Covo, LLM, JSD**, brings a wealth of research experience and disability law expertise to Cleveland from the Ivy League.

With a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from Tel Aviv University Law School (2014), along with a Master of Law (LLM, 2019) and a Doctor of Juridical Science (JSD, 2023) from Columbia Law School, Covo most recently served as a senior research fellow at the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School and a fellow at the Harvard Law School Project on Disability.

Since arriving in the U.S. 10 years ago to advance his legal studies, Covo's research into disability law drove him toward health law—and ultimately toward CWRU.

"Given my interest in health law, CWRU is the place to be," said Covo, who moved to Cleveland from New York last July. "I'm thrilled to join a city and a university known for their world-class hospitals and medical school. The Law-Medicine Center is among the best health law programs in the country, so I'm very proud to be part of it."

Exploring disability law

An avid sports fan, Covo's interest in disability law stemmed from his fascination with non-disabled athletes playing

wheelchair basketball, which seemed counterintuitive to the intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

"I've heard about attempts to integrate disabled athletes into mainstream sports, but the idea that non-disabled athletes would participate in the Paralympics was puzzling to me," he said. "Most researchers have analyzed whether the passage of disability rights law helped integrate disabled individuals into the mainstream, but my doctoral dissertation asked a different question: Why does disability integration occur in non-mainstream settings?"

Since completing his dissertation at Columbia, Covo's research on disability rights has appeared in several prestigious legal publications. His paper, "Reversing Reverse Mainstreaming," published in the *Stanford Law Review*, explored how educators have integrated nondisabled children into what people often refer to as "special education" classrooms.

"This is puzzling, because federal law was designed to do exactly the opposite—to integrate disabled students into general education classrooms," he said. "It shows how statutes and texts can be interpreted in

so many different ways, and can actually lead to the opposite result of what was intended."

In another paper, "Inverse Integration and the Relational Deficit of Disability Rights Law," published in the *Columbia Law Review*, Covo argued that "the U.S. disability rights





Yaron Covo, Assistant Professor of Law at CWRU School of Law

framework is ill-equipped to support and facilitate interpersonal relationships between disabled and non-disabled people,” he explained.

Covo’s most recent article, “The Contractualization of Disability Rights Law,” which is forthcoming in the *University of Chicago Law Review*, documents how courts use contract law doctrines in disability rights adjudication. “Disability rights legislation was supposed to promote equality, and some of these contract doctrines are not about equality,” he said. “My paper shows lawmakers and courts how to calibrate those doctrines to fit the goals of disability rights legislation.”

Pursuing health law excellence

At Yale’s Solomon Center, Covo learned the value of tackling complex legal topics with an interdisciplinary approach. There, he joined a group of legal and medical researchers “trying to address issues at the intersection of law and medicine,” he said. “It’s amazing the benefits that accrue from conversations between lawyers and physicians speaking about health law.”

One of Covo’s first forays into health law involved co-authoring a book chapter with Yale Law Professor Abbe Gluck, faculty director of the Solomon Center, and Dr. Linda Fried, former dean of Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. The chapter, which explored how health law and policy can support an aging population, was published in a collection titled, *Law and the 100-Year Life: Transforming Our Institutions for a Longer Lifespan*.

Now, Covo continues to explore health law research projects. One current project focuses on the public health implications of sports betting to understand how regulation should respond. Another examines the intersection of Alzheimer’s medication and the law.

“In future work, I plan to write more about health law and policy,” he said. As an assistant professor on the tenure track at CWRU, Covo will be teaching classes on disability law and contracts, pulling from his own scholarship and research, while also collaborating with medical experts to examine the convergence of health and law.

“I bring expertise and experience gained in past positions, but also a deep sense of curiosity of what I can learn from my colleagues and my students,” said Covo, who entered the legal field with the goal of becoming a law professor. “Often, the best ideas come from unexpected conversations. Maybe the solutions don’t necessarily come from the law, but from other disciplines and new ideas that our students teach us.”

