

SPRING 2024

Akron Law MAGAZINE



Celebrating Women at Akron Law

Students step up with
scholarly writing

Study abroad program
set to expand

Outstanding alumni
awards

Dear Alumni,

As we step into the vibrant season of spring, it's a pleasure to connect with all of you again at events and through this publication. Spring is a time of excitement, joy, and is also bittersweet for some at Akron Law, as third year students prepare to graduate and take the bar exam. Meanwhile, first- and second-year students are looking forward to summer clerkships, classes and study abroad programs. While we look to the future, we are also celebrating our past. In this edition of our alumni magazine, we're thrilled to highlight and celebrate the remarkable contributions of the notable women who have graced the halls of Akron Law.

Throughout our history, Akron Law has been home to trailblazing women who have made indelible marks in the legal field. From breaking barriers to championing justice, their dedication and perseverance paved the way for future generations. Their stories inspire us and remind us of the importance of diversity and inclusion in the legal profession.

In this issue you will also find stories about our successful Intellectual Property symposium, our new study abroad partnerships, our students' successes, and much more. Additionally, I'm excited to share the latest updates from the Miller Becker Center for Professional Responsibility. As a cornerstone of Akron Law, the center continues to uphold the highest ethical standards in legal practice through its research, education, and outreach initiatives. Its impact resonates not only within our legal community but also far beyond, shaping the ethical landscape of the profession. We are incredibly lucky and excited to have Assistant Professor Heather Zirke join us to lead the Center.

As we honor the achievements of Akron Law's remarkable women and our students, let us also recommit ourselves to fostering an inclusive environment where every voice is heard and every dream is within reach. Together, we can continue to build upon the rich legacy of Akron Law and shape a brighter future for generations to come. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to your alma mater. Your achievements and contributions are a testament to the enduring spirit of Akron Law.

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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AKRON LAW LAUNCHES FULLY ONLINE M.S.L. PROGRAM

The fully online Master of Studies in Law program provides maximum flexibility for students pursuing this two-year legal degree.



The University of Akron (UA) School of Law has converted its Master of Studies in Law (M.S.L.) from a primarily in-person experience to a fully online program beginning fall 2024.

The M.S.L. is an attractive alternative to the traditional three-year Juris Doctor (J.D.) for professionals whose work involves law but who have no intention to practice law. The M.S.L. provides a broad understanding of legal principles and how to analyze and navigate legal issues.

The degree can be earned in one academic year going full-time or completed over several years on a part-time basis. Akron Law M.S.L. students must satisfactorily complete 12 credits of a core curriculum and 18 elective credits following either a business or technology track. The required courses will be the same as those taken by J.D. students and will be taught by the same Akron Law faculty. All classes will be delivered asynchronously. "Our M.S.L. degree is for

anyone with a bachelor's degree or higher whose field involves law or regular interaction with lawyers," Akron Law Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen said. "Whether you are just beginning your career, or you're seeking to take it to the next level, the Master of Studies in Law degree could be right for you. We believe the flexibility of the fully online program will appeal to a wide range of individuals."

Zach Scheetz completed an M.S.L. at Akron Law in December 2023. Two months later, he started a new job at Youngstown-based Cafaro, a major shopping mall company, where he handles litigation and leasing matters. "I started down the

traditional J.D. law school path, but then found the M.S.L. program and realized what I really wanted was to go into business," he said. "It's a great program. It gives you so much confidence to have that understanding of corporate law, contracts and insurance law that I acquired. It's helped me in more ways than I could have imagined."

Scheetz was in the traditional in-person program, but he sees the advantages of a fully online structure.

"I think flexibility would be the biggest advantage to having a fully online M.S.L. program. It will allow students to create a schedule that works best for them without having to worry about the

time spent driving or their ability to make it to campus to attend class," he said. "Legal expertise is a significant benefit for a wide range of careers in many sectors," said Alisa Benedict O'Brien, Akron Law assistant dean for career services, strategic initiatives and external affairs. "Among the most popular are compliance, human resources, health care and government at the local, state and federal levels."

The M.S.L. does not qualify recipients to take the bar exam or practice law. Credits taken in the M.S.L. program are not transferable to the J.D.

Pending approval of the UA Board of Trustees

AKRON LAW EXPANDS 3+3 PARTNERSHIPS



Current Akron Law students from Youngstown State University include 1L Donovan Sheldon and 3Ls Kassie Seabolt, Dalton Earich and Nadine Jones. The expanded 3+3 agreement with YSU should attract even more YSU students in the future.

Akron Law's three plus three (3+3) partnership program continues to expand. Last September, the School announced a new agreement with Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. In December, Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne became a partner and in February, the existing 3+3 agreement with Youngstown State University (YSU) was expanded to enable more YSU students to participate.

Other schools with which Akron Law has a 3+3 partnership are The University of Akron (UA), Kent State University, Robert Morris University, University of Mount Union and Walsh University.

Last fall, UA opened a new 3+3 pathway via the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration (BAHA) degree. This route is aimed at students interested in health care law, including areas such as malpractice insurance, pharmaceutical patents, medical health records and HIPAA compliance. In addition to the BAHA students, UA undergraduates majoring in business law, economics, history, philosophy or political science are also eligible to participate in the 3+3 program.

As is the case with all the 3+3 partnerships, the goal is to provide a seamless, sequential path for highly qualified students to complete a baccalaureate degree and a J.D. degree in a total of six years instead of the traditional

seven. The students enter the job market a year earlier and save a year's worth of tuition, fees and living expenses, thereby lowering their debt load.

"The 3+3 program has proven to be a valuable pipeline for the Law School," said Barbara DiGiacomo, associate dean of administration and enrollment management. "Since we first admitted students through the 3+3 program in 2018, we've received 50 applications, admitted 35 and enrolled 32. All but one of the 32 have graduated or are on track to graduate in 2024. That tells you that the program is working for the students and for the School of Law," she said.

The 3+3 students come in with strong credentials. To be automatically admitted, students must have an LSAT at or above the 25th percentile of the previous year's entering class (and not below a 151) and an undergraduate GPA at or above the median of the previous year's entering class (usually in the 3.4 range). They also must be in good academic, financial and disciplinary standing at their undergraduate institution and satisfy the character and fitness standards required of all students admitted to Akron Law.

HEATHER ZIRKE NAMED MILLER BECKER CENTER DIRECTOR



Heather Zirke spent 16 years as general counsel and bar counsel for the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association.

Heather Zirke is the new director of the Joseph G. Miller and William C. Becker Center (MBC) for Professional Responsibility and assistant professor of law. Founded in 1993, the MBC is a nationally

recognized academic center dedicated to enhancing public trust and confidence in the legal profession and the judicial system. Zirke had served as interim director since the May 2023 retirement of long-time MBC director and

Emeritus Professor of Law John P. (Jack) Sahl. She has also been a senior lecturer at the School of Law, where she taught two sections of the professional responsibility course.

Zirke was previously principal of the Zirke Law Firm, concentrating in legal ethics, lawyer grievances and disciplinary defense. She will continue to do expert witness work and legal ethics consulting for small firms and solo practitioners.

Prior to entering private practice, Zirke spent 16 years as general counsel and bar counsel for the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) where she investigated and prosecuted lawyer misconduct, allegations of the unauthorized practice of law and bar admissions matters.

