

# 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-Beechwood 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)