

FALL 2024

# Akron Law MAGAZINE



**Making the  
Mark in  
IP Law**

Trade Secrets of President R.J. Nemer

3rd Annual Buckingham Lecture

Professor Michael Doane Testifies Before  
House Judiciary Subcommittee

Students Gain Experience Through IP  
Experiential Learning Opportunities

Dear Alumni,

It is a continuing privilege to bring you greetings and an update on the many exciting happenings at Akron Law. This fall we welcomed 151 students of the class of 2024 to the Akron Law family. During orientation the first-year students took their oath of professionalism, a tradition we introduced several years ago, which was administered by Judge Amanda Knapp. Judge Knapp inspired our new students to conduct themselves with the highest degree of integrity and professionalism, and to enjoy law school. In addition, and for the first time, University of Akron President, R.J. Nemer, who is a UA College of Business and Akron Law alumnus, joined us for the reception and oath. President Nemer delivered remarks welcoming the new students and telling them the inspiring story about his path to becoming a lawyer.



Akron Law was recently recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the 20 law schools where a graduate's average debt is nearly half that of their average starting salary, showcasing the affordability and value of an Akron Law degree. In addition, our employment data from this past year places us well above the national average for jobs requiring a J.D. or jobs in which a J.D. provides an advantage. Our 2023 graduates achieved a 96% employment rate, and our class of 2024 is on track to produce similar results. I hope you enjoy reading about the great things our faculty and students are doing in the pages of this magazine.

We will be hosting a number of events at the law school this year, and I hope that you will join us or just stop by to say hello. Please watch your e-mails for invitations to events. Please save the date for our annual Winter Institute in Naples, Fla., Feb. 5-7, 2025, and our annual Alumni Awards, CLE and breakfast to take place April 10, 2025.

With warmest wishes,

*Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen*

Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen

Photo by Tim Fitzwater.

THE UNIVERSITY of AKRON  
SCHOOL of LAW

AKRON LAW MAGAZINE



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COVER: Intellectual Property Faculty Members Michael Doane, Mark Schultz, Emily Michiko Morris, Jess Miers, and Douglas Park pose in front of the law school. Photo Credit: Ryan Schultz.



**PRESIDENT**  
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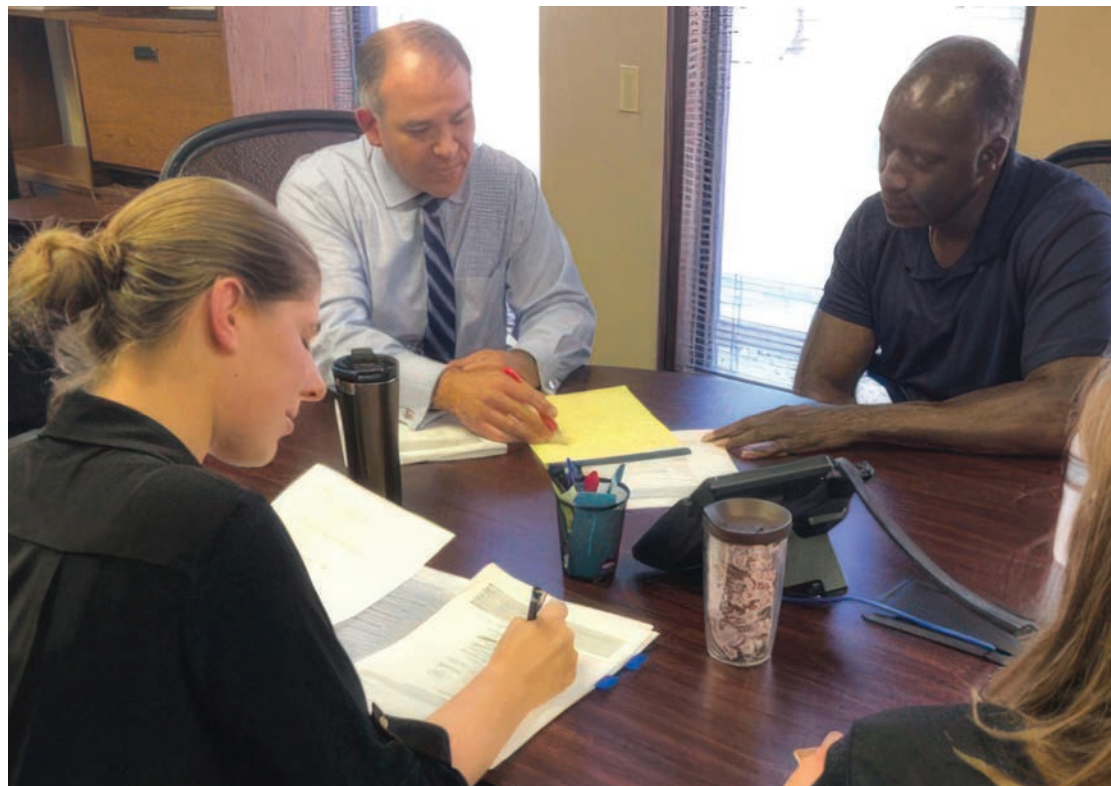
University of Akron School of Law

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING OPTIONS

## TRADEMARK CLINIC

The University of Akron School of Law's Trademark Clinic provides second- and third-year law students who have completed required courses the opportunity to assist real-world clients with the filing of trademark applications under the supervision of licensed attorneys. Students interview clients, conduct trademark searches, prepare trademark applications, answer office actions from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and draft trademark-related contracts. Clients served by the Trademark Clinic have limited economic resources. This clinic is one of only a handful around the country in which the USPTO permits law students to prosecute trademark applications.

Dan Thomson, Akron Law adjunct professor of trademark law and co-managing partner of Emerson Thomson Bennett has directed the Trademark Clinic since 2016. "The Trademark Clinic enables students to gain real-world experience, working with real clients. I encourage all my students to take as many of the Clinic classes as possible." During his time as director of the Trademark Clinic, Thomson has taught nearly 100 students and they have worked with more than 1,000 clients filing approximately



Trademark Clinic Director Daniel Thomson (center left) and students meet with client Robert Martin, founder of Coates Christian Apparel.

500 trademark applications. Past clients of the Trademark Clinic have included Ninety+, a youth soccer camp run by University of Akron 2010 national championship soccer team member Kofi Sarkodie, and The Old Tavern, in Unionville, believed to be the oldest tavern still standing in Ohio. Trademark registration for the Old Tavern logo helped support efforts to restore the endangered historical property.

Nicholas Moglia '25 participated in the Trademark Clinic in spring 2024 and said, "My time in the trademark clinic was a second-to-none experience. We worked

with real clients, assisting them in searching for the availability of the trademark they wanted to register, as well as completing and filing the trademark application for them. We also responded to office actions from the USPTO when it rejected a client's mark and argued on behalf of that client for why their mark should be registered."

He continued, "The clinic taught us not only about the entire process of filing a trademark application, but also about working and interacting with real-world clients. We were able to get experience in promptly answering their questions via

email and over the phone, and advising them on their marks. Being able to meet and work with these clients was a great experience, and not something you get in the classroom. Gaining the practical experience that this clinic offers has been very beneficial to my career, and this opportunity will lessen the learning curve for after law school."

## D.C. EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The University of Akron School of Law's Washington, D.C., externship program began in spring 2022, and opens the door for law students to take classes while working in the nation's capital. The Washington D.C. IP externships are available in the spring, summer and fall. Students work 3-5 days a week and take their other Akron Law courses online.

Former University of Akron School of Law Associate Professor Ryan T. Holte, who was sworn in as a judge of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims in the summer of 2019, has continued his affiliation with Akron Law, teaching a remote course in IP law in the fall and serving in the Washington D.C. externship program in the spring as Jurist-in-Residence Professor of Law. In addition to the Court of Federal Claims, students may apply for an externship with IP law firms and IP-related government institutions such as the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the United States Copyright Office, which is part of the Library of Congress.

2L Sophia Sterling, who spent the summer in D.C., said, "This summer I externed at the United States Court of Federal Claims for the Honorable Ryan T. Holte. As a law student with a passion for intellectual property, this summer was the ideal opportunity to deepen my

knowledge and experience in the IP field. I wrote memoranda on various IP issues before the Court, attended oral arguments related to numerous issues including patent infringement hearings, conducted legal research, observed the judicial decision-making process and assisted the Court with drafting orders and preparing for arguments and trial. Externing in D.C. also allowed me to exponentially increase my IP legal network through the many guest lunches in chambers, visiting other offices and courts, attending an artificial intelligence IP panel, and connecting with numerous professionals in the field."

Holte added, "A semester

in D.C. gives Akron Law students the opportunity to attend more legal networking events than possibly any other city in the country. Sophia took full advantage this summer. During her time working for chambers she attended multiple legal conferences, court gatherings, and law student social events each week. We enjoyed having Sophia in chambers this summer and my law clerks appreciated her contributions."