Game for conversation

Beyond CWRU Law-Medicine Center’s renowned reputation for health law excellence, the institution drew Covo and his wife, Kate, to Cleveland for another meaningful reason: Kate’s parents met as CWRU law students 40 years ago before relocating to the Northeast, where Kate and Yaron met and married. “In a way, coming here has some symbolic and sentimental meaning for our family at a personal level,” Covo said. “We’re really excited about this move.”

Another perk that Cleveland offers is its professional sports teams, which Covo enjoys watching when he’s not writing law review articles or preparing for class. Between the sporting events, medical expertise and strong legal reputation here, relocating to CWRU was a “no-brainer” for Covo, as he looks forward to engaging with the Cleveland community.

“I always appreciate a good conversation about law or sports, as well as a good cup of coffee,” he said. “So, if you want to talk to me about your research interests and ideas, I’m always game.”

Enhancing access

CWRU's Reproductive Rights Law Initiative keeps fighting for reproductive freedom

By Brooke Bilyj

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade*—which removed federal protections, making abortion access a state-by-state decision—the legislative fight for reproductive rights rages on. Even after Ohio's passage of the Reproductive Freedom Amendment in 2023, which codified reproductive rights including contraception and abortion into the state constitution, the battle is far from over.

At the forefront of these issues, advocates at Case Western Reserve University's Law-Medicine Center are leading this charge through the Reproductive Rights Law Initiative (RRLI). Directed by Jessie Hill, JD, the Judge Ben C. Green Professor of Law at CWRU, the RRLI works to preserve and advance reproductive rights.



Jessie Hill

"Our goal in the wake of the Reproductive Freedom Amendment is to increase access to reproductive healthcare," said Hill, who worked at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Reproductive Freedom Project before joining the CWRU faculty. "We've had a lot of success bringing down barriers so far, and now we're ready to respond to the next wave of legislative activity."

Gaining momentum

Decades before the RRLI formed, Hill began teaching a reproductive rights seminar at CWRU. As these issues gained more attention, Hill expanded the seminar into a lab that offered students more opportunities to explore reproductive rights law and policy. Then, several years ago, she pursued grant funding to support her work, which manifested as the RRLI.

The RRLI has continued to grow since Hill hired her first full-time team members in 2023. The RRLI now comprises two

staff attorneys—Becca Kendis, JD, MSSA, and Maggie Scotece, JD—along with a program manager, Natalie Jemiola, and an administrative assistant, Aleeta Cowan, who both joined the team this year. Hill also hired a legal fellow, Katie Corwin, JD, and a summer extern, Camryn Parsons, a second-year law student at CWRU, to support the RRLI.

The RRLI's mission spans both legal action and education—advocating for healthcare access through legislation while also deploying a rigorous academic infrastructure to train the next generation of reproductive rights attorneys.

One way the RRLI is blending legal education and advocacy is through a new program that engages law students as court advocates for minors under age 18 who can't get the parental consent legally required to pursue abortions. "This will be a great opportunity for students to gain experience advocating for reproductive rights while making a notable impact on those they serve," said Hill, who's launching the program in partnership with the Abortion Fund of Ohio.

Legislative progress

With growing support from staff and students, the RRLI is well-positioned to reshape Ohio's evolving reproductive rights landscape as legislative efforts pick up pace.

"In the years leading up to *Dobbs*, the legislature was constantly passing restrictions on abortion," Hill said. "Recently, we've seen more bills introduced in the Ohio General Assembly that would restrict abortion access again. If these pass, we'll be ready to respond."

Hill was quick to respond when the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* triggered Ohio's Heartbeat Act, which banned abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Hill led a coalition that included the ACLU, Planned Parenthood and other advocates in a lawsuit challenging the act and ultimately blocking the ban. Then,



From left to right: Katie Corwin, Becca Kendis, Jessie Hill, Maggie Scotece and Aleeta Cowan

she led a separate lawsuit challenging abortion requirements including a 24-hour waiting period and in-person visits, which were similarly blocked. Hill also helped draft ballot Issue 1, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment, which voters approved in November of 2023.

More recently, the RRLI secured an order allowing advanced practice clinicians, such as nurse practitioners and physicians' assistants, to provide abortion medication. Hill and her team have also been advising primary care physicians on how to navigate legal constraints to provide abortion medication in their primary care practices.