She has appeared before the Board of Professional Conduct, Board on Character and Fitness, Board on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, the Eighth District Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of Ohio. She is a member of the Supreme Court of Ohio's Proactive Management Based Regulation Committee

and previously served on the Court's Task Force on the Disciplinary System. She is a frequent speaker on matters of professional responsibility.

"I am thrilled that Heather has agreed to join us as the Miller Becker Center director and assistant professor of law," Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen said. "Heather brings a wealth of knowledge and practice experience in the areas of professional responsibility and ethics to our faculty, and I am excited to see her future plans for the Center unfold."

Zirke earned her bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace University, where she majored in English and religion. She earned her J.D. degree from Cleveland State University College of Law in 2002. She started her legal career as an assistant prosecutor for the city of Cleveland. She joined the CMBA in 2005 as an assistant counsel.

Zirke's reputation as a legal ethics expert extends beyond Ohio. In February, she was quoted in an article in the Texas Tribune about a Texas Supreme Court justice who didn't recuse himself from a sex abuse case that he had worked on earlier in his career.

FORMER PATENT OFFICE DIRECTOR CHIDES POLICYMAKERS FOR IP FAILINGS



Andrei Iancu, former director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (2017-2020), was the keynote speaker at the 2024 IP Symposium. Photo by Tim Fitzwater.

Keynote speaker Andrei Iancu, former director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), told the 125 attendees at the 26th annual University of Akron (UA) Symposium on Intellectual Property Law & Policy that a lack of appreciation in Congress for the importance of intellectual property (IP) rights threatens to undermine American innovation.

"Almost everyone recognizes that IP incentivizes innovation by protecting it," said Iancu, who is now an attorney with Sullivan & Cronwell LLP. "But critically important, it also

incentivizes the technology that builds upon the original innovation. It forces dynamic competition. If you don't understand that all these things are inextricably linked, then the whole thing breaks apart. And, unfortunately, that is where we are now."

As one example, he pointed to efforts to waive intellectual property rights around the world for COVID-19 vaccines.

"They didn't understand that without IP, those vaccines wouldn't have been created in the first place," he said. "Those investments would've never been made."

Iancu cited a new

assessment from the Council for Innovation Promotion of how effective the U.S. Congress as a whole and its individual members are at nurturing a strong national IP system.

"The biggest discovery is that a supermajority of members—70%—couldn't care less about IP," he shared. "They do nothing, pro or con."

So, while IP-intensive industries make up over 40% of U.S. GDP and 90% of the value of the S&P 500, only a very small percentage of bills introduced and considered over the last three congresses have been pro-IP, he said.

"Frankly, the courts and the PTAB (Patent Trial and Appeal Board) can be excused for having difficulty applying an 18th century statute to 21st century technology," Iancu said. "As brilliant as those guys were, they still did not anticipate DNA diagnostic testing, artificial intelligence, computer programming and the like. Congress cannot abdicate its responsibilities here."

Iancu recalled that when he spoke at the UA Symposium five years ago as director of USPTO, he said that the lower courts were interpreting certain Supreme Court decisions too broadly.

"That remains the case today," he said. "In fact, it's gotten worse since then."

He pointed to the Supreme Court's 2022 rejection of an axle-maker's bid to revive its patent on technology for quieting driveshaft noise

because the invention is based on a law of nature and therefore not eligible.

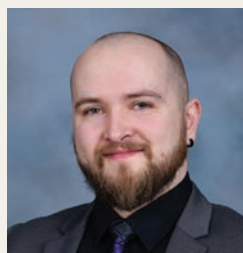
"That decision, in my opinion, is a fundamental failure of understanding of the patent system," he said. "The whole basis of engineering is for humans to use nature and transform it for practical uses. If you take this to its extreme, nothing would be eligible for a patent."

In addition to the keynote address, the full-day agenda included panels and speakers on topics including Developing Guidelines for Ethical and Effective Use of AI, Best Practices for Protecting Trade Secrets in World Where Non-Competes are Endangered, and Trademarks and Free Speech.

"We were delighted to have former USPTO director Iancu at this year's event along with our other great speakers and panels," said Professor Mark Schultz, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company chair in Intellectual Property Law and director of the Intellectual Property and Technology Law program.

"Our purpose in hosting the annual symposium is to provide a high-quality program that attracts IP law practitioners while giving our students the opportunity to learn from and network with them. We definitely achieved that again this year."

NEW FACULTY MEMBER



Douglas Park has joined the faculty as a visiting research assistant professor. He will be working with Professor Mark Schultz in the Center for Intellectual Property & Technology. He earned his Juris Doctor from Penn State Dickinson Law School last May. His undergraduate degree is in physics from Indiana University. During his time at Dickinson Law, he was active in various student organizations, including the Intellectual Property Society, the Asian-American Law Student Association, the Criminal Law Society and the International Law Society.

AKRON LAW LOOKS TO EXPAND STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM



The May-June 2024 study abroad program will visit Botswana and South Africa, including Cape Town, shown here.

As two groups of School of Law students prepare to depart in mid-May for study abroad programs in Ireland and South Africa-Botswana, students have been invited to express interest in potential trips to Helsinki, Finland, and Ireland this August; Hanoi and Hue, Vietnam, in January 2025; and Arequipa, Peru, in March 2025.

"These are all amazing opportunities to visit vastly different parts of the world," said Patrick Gaughan, assistant dean of global engagement and associate professor of law.

The Ireland program, which Professor Dana Cole has led for years, has been a University of Missouri-Kansas City Law program but is now exclusively for Akron Law students—as the other programs are (or will be).

The Africa trip will be led by Professor Mark Schultz, Goodyear Endowed Chair in Intellectual Property Law and director, Intellectual Property Law and Technology Program, and Christopher Behan, professor of law at Southern Illinois University. Activities will include visits to historic sites, courts and local attractions; meetings with officials; lectures from local lawyers and academics; and a three-day safari.

"Mark and Professor Behan have together led a version of this course and trip on three previous occasions and have each visited both countries several other times to lecture and teach," Gaughan said.

The program begins with five classroom days of a 3-credit summer intersession course in Akron taught by Schultz

and Behan. Students will learn about the history, culture, legal systems, economic development and natural resource management of the two countries. The classes will include guest lectures from South Africa and Botswana via Teams, and relevant films will be shown.

The group will spend three days in Johannesburg, the capital of South Africa, followed by five days in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana. They will return to Johannesburg for three days before heading to South Africa's Kruger National Park for a three-day safari. The last stop will be Cape Town, on the country's South Atlantic coast. Students will have free time to explore all three cities.

PRECURSOR PROGRAMS

As a precursor to the potential study abroad program in Peru, a limited number of students will be able to participate in a series of synchronous Law & Economics workshops via Teams with 12 current law students at the Catholic University of Santa Maria in Arequipa. The workshops began in April and continue every other week until July.

For the Fall 2024 term, Akron Law student volunteers will be invited to participate in reviewing and editing submissions to the Akron Law-sponsored Vietnam Conference on Mediation & Arbitration. The conference will be held in Hanoi and Hue in January 2025. Volunteers will receive priority in pairings with potential international co-authors as part of a 3-credit Spring 2025 course to be taught by Assistant Professor Susan Altmeyer.