In some cases, the opportunity to extern in Washington, D.C., has been virtual. In Spring 2022, Megan Parker '23 worked with the Copyright Alliance during her 2L year, "Some of the work I did with the Copyright Alliance included

researching different areas of copyright law, such as the discovery rule and the doctrine of continuing infringement's impact on the three-year statute of limitations; drafting summaries of comments submitted in response to Copyright Notices of Intent or Notices of Proposed Rulemaking; and writing legal blogs on complex areas of copyright law, including my blog *Copyright in Journalism and News Reporting*. Getting to see more of the regulatory side of copyright law during my time with the Copyright Alliance opened my eyes and gave me a whole new perspective on how and why copyright law works and impacts the creative world. It's a perspective I use



This photo was taken in the Senate Committee hearing room following a lunch field trip to the Capitol where we met with friend of Chambers - Sophia Sterling.



Megan Parker '23

every day as an intellectual property associate at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff.”

Megan added, “Because I was a virtual extern, my experience in the D.C. externship program was unique compared to my cohort who were actually working in D.C. Nonetheless, Judge Holte still provided all the information and support I needed as my externship advisor. Any time I had a question, Judge Holte quickly responded. He asked how my externship was going and truly expressed an interest in the work I was doing, even sharing anecdotes of work he’d done related to what I was doing to help tie everything together into a big picture of how the practice of copyright law ties together.”

## RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

In a groundbreaking collaboration, students and faculty from The University of Akron Intellectual Property Center (UAIP) are shining a spotlight on the power of innovation in addressing global health issues. The Innovate for Health project, a joint initiative with the Washington D.C.-based Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), is revealing how researchers and entrepreneurs in developing countries are leveraging intellectual property (IP) to create transformative healthcare solutions.

Throughout the year, Innovate for Health has been publishing weekly case studies, many authored by UA students, highlighting a unique innovator from a developing country. These stories paint a vivid picture of how IP-driven innovation is not only saving lives but also fostering economic growth through thriving businesses.

One standout example comes from Sophia Sterling, a 2L student in UA’s IP Pro J.D. program. Sterling’s case study on Tinnitus Peru showcases how this innovative company is revolutionizing care for millions suffering from tinnitus, a condition characterized by persistent ringing in the ears. Through personalized, remote rehabilitation plans, Tinnitus Peru is making expert care accessible to patients who might otherwise struggle to find relief, demonstrating the far-reaching impact of localized innovation.

UAIP Research Fellow Douglas Park emphasizes the key role of

students in this project: “Working with UAIP students on Innovate for Health has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Their exceptional research and writing skills, coupled with genuine passion, have brought to life the stories of IP-driven innovation occurring worldwide.”

The culmination of this year-long effort will be a book compiling all the case studies. This publication will be launched at a high-profile event at ITIF headquarters in Washington, D.C. The event promises to be a melting pot of ideas and experiences, bringing together policymakers shaping the future of global health and IP; entrepreneurs featured in the case studies, sharing their firsthand experiences; and UAIP students and faculty, representing the next generation of IP professionals.

This gathering will not only celebrate the project’s success but also facilitate crucial discussions on the role of IP in driving healthcare innovation in developing nations.

The Innovate for Health project exemplifies UAIP’s commitment to bridging academic research with real-world impact. By involving students in this global initiative, UAIP is nurturing a new generation of IP professionals who understand the profound impact of their work on global health and economic development.

# SUMMER IP INTERNS

In addition to clinical opportunities and experiential learning options through Akron Law, every year students end up in a variety of exciting summer positions. For summer 2024, students focusing on intellectual property (IP) worked from coast to coast and throughout Ohio. Several students shared about their experiences in intellectual property this summer.



**VICTOR ATTA DAKWA '26**  
*(Bachelor of Arts in Biological Sciences, Master of Arts in Aging Services, University of Maryland)*

### Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron, Ohio

“Interning with The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company was an incredible experience and has provided me with a firsthand experience of what it means to be in-house counsel. From rotating through the various legal departments, I gained an understanding of the dynamic relationship between the business department and the legal department. I formed great relationships and I was exposed to so much. During my time at Goodyear, I worked with the IP department to research patents and identify the independent and dependent claims of the patents. Additionally, while working with other departments, I began to identify the many nuances within each issue and discovered that IP always played a role. I learned that the role of in-house counsel is to protect the interests and the integrity of the business. I am grateful for the opportunity and for the summer I spent at Goodyear.”



**ANGELA CUIFFO '26**  
*(Bachelor of Science in Biology, Denison University)*

### Merck and Co. in Rahway, New Jersey

“The experience of working with Merck and Co. this summer was truly transformative, providing me with invaluable insights into the intersection of law, science and innovation. I had the opportunity to work alongside some brilliant minds, contributing to projects that protect groundbreaking innovations. During my internship, I participated in the drafting, filing and prosecution of small molecule and biological pharmaceutical patents before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and international patent offices; assisted IP group attorneys in support of current or potential patent litigation; and gained exposure to different functional areas within Merck’s intellectual property practice. I also worked with IP group attorneys to analyze Merck and third-party patent filings and applications, to counsel Merck’s researchers on patent issues, and on obtaining trademark protection of company products.”



**NICHOLAS LAVY '25**  
*(Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, The University of Akron)*

### Rock and Roll HOF General Counsel’s Office in Cleveland, Ohio

“Working at the Rock Hall was my first exposure to intellectual property law beyond the introduction in the first year Property course. Museums are heavily reliant on fair use principles in many aspects of operations, so I had to quickly become familiar with the doctrine’s applications. My fair use projects related to the music playing throughout the museum, the Rock Hall’s educational resources and items in the gift shop. Seeing the degrees to which different artists protect and control their intellectual property has also been fascinating. The Rock Hall also has global brand recognition, which leads to a fair amount of unauthorized use of the Museum’s trademarks, wordmarks or copyrights, including those related to Induction Ceremony footage. Part of my summer was spent monitoring this unauthorized use and enforcing the Rock Hall’s rights. Seeing the practice of IP law firsthand encourages me to take advantage of Akron Law’s first-class IP programs and classes. Even without a STEM background, soft IP is an interesting field of study.”



**DEVIN OWENS '25**

*(Bachelor of Arts in a Special Major focusing on Computer Science, University of Buffalo)*

**Womble Bond Dickinson in San Francisco, California**

"This summer I was able to do patent and other litigation in San Francisco at Womble Bond Dickinson, trying out what I hope to do for a living in a big firm. I learned so much, and it was a great experience. I'd like to offer a special shoutout to Dean Alisa O'Brien and Director Alecia Benze, who were invaluable at every step of the process of finding my summer associate position at a big firm. I'm so grateful we have such a depth of expertise in Akron Law's career services office. Even though patent litigation is a specialist area, they knew exactly where I should apply and how best to handle each part of the process, and I wouldn't have found my position if it wasn't for their help."



**GIRISH BARADE '26**

*(Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering, Visvesvaraya Technological University and Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, California State University, Northridge)*

**Schaeffler Group General Counsel's Office in Wooster, Ohio**

"My summer experience with the General Counsel's Office at Schaeffler was highly enriching, offering exposure to a diverse range of legal topics such as employment law, real property, contracts, mutual non-disclosure agreements and bankruptcy research, among others. While I worked on evaluating complex legal documents, I particularly enjoyed creating executive summaries, for which I distilled intricate legal concepts into concise and accessible formats for the organization's executives. The highly knowledgeable and supportive legal team at Schaeffler enabled me to learn a great deal in a relatively short time. Schaeffler, with key operations in Ohio, and throughout the world, has been driving forward groundbreaking inventions and developments in the field of motion technology for over 75 years, including being a pioneer in the e-mobility sector. My engineering and technology background, combined with Akron Law's IP offerings, will enhance my ability to contribute effectively to future externships with Schaeffler's IP team."

**AKRON LAW REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS**

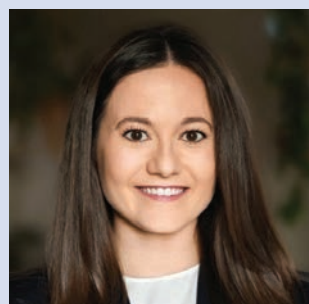
Each year, a select group of University of Akron School of Law students are published in the Akron Law Review. Congratulations to two of this year's authors (check out the Spring 2025 edition of the Akron Law Magazine for more)! Learn more about their research below and check out the Akron Law Review Website in the spring for their full notes.



**Kiley Carey '25**

Managing Editor, IP Issue: "What Does 'Registers' Mean? The Wrong Interpretation Could Allow Cybersquatters to Escape Liability."

Kiley explores how the term "registers" in the Anticybersquatting Consumer Protection Act (ACPA) might be misinterpreted, allowing cybersquatters to evade responsibility. Her solution is a broad interpretation to include both initial and subsequent domain registrations, which could be addressed by Congress or the Supreme Court.



**Tatyana Norman Webler '25**

Managing Editor, Symposium Issue: "A Prescription for Ineffective Notice in mHealth."