Meanwhile, the RRLI is promoting the expansion of reproductive healthcare services throughout the state by supporting the opening of new clinics and birthing centers. "It's a slow and difficult process to open new clinics and birthing centers because of all the barriers the state has put in the way," Hill said, noting that the number of abortion clinics in Ohio has declined from 55 in 1982 to nine at the time of the *Dobbs* ruling. "We're trying to get back some of the access we've lost."

Making a difference

As the only law school-based program of its kind between the coasts, the RRLI is blazing trails in its ongoing efforts to protect and expand reproductive rights throughout the Midwest.

"The RRLI is making a meaningful difference by improving access to reproductive healthcare," Hill said. "Because of our efforts, Ohio has become a haven for reproductive rights, providing access for people from surrounding states where abortion is banned."

Through a combination of legal advocacy and action, scholarship and education, the RRLI provides much-needed support to navigate reproductive rights laws and policies in Ohio.

"Part of our mission is to be the go-to legal resource where providers, advocates and others can get information about reproductive regulations in an incredibly confusing landscape," Hill said. "By taking a practically-oriented approach, we have become the preeminent source for answers about reproductive rights."

Educational outreach

As Ohio's preeminent source of information about reproductive health law and policy, CWRU's Reproductive Rights Law Initiative (RRLI) offers insights on the leading edge of legislative issues. Through webinars, seminars and other educational outreach, the impact of the RRLI transcends campus to reach professionals across the state.

In April 2025, the RRLI hosted a symposium exploring the intersection of reproductive rights and disability rights titled "Radical Inclusion at the DisCo: Reproductive Justice is Disability Justice." The daylong event featured a lineup of legal academics, disability advocates and attorneys discussing the unique barriers faced by people at the intersection of these disciplines, along with solutions to overcome marginalization.

In July 2025, the RRLI hosted a webinar about the policies surrounding substance-affected newborns and substance use during pregnancy. The webinar brought together physicians, social workers, attorneys and other advocates to discuss testing and reporting requirements, with the goal of debunking misconceptions about the law by providing a comprehensive view of the issue.

Equipped to Manage Risk

CWRU School of Law's Compliance and Risk Management program prepares students for high-demand jobs

By Brooke Bilyj

Over the last several decades, the sheer volume of new laws and regulations that govern businesses like healthcare has escalated exponentially. Businesses that fail to comply can open themselves up to lawsuits and serious liabilities. This fast-paced, ever-changing regulatory environment underscores the growing importance of compliance and risk management in most businesses today.





Professor Eric Chaffee

In fact, compliance-related jobs are one of the hottest growth areas in the U.S., with the Bureau of Labor Statistics projecting more than 120,000 job openings for compliance officers and managers over the next 10 years. To prepare lawyers and non-lawyers to competently meet this increasing demand, Case Western Reserve University School of Law launched master and certificate programs in Compliance and Risk Management in 2020.

The first of its kind in Ohio and one of only a few concentrated graduate courses in the country, CWRU's Compliance and Risk Management program leverages the university's strengths in healthcare, law and business to equip students with the skills for this rapidly evolving domain.

"Compliance is an emerging field and a relatively young industry, but CWRU has always been a leader in this space. It seemed like a natural fit because of the expertise we have on our faculty," said Professor **Eric Chaffee**, Director

"Compliance is an emerging field and a relatively young industry, but CWRU has always been a leader in this space. It seemed like a natural fit because of the expertise we have on our faculty."

—Eric Chaffee, JD, Director of the Compliance, Risk Management and Financial Integrity Institute at CWRU School of Law

of the Compliance, Risk Management and Financial Integrity Institute at CWRU School of Law. "The market is hungry for a credentialed workforce, so people with solid compliance training will be sought after in the job market."

In fact, the program boasts a 100% job placement rate as graduates land high-paying compliance-related jobs at private enterprises and government agencies. By providing real-world experience and direct interaction with industry-leading experts, CWRU's Compliance and Risk Management program is paving the way for students to pursue this emerging field.