DONATION FUNDS \$75,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Consistent with its commitment to veterans and affordable education, the School of Law announced Daniel Szuba as the 2023 recipient of the Michael and Anne Marie Ring Scholarship for Veterans.

Szuba is a first-year student who served four years in the United States Coast Guard. He will receive a scholarship of \$25,000 for each of the three years he attends Akron Law. The scholarship was established through a generous donation from Mike Ring '94, and his wife, Anne Marie Ring. Mike is an attorney with the Ring Firm PC in Atlanta.

"After serving in the Air Force for four years, Akron Law provided me with a great legal education that prepared me for practicing law and work," Ring said. "My wife is also a lawyer, and we want to encourage veterans to attend law school and consider a school like Akron Law."

"Because of the great support we receive from our alumni, Akron Law is able to offer one of the best values in the country," said Akron Law Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen. "We especially share Mike and Anne Marie's passion for giving back to veterans who serve our country."

"It was my honor to serve in the United States Coast Guard," said Szuba. "I selected The University of Akron because of its great program, and I'm extremely grateful to the Rings for paying my tuition for three years. I hope to also one day give back to fellow veterans."



Mike and Anne Marie Ring

LSAT PREP CLASS OFFERED

The School of Law has partnered with the University's Department of Political Science to offer an LSAT prep class for UA undergrads on campus. Students will earn elective credit while preparing for the LSAT and be able to pay for the class using their financial aid.

"It is important for us to be a school of access to the legal field," said Emily Janoski-Haehlen, dean of Akron Law. "This new class will improve our ability to

live that mission for University of Akron students by ensuring they have access to quality LSAT prep instruction before they take the exam."

"Many prospective students that we work with are dependent on free LSAT prep resources—which are few and far between," said Barbara DiGiacomo, associate dean for administration and enrollment management. "Most commercially available LSAT prep resources carry a hefty price tag."

The new class was offered in two eight-week sessions during the spring 2024 semester.

"With all of the work I have to do for my undergraduate classes and my extracurricular activities, being able to take an LSAT prep class on campus is a game changer," said UA junior Perrin Morgan, a criminal justice major. "And being able to cover the cost with my financial aid made signing up for this class a no-brainer."

MOOT COURT AND TRIAL TEAMS SHINE



The Plakas Mannos trial team of (left to right) Roger Boyer, Delayna Durr, Sera Martin and William Hatt advanced to the regional final of the 2024 AAJ STAC.



The team of (left to right) John Skakun, Nadine Jones and Will Hatt represented Akron Law at the Jessup Moot Court Competition in New Orleans.

Akron Law's Plakas Mannos mock trial teams both turned in strong performances at the American Association for Justice (AAJ) Student Trial Advocacy Competition (STAC) regional competition in mid-March but fell short of defending the school's 2023 championship.

The team of 3L Roger Boyer and 2Ls Delayna Durr, William Hatt and Sera Martin advanced to the regional final where just a handful of points came between them and the trophy. The team of 3Ls Casey Ruppen, Emma Hall and Emily Gellatly and 2L Sai Pandrangi rallied back from a narrow loss in the opening round to advance to the semifinals.

"Congratulations to the teams for their incredible performance at the regional AAJ competition," said team coach Kevin Kita of Sutter O'Connell. "Despite falling just shy of the championship, their dedication and skill truly shone through."

Meanwhile, 2L Ty Green was recognized as a Top Five oral advocate at the National Moot Court Competition in Child Welfare and Adoption

Law in Columbus. He competed with Will Huff and the team was coached by Akron Law alumni Christina Marshall '98, and Seth Marcum '20.

The Akron Law team of 3Ls John Skakun and Nadine Jones and 2L William Hatt competed in the U.S. round of Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in New Orleans. Jessup is the world's largest moot court competition. The team didn't advance to the international rounds, but they gave the University of Virginia, one of the strongest teams in the nation, a scare, according to the team's faculty advisor, Associate Professor Vera Korzun.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

TRIAL	
Plakas Mannos	\$7,500
Joseph Darwal	\$1,000
Scullen & Cunning	\$500
Hon. Ernest DiSantis '74	\$500
Christopher Pirrone '06	\$250
Gregory Thompson '12	\$250
MOOT COURT	
Elk & Elk, Ltd.	\$5,000
Jackson Kelly PLLC	\$2,500
Christopher Hunter '95	\$500
BOTH TEAMS	
Timothy McCarthy '93	\$250
Thomas Adgate '87	\$100

ADVOCACY TEAMS GET A BOOST

As the Akron School of Law's mock trial team prepared to defend its 2023 regional championship in the AAJ STAC tournament, it benefited from some invaluable added support.

Trial attorneys from Plakas Mannos, the trial team's sponsor, volunteered their time trying the case against the students and sharing their courtroom experience. This was in addition to continued generous financial support from the firm.

"The Plakas Mannos firm's unwavering support and generosity has been instrumental in helping our trial team shine," said Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Mike Gentithes.

Meanwhile, the future of the School of Law's moot court teams looks brighter than ever with the April 13 launch of the annual 1L Intramural Moot Court Competition. The multi-round competition is open to 1Ls who started law

school in summer or fall of 2023. Competitors will argue the case they used for their LARW II problem, *Gill v. FeMile, Inc.* The final round will be judged by current or former Ohio judges.

"We are grateful to Elk & Elk for its sponsorship of this first annual intramural moot court competition. The firm's generosity is crucial to the continued success of our Moot Court Honor Society," said Assistant Professor and Director of Legal Writing Charlie Oldfield.

"Moot court is an excellent way for students to showcase their brief writing and oral advocacy skills in appellate arguments while honing their critical thinking skills and ability to work under pressure," he added. "This new intramural program will give first-year students a head start on participating in a full-on moot court."

NATIONAL JURIST NAMES RISING 3L ONE OF ITS LAW STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



Tatyana Norman-Webler

Akron School of Law rising 3L Tatyana Norman-Webler was selected by The National Jurist as one of its 2024 Law Students of the Year and was featured in the spring issue of the magazine. Here are some of the reasons why she was recognized.

Norman-Webler is a non-traditional law student who worked in health care for eight years, three as a registered nurse, before entering law school. While

her experience as an ICU nurse during the pandemic spurred a passion for public health policy, she recently developed a strong interest in data privacy.

After having an article on data privacy published in the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Journal in March, she is working on a law review note on the topic, which she hopes to see published. David L. Brennan Endowed Chair Associate Professor Emily Michiko Morris is her faulty

advisor on the note.

Norman-Webler is president of the Health Law Society and an assistant editor of the Akron Law Review. She also spearheads student wellness initiatives, including serving on the School of Law's wellness committee, which established a walk-in Wellness & Wellbeing Center and brings in therapy dogs and treats during peak-stress times such as midterms and finals.

Assistant Professor George Horvath, who taught two health law classes that Norman-Webler enrolled in, notes that the Health Law Society (where he is the faculty advisor) "was pretty moribund before Tatyana and three other students revived it last year. They have really energized a whole group of students to be interested in health law."

Norman-Webler's current writing is focused on how consumers have no real legal protection over what the makers of mobile health apps and wearable technologies do with the vast amounts of personal information they are collecting.