Tatyana examines how mobile health apps (mHealth) risk personal privacy and proposes improving privacy policies through a Privacy Facts Label. She argues that mHealth service providers are missing an opportunity to assure consumers with transparency and control over their personal health information, and even increase health data sharing for research, which can drive innovation. **Webler presented her note at the IEEE Digital Privacy Workshop on Oct. 7th and invites you to the Akron Law Review Symposium, "Forging the Future of Healthcare," on April 4, 2025.**

**THE IP IMPACT: HIGHLIGHTING AKRON LAW'S IP ALUMNI**

The University of Akron Intellectual Property (IP) Law program is consistently recognized nationally as among the best in the country. The nationally renowned program is lauded for its breadth of curricular offerings alongside its externships, impressive graduate job placement rate, Trademark Clinic opportunities and various student organizations.

At the forefront of this excellence are Akron Law's esteemed alumni who have and continue to shape the landscape of intellectual property law. From pioneering patent attorneys to influential judges, Akron Law graduates have made significant contributions and achievements in the IP world. In this special feature, we are proud to introduce some of the School of Law's most accomplished alumni in the field. These individuals have distinguished themselves through their exceptional work and continue to uphold the legacy of excellence that defines Akron Law.



**ROGER EMERSON '87**

Roger Emerson began his career working as a mechanical engineer and later a patent attorney for the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company. He earned his law degree, cum laude, from The University of Akron School of Law. He received the Akron Law Outstanding Alumni award in 2019. In 1992, Emerson founded a boutique intellectual property law firm. He eventually added partners Dan Thomson, Akron Law adjunct professor of trademark law, and John Skeriotis '97 and Sergey Vernyuk '12, both Akron Law graduates. Now known as Emerson Thomson Bennett, the firm specializes in intellectual property law, pertaining to patent, trademark, copyright, domain names, internet, technology issues, licensing and litigation of intellectual property rights. Emerson and Thomson are co-managing partners of the firm, which employs about 20 people and has offices in Akron and Columbus.

Emerson has served on the Akron Law IP Advisory Council since its formation. He believes the IP Council distinguishes Akron Law from other law schools, and encourages Akron Law and its students to rely upon and utilize the IP Advisory Council to its full capacity.



**ROB KINDER '03**

Lead Judge Robert Kinder, based in Alexandria, Va., currently serves as a lead administrative patent law judge on the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). After graduating from The University of Akron, Kinder moved to Washington, D.C., to clerk for then-Chief Judge H. Robert Mayer on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. After clerking, Kinder gained intellectual property and litigation experience at major law firms in Washington, D.C, and developed a robust skill set that includes procurement, licensing and enforcement of intellectual property rights. His legal practice involved areas of complex civil litigation, including high-profile patent and trademark disputes. In 2014, Kinder was appointed to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) by the Secretary of Commerce.

During his more than 10 years at the PTAB, Kinder has authored hundreds of decisions in areas of Board jurisdiction including ex parte appeals, inter partes review, and post grant review. He has also represented the PTAB at public speaking engagements across the

*"As a graduate of the evening program at Akron Law, I credit the program, and the law school's desire to meet the needs of non-traditional students, as major factors in helping me attain the meaningful career I have gratefully enjoyed."*

**Roger Emerson**  
Co-Managing Partner,  
Emerson Thomson Bennett

country. Kinder strives to ensure the effective operation of the PTAB and the USPTO through many leadership endeavors and the development of training opportunities for judges at the Board. Kinder has helped educate the public about the history and mission of the PTAB as a Board member and planning chair for The American Association of Patent Judges.

Kinder has made an indelible mark on the field of intellectual property law. His decisions continue to influence the direction of patent law in the United States, as he has presided over numerous high-profile cases that have set important precedents in patent law and has contributed positively to the landscape of innovation. Kinder is a Zip alumnus who obtained his Juris Doctor in 2003. He also currently serves as a member of Akron Law’s Intellectual Property Advisory Council and recently served as a panelist at the 25th Annual Akron IP Law Symposium.

“Akron’s IP and litigation programs provided a strong foundation for my career. Coming out of Akron I already had a firm grasp on the intricacies of patent law and also had developed practical litigation skills like how to cross examine witnesses. Akron’s IP faculty were, and continue to be, some of the best legal minds in the IP arena.”

**Robert Kinder**  
Lead Administrative Patent Judge  
at United States Patent and  
Trademark Office



**ANGELA R. GOTT '07**

Angela Gott is a distinguished legal professional serving as lead counsel for intellectual property (IP) and commercial litigation at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP. In her role, she manages complex cases involving trademarks, copyrights, unfair competition, software disputes and restrictive covenants, along with administrative proceedings related to IP rights. She also provides strategic advice on global protection and enforcement of IP rights. In addition, Gott is an expert in IP matters within corporate transactions and joint ventures, offering her expertise in preparing and negotiating licenses and other commercial agreements involving IP rights.

Her leadership extends beyond her firm, having served as the president of the Cleveland Intellectual Property Law Association and a board member of Seeds of Literacy. Currently, she contributes through her roles as vice president and treasurer of the Judge John M. Manos American Inn of Court, where she also serves on the executive and program committees, and as a member of the Pro Bono Committee and North America Roundtables Project Team for the International Trademark Association.

Gott’s exceptional contributions to the

“Akron students have a tremendous opportunity to gain real-world experience counseling clients and providing pro bono trademark legal services to qualified inventors, entrepreneurs and small businesses under the supervision of experienced licensed attorneys through the Trademark Clinic. Participating students are granted limited recognition to practice before the USPTO in filing trademark applications and responding to office actions on behalf of real clients. I strongly encourage getting involved!”

**Angela Gott**  
Lead Counsel at Benesch,  
Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff  
LLP

legal field have earned her recognition, including being named the 2025, 2023, and 2021 Lawyer of the Year for Litigation – IP, Cleveland, and the 2025 and 2022 Lawyer of the Year for Trademark Law, Cleveland, by The Best Lawyers in America. Additionally, she holds a prestigious ranking in Chambers USA.

Gott earned her J.D. magna cum laude from The University of Akron School of Law in 2007. She also taught Legal Writing as an adjunct instructor at Akron Law and is a member of both the Akron Law Advancement Council and the Intellectual Property Advisory Council.



**MALISHEIA DOUGLAS '08**

Malisheia Douglas is a licensed patent attorney and a key member of Squire Patton Boggs’ Intellectual Property & Technology Practice Group. She provides strategic guidance to clients for protecting their intellectual property across industries, including automotive, chemicals and energy. She also works with clients to manage their global patent and trademark portfolios and brand protection initiatives, and to develop anticounterfeiting strategies across the Americas, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Douglas has always been fascinated by scientific advancements and had a love for the logic of mathematics, and the balance of orderly explanation with the chaos of discovery has always been exciting for her. Prior to law school, she earned a degree in chemical engineering and worked as a polymer research engineer at a Fortune 500 tire company. Since law school, Douglas has devoted her 16-year legal career to the advancement and capture of intellectual property. She started in IP litigation and gradually began doing preparation and prosecution for patents and trademarks. Later she went to an in-house position for an S&P 100 company and managed its global trademark portfolio as well as the patent portfolios of several

business units. During her time as in-house counsel, Douglas also led teams focused on cybersecurity, digitization, diversity and inclusion. Now that she has returned to her roots as IP counsel in private practice, she tackles client matters with an intimate familiarity of the challenges and competing priorities of in-house law teams and offers a unique perspective as a trusted advisor and extension of their team.

“It was The University of Akron School of Law IP Law program that was a winner for me! At the time, it was one of the few comprehensive IP programs that offered not only a certificate in IP law, but had the coursework and legal connections that were incredibly helpful for my career. I recall attending a luncheon with the Akron Law Intellectual Property Advisory Council (IPAC), which featured many alumni who were already IP practitioners. I was so impressed by their success and willingness to encourage and support not only the IP program but the students in the program. Years later the opportunity truly came full circle for me as I was invited to join the IPAC and have enjoyed serving in that capacity for several years. It is an extraordinary opportunity to engage in one of the many Akron Law programs that motivated me when I was a student.”

**Malisheia Douglas**  
Patent Attorney at Squire Patton  
Boggs

## GRADUATION RECAP: CLASS OF 2023 STATS

### EMPLOYMENT STATS

Employed 10 Months after Graduation	<b>95.7%</b>
Employed in Private Sector	<b>71.4%</b>
Employed in Public Sector	<b>28.6%</b>
Employed in full-time, long-term Bar Passage Required and JD Advantage positions	<b>93.8%</b>

### TYPES OF JOBS BY THE NUMBERS

Private Practice	<b>53%</b>
Business	<b>19%</b>
Government	<b>16.1%</b>
Public Interest	<b>11%</b>
Education	<b>2%</b>

### SALARIES

Average Private Sector	<b>\$91,879</b>
Average Public Sector	<b>\$65,204</b>
Average IP Salary	<b>\$148,000</b>

# GRADUATION RECAP

The University of Akron School of Law held its 99th Commencement ceremony in May with 131 students in attendance. Each year, Akron Law gives three awards to graduates who exemplify characteristics that make a great Akron Law alumnus. Those awards are The Perantinides & Nolan Pro Bono Service Award (awarded to the full-time and part-time students reporting the highest number of service hours), Outstanding Clinical Student Award (presented to one student by the legal clinic), and the Donald M. and Mary E. Jenkins Award for Highest Scholastic Achievement (awarded to the graduate with the highest grade-point average).