Foundation of expertise

Several years before compliance and risk management ballooned into the high-demand industry it is today, CWRU offered a master's degree in financial integrity. This program equipped students to protect the virtues of the global financial system through courses on combating

“Beyond the general compliance skills, there’s also an interpersonal skillset that students will encounter.

This is especially critical in compliance, where you’re working with different departments of an organization. So, learning how to communicate across disciplines is a core part of the program.”

—Theodore Russell, JD, MPH, MCRM, Administrative Director of the Compliance, Risk Management and Financial Integrity Institute

money laundering, terrorist financing, trafficking and other illicit transactions.

“We found that the market demand for compliance skills was much broader than that, so we built the compliance program in response to the increasing regulatory requirements,” Chaffee said. “We haven’t given up those roots in financial integrity, but we’ve worked to enhance them in very meaningful ways.”

As a result, the Financial Integrity Institute, established in 2015, was expanded and renamed the Compliance, Risk Management and Financial Integrity Institute in 2023. The mission of the institute is to promote cutting-edge research in the field of compliance to support businesses and government agencies across industries.

Specifically, the program targets industry specializations that reflect the existing strengths of CWRU faculty. These specializations include business finance, environmental regulation, intellectual property, patent law and, of course, healthcare. “Healthcare has been at the forefront of what we’ve built through this program,” Chaffee said, “and that’s because of our partnership with the Law-Medicine Center.”

CWRU’s Law-Medicine Center, which connects the School of Law and the School of Medicine, offers opportunities for collaboration with leading medical researchers from nearby institutions including Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.

“CWRU is a preeminent institution in healthcare and law, and both of these disciplines house industry-leading experts,” Chaffee said. “Unlike a lot of compliance programs, we place our students in actual law school classes where they interact directly with these experts, which makes our program unique.”

Shaped by industry insight

To design the curriculum for the Compliance and Risk Management program, CWRU professors combined the university’s existing strengths with emerging needs identified in the industry.

“When this program was developed, we looked at what the market needed and the skills that would help students excel in this environment, to effectively equip them to enter the compliance profession,” Chaffee said.

Students enrolled in the program take three foundational courses related to compliance and risk management. Students pursuing a master’s degree also complete a thesis to explore their specific area of focus. These courses are designed to provide lawyers and non-lawyers alike with the knowledge and analytical skills needed to support an organization’s compliance and risk management functions.

“The skills are numerous because compliance transcends so many different industry sectors,” said **Theodore Russell, JD, MPH, MCRM**, Administrative Director of the Compliance, Risk Management and Financial Integrity Institute, and a graduate of the program himself. “Beyond the



Theodore Russell

general compliance skills, there’s also an interpersonal skillset that students will encounter. This is especially critical in compliance, where you’re working with different departments of an organization. So, learning how to communicate across disciplines is a core part of the program.”

“This is a terrifically successful program, and we are literally enrolling new students every week.”

—Eric Chaffee, JD, Director of the Compliance, Risk Management and Financial Integrity Institute at CWRU School of Law



As the compliance industry and its required skillsets continue to evolve and expand, the curriculum at CWRU is adapting to keep pace with market demands. “There are new laws and regulations being created and passed every day, so we have to be very nimble in how we approach the program,” Chaffee said.

To that end, Russell and Chaffee regularly interact with compliance professionals in the field to understand the issues they’re facing so they can incorporate real-world insights into the curriculum. Meanwhile, they rely on other professors within the program to stay on the cutting edge of their respective disciplines. Additionally, they bring in leading experts from other universities and organizations to speak to students, expanding the compliance perspectives covered in the classroom.

“We’ve been very conscientious about staying up-to-date, monitoring what’s going on across a multitude of fields and making sure that our courses match those realities,” Chaffee said. “So, when our students get out into the job market, they’re ready to hit the ground running.”

Personalized support

While the industry-based curriculum and interaction with leading experts contribute to the compliance program’s 100% job placement rate, Chaffee also credits the personalized support services that prepare students to enter this field.

For example, each student enrolled in the Compliance and Risk Management program receives individualized

curricular counseling from Russell or Chaffee each semester. These one-on-one planning sessions help students shape their course selection around their personal career interests, ensuring that their educational experience guides their future success.