"We have this framework where a company provides you with notice of its privacy policy and then solicits your consent. You take it or leave it without understanding what you're agreeing to," she explained.

"What I'm tackling is the 'notice' part of the framework and arguing that we need a better tool. Consumers should be able to look at a summary of a privacy policy

and readily compare it to other companies' privacy policies. Essentially, what I'm advocating is the concept of a nutrition label for privacy," she said.

"It's an important topic that's gotten a lot of attention in the law review world," Horvath said. "I think her idea of a sort of uniform labeling requirement is novel."

Last summer and fall, Norman-Webler interned at Akron Community Legal Aid on the Health, Education, Advocacy and Law (HEAL) project, which coordinates the necessary legal services when a patient is referred. These services can be a lifeline for clients who may not have realized that there are legal solutions to problems that are contributing to their health challenges.

This spring, she is a judicial extern in Chief Justice Sharon L. Kennedy's chambers at the Supreme Court of Ohio. She looks forward to seeing the private sector side of the law as a summer associate in the Cleveland office of Baker Hostetler.

Outside of the legal world, she remains active in health care by volunteering at Grace House Akron, which provides a loving home for indigent, homeless and abandoned individuals at the end of life. She has organized opportunities for students to volunteer at Grace House and assists in planning fundraising events such as Walk for Grace.



CELEBRATING WOMEN AT AKRON LAW



Women on the Akron Law faculty and staff gathered for this photo in March. Photo by Tim Fitzwater.

“Akron Law has always been a school that recognizes talent without regard to race, gender or religion. Women have been assistant and associate deans and one was an interim dean for two years. We have had a woman as head of our Intellectual Property Center, and the heads of our Constitutional Law Center and Ethics Center are both women. Women alumni have told me that they always felt welcome at our school and were especially proud of their successes on our trial team and moot court. Look at the number of women alumni who have served and now serve as judges. Look at our female faculty and staff, including our dean, and how these women serve as role models. The reputation of our inclusiveness was and is a factor for attracting women students and faculty and staff. Our collective support once they are here has led to their successful careers.”

Dean and Professor, Emeritus Martin Belsky

Next year—2025—will mark the 100th anniversary of the first woman graduate of The University of Akron School of Law. Ailene McMurray Trusler, the sole woman among the first graduating class of the fledgling Akron Law School, went on to become the first woman to work as a lawyer in the Summit County Prosecutor’s Office.

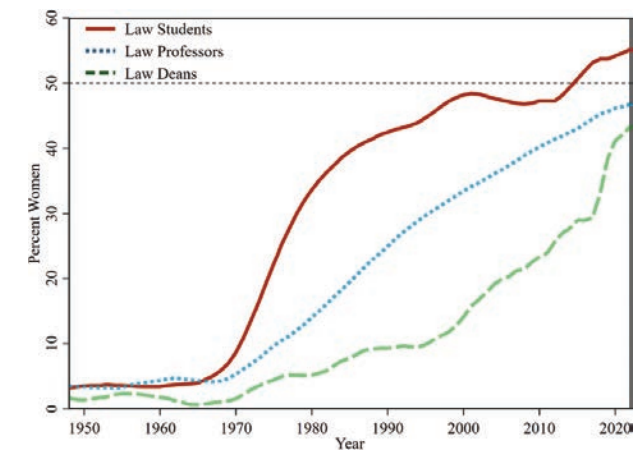
Other women followed in her path, but their numbers remained small. Nevertheless, Akron Law can be proud—considering the era—that over those first 38 years prior to the original law school’s merger into the University in 1959, 23 of the 626 graduates were women.

The Akron story is consistent with what was happening nationally. According to a 2023 paper in the *Journal of Legal Analysis*, “Women in U.S. Law Schools, 1948–2021,” women made slow gains in the legal profession during the half-century spanning 1920–1970, in both law student enrollment and on law faculties.

By the early 1970s, according to the paper, virtually all law school classes had at least five women. Yet women’s total share of students across all law schools remained low, as most law schools were admitting only a few token women. But the times were changing, thanks in part to a series of federal antidiscrimination laws along with pressure from the American Association of Law Schools.

At Akron Law, “No class had what we consider today to be a ‘critical mass’ of women until the class of 1978,” according to a 2015 history of the early years of the School of Law. But by fall 1979, one-third of the incoming class of 183 students were women.

Figure 2 Women in Law Schools.
Notes: This figure reports women’s share of students, professors, and deans at all ...



Journal of Legal Analysis, Volume 15, Issue 1, 2023, Pages 48-78 <https://doi.org/10.1093/jla/laad005>
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Fast forward to 2016, when the number of women in law school surpassed the number of men, according to the American Bar Association. As of 2023, the gender gap has widened to 13.4

percentage points. Over the last 10 years at Akron Law, women’s share of the graduating class has averaged 45% and ranged from 37% to 55%. It’s twice been higher than 50%.



Note the two women in the second row and a third behind them in the center of this 1926 photo.

FEMALE FACULTY TRAILBLAZERS



Assistant Professor of Law Gertrude Johnson is shown with Dean Stanley A. Samad, second from the right, and three of the four other full-time faculty in this 1965 photo.

Even into the late '60s, women had made few inroads in legal academia. According to the "Women in U.S. Law Schools" paper, by 1965, there had been only around 30 women in tenure-track positions. Today, women constitute 43% of law school faculty, according to Enjuris, a significant increase from the 1980s when they made up only 20%. Akron Law is in line with this number, with women constituting 46% of the full-time faculty in 2024.

The first two full-time female faculty members at Akron Law were both law librarians. **Evelyn G. DeWitt** was law librarian and instructor in legal bibliography in 1960-61, the first full year following the merger of Akron Law School into the University.

Gertrude Johnson was assistant professor of law and law librarian from 1964-1972.

In 1974, the School of Law established a criminal appellate review clinic and hired

two women just out of law school to run it. The first, **Dana Castle '73**, who passed away in 2017, was in her early 40s when she graduated. She had a long career in market research in New York before divorcing and moving to Akron with her two children. She went on to become assistant to the dean and then a tenured Akron Law professor. She retired as professor emerita in 2000 and three years later received the Outstanding Alumni Award.

A 2017 Akron Legal News obituary quoted Akron Law Professor, Emeritus J. Dean Carro: "Dana was a pioneer. She was only the second female faculty member. She was demanding and rigorous at a time when those qualities were not that acceptable for a woman to possess. I'm sure she got a lot of push-back."

The other hire for the criminal appellate review clinic was **Margery Koosed**, now Aileen McMurray Trusler Professor Emerita,

who had just graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law. She had been one of a group of third-year law students who were paid to help 1Ls learn how to use new computerized research tools like Westlaw and Lexis.

Koosed was elevated from clinic coordinator and law lecturer to a tenure-track position in 1976, following a national search to fill an opening to teach Criminal Procedure. After her appointment, Koosed recalls, it was seven or eight years before another female tenure-track professor was added to the faculty.

"With few female faculty at each Ohio law school, women law faculty began meeting informally in the spirit of mentorship, a precursor to today's northeast Ohio faculty scholarship gatherings," Koosed recalled.

Koosed retired in 2012 but continues to teach a Death Penalty or Wrongful Conviction Seminar each fall—in her 50th year of teaching at Akron Law.