Kelsey Jennings and Allyson Strickland, 2024 Perantinides & Nolan Pro Bono Service Awardees, with Chris Nolan

## AKRON LAW RECOGNIZES TOP PRO BONO AND COMMUNITY SERVICE CONTRIBUTORS

For the two most prolific pro bono participants in the University of Akron School of Law graduating class of 2024, it wasn't about resume-building, it was about a commitment to community service and becoming a better lawyer.

Kelsey Jennings and Allyson Strickland were among 22 Akron Law students recognized in the end-of-the-semester

celebration. Jennings and Strickland each received the annual Perantinides & Nolan Pro Bono Service Award at the ceremony. The \$500 awards are presented annually to one full-time student (Jennings, 1,142 hours) and one part-time student (Strickland, 788 hours) reporting the highest number of service hours.

The 131 graduates in the class of 2024 donated 14,000 hours in total during their time in law school. Fifteen completed at least 300 hours of service, and another seven completed at least 150 hours. Those who completed at least 300 hours were honored with special cords at commencement. Those who completed 150 hours or more received an Ohio Access to Justice Foundation certificate and a cover letter signed by Supreme Court of Ohio Chief Justice Sharon Kennedy. Recipients who go on to pass the Ohio Bar Examination will also be recognized at the swearing-in ceremony.

Although virtually every U.S. law school encourages students to engage in pro bono service, Akron Law is one of only about 40 that require a minimum number of pro bono service hours as a condition for graduation — 30 hours in Akron Law's case.

"Akron Law implemented the requirement to ensure that every law student experiences the personal and professional benefits of pro bono service; to promote their future pro bono involvement as attorneys; and to provide awareness of the considerable unmet need for legal services and access to justice in our community," said Alisa Benedict O'Brien, assistant dean for career services and strategic initiatives. "I really can't recall a graduate who didn't say they valued the experience."

While Kelsey Jennings benefited

from the support of her "adopted" Ohio family, Allyson Strickland benefited from the support of her husband, Kevin, as she navigated law school, a full-time job and two young children.

Like Jennings, Strickland knew from an early age (first grade!) that she wanted to be an attorney. And like Jennings, community service had long been a passion.

"It's close to my heart," she said. "If there's a gap or a need to be filled and I'm able to do it, then I really try to participate."

After earning her undergraduate degree from Malone University, Strickland began teaching, first in the Canton City School District and then in the Akron Public Schools (APS).

Seeing first-hand the inequities that made it difficult for some students to succeed, she became involved with committees and programs where she could help larger numbers of young people. At APS, she became coordinator of the Path to High School Success program.

After seven years in the classroom, Strickland shifted to the administration building in 2018, first in the Office of School Improvement and currently in the Student and Family Services Department. In 2020, she became a member of the City of Akron's Racial Equity and Social Justice Taskforce's education committee. Her work on that committee reignited her youthful intention to become an attorney.

Despite the demands of law school, Strickland maintained her community service commitments with her service-oriented sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and through registering voters as a member of the NAACP. As director of outreach ministries at the Remedy Church, she arranged to host a Saturday Expungement/CQE Clinic and combined it with a food pantry provided by the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

While Strickland continues in her position at APS, what might be next after passing the bar?

"I'm still considering exactly what I'll do, but I know it will be something involved with education or individual rights. I do have a Constitutional Law certificate," she noted.

The Greater Akron Chamber has already

tagged Strickland as one to watch. In August 2023, the chamber recognized her as one of its "30 for the Future" professionals between the ages of 25-39 who demonstrate dynamic leadership, diversity and commitment to the region.

## AKRON LAW PRESENTS 2024 OUTSTANDING CLINICAL STUDENT AWARD

Each year, Associate Clinical Professor and C. Blake McDowell Jr. Professor of Law Joann Sahl presents the Outstanding Clinical Student Award given by the Clinical Legal Education Association. This year's award recipient is Jamie Dye.

"Jamie is deserving of this award for her dedication to helping clients on a variety of levels across multiple clinics and related programs," Sahl said.



Outstanding Clinical Student Award winner Jamie Dye with Joann Sahl

Dye began volunteering regularly at the monthly Akron Law Reentry Clinic at the start of the spring 2022 semester of her first year. She then took Sahl's Reentry Clinic class that fall, which inspired her to focus her law school experience on clinical work. While in the Reentry Clinic, she assisted clients in the Ohio Governor's Expedited Pardon Project (EPP).

When the position of student director of the Certificate of Qualification for Employment (CQE) Clinic opened up,

Dye applied and was selected. She served in that position until graduation. In spring 2022, she also participated in Akron Law's Civil Practice Clinic.

In August 2022, she took a part-time paid position as director of Akron Law's Inmate Assistance program, which she continued until graduation. She and a few other students would meet every Friday with inmates at the Summit County Jail who had requested legal research assistance.

"They would have questions about their docket or the Ohio Revised Code," Dye said. "We also got a lot of questions related to starting a business when they got out. That made you feel good to help them. And we always told them about the expungement and CQE clinics when they would express concern about how to move forward in life with a criminal record."

"Jamie has a real dedication to making sure people have access to justice. She's recruited other students to volunteer, served as a mentor to the new recruits, and been an ambassador for the clinics in the Akron community," Sahl said.

In summer 2023, Dye received a Moyer Fellowship through the Ohio Bar Association to work on an original research project in an area championed by the late Supreme Court of Ohio Chief Justice Thomas Moyer. One of the areas is providing citizens with improved access to the courts.

As Dye and Sahl explained, a 2021 expansion of Ohio's record sealing law made pardon recipients who were previously not eligible under prior Ohio law newly eligible to apply to have their pardoned records sealed. Dye researched EPP clients who hadn't had their EPP pardons sealed as part of the process, as well as clients the Reentry Clinic had represented before EPP existed.

"Jamie tracked down and reached out to all those people with the information, and we did a number of pardon sealings here in Summit County," Sahl said. "They were all very appreciative. We still have a few she's working on to close the circle, even though she's graduated. I think her dedication to finishing this project reflects what an asset she has been to the clinic."

## DONALD M. AND MARY E. JENKINS AWARD FOR HIGHEST SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

The Donald M. and Mary E. Jenkins Award for Highest Scholastic Achievement is presented each year to the graduate with the highest grade-point average for work on this campus culminating in the Juris Doctor degree. The award honors former Dean and Professor Emeritus Donald M. Jenkins '64 for his dedication to academic excellence, and his wife, Mary E. Jenkins.



Tyler Speer

For the Class of 2024, the Donald M. and Mary E. Jenkins Award for Highest Scholastic Achievement was presented to Tyler Speer. During his time at Akron Law, Tyler was a member of the Akron Law Review, serving as managing editor of the Symposium edition, and the Moot Court Honor Society. He worked at Plakas Mannos in Akron throughout law school and joined the firm full-time as an associate attorney after graduation.

# TRADE SECRETS OF PRESIDENT NEMER

The University of Akron Board of Trustees announced on May 15th, 2024, that R.J. Nemer, a two-time UA alumnus and then-dean of the College of Business, would take the helm as the 19th president of the University. Nemer earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 1990 and a Juris Doctor in 1995. Prior to serving as dean of the College of Business, Nemer founded a professional golf agency and headquartered it in Akron. After 17 years, he sold his business to William Morris Endeavor, a firm that had recently acquired IMG, a worldwide sports agency.

Recently, Akron Law Magazine (ALM) sat down with President Nemer (RJN) to discuss the ways in which his past experiences as a student at UA, an entrepreneur and as a dean will inform his approach to the presidency ... his *trade secrets*, you might say.

**ALM:** We know that you're a two-time UA alum, a successful business owner and dean of the College of Business. Presumably, those experiences have given you an inside scoop into what it might take to be a successful president. From your perspective, what aspects of your past experiences have been helpful so far?

**RJN:** Throughout all of these experiences, and now in my role as President, what I've learned is to listen. It's what I always say to my own kids, and I have said it here at work. It's something that I also still have to work on every day – and it's an extrapolation of a quotation. I listen not with the intent to respond to the person, but with the intent to understand the person. Because of that, I think my career has taught me empathy and open-mindedness – both to understanding another person's perspective and to new

ideas and taking calculated risks. Like many of us, I learn every day, but I still have a lot to learn.

**ALM:** What about from the perspective of having been a student at UA, both as an undergraduate and at the law school? You've had the student experience, so how does that inform how you move forward as the leader of the University?