Additionally, the program provides students with plenty of opportunities to connect with other experts at CWRU and throughout the broader compliance industry. CWRU’s location in the Greater Cleveland area offers the unique advantage of proximity to many highly regulated industries besides healthcare, including biomedical and food processing. These connections help students build strong networks that can yield opportunities for internships and, eventually, full-time employment.

“This is a relatively unique program in terms of how much interaction you get with the faculty, staff and alumni, and how much of a community you become part of—both within the broader law school and also within the compliance program,” Chaffee said. “As students approach graduation, we spend a lot of time talking with them about their career goals to make sure they’re applying to the right employers and using their connections effectively to be aggressive in the job market.”

To make sure students in the compliance program feel connected to this community, Chaffee and Russell founded a student group that hosts events throughout the year where students share their research, experiences and career goals. “It’s that sense of community that differentiates our program,” Chaffee said.

Meeting market demands

The growing demand for credentialed compliance professionals is driving increasing enrollment in CWRU's Compliance and Risk Management program. "This is a terrifically successful program," Chaffee said, "and we are literally enrolling new students every week."

According to Russell, who was part of the program's initial cohort, applications are coming from an increasingly broad geographic footprint, and from applicants with increasingly diverse backgrounds. For example, students have gravitated toward the program from CWRU's School of Medicine, School of Law, Master of Public Health, Department of Bioethics and various other disciplines.

Several students have entered the compliance certificate program and then gone on to pursue their master's degree. Some have even matriculated into CWRU's Juris Doctor program, pursuing a joint degree in law and compliance and risk management, "which can really help students find meaningful job opportunities," Chaffee said.

Meanwhile, other applicants enter the program directly from the workforce, looking to expand their skillset and their professional credentials.

"It's great for students who are trying to enter the job market, but it's also great for people who have been in the field for a while and are trying to reach the next rung on the career ladder," Chaffee said. "Ultimately, through this program, we're trying to create a quality educational experience that helps each student move their life forward."

Equipped for employment

Federal regulations require healthcare providers to establish and maintain compliance programs, creating a need for well-trained compliance professionals throughout the healthcare system.

"This has become a very high-demand field, which means that there are terrifically large salaries to be earned in compliance-related jobs," said Professor Eric Chaffee, JD, Director of the Compliance, Risk Management and Financial Integrity Institute at CWRU School of Law.

According to the 2019 Healthcare Chief Compliance Officer and Staff Salary Survey, the average total compensation for compliance officers in the healthcare sector approaches \$135,000 annually—representing lucrative career potential for students pursuing a certificate or master's degree through CWRU's Compliance and Risk Management program.

Graduates from the program, which boasts a 100% job placement rate, go on to secure jobs at a range of healthcare-related businesses including hospitals, pharmaceutical or device manufacturers, insurance companies, pharmacies, diagnostic service providers and eldercare businesses such as home healthcare, assisted living, nursing homes and hospice care.

In addition to these healthcare compliance jobs, graduates may also end up working for regulatory agencies or accrediting bodies such as the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the American Bar Association, the Society for Corporate Compliance and Ethics, the American Medical Association or various Institutional Review Boards of private organizations.

"There's so much versatility with this degree, which is why individual career counseling is so important," Chaffee said. "We create individualized programs that are designed to give students the skills they need to achieve their personal career goals."





“There’s a lot of great work that students are producing at Case through Health Matrix that could win (writing) awards.”

—Corey Whetzel, PharmD, JD (LAW ’24), senior manager of regulatory affairs at the American Pharmacists Association



Noteworthy

CWRU Law grad wins writing award from the American Society for Pharmacy Law

By Brooke Bily

Growing up in the independent pharmacy that his mom owned in rural West Virginia, **Corey Whetzel, PharmD, JD (LAW '24)** witnessed firsthand the impact that pharmacists can have throughout the community. After following in his mother's footsteps by earning his Doctor of Pharmacy from West Virginia University in 2021, Whetzel went on to earn a Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2024 to expand his potential influence.

"Not only can a pharmacist make an impact on a community," Whetzel said, "but if you can impact policy or regulatory change, you can impact patient care for the entire country."