Professor Koosed found her own mentor in former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg, who taught twice at the School of Law in the 1980s. This photo is from 1984.



Dana Castle



Malina Coleman



Elizabeth Reilly



Sarah Cravens

Professor of Law, Emerita **Elizabeth Reilly '78**, joined the faculty in 1980 as an adjunct professor after graduating first in her class two years earlier. Before Akron Law, she was a member of the first class of women to attend Princeton University.

Reilly became a full-time member of the faculty in 1984 and was later honored as a C. Blake McDowell, Jr., Professor. She served as associate dean from 1995-2009 and interim dean from 2012-2014. Prior to serving as interim dean, she served as the University's vice provost for academic planning.

Malina Coleman, who passed away in 2009, graduated from Akron North High School and Central State University. In 1985, she was the first student from Central State to be awarded a Juris Doctor degree from Yale University School of Law.

After practicing law in New York and

Pennsylvania, she became the first African American woman on the Akron Law faculty in 1988. During her 20-year career, she served 11 years as associate dean of student affairs. She also was chair of the admissions committee and faculty advisor to the Black Law Students Association.

Sarah Cravens was on the faculty for 14 years, from 2005 until 2019. In addition to her teaching, she served as director of faculty research (2015-16), assistant dean for global engagement (2015-16) and interim co-dean (2016-17). In 2017-18, she served as the University's vice provost for strategic initiatives. She left Akron to serve as vice president for strategic initiatives & legal and chief of staff to the president of Missouri Western State University. She is currently visiting professor of law at Washington & Lee University School of Law.

BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING



The late **Judge Mary Cacioppo '45**, was the only woman in her wartime graduating class of seven. Two years after earning her J.D., she formed a partnership with Patricia O'Donnell that is thought to have been the first all-female law firm in Akron.

Cacioppo was also the first woman to be appointed as assistant law director in Akron and to the Akron Board of Zoning Appeals. She was the first female magistrate in the Summit County Domestic Relations Court. She went on to become a judge on the Ninth District Court of Appeals.

According to her obituary in the Beacon Journal, she first made a name for herself when she triumphed over the Board of Elections for denying her the right to vote because she had kept her name after marriage and was unable to prove marital status.

"When she came into the field of law, she had many professors who didn't believe a woman belonged in the field and told her she should go home," Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio told the Beacon Journal. "But she battled her way through law school, just like she battled for her right to vote, and succeeded."



Judge Mary Spicer '65, earned her J.D. in 1965 via night school while employed as a social worker at Summit County Receiving Hospital and in the practice of her husband, the late Dr. Kieve Shapiro. She retired from the Summit County Common Pleas Court in 2009, after a 24-year career.

When first elected in 1984, Spicer was the county's first female judge to serve on the Common Pleas bench. She was the founding judge of the county's felony drug court in 2002 and presided over it until her retirement. Prior to her election, she served as a referee and director of human services for Summit County Probate Court for four years.



Mary Spicer was the only woman in the graduating class of 1965.



Judge Deborah Cook '78 is a senior United States circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, based in Akron. She assumed senior status in 2019. Following graduation from law school until her election to the Ninth District Court of Appeals in 1991, Cook was a member of Roderick, Myers & Linton, where she was the firm's first female partner.

Cook served four years on the Ninth District Court before being elected to the Supreme Court of Ohio in 1994. She was re-elected in 2000 and served until her appointment to the Sixth Circuit in 2003. She was the first Akron Law graduate to serve on the Supreme Court of Ohio. She was mentioned as a possible nominee to the United States Supreme Court in 2005 and again in 2008.



Sally Benson '74, said she never felt she was treated any differently than the men in law school, and never felt discriminated against in her career either—except at her first law firm job with the largest firm in Palm Beach County, Florida.

"The firm was great," she said. "However, the insurance companies they represented did not want a woman in the courtroom for them, if you can believe that. We also represented self-insured companies like Florida Power & Light, and they had no problem with me, so that's who I started to represent."

The firm also put her to work on some land development deals, which is what she focused on when she went out on her own.

"I stayed with them for almost four years but had to leave when I had a baby. Women didn't have the flexibility back then," she said.

Before long, Benson had a staff of five and was doing 300 commercial real estate closings a year. Women-owned firms at the time were mostly solo practices or very small. Sally S. Benson P.A. is the longest running female-owned firm in Palm Beach County. Benson later segued into commercial real estate development, another field where women are a rarity.



Judge Sandra Jean Robinson '77, who passed away in 2017 at 77, recorded several groundbreaking achievements in the course of her legal career.

She earned a bachelor's degree in medical technology in 1961 and worked as a hospital lab technician for 10 years before becoming a teacher.

In 1973, she enrolled at Akron Law and attended classes at night while teaching and raising two sons. In 1977, she became Akron Law's first African American female graduate. Robinson started her legal career as an attorney at the U.S. Department of Labor in Cleveland, then became an assistant prosecutor for the city of Akron. In 1980, she made history again when she was appointed as the city's first African American female chief prosecutor.

In 1990, running as a Republican, Robinson bested the incumbent Democrat to become Summit County's first African American female common pleas judge. The county Republican party chairman is remembered for saying after her victory, "We're only recruiting women."



Judge Alice Batchelder '71, is a senior United States circuit judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. She received her commission on December 2, 1991, and served as chief judge of the court from 2009 until 2014. She stepped down as chief judge on August 15, 2014, upon turning 70.

Batchelder was the first Akron Law graduate to serve on a U.S. circuit court. In 2005, she was considered by President George W. Bush as a potential nominee for a Supreme Court seat that ultimately went to Justice Samuel Alito.

Batchelder taught high school English for several years before entering Akron Law. She was editor in chief of the law review in a graduating class with only six women. She earned a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1988.

She worked in a private practice from 1971 to 1983 before being appointed a judge of the United States bankruptcy court for the Northern District of Ohio. In 1985, she was nominated to a new seat on the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and received her commission on April 4, 1985.



Judge Betty Sutton '90, a judge on the Ninth District Court of Appeals since 2021, is the only Ohioan to ever serve as a legislator at the city, county, state, and federal levels of government.

While still in law school, she was elected to serve as an at-large councilwoman for the city of Barberton. She then served two years on the Summit County Council, before being elected in 1992 to the Ohio House of Representatives. She was, at the time of her election, the youngest woman ever elected to serve in the Ohio House.

Sutton served in the Ohio House for eight years, leaving in 2000, when term limits prevented her from running again. She returned to private practice with Faulkner, Muskovitz & Phillips, LLP until 2006, when she won election to the United States House of Representatives in Ohio's 13th Congressional District. She served in the U.S. House until 2013. Later that year, she was appointed to serve as the administrator of the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation. In 2020, prior to joining the Court of Appeals in February 2021, she worked on toxic tort claims with Bevan & Associates Co. LPA Inc.

AKRON LAW WOMEN ON THE BENCH

Akron Law is proud of the more than 50 women alumni who have served or currently serve as judges. As Judge Sandra Robinson's 1990 upset win revealed, voters—especially women voters—tend to prefer women judges. And women vote at a higher rate than men. In Summit County, all 14 judges are women. So are all five in Portage County. In Stark County, it's seven of nine, and it's two of four in Medina County.