Photo of R.J. Nemer from Class of 1995 Akron Law class composite photo.

**RJN:** My student experience was so ... personal. My student experience here was feeling like I was part of something – that I mattered here – to people, to my university, to the UA community. And to me, that's what differentiates UA, and it's a hard thing to explain. It's more something you feel – it's that palpable energy. You feel that excitement, that feeling of support – it's those light bulb moments that you get from a great conversation with your instructor, or with a member of our professional staff. You know, I was a student here a very long time ago, but I find that energy – that positivity and enthusiasm – is still here. As president, I plan to lead in a

way that preserves the personal aspects of the institution and allows us all to grow from the sense of community that defines UA.

**ALM:** Let's turn now to your business background, particularly as an entrepreneur. You've mentioned the relationship management side of it and working with larger corporations and advising clients. You've met with Akron Mayor Shammus Malik and with County Executive Ilene Shapiro. What opportunities do you see to continue the partnership between UA and the greater Akron community?

**RJN:** Well, I've said this to both the mayor and the county executive, and my theme is pretty consistent. Our successes as a county, as a city, as a university – these are not mutually exclusive. We all need to succeed together. I think we all share the vision of an energized community, both on campus and throughout the region.

I want students to come here from our local high schools, but also from afar – and I want them to stay here. I want them to be part of our business and arts community. I want them to be part of our fabric. I want them to help build what we need to build here. So, I think we share that vision, and I think there's a renewed energy and hope in our area. I just want UA to continue to be a part of that. I want UA to be integral in that effort, a part of that conversation – to be both a supporter and supported. It takes a village, right?

Like any institution, we have issues to address. And I say to people, I can't fix all the problems, but we – faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, students, our community and more – we can fix them.

**ALM:** Our last question relates to the focus on practical skills and experiential learning. That's obviously something

we focus on heavily in the law school, and it's a priority across UA's campus. What is your perspective on these opportunities?

**RJN:** As a businessperson, I always felt that the students who came in with outside experience fared the best, both in terms of short-term and long-term employment. When I was dean of the College of Business, I wanted internships to be a graduation requirement. That's easier said than done. So, we modified the idea, and incoming students will need to complete activities and tasks in what we now call the Experience Guarantee. In putting together the list of choices that can fulfill the requirement, we realized there are dozens of ways students can participate in experiential learning.

When I became president, I wanted to bring that same opportunity, that same

mindset, of giving students experience and something they can only gain here as part of their University of Akron experience. We recently announced a partnership with the Cleveland Browns. There are two pieces of this partnership. There is what I'll call the "commercial" aspect of the partnership, which is great. It includes signage and other marketing aspects like that and it's always good to have your name out there. It also includes use of their facilities to host events, tickets to games, which we can use to engage with alumni and donors to raise additional funds for scholarships and programming. But the biggest selling point for me with this partnership is a robust set of opportunities for our students to engage in practical skills and experiences with the Browns organization.

The Browns take a good number of interns every year – and not just

interns in one particular facet – but interns in areas that touch all of our colleges, whether it's arts or business, law or science, all of them. I wanted to invest in that and in developing those opportunities. Whether it's an internship, a senior capstone project or a specific research project, I wanted to give our students an opportunity to experience something that they couldn't experience anywhere else but here at UA. It's about trying to give them immersive opportunities to transform. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, UA is able to invest in these specialized student opportunities to help give greater meaning and experience as part of the educational process.

## PRESIDENT NEMER TAKES THE STAND

### Best advice for law students:

*Be prepared.*

### What was your favorite law school class and who was the professor?

*Contracts with Malina Coleman*

### Can't miss place in Akron:

*Stan Hywet Hall and Gardens*

### Favorite place on UA's campus:

*Anywhere there are students!*

### What was one of your first jobs

### and what was the main lesson you took away from it?

*I was a janitor, and I learned that earning money takes hard work.*

### Dream vacation:

*I'd like to go to Bali – I want to see if the water really looks like it does in pictures!*

### Favorite board game:

*Scrabble*

### What's one song you just have to sing along to?

*Our Alma Mater!*

### Name a mentor who has played a significant role in your life:

*I'm lucky – I've had an awful lot of folks who inspired me, encouraged me, motivated me, mentored me. I couldn't say just one. My hope is that I can give it back to at least one or two people along the way. I'll paraphrase something I've read – success isn't just about what you inspire others to achieve.*



# AKRON LAW HEADS TO IRELAND, SOUTH AFRICA, AND BOTSWANA



Students from Akron Law pose in Dingle club jerseys at a Gaelic Football Match where their Irish Professor Cahill's son Patrick made his senior team debut.



Students and faculty at the Constitutional Court in South Africa



Alex Manifold, Dylan Price, and Patrick Demicco next to Eask Tower overlooking the entrance to Dingle Bay.



Deena Tannert poses with a rhino at the Kruger National Park in South Africa

While most of our University of Akron School of Law students enjoyed summer internships across the country, two groups of students led by Akron Law faculty had a more global experience this year. Akron Law has a rich tradition of study abroad programs, and summer 2024 debuted new destinations for our law students as they ventured to Ireland, to South Africa, and Botswana, in May. Coming soon, Akron Law students will also have the opportunity to travel to Peru with Professor Patrick Gaughan.

## IRELAND

Although Professor Dana Cole has taught in the study abroad program through another law school since 2015 and often brought Akron Law students to Dingle, Ireland, the summer of 2024 was the first time that the program was facilitated by Akron Law. Students spent two weeks taking courses in Comparative Criminal Law and European Union Law taught by both Professor Cole and Professor Dermot Cahill, who serves as the examiner in European

law for foreign lawyers at the Solicitors' Law School, the Law Society and as external examiner in EU law for the Barristers Law School, The King's Inns. In addition to the time spent in the classroom, students had the opportunity to be immersed in the rich culture of Ireland with Cole and their classmates.

"Tourists visit sites, take pictures and buy souvenirs – and there's nothing wrong with that," Cole said. Travelers settle in, get to know the people and become immersed in the culture. This transformative program gives students the opportunity to be travelers – not tourists – in a land where beauty, serenity and laughter are wrapped up in myth and legend. Ireland is a place like no other."

Dylan Price '24, who attended this summer's trip, said "Learning about the European Union, particularly the interplay between the Member States and the EU, has given me a much better understanding of our own Constitutional system, both in its forward-thinking brilliance as well as the pitfalls that have been addressed with the evolution of the EU system."

## SOUTH AFRICA AND BOTSWANA

Also in its inaugural year was Akron Law's study abroad opportunity in South Africa and Botswana, led by Professor Mark Schultz and Visiting

Professor Chris Behan of Southern Illinois University School of Law. Both Schultz and Behan previously led a version of this trip together, but this was the first opportunity for Akron Law's students to join the trip. Before leaving, students took a 3-credit hour intersession course where they learned about the history, culture, legal systems, economic development and natural resource management of the two countries. The classes included virtual guest lectures from South Africa and Botswana, and relevant films. Once in Africa, the trip started in Johannesburg, followed by five days in Gaborone, Botswana, then back to Johannesburg before heading to South Africa's Kruger National Park for a safari, and then the last stop in Cape Town.

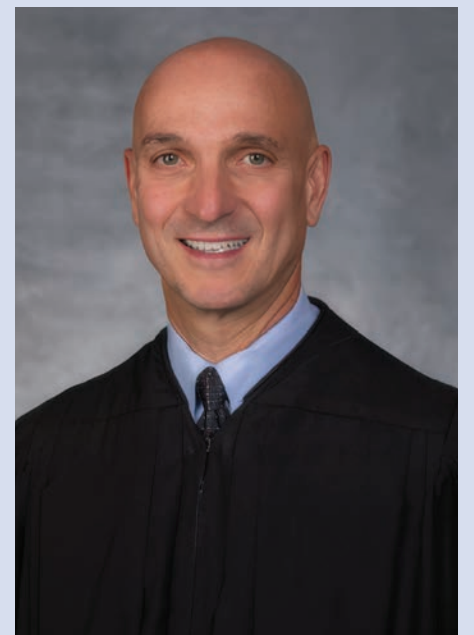
Part-time evening student, Deena Tannert '24 attended this summer's trip, and said, "This course provided a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, allowing me to take part in a non-traditional learning experience as a very non-traditional law student. I am forever grateful for the knowledge and experience I gained abroad and truly believe everyone should jump on this opportunity. From the various courts, historic sites, the journey of Nelson Mandela, and natural beauty the countries have to offer—yes, the safaris were phenomenal—nothing compares! In the words of Nelson Mandela, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'"

# FOSTERING STUDENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Akron Law's goal is to produce practice-ready professionals who are prepared to succeed in a competitive legal market. While students receive a top-notch education in the classroom, gain hands-on legal training and learn to exercise sound legal judgment, many students want more professional development opportunities and training during their time in law school. Employers have also expressed their enthusiasm for a program that provides more opportunities for future lawyers to develop their professional identities. And, with the adoption of American Bar Association Standard 303(b)(3), law schools now must provide substantial professional development opportunities to students. Professionalism training includes, but is not limited to, the knowledge, skills, values, morals, goals and personality traits considered foundational to successful legal practice.