Whetzel explored the scope of practice for pharmacists in his paper, "No Way FDA, Let States Lead the Way on Expanding the Prescriptive Authority of Pharmacists," which was published in *Health Matrix: Journal of Law Medicine* in the spring of 2024. While states traditionally control the authority of pharmacists to administer vaccines and prescribe medications, Whetzel's paper examined the implications of the FDA's decision to override states' rights by granting pharmacists prescriptive authority for Paxlovid, a drug used in the treatment of COVID-19.

After reading his paper, a pharmacy law professor at another institution contacted Whetzel and urged him to enter the American Society for Pharmacy Law's writing competition.

Whetzel's submission won the ASPL's prestigious Larry M. Simonsmeier Writing Award, which recognizes outstanding scholarship related to pharmacy law. "It proves that people are out there reading the notes that students publish," Whetzel said. "There's a lot of great work that students are producing at Case through *Health Matrix* that could win awards, so I'd encourage other students to apply to these competitions."

Whetzel credits his experience as editor-in-chief of *Health Matrix* with refining his legal writing skills. "Being the editor-in-chief exposed me to a lot of great legal writing by seeing how other authors structured their analysis and arguments,"

he said. "When I was writing my paper, I looked at it through the eyes of an editor, which allowed me to be more critical."

Besides paving the way for this writing award, the research and writing skills that Whetzel honed at CWRU also serve him well on the job. As senior manager of regulatory affairs at the American Pharmacists Association—a position

he started in February 2025 after completing a professional affairs and government affairs fellowship there—Whetzel reads proposed rules and regulations that are hundreds of pages long and helps prepare regulatory comments for the organization.

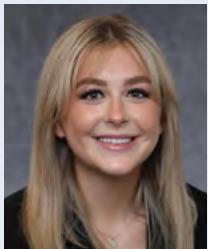
"Law school helped me develop the skills that I use every day in my current job," Whetzel said. "My time at Case really honed my writing skills, which I'm using to support the entire pharmacy profession."

"My time at Case really honed my writing acumen."

—Corey Whetzel, PharmD, JD (LAW '24), senior manager of regulatory affairs at the American Pharmacists Association

Experiential education

To fulfill their experiential education requirement, health law students at CWRU School of Law participate in practical internships and externships at law firms, hospitals, health insurance companies and other organizations locally and across the country. Here's how a few of them honed on-the-job legal skills solving clients' real-world problems over the last year.



**Nicole Griffin
(3L)**

*MetroHealth
(Cleveland)*

"My favorite aspect of my externship was collaborating with different professionals

across departments and professions. Having the opportunity to lead an interdepartmental meeting to present my findings and provide guidance on policy implementation helped me understand how lawyers serve as translators between the law and practical hospital operations, and it strengthened my confidence in communicating complex information clearly. My experience provided valuable insight into the day-to-day legal operations of a hospital and the vital role of in-house counsel."



Camryn Parsons (2L)

The Reproductive Rights Law Initiative at CWRU School of Law (Cleveland)

"Joining the RRLI over the summer was the highlight of my law school experience. I was eager to apply my newly developed legal skills to do work that creates meaningful change in the uncertainty of the post-*Dobbs* era. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with Professor Hill and the inspiring team that makes up the RRLI, as my time with this group reminded me why I wanted to go to law school and become a lawyer."



**Elisabeth Brian,
JD (LAW '25)**
*CWRU School of
Law Kramer Law
Clinic (Cleveland)*

"Participating in the CWRU Health Law Clinic was the most rewarding experience I had during law school. I had the opportunity to work directly with clients by helping them receive Social Security benefits.

In the clinic, students are given the chance to work a case from start to finish. This experience allows students to understand how a case moves through the Social Security process.

My favorite experience was combing through hundreds of files to find evidence that would help my clients win their cases. I even had the opportunity to present a difficult case in front of an administrative law judge that I ultimately won!"



**Emma
Longville
(2L)**
*Medical
Mutual of Ohio
(Cleveland)*

"I loved gaining hands-on exposure to how

in-house counsel collaborates with outside counsel to navigate complex matters in real time while balancing business needs with legal compliance. This experience strengthened my ability to analyze statutes and regulations, draft clear and practical legal writing, and understand the strategic role of counsel within a major company. I learned how to work efficiently and collaboratively with attorneys and business professionals in-house, as well as with clients, experts and opposing counsel. These skills will directly benefit my desired future in health law and litigation."