Local judges not pictured: Judge Katelyn Dickey, 7th District Court of Appeals; Judge Becky Doherty, Portage Common Pleas Court; Judge Paula Giulitto, Portage County Domestic Relations Court; Judge Joyce Kimbler, Medina County Common Pleas Court; Judge Jill Flagg Lanzinger, Ninth District Court of Appeals; Judge Melissa Roubic, Portage County Municipal Court; Judge Julie Schafer, Medina County Domestic Relations Court; and Judge Diana Stevenson, Barberton Municipal Court.



Left to right: Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judges Susan Ross Baker and Joy Malek Oldfield, Summit County Probate Judge Elinor Marsh Stormer, Court of Common Pleas Judge Alison Breaux, and Summit County Domestic Relations Judge Kari Harvey Hightower. Photo by Tim Fitzwater.



Left to right: Akron Municipal Court Judge Nicole Walker, Summit County Court of Common Pleas Judge Mary Margaret Rowlands, Summit County Juvenile Court Judge Linda Tucci Teodosio, Municipal Court Judge Annalisa Stubbs Williams, Common Pleas Judges Kathryn Michael and Christine Croce, and Domestic Relations Court Judge Katarina Cook. Photo by Tim Fitzwater.

OTHER NOTABLE WOMEN ALUMNI



Karen D. Adinolfi '01
Shareholder, Roetzl



Trina Carter '92
Member, Board of Trustees, The University of Akron



M. Celeste Cook '87
Vice President and General Counsel, Secretary, Board of Trustees, The University of Akron



Chaka Crome '02
Owner, Crome Law Firm



Malisheia Douglas '08
Attorney, Squire Patton & Boggs



Stephanie Felicetty '03
Associate General Counsel, University of Chicago



Angela Gott '07
Partner, Benesch Law



Jeannette Knudsen '98
Chief Legal Officer and Secretary at the J.M. Smucker Company



Amanda Leffler '02
Akron Managing Partner, Manufacturing Business Sector Co-Chair, Shumaker



Megan Frantz Oldham '05
Partner, Plakas Mannos



Jacqueline A. Silas-Butler '84
Executive Director, Project GRAD Akron



Lynne Tracey '94
U.S. Ambassador to Russia

STUDENT TAKES 1ST PLACE IN IP WRITING COMPETITION



Left to right: Associate Professor Emily Michiko Morris, 3L Ying Wang and Assistant Professor George Horvath.

University of Akron School of Law 3L Ying Wang was the first-place winner in the 2022-23 American Association of Patent Judges Honorable Frederick E. McKelvey Writing Competition for her essay, "The FTC Should Be Delegated to Establish a Prenotification and Review Process to Regulate Reverse Payment Settlements."

The essay will be published in the Journal of the Patent and Trademark Office Society, and Wang will receive a plaque and \$1,000. The competition is open to students pursuing study in any field that impacts technology. Wang was advised

by Assistant Professor George Horvath and Associate Professor Emily Michiko Morris, who is the David L. Brennan Endowed Chair and associate director of the Center for Intellectual Property Law & Technology.

The essay originated as a note for the Akron Law Review. "I was preparing the law review note and Professor Horvath was advising me since I was taking his Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Law course," Wang said. "I was also preparing for the patent law moot court competition, which is where I had a chance to talk with Professor Morris, who is an expert in this area.

She recommended I consider submitting my note to the McKelvey competition."

As Wang explained the topic of her note, in 1984 Congress enacted the Drug Price Competition and Patent Term Restoration Act (popularly known as the Hatch-Waxman Act), which established a new regulatory pathway and various incentives to encourage generic drug manufacturers to bring products to market. The legislation accomplished the goal, but it also incentivized litigation in a way that resulted in unintended consequences.

"Typically, a patent infringer pays damages to the patent

owner to settle a patent-infringement case," Wang said.

However, the Hatch-Waxman Act significantly changed the typical allocation of risk in infringement cases involving pharmaceutical patents, and it became increasingly common for drug patent holders to pay generic drug companies to settle these infringement cases. Critics began to view these settlements as, effectively, payments not to produce a competing generic drug for a certain period of time, which is clearly not in the best interest of consumers.

"This type of settlement therefore has created significant antitrust concerns and received considerable attention from economists and legal scholars," Wang writes in the essay. "On the other hand, branded drug manufacturers may be justified in their ownership of the patent which entitles them to enjoyment of lawful exclusive rights. As such, reverse payment settlement represents a question at the intersection of patent law and antitrust law."

The question wound its way to the Supreme Court. In 2013, in *FTC v. Actavis*, the Court rejected the idea that these reverse payment settlements were either per se illegal or per se legal and instead laid out a rule of reason framework for trial courts to analyze the settlements on a case-by-case basis. However, rather than deterring reverse payment settlements the Court's decision only served

to make them more complex. Subsequent legislative efforts to deter the payments have failed to advance in Congress.

Wang's essay goes on to propose a solution: legislation to have Congress delegate to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) an authority to establish a prenotification and review process along the line of the premerger notifications that companies are required to file with the FTC and the Antitrust Division of the Justice Department for certain acquisitions. The intended result would be less litigation overall and fewer anticompetitive reverse payment settlements.

"There has been a lot of ink spilled on this particular issue,

mostly about whether these reverse payment settlements are per se antitrust violations or per se legal, so there's really no middle ground," Michiko Morris said. "Most of the student notes I've seen just rehash what others have already said. Even some of the academics writing on this topic really don't present anything new. That's why I thought Ying's approach was really interesting and very realistic. It's not one that I'd seen in the many articles that I've read on this subject."

"As someone who focuses on the FDA and not on the intellectual property and antitrust issues, my involvement in this was more limited," said Horvath, who

holds a medical degree. "But this was a really fun paper to work on. It takes an incredibly complicated set of topics combining FDA law, patent law and antitrust law and presents it in an accessible way, and then works toward a solution."

Michiko Morris noted that Wang had not actually taken the patent law course until the fall 2023 semester, nor has she taken a course Michiko Morris teaches that deals with the Hatch-Waxman Act and related biopharmaceutical legislation, "so her expertise on this topic really is self-taught."

Wang, however, brought a formidable science background to the task. She has a Ph.D. in genetics from the University of Cologne and

did cancer research for three years as a postdoctoral fellow at Baylor College of Medicine before deciding to embark on a legal career at The University of Akron.

"I feel very fortunate to have the input and support from Professor Horvath and Professor Morris, who are such experts in this area. Their comments made me much more confident in what I was writing," she said.

Wang is on track to graduate from Akron Law in May 2024. She is currently working part-time as a law clerk at the Cleveland-based intellectual property law firm Tarolli, Sundheim, Covell & Tummino LLP.

STUDENTS STEP UP WITH SCHOLARLY WRITING



Jasmine Oesterling and Abby Klaus

Ying Wang isn't the only Akron Law student whose scholarly paper has been or soon will be published.

3L Jasmine Oesterling's paper "I Can't Breathe: A Comparison of Racial Inequity and Police Brutality Observed in France and the United States" will be published in the spring 2024 issue of the DePaul Journal for Social Justice.

3L Abby Klaus's paper "From Coat Hangers to Prison Bars: A Comparative Abortion Law Overview," a comparative analysis of abortion laws in the United States and the European Union, will be published in Volume 17 of Albany's Government Law Review.