During Orientation Week for the 2024-25 academic year, incoming students kicked off their professionalism training with a lecture from John J. Russo, judge of the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. Having served as the administrative and presiding judge of that court, as well as the president of the National Association for Presiding Judges and Court Executive Officers, Russo's presentation focused largely on effective leadership.

Students came away from



Judge Russo, Fall 2024 1L Professionalism Speaker

the event with an understanding of servant leadership, leading through change, purpose-driven strategy, maintaining an attitude toward continuous learning and the importance of a balanced life. Throughout the academic year, students will have many more opportunities for professional development including The Constitutional Law Center's Constitution Day program, a Federal Bar Association networking event, a professionalism roundtable on Civil Discourse as a Legal Professional co-hosted by Akron Bar Young Lawyers and Senior Lawyers, the Miller Becker Center for Professional Responsibility's Fall Lecture with keynote speaker Professor Susan Fortney, and a series of events hosted by Akron Law's Office of Career Services.

# BUCKINGHAM LECTURE SERIES

“AI Legal Insights – A Closer Look at a Powerful Tool,” was the timely topic addressed by two panels of attorneys in the third annual Buckingham Leadership Series lecture, held Sept. 10, 2024, in the University of Akron School of Law’s Brennan Courtroom.

The first panel, featuring Heather Steele '19, an associate attorney at Buckingham, and David Myers, a Buckingham partner, focused on how attorneys can advise their clients on all things AI. It was moderated by Buckingham partner Andrew Stebbins.

Myers started out the panel with a discussion of which federal agencies are trying to regulate AI. Thus far, the three agencies with the biggest impact have been the Federal Trade Commission, Department of Labor and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Steele said she sees some inherent risks when companies incorporate AI into products or hiring practices. She talked extensively about a case in the Northern District of California that is tackling this as a matter of first impression. The case, *Mobley v. Workday*, was brought by an individual who was



Introductions from Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen



Second panel moderated by Buckingham Partner David Myers and included panelists Andrew Stebbins, Dominic Frisina, and Lucas Murray '14.

screened out of over 200 positions and sued the software developer Workday for employment discrimination. Currently in the discovery phase, the outcome of *Mobley v. Workday* will be impactful for the use of technology in hiring.

The second panel focused on considerations of when an attorney can use AI in their own practice, considerations, and pitfalls. The panel was moderated by Myers and included panelists Andrew Stebbins, Dominic Frisina, and Lucas Murray, '14, who are also Buckingham partners

The panel talked about the use of AI tools for attorneys focusing in litigation, intellectual property, and mergers and acquisitions. Murray spoke highly of Kira, an AI contract review software from Litera that can assist attorneys in breaking down the terms of multiple contracts—for example, the software can find all of the notice of consent provisions and incorporate them into a spreadsheet for review by an attorney. Murray said, “It doesn’t mean we can only rely on what it’s providing. We’re still the ones who are evaluating what those terms are from that output, but it expedites that process for us in the deal-world.”

The bottom line, according to the participants in the lecture, is that attorneys do need to know enough about the subject matter to determine if AI is providing quality information. The insights and judgment developed by an attorney after years of practice cannot be replicated by AI, and there are numerous cases where attorneys have faced sanctions or disciplinary action due to submitting pleadings containing inaccurate information generated by AI. “AI cannot replace a lawyer. It’s simply making our jobs more efficient,” said Frisina.



First panel of Heather Steele '19 and David Myers moderated by Andrew Stebbins.

# MEET THE INCOMING AKRON LAW CLASS OF 2024



The Class of 2024 takes their Oath of Professionalism at House Three Thirty in Akron.

The University of Akron School of Law welcomed 151 new students during fall 2024 Orientation Week, including a well-attended welcome reception for the students and their families on Aug. 19th.

The main focus of the event, held at House Three Thirty in Akron, was the administration of the Oath of Professionalism by Magistrate Judge Amanda Knapp, of the U. S. District Court for the northern district of Ohio. In her remarks, Knapp shared several assumptions she made when she started law school, and what she learned along the way. For instance, she “assumed the greatest resources would be the highly qualified faculty and staff.” While she acknowledged the wonderful faculty and staff at Akron Law, she encouraged the incoming class of students to connect and collaborate with their peers. She found the rich variety of backgrounds in the student body and the support the students provided to each other to be

the greatest resource in her law school career.

Knapp also thought her most important learning experiences would take place in a law school classroom. Instead, she shared, her most challenging and rewarding experiences took place in her work with the legal clinics at her school. Knapp also encouraged students to take as much advantage as possible of networking opportunities, as those opportunities are critical to finding jobs, developing business and engendering public trust.

This year’s new students include 146 first-year J.D. students and five two-year international J.D. students. Of this group, 122 started in the fall, 26 started in January, and three started in May. Six of the incoming J.D. students came via Akron Law’s 3+3 partnerships with several undergraduate institutions, through which they will earn both a bachelor’s and J.D. in just six years. The class also includes 13 students pursuing a Master of Studies in Law, which is now a fully online program.

The 151 students range in age from 18 to 63 with an average age of 27. The class consists of slightly more women than men. Thirty-three students are from outside of Ohio, coming from Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington state, and West Virginia – and the nations of Canada, India, and Jamaica. The students represent 58 different undergraduate institutions.

The entering class includes students from a wide range of undergraduate majors and socioeconomic backgrounds. Thirty-five of them are first-generation college students and 121 of them are first-generation law students.

## IP PRO J.D. PROGRAM

The University of Akron IP Center presents the IP Pro J.D. program, designed to launch students into rewarding careers as intellectual property professionals.

This program enhances the traditional IP certificate by focusing on experiential learning and mentorship, ensuring students become effective IP lawyers.

Admission is by application only, offering personalized mentoring, hands-on training, and a comprehensive education in IP law and business. Students can start building their IP careers before law school even begins.

Interested in mentoring a student in the IP Pro J.D. Program? Contact Professor Mark Schultz at [mschultz@uakron.edu](mailto:mschultz@uakron.edu).

# AKRON LAW WELCOMES TWO NEW INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FACULTY MEMBERS



Douglas Park

**D**oug Park joined the Akron Law faculty in spring 2024 as a visiting assistant research professor. Park assists Professor Mark F. Schultz and Professor Emily Michiko Morris with intellectual property research and policy work. Park's focus is on patent law, particularly as it relates to the pharmaceutical industry and healthcare innovation, but his passion is in promoting creativity and innovation in all fields. Park also assists students with research and writing, moot court practice, and coming to

terms with the world. Prior to joining the UA Center for Intellectual Property & Technology Law, Park earned his B.A. in physics from Indiana University, Bloomington, and his J.D. from Penn State Dickinson Law. He has externed for the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, and Southwest Pennsylvania Legal Aid. During his time at Penn State Dickinson, Doug worked with the school's International Programs in recruiting students, easing matriculation, and organizing school events.

**J**ess Miers joined the Akron Law faculty in fall 2024 as a visiting assistant professor of law. A lawyer and technologist, Miers focuses on the intersection of law and technology, with recent research and scholarship centered on Generative AI. Miers is recognized as an expert in U.S. online

intermediary liability law and has extensively written and spoken about and taught issues such as online speech and Section 230, content moderation, intellectual property and cybercrime.

Previously, she served as senior counsel and senior copyright counsel for Chamber of Progress, a progressive tech trade association based in Washington, D.C., where,



Jess Miers

among many things, Miers helped build and lead the organization's recent AI initiative, "Generate and Create." During her time at Chamber of Progress, Miers

authored numerous appellate amicus briefs, including a brief in the recent Supreme Court cases NetChoice & CCIA v. Moody & Paxton. Before joining Chamber of Progress, she was a Senior Government Affairs & Public Policy Analyst at Google, where she oversaw state and federal content policy portfolios and collaborated with litigation teams on key online speech issues currently under review by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Miers earned her J. D. from Santa Clara University School of Law in 2021, where she also received the Tech Edge J.D. Certificate. She holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from George Mason University and previously worked as a software engineer in Northern Virginia. Throughout her legal education, Miers worked at various organizations, including Twitter, TechFreedom, The UCLA Technology Law and Policy Institute and Google, cultivating a deep expertise in Internet law and policy.



Participants at a UAIP academic-industry biopharma roundtable, jointly held with Mackenzie University in Sao Paolo.

Professor Mark Schultz emphasized the significance of these endeavors: "We are thrilled to be building an international network of scholars and policy experts who are collaborating on research to design national IP systems that better foster life sciences innovation and improve access to medicine. UAIP scholars have had the privilege of engaging with policymakers in several countries, highlighting the vital role of robust IP protection

in nurturing thriving national economies and fostering innovation in the life sciences."

This initiative has positioned UAIP as a key player in shaping global IP policy, particularly in the rapidly evolving biopharmaceutical landscape.

