

MELISSA A. GHRIST

Case Western Reserve University School of Law
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EXPERIENCE

Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, Ohio

Full-Time Postdoctoral Scholar, July 2025 – Present

- Teach Legal Writing, Leadership, Experiential Learning, Advocacy, and Professionalism (LLEAP) 3, Appellate Practice
- Adapt LLEAP 3, Appellate Practice curriculum for Part-time Online JD Program
- Work in the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center — Appellate Litigation Clinic
- Create the problem for and supervise the annual Dean Dunmore Moot Court Competition
- Coach team for the National Moot Court Competition through the NYC Bar
- Coordinate administration for moot-court competition teams

Full-Time Adjunct Professor, July 2023 – June 2025

- Developed curriculum for and taught LLEAP 3, Appellate Practice
- Taught online, asynchronous Professional Responsibility
- Assisted in the Milton A. Kramer Law Clinic Center — Appellate Litigation Clinic
- Drafted the problems for and organized annual Dean Dunmore Moot Court Competition
- Coached team for National Health Law Moot Court Competition
- Helped standardize advocacy competition teams with student and coach handbook
- Created online, asynchronous moot-court bootcamp
- Created modules for asynchronous course for students externing in state courts

Part-Time Adjunct Professor, July 2022 – May 2023

- Taught Appellate Practice
- Drafted the problem for the Dean Dunmore Moot Court Competition

Ben Barrett Law, Atlanta, Georgia (remote)

Of Counsel, June 1, 2023 – Present

- Conduct legal research and draft litigation documents for two employment-law cases
- Help develop firm policies and training materials

Flowers & Grube, Cleveland, Ohio

Senior Associate, January 2022 – May 2023

- Researched for and drafted civil motions and briefs in both trial and appellate courts
- Pursued appeals in criminal cases for over twenty indigent defendants
- Managed nuts and bolts of all filings, streamlined firm's practices, and supervised interns

Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth Appellate District, Cleveland, Ohio

Judicial Attorney for Hon. Mary J. Boyle, January 2020 – December 2021

- Researched in variety of fields, including civil, criminal, and domestic relations law
- Created draft judicial opinions based on the record, arguments, and independent research
- Worked closely with Judge Boyle to finalize and prepare opinions for release
- Observed oral arguments to inform judicial opinions and to develop oral-advocacy skills

Thompson Hine LLP, Cleveland, Ohio

Associate, Business Litigation, September 2017 – January 2020; *Summer Associate*, May 2016 – June 2016

- Assisted with dozens of matters including breach of contract, product liability, and fraud
- Regularly worked with over fifteen partners and senior associates across all office locations
- Represented over thirty clients including individuals, small businesses, and large companies
- Handled at least five depositions, three in-court hearings, and one appellate oral argument
- Helped form appellate practice sub-group and developed strategies for its growth
- Prevented tenant eviction in three pro bono housing cases referred by the Legal Aid Society

Department of the Interior, Office of the Solicitor General, Atlanta, Georgia

Intern, July 2016 – August 2016

- Researched and drafted memoranda regarding environmental and administrative law
- Participated in conference calls involving dispute resolution between DOI's bureaus

The Law and Leadership Institute, Cleveland, Ohio

Tenth Grade Instructor, June 2015 – March 2016

- Co-taught at CWRU School of Law a class of approximately twenty students the summer before their tenth-grade year and on Saturdays during their tenth-grade year
- Presented materials about the civil legal system and prepared students for mock trial

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, Medina, Ohio

Extern to Hon. Alice M. Batchelder, May 2015 – June 2015

- Drafted bench memoranda on pending cases and presented recommendations to Judge
- Worked closely with law clerks and observed oral arguments in Columbus

EDUCATION

Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, Ohio

J.D., May 2017

GPA: 3.683; Class Rank: 19/136; *magna cum laude*

- CALI Awards in Legal Writing, Civil Rights Clinic, and Law of Archaeological Relics
- Note, *"The Repatriation of Cultural Property: A New Standard for Dispute Resolution"*
- Peer Writing Tutor; National Moot Court Team; International Law Journal Managing Editor

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

B.S., Anthropology, International Relations, and Professional Writing Minor, May 2014

GPA: 3.900/4.0; *summa cum laude*

CERTIFICATIONS

Adult Mental Health First Aid USA (2024)

Ohio Bar Certified Specialist in Appellate Law (2022)

Ohio Notary Public (2022)

PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Playing the Long Game in Law: Defining Values to Prioritize Well-Being, Legal Writing Institute One-Day Workshop at Widener University Delaware Law School (Presentation, December 12, 2025)

Argued at the Supreme Court of Ohio in the case *State v. Fontanez*, Case No. 2024-1464 on Oct. 29, 2025

Negative Space, Positive Impact: Maximizing Key Locations in Legal Briefs, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal (December 2024)

Missed Persuasive Opportunities, Advanced Appellate Advocacy Seminar at CWRU School of Law (Presentation, November 22, 2024)

Classroom Strategies to Prepare Students for Oral Argument, The Second Draft (November 2024)

Before You Copy-and-Paste . . . Five Suggestions for Repurposing Your Summary-Judgment Brief on Appeal, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal (June 2024)

Appellate Law Update, Ohio Association for Justice Annual Convention (Presentation, May 5, 2023)

“Are You Sure You Want to Attach That?” An appellate perspective on Civ.R. 12 and how to avoid reversal on appeal, Advanced Appellate Advocacy Seminar at CWRU School of Law (Presentation, Oct. 21, 2022)

Can your client pay with Bitcoin? Ethics issues to consider, The Law for Lawyers Today (Nov. 14, 2019)

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Legal Writing Institute

Member (2023 – present)

William K. Thomas American Inn of Court

Associate Member (2020 – present)

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

Member (2020 – present)

Ohio State Bar Association

Member (2017 – present)

Ohio Association for Justice

Member (2022 – 2024)

American Bar Association Woman Advocate Committee

Editor in Chief of quarterly newsletter (2020 – 2022)

Editor of quarterly newsletter (2018 – 2019)

Cleveland Kids' Book Bank Young Professionals Board

Vice Chair (2021 – 2022)

Member (2018 – 2020)

Ohio Women's Bar Association

Judge4Yourself.com Committee Member (2018 – 2019)

Clintonville-Beechwold Community Resources Center

English-as-a-Second-Language Teacher (2011 – 2013)

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Ohio (2017)

State of Georgia (2024)

Supreme Court of the United States (2024)

United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (2022)

United States District Court for the Northern District of Georgia (2024)

United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio (2018)