Oesterling and Klaus were both

inspired to write a comparative law paper while attending a class called Race and Social Justice Lawyering during a three-week study abroad program at the law school at Paris Nanterre University last summer.

3L John Skakun's paper "The Efficiency of International Efforts and Legal Alternatives to Protect the Laurentian Great Lakes and Alleviate North American Water Insecurity in Our Warming World" will be the lead article in Volume 30, Issue 1 of the Buffalo Environmental Law Journal.

"I initially took a protectionist position in the paper," Skakun said. "However, after further research, I determined that a protectionist policy would actually heighten tensions between regions."



Brendan Mohan

Vera Korzun, associate professor and director of faculty research & development, advised Oesterling, Klaus and Skakun on their papers.

3L Brendan Mohan has won several writing competitions and had several papers selected for publication.

In October, he won the 2023 Alvin D. Lurie Memorial Award for his paper "Dobbs v. Employee Benefits: Major Questions Left After the Landmark Decision." It was published by The American College of Employee Benefits Counsel (ACEBC) and is forthcoming in Saint Louis Law's ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law. Emeritus Professor Martin Belsky was his faculty advisor.

In January, Mohan's article "Beyond the Ban: One Major Challenge Facing the FTC Non-Compete Rule" received first place in the New York State Bar Association's Dr. Emanuel Stein and Kenneth Stein Memorial Law Student Writing Competition. It was recently published in Akron Law's ConLawNOW and will also be published by the New York State Bar Association's Labor and Employment Journal this spring.

3L Halle Marchetta's paper "Bringing a Knife to a Gun Fight, A Cruel and Unusual Punishment" is being published by the Firearms Research Center at the University of Wyoming College of Law. The paper argues that widespread

state statutes banning all convicted felons from possessing firearms, without any consideration of their underlying charge, unconstitutionally infringe on their Second Amendment rights and are in violation of the Eighth Amendment.

"My Second Amendment Law instructor, Adjunct Professor Joseph Muha, sent my final paper to George Mocsary, the author of our textbook, and he made me an offer to publish it," Marchetta said. Mocsary is professor of law at the University of Wyoming and co-founder and director of Firearms Research Center there. He spoke at Akron Law in 2022.

"These papers represent a huge achievement for our J.D. students," says Korzun. "Writing a scholarly paper requires a substantial research and time commitment. Publishing is also very difficult because many law reviews won't even consider student papers. In all my years of teaching, I can't recall a time when so many of our students have had articles accepted for publication by scholarly journals."



John Skakun and Associate Professor Vera Korzun

HONORING 2024 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

On April 23, the School of Law recognized its 2024 outstanding alumni, student and faculty at the annual award breakfast. The 2024 honorees are:



FRANK G. FORCHIONE '86

Judge Frank G. Forchione is a 1986 graduate of Akron Law, where he was named a Bracton's Inn Outstanding Senior Student and was a winner of the client counseling competition.

While at Akron, Forchione began working as an intern at the Canton Law Department and was immediately named assistant city prosecutor in the law department after passing the bar. In 1994, he was named the Canton city prosecutor and served in that office for 15 years. During his tenure he was selected as a special prosecutor for more than nine different cities or counties for high profile cases. In 2009, his work as special prosecutor in Wayne County was the focus of the HBO documentary "Death on a Factory Farm." In 2009, Forchione was elected to the Stark County Common Pleas Court bench and reelected unopposed in 2014 and 2020.

Forchione has been published in more than 20 legal journals or magazines. In 2016, Akron Law awarded him the Outstanding Alumni Publication Award. In 2018, the Ohio Association for Justice honored him with the Outstanding Ohio Jurist Award. He is founder and chairman of the Stop Heroin From Killing Committee. For his work, in 2023 he received the Angel of Justice Award from the Stark County Association for Justice. He is also a long-term member of the nonprofit agency Wishes Can Happen, which provides wishes for children with debilitating diseases. In June 2023, he began serving as president of the Stark County Bar Association. He has been a three-time speaker at the Law School's Winter Institute.



NATHAN YUN '92

Sang (Nathan) Yun serves as general counsel of Navien, Inc., in Irvine, California, and is the head of legal and risk management.

His responsibility includes all of North America and with the parent company in Korea. Outside of his role in Navien, Yun teaches as an adjunct professor at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law.

Previously, Yun worked at Yun Law Firm where he handled major injury cases for the plaintiffs. One notable case was *Eun Ha Lee, et al. v. Pupil Transportation Cooperative (JPA)*, where he represented the plaintiffs in the wrongful death of their autistic son Paul Lee, who was left in a bus on a very hot day. This case eventually settled for \$23.5 million in 2017. As a result of Paul Lee's tragic death, California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Paul Lee School Bus Safety Law on September 27, 2016.

Prior to Yun Law Firm, Yun served as general counsel and chief administrative officer and a member of the board of directors at Samsung Chemical (USA), Inc. In addition, he managed the legal matters for business conducted in North and South America and South Korea. His career at Samsung Corporation went from 2001 to 2014. Prior to Samsung, he worked at various law firms including Hong & Chang (associated office of Kim & Chang, the largest law firm in Korea).

Yun is the founding member of the Akron Law Alumni Association Southern California Chapter in 2009 and the association's first California representative.



MARY Z. SEIDEL '95

Mary Seidel developed her passion for law and politics while working on Capitol Hill prior to attending Akron Law. She credits Akron for providing her with a law degree that opened opportunities to further her career as a lawyer and lobbyist.

Seidel spent 20 years as the vice president and director of federal affairs for the Reinsurance Association of America (RAA) in Washington, D.C. RAA is the leading trade group representing U.S. and global property and casualty reinsurance companies and brokers doing business in America. She was RAA's chief representative and spokesperson to Congress and the White House. She led association efforts to formulate strategy and manage all federal issues in consultation with RAA member company CEOs, general counsels and tax directors.

Seidel's key accomplishments include leading efforts on RAA legislative priorities enacted into federal law: 1) reinsurance provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act; 2) the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) reauthorization; and 3) the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act. She happily attended the presidential signing of each of these laws.

She led efforts to establish authorization in the Dodd-Frank Act for the Federal Insurance Office to work with the U.S. Trade Representative to negotiate a "covered agreement" with the European Union to benefit U.S. reinsurance companies doing business in Europe that allows for a level playing field for U.S. reinsurers doing business abroad.

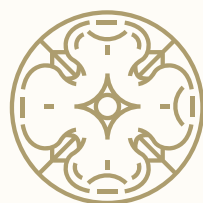
Seidel helped include specific language in NFIP reauthorization helping the NFIP manage its catastrophe risk by securing private reinsurance, resulting in significant benefits to policyholders and U.S. taxpayers. Allowing NFIP to purchase private reinsurance ensured that NFIP's losses, after major catastrophic events, were no longer completely taxpayer and debt financed.

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Seidel was integral as a lead representative of the coalition to establish the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act and reauthorize it multiple times. This development was a key component for the economic stability in U.S. cities and communities, enabling commercial policyholders to obtain terrorism risk insurance.