The momentum shows no signs of slowing. UAIP's upcoming agenda includes:

- A three-day event series at the National Congress of Brazil in December, collaborating with legislative caucuses to

- discuss proposed IP legislation.
- Planned events in New Delhi, India; Kuwait City, Kuwait; and Buenos Aires, Argentina, further expanding UAIP's global footprint.
- A UAIP-hosted international biopharma academic roundtable in Washington D.C., in January, bringing together thought leaders from around the world.



Professors Schultz and Morris in front of the National Congress in Brasilia, Brazil's capital city, after meeting with Brazilian Senators, Deputies, and their staff.



UAIP Professors Emily Morris and Michael Doane at a UAIP academic-industry biopharma roundtable, jointly held with Tecnológico de Monterrey in Mexico City.

## PROFESSOR MICHAEL DOANE TESTIFIES BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE



Professor Michael Doane testifying before the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

**P**rofessor Michael Doane testified on July 23 during a House Judiciary Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and

the Internet that examined intellectual property (IP) litigation in the United States.

The hearing, "IP Litigation and the U.S. International Trade Commission," focused

mainly on the role of the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) as a forum for adjudicating IP cases. Doane said that the debate on patent enforcement being addressed by the Committee concerns the type and scope of relief that should be available to innovators for infringement of their patents. As the ITC has the power to block infringing products for importation into the U.S., many large importers would like to limit its authority. Doane felt that he was the pro-patent/pro-ITC voice on the panel.

Before teaching at Akron Law, Doane was previously

general counsel at Kent Displays, Inc., in Kent, Ohio. Prior to that, he was principal at Miles & Stockbridge P.C., in Tysons Corner, Va. Earlier, he was a partner at the Washington, D.C., law firm Adduci, Mastriani & Schaumberg LLP. He specialized in international trade and intellectual property litigation.

When asked how he felt about his testimony before a House subcommittee, Doane said, "It was a very interesting experience and oddly enough I enjoyed it. It was very fun."

## UAIP INTERNATIONAL BIOPHARMA ROUNDTABLES: FOSTERING GLOBAL INNOVATION

**T**he University of Akron Intellectual Property Center (UAIP) is making waves on the global stage, spearheading a series of academic-industry roundtables and policy forums that explore the crucial intersection of intellectual property (IP)

and the biopharmaceutical industry. In the past two years, UAIP has emerged as a thought leader in this space, with its scholars traversing the globe to facilitate important discussions and forge international connections.

UAIP scholars Mark Schultz and Emily Michiko Morris

have been at the forefront of this initiative, organizing and presenting at high-profile events across four continents. Their itinerary reads like a world tour, with stops in:

- São Paulo and Brasília, Brazil
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Jakarta, Indonesia

- Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Geneva, Switzerland, and
- Washington D.C.

These events have not only showcased UAIP's expertise but have also served as a platform for fostering global collaboration and dialogue on critical IP issues in the biopharmaceutical sector.

# MEET THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Akron Law Intellectual Property Advisory Council (IPAC) is a body of experts from around the world that offers advice and guidance to Akron Law and its students. The Council is comprised of more than 50 IP professionals seeking to advance Akron Law's IP Center and programming, foster relationships with businesses, law firms and governments, and assist students with career planning. While many council members are based close to the law school in Northeast Ohio, we have multiple members around the country and outside the United States, including Washington, D.C., California, Georgia, Florida, Oregon, Illinois, Canada and South Korea.

## JUDICIAL MEMBERS

**The Honorable Alice Batchelder '71**  
Judge, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit

**The Honorable James Gwin '79**  
Judge, United States District Court Northern District of Ohio

**The Honorable Paul R. Michel**  
(Retired) United States Circuit Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

**The Honorable Ryan T. Holte**  
Judge, The United States Court of Federal Claims

**The Honorable Robert L. Kinder '03**  
Administrative Patent Judge, Patent Trial and Appeal Board at the United States Patent and Trademark Office

## GENERAL MEMBERS

**Elyse Ball**  
Vice President of Programming, Bounce Innovation Hub

**Noel M. Cook**  
Partner, Co-Chair, Hanson Bridgett LLP

**Edward Crooks '02**  
Vice President and Executive Counsel of Intellectual Property, Diebold Nixdorf

**John Demarco '91**  
Shareholder, Young, Basile, Hanlon & MacFarlane, P.C.

**Malisheia Douglas '08**  
Of Counsel, Squire Patton Boggs

**Kevin M. Dunn '90**  
Chief Counsel of Intellectual Property, The Lincoln Electric Company

**Roger D. Emerson '86**  
Managing Partner, Emerson Thomson Bennet, LLC

**Nicole Endejann '02**  
Partner, DLA Piper

**Stephanie J. Felicetty '03**  
Associate General Counsel - Intellectual Property Counsel, University of Chicago

**Eryn Ace Fuhrer '00**  
Senior Intellectual Property Counsel, Lubrizol Corporation

**Angela Gott '07**  
Partner, Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP

**Stephen Gombita '12**  
IP Corporate Counsel, DuPont

**June Guo '17**  
In-House Counsel, AbbVie

**Bruce J. Hendricks**  
(Retired) Associate General Counsel of Intellectual Property, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

**Christopher Hilker '06**  
Assistant General Counsel, Intellectual Property at BASF

**John Hornickel**  
Sole Member, The Hornickel Law Firm LLC

**Andre Iancu**  
Partner, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

**John Kastelic**  
(Retired) Vice President and Chief Intellectual Property Counsel, Eaton Corporation

**Tom Kingsbury '97**  
Chief Counsel, Intellectual Property for Bridgestone Americas, Inc.

**Jeannette L. Knudsen '98**  
Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of Intellectual Property, The J.M. Smucker Company

**Hsin Lin**  
Associate General Counsel, Asia Pacific at The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

**Matthew Mottice '07**  
Senior Corporate Counsel, Intellectual Property at STERIS

**Bill Nabors '06**  
Intellectual Property Counsel, TTI Floor Care North America

**Scott Oldham '91**  
Partner, Hahn Loeser

**Tim Parker '07**  
Associate General Counsel, Caterpillar Inc.

**Michael Prewitt '05**  
Division General Counsel, Nestle USA

**Iken Sans '11**  
Intellectual Property Counsel and Contracts Manager, Lubrizol Corporation

**Jason Strobel '08**  
Assistant General Counsel, Parker Hannifin

**Daniel A. Thompson**  
Attorney, Emerson Thomson Bennett, LLC

**Philip Warrick '01**  
Counsel, Irell & Manella LLP

**Mack Webner '68**  
(Retired) Senior Counsel, Sughrue Mion PLLC

**Brandon White '02**  
Partner, Perkins Coie LLP

**Daniel J. Whitman '99**  
V.P. Law, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, Parker-Hannifin Corporation

**Barry Winkler**  
Intellectual Property Counsel, John Deere

**Jon Wood**  
Intellectual Property Attorney, Wood IP Law

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Director, Intellectual Property Program & Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company Endowed Chair in IP Law

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**Jeff Samuels**  
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**Michael Doane**  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

**Jess Miers**  
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**Douglas Park**  
Visiting Research Assistant Professor

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Dean of the College of Engineering and Polymer Science

## EMERITUS MEMBERS

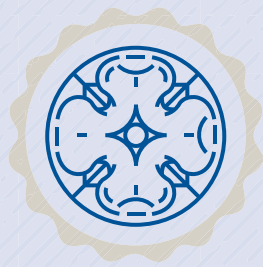
**Richard Gilbey**  
Crossbench Member of House of Lords and Technology Corporate Development Consultant

**Ralph Oman**  
Former U.S. Register of Copyrights

**Rochelle Seide '83**  
Managing Director, Shadow Lake Group Inc

## 2025 IP SYMPOSIUM: SAVE THE DATE

Save the Date for The University of Akron School of Law's annual Intellectual Property Symposium on **March 24, 2025**



## GREETINGS FROM THE SCHOOL OF LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The Law Alumni Association Board of Directors kicked off the 2024-25 academic year with its first meeting on Aug. 7, 2024. The Board welcomed new member Lori Shells Simmons '91.

This year's committees are Engagement, co-chaired by Board Vice President Monica Andress and Lauren Zidones; Governance and Strategic Planning, chaired by Board President Casey Davis; Nominating, co-chaired by Alex Quay and Blake Gerney; and Special Events, chaired by Michael Pfahl.

We still have a few vacant alumni director positions. Our community has always been a source of immense pride, and it is heartening to see the continued impact our alumni make in the legal field and beyond. The strength of our association lies in the collective achievements and contributions of its members, and we are eager to build upon this foundation. If you are a School of Law alumnus and have a desire to serve as a volunteer, please contact Alex Quay ([aquay@bdblaw.com](mailto:aquay@bdblaw.com)) or Blake Gerney ([brgerney@bmdllc.com](mailto:brgerney@bmdllc.com)). The Board meets five times per year in August, October, December, February, and April.