**Jared Levine
(3L)**
*Ohio
Department
of Medicaid
Bureau of
Contracts and
Procurement
(Columbus)*

"My externship was instrumental in helping me develop my contract drafting skills as I worked on everything from amendments to original documents. Beyond the traditional legal skills, I gained a significant understanding of Medicaid's procurement processes and business terminology.

It was fascinating and enlightening to watch both sides work through contract terms in real-time, explaining their legal reasoning and negotiating mutually-acceptable compromise."

“

The Kramer Law Clinic

The Milton and Charlotte Kramer Law Clinic at CWRU is a law firm within the law school staffed by faculty members with years of practice experience. Students in the Health Law Clinic work alongside healthcare professionals, community service providers and community members to address legal and social issues that affect their client's health through direct legal services and systemic advocacy. In recent years, students have appeared in administrative and civil court proceedings in cases related to Social Security eligibility, wills and advanced healthcare directives, state-administered public benefits, access to healthcare and more.

Preparing to practice

Law-Medicine Center hires new Cowen Fellow

As the Law-Medicine Center's newest Cowen Research Fellow, **Andrew Levy, JD (LAW '25)**, will serve his alma mater as he sharpens his legal skills over the coming year.

"The Cowen Fellow becomes an integral part of the Law-Medicine Center by assisting faculty members with research, writing, teaching, mentoring students and more," said Professor **Sharona Hoffman, JD, LLM, SJD**, Co-Director of the Center. "This is a great opportunity to work in an academic setting, add an impressive credential to your resume and hone your research, writing and advocacy skills."

Levy was selected for the fellowship because of his strong academic credentials, which began at The Ohio State University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science. Unsure of his post-college plans, Levy studied abroad at England's Oxford University, where a class in comparative Anglo-American legal systems piqued his interest, prompting him to apply to CWRU School of Law.

"Entering the legal field seemed like a good way to make a positive impact, where I can wake up every day feeling like I'm doing work that's important and meaningful," Levy said.

CWRU offered Levy another opportunity to study abroad. In 2024, Levy studied European and International Law at Vrije University in Amsterdam, which expanded his perspectives on legal and policy issues around the world.

"Public transit and city planning have been academic interests of mine," said Levy, who published a note in the latest issue of *Health Matrix: Journal of Law Medicine* about optimizing



"Digging into these topics will be incredibly valuable to my future practice."

– Andrew Levy, JD, (LAW '25) CWRU School of Law Cowen Research Fellow

bike lanes to improve public health, for which he received the Harry A. and Sarah Blachman Award recognizing the best paper on improving local, state or national government. "With my background in biking infrastructure, I was excited to see what Amsterdam was like, and it exceeded all of my expectations."

During law school, Levy also gained legal experience through several

valuable internships. As a judicial extern at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, for example, he drafted research memos, opinions and orders for a federal judge. Then he served as a law clerk at Public Justice, a public interest organization in Washington, D.C., where he researched the impact of groundwater runoff for environmental lawsuit enforcement projects.

Levy also worked in CWRU's First Amendment Law Clinic, acting as the first point of contact between clients and the court. "The Clinic gave me very practical litigation experience that I didn't get from my other jobs, learning to navigate conversations with clients and opposing counsel," said Levy, who earned his Juris Doctor in May of 2025.

Now, as a Cowen Fellow, Levy hopes to expand his legal experience as he assists the Law-Medicine Center faculty with research, writing and teaching duties.

"It will be interesting to learn how tenured professors and well-written legal experts approach the process of writing articles for law journals," he said. "I'm looking forward to honing my research skills and examining issues from all angles. Digging into these topics will be incredibly valuable to my future practice."

– Brooke Bily

The Dean Lindsey Cowen Research Fellowship—endowed by former School of Law administrator, Pat Ferry—is awarded to CWRU School of Law graduates with a strong record of academic achievement and a demonstrated interest in health law.



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