After 25 years as a lobbyist, Seidel turned to her other passion: sports and community involvement. She is currently the athletic director and community liaison for the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Washington, D.C. The program has more than 500 student athletes. She serves on the board of directors of the Holy Cross Health Foundation and is active in numerous charitable organizations in the D.C. area. In 2006, she established the Mary Z. Seidel Scholarship Fund at Akron Law.

ADVANCEMENT COUNCIL

- Jay F. Fischbein '97
President
- Sally S. Benson '74
- Chaka T. Crome '02
- Dennis O. Garris '92
- Blake R. Gerney '95
- Edward L. Gilbert '76
- Joseph M. Gingo '71
- Daniel K. Glessner '93
- Angela R. Gott '07
- Patrick Keating '83
- Kevin C. Krull '77
- Curtis L. Mack '72
- Joann M. Sahl '86
- Mona Sarkar '94
- Jacquelyn Silas-Butler '84



LAW ALUMNI BOARD

- Casey J. Davis '14
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- Michael R. Pfahl '04,
- Marcus H. Pryor, II '15
- J. Alex Quay '09
- David A. Randolph '20
- Darrin R. Toney '95
- Andrew C. Voorhees '04
- Lauren M. Zidones '21
- Katherine (Kathy) Ainsworth '24
Student Director
- Mackenzie Syska '25
Associate Student Director

CLASS NOTES

Jessica Forrest '10, shareholder at Reminger; **Jennifer Hallos '10**, principal at McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman; **Connie Lewandowski '90**, senior assistant prosecuting attorney in the Portage County Prosecutor's Office; and **Amanda Quan '10**, office managing shareholder at Ogletree Deakins, were among the 41 members of the 2024 class of Crain's Cleveland Business Notable Women in Law.



Jessica Forrest '10



Jennifer Hallos '10



Connie Lewandowski '90



Amanda Quan '10

1980s

Judge John Poulos '81, retired after 30 years in Canton Municipal Court.

Annette E. Skinner '85, was recognized by the Michigan Court Appointed Special Advocates as Lawyer-Guardian Ad Litem of the Year for children in Michigan.

Todd Bergert '87, showcased artwork in the Massillon Museum exhibition last December.

Judge David D'Apolito '89, took the oath of office on Jan. 1 to become Canfield's new city manager.



Judge John Poulos '81



Judge David D'Apolito '89

1990s

Deborah Matz '92, was appointed the city of Akron's director of law by Akron's new mayor Shamma Malik.

Former State Rep. **Tavia Galonski '95**, has been

appointed Summit County clerk of courts.

Montrella Jackson '99, has been appointed director of human resources by Akron Mayor Shamma Malik.



Deborah Matz '92



Tavia Galonski '95



Montrella Jackson '99

2000s

Malisheia Douglas '08, has joined Squire Patton Boggs as Of Counsel in the Intellectual Property & Technology Law Practice.



Malisheia Douglas '08

Visit uakron.edu/lawmagazine to read the stories in this issue and past issues.

2010S

Isabelle Bibet-Kalinyak '13, has joined Brach Eichler LLC as a member in the firm's national healthcare law practice in the main office in Roseland, N.J.

Alex Porter '14, Lathrop GPM LLP attorney, has been named Emerging Leader of the Year by the Turnaround Management Association Chicago/Midwest Chapter.

Alex Kuzmik '15, and **Aditya A. Ghatpande '19**, have joined Walter Haverfield LLP as associates.



Alex Porter '14



Alex Kuzmik '15



Aditya A. Ghatpande '19

2020S

Elizabeth Haavisto '22, has joined Society Brands as associate counsel.

Jillian J. Jewett '22, has joined Brouse McDowell as an associate in the labor & employment practice group.

Natalie Browning '23, has joined Mansour Gavin's estate planning and probate and real estate practice groups.

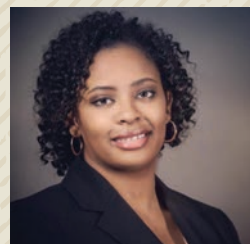
Tamara Brooks '23, has joined the Akron Municipal Court as a court navigator/bailiff.



Jillian J. Jewett '22

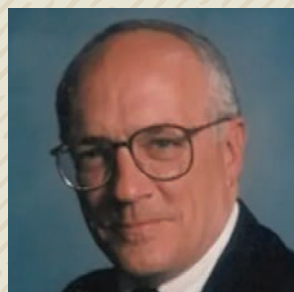


Natalie Browning '23



Tamara Brooks '23

In Memorium



James Arthur Rudgers '73, died Nov. 10, 2023, of a massive stroke just after sitting down to play poker with his buddies, just how he was hoping to go. His successful career included service as the assistant Summit County prosecutor, teaching night school at his alma mater, a long stint in private practice with Scanlon & Gearinger Law Firm, and retirement from the Summit County Common Pleas Court as a fiscal officer.



John J. (Jack) Lynett, '61, passed away Feb. 26, 2024. He was a prominent defense lawyer in the Summit County Courts, defending civil cases involving claims of personal injury. He retired in 2011 after 50 years with the firm of Roderick Linton Belfance. After college, he served in the U.S. Army as a commissioned officer with duty in Germany.



Judge Paul J. Gallagher, '86, passed away on Sept. 7, 2023, after a long illness. He worked in public service for more than 40 years. He started out as a journalist and then worked as a press secretary in the East, before returning home to Ohio after the 1970s. He worked as a defense attorney for several years after earning his law degree. He was elected to Summit County Council in 1984 and served until 2006. He also served as assistant prosecutor in Portage County from 1991 to 2006. He was elected to Summit County Common Pleas Court in 2006 and served 12 years.



Suzanne Lynn Stephens, '84, '87, passed away on Feb. 2, 2024. She worked for the Akron Police Department for many years before earning her bachelor's degree and law degree. She then became a trial prosecutor, appeals court

law clerk and then assistant Akron law director in 1993. Later she was appointed as magistrate of the Municipal Court of Akron.



Brent Michael Harraman '77, died peacefully at home on Nov. 9, 2023, after a long fight with cancer. He began practicing law in the office of Marion, Ohio, attorney, Bernard C. Moloney before opening his own practice in 1978. From 1985 to the early 1990s he was employed as an assistant Marion County prosecutor focusing on felony prosecutions. He later worked as an assistant Marion City prosecutor. As an assistant county prosecutor, he was actively involved in the development of the County's mental health hearing (civil commitment) process.



Timothy (Tim) Daly Smith '77, passed away on Oct. 2, 2023. He spent the first several decades of his career as a journalist, primarily at the Akron Beacon Journal. After a stint as the courts reporter, he decided to go to law school but

continued at the paper after passing the bar. After 19 years at the Beacon Journal, he transitioned to a full professorship at Kent State's School of Journalism, where he taught for 28 years. He particularly loved teaching Media Law. At Kent, he founded the Center for Privacy and the First Amendment as a resource for reporters, particularly in Ohio, on public records and open meetings laws. In 1996, he took a sabbatical and clerked for Ohio Supreme Court Justice Craig Wright. In retirement, continuing to practice law with his son Brian's law firm, as well as taking cases for the public defender.



Anthony "Tony" J. Cespedes '78, passed away on Dec. 11, 2023, after a 30-month battle with pancreatic cancer at home under the care of Mercy Hospice. He worked in the law department at Alside for 25 years and later worked as a self-employed attorney.

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