I am excited to share some updates and upcoming events. Please plan to join us for our holiday reception on Dec. 16, 2024, from 5-7 p.m. in the Law School Atrium. If you want to escape Ohio in February, plan to attend the 2025 Akron Law Winter Institute, which takes place in Naples, Fla. Feb. 5-7 at LaPlaya Beach & Golf Resort. See the inside cover of this magazine for program and registration information. Finally, the Board is planning a fundraiser to benefit the Law Alumni Association Scholarship Fund. You will receive an invitation in the mail this winter. In the interim, always feel free to donate to the Law School (<https://www.uakron.edu/law/giving/>).

Please also mark your calendars for the annual Outstanding Alumni Awards Breakfast on April 10, 2025, from 7:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. in the Student Union Ballroom, followed by a complimentary continuing legal education program in the Brennan Courtroom at the School of Law from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Please contact Willy Kollman ([wrk1@uakron.edu](mailto:wrk1@uakron.edu)) to submit a nominee.

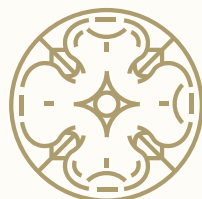
On behalf of the Board, I would also like to welcome Willy, assistant vice president, alumni relations, and the executive director of the UA Alumni Association. With the addition of Willy, we thank Andreas Ellis who previously assisted the Board and who remains a dedicated member of the School of Law team, but who is now focusing on fundraising efforts. Our professional staff is instrumental in our continued success and ability to better serve Akron Law and our alumni.

We value your feedback and encourage you to share any suggestions or ideas you may have. Your input is instrumental in shaping the future direction of our association and ensuring that we continue to meet the needs and interests of our alumni. Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to our alma mater. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working together to advance the legacy of Akron Law. Thank you!

Casey J. Davis, *President*

### ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL

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Mackenzie Syska '25  
*Student Director*

## CLASS NOTES

### 2020s

David Randolph '20, has been inducted to the 2024 Ohio State Bar Foundation Fellows class.

ShaRay Lewis '20, was recognized with an Ohio State Bar Foundation Community Service Award for Attorneys 40 and under.



ShaRay Lewis '20

### 2010s

Christopher Teodosio '12, joined Tucker Ellis LLP as counsel in estate planning, trust and probate litigation.

Tonya Rogers '13, a partner with the Baker, Dublikar law firm in North Canton, is one of this year's Stark Twenty under 40! honorees. The award recognizes young professionals in Stark County.

Garrett Brown '14, general counsel of Employers Health, is also one of this year's Twenty under 40! honorees.

Nicole Gosset-Roxbury '16, joined Harris Sliwoski LLP.



Christopher Teodosio '12

### 2000s

Lidia V. Carr '00, joins Wickens Herzer Panza Co. in the estate planning and probate department.

Dr. Fang Liu '02, joined Panitch Schwarze Belisario & Nadel LLP as a partner.

Stephanie Adams '06, has been selected as a recipient of the 2024 Women, Influence & Power in Law Awards by Corporate Counsel. The WIPL awards honor in-house and law firm women leaders and allies who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the empowerment of women in law.

Nicholas Capotosto '03, joined Dinsmore and Shohl LLP.

Tenille Kaus '05, was appointed to the Shaker Heights City Council.

Aaron Howell '06, has joined Tucker Ellis LLP in Cleveland as Counsel in White Collar Criminal Defense & Corporate Investigations.



Dr. Fang Liu '02



Nicholas Capotosto '03



Aaron Howell '06

### 1990s

William (Bill) Hall '90, was named a 2024 BTI Client Service All-Star. Hall was one of only 296 lawyers nationwide and the only lawyer in Oklahoma to be named.

David Dingwell '92, presented an illustrated talk called "Dusk to Dawn" at the Massillon Museum's Brown Bag Lunch in June 2024.

Christina Lane '95, presented at the 45th Annual LRP's National Institute Conference in May 2024 in Savannah, Ga..

Robert Mullen '97, was named president and CEO of Aultman Hospital Foundation in March 2024. He has served in various roles at Aultman since 2009 and was previously the senior vice president of strategy and chief legal officer.

Judge James J. Ong '97, was awarded the 2024 Alumnus Achievement Award by The Claymont Foundation. He is a 1989 Claymont graduate.

Lisa Donato Eschbacher '98, was awarded Alumnus of the Year by The Claymont Foundation. She is a 1987 Claymont graduate.



David Dingwell '92



Christina Lane '95

### 1980s

Theodore Laszlo '81, joined Clark Hill PLC as a member after the international law firm combined with the Colorado-based firm LaszloLaw.

Daniel Letson '86, joined The Youngstown State University Foundation Board of Trustees.

John R. Owen '83, joined Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. as Counsel and member of the firm's Estates and Trusts and Tax practice area.



John R. Owen '83

## 1970s

**Raul Mendoza '72**, was honored by the Florida Bar for 50 years of law practice.

**Lawrence Richards '76**, joined the Youngstown State University Foundation Board of Trustees.

**Hon. Patricia Cosgrove '78**, received the Sir Thomas More Award in recognition of her distinguished career as an attorney and judge in Summit County.

## In Memoriam



**A. Samuel Oddi**, a respected professor at The University of Akron School of Law since 2000, passed away on Sept. 11, 2024, in McMurray, Pa.. Oddi specialized in intellectual property law, patent law and jurisprudence. He earned his B.S. in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University, J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh, and LL.M. from George Washington University. Prior to his tenure at The University of Akron, he taught at Northern Illinois University and was a visiting professor at several institutions, including UC Davis, Ohio State and Pittsburgh. His career also included roles as a patent attorney at Westinghouse Electric and Rockwell International, and as a senior legal officer at the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva. Oddi was admitted to practice in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and before several federal courts. He is survived by his wife, Lorys Oddi, and his loving family.

*\*A longer tribute to Samuel Oddi will appear in the next issue.*



**Kristin Marie Sacco Smith '92**, passed away on July 7, 2024, after a 6-year battle with breast cancer. She served as a law clerk for the U. S. District Court for the northern district of West Virginia under Judge W. Craig Broadwater. She was also an assistant attorney general for the state of Ohio.

**John P. Lazar '82**, passed away on May 15, 2024. He was a member of the Barberton City Council for eight years and served as a lector and member of the parish council at Saints Philip and James Catholic Church.

**Wade Smith '81**, passed away on Mar. 12, 2024. Smith began a general practice in Mahoning County in 1981, with a primary focus on probate. Alongside his practice, he served as an assistant prosecuting attorney for the Mahoning County Children Services Board. He later became a magistrate for Mahoning County Common Pleas Court Judge Maureen Cronin. Smith also lectured in the criminal justice department at Youngstown State University and instructed in Kent State University's corrections training program for many years. A member of the Ohio State and Mahoning County bar associations, Smith previously chaired the Mahoning County Bar Association Membership Committee. He also served as the 47th Precinct leader in Boardman for the Democratic Party. Additionally, Smith was an active member of the former Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where he held the position of church council president multiple times.

**Stuart W. Barnes**, passed away on May 11, 2024, after a short illness. Barnes worked in the U.S. Treasury Department and audited college courses during his retirement.



**Michael P. Rich '70**, passed away Apr. 14, 2024. Rich served as the law director for the City of Campbell for many years and was also an assistant prosecutor for Mahoning County. Following his retirement, he joined his family's title company in Fort Myers, Fla..



**Amy K. Kappaz '97**, passed away on July 31, 2024. As a former registered nurse, she specialized in healthcare law for 27 years. Kappaz served as vice chair of the Health Law Policy Coordinating Committee of the ABA Health Law Section and served on the editorial board of the ESource. She was also part of the Health Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, and the American Health Lawyers Association. Amy is survived by her family including her husband of 21 years, David Kappaz and her son Joey Kappaz.

## CONNECT

Have you recently moved or changed jobs? If so, please submit your news (along with a photo) and update your contact information on the Alumni page of the Akron Law website.

[uakron.edu/law/alum](http://uakron.edu/law/alum)



The University of Akron  
School of Law

18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AKRON LAW  
WINTER INSTITUTE

Feb. 5-7, 2025, Naples, Florida

For details, visit [uakron.edu/law/alum/winter-institute](http://uakron.edu/law/alum/winter-institute)

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## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

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[uakron.edu/law/alum/winter-institute](http://uakron.edu/law/alum/winter-institute)

**Early registration before Jan. 3, 2025: \$550/person**

**Registration after Jan. 3, 2025: \$600/person**

**All registrations must be received by: Jan. 20, 2025**

## Welcome Reception

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 | 6 P.M.

## Program

12 CLE hours, including professional conduct hours.

For more information contact Robin Lombardi at [robin4@uakron.edu](mailto:robin4@uakron.edu) or **330-972-7246**.

For registration questions contact Pleshae McPhee at [pmpcpee@uakron.edu](mailto:pmpcpee@uakron.edu) or **330-972-6363**.

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