

TRANSCRIPT ²⁰²⁴

Spotlight on Excellence: Honoring Our New Faculty

Toledo Law has welcomed seven new tenure-track faculty members in the last two years.

Inside this Issue:

Toledo Women Lawyers History Project
Guantanamo Bay Student Experience
Upcoming Events and more



COLLEGE OF LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

THE POWER TO DO

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Dean's Letter



As we enter the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year, I am pleased to share some updates and highlights from the past year.

I am delighted to report that things are going well at The University of Toledo College of Law, and there is an atmosphere of optimism and hope in the College. This year, our applications are up a full 20% from the fall of 2023, and our number of applications are the highest in the past ten years. Our entering class of 2027 is a third larger than the class of 2026, with students with excellent credentials from all over the world!

The good news extends to bar passage and employment rates. On the February 2024 Bar exam, Toledo graduates achieved the second highest passage rate in the state. This spring, our 2023 graduates had the highest rate of employment in J.D. required or J.D. plus jobs since the College of Law began taking records in 1999. Many thanks to all of the College of Law faculty and staff for their hard work in supporting our students' success.

I am also happy to report that the College of Law has hired three excellent faculty members who will start in the fall of 2024, who join a new cohort of junior faculty that is featured in this issue. Glenys Spence, an expert in business and international law and experienced teacher, joins us from Barry Law School. Adrian McKinney, a former prosecutor and member of the Governor's Sentencing Commission in California, will be teaching classes in criminal law and criminal procedure. Last but certainly not least, we are thrilled to welcome Candice Kline back to the College of Law. Professor Kline, UToledo Law class of 2008, is a nationally known expert in bankruptcy law. She will be teaching classes in contracts, business, and bankruptcy law.

Along with looking forward, we are also looking back at the great tradition of Toledo Law and our alumni. Last spring, we redesigned and moved the Toledo Women Lawyers History Project to a prominent location next to the College of Law forum. This project recognizes the history of women lawyers in the Toledo area, many of whom are our alumnae. In addition, this fall, the College of Law recognizes Dick Walinski class of 1969, a beloved and well-respected pillar of the Toledo legal community, as our Distinguished Alumnus of the year.

One of the great pleasures of serving as dean of this school is the many opportunities to meet and work with our alumni, rekindling relationships with former students and starting brand new friendships. I look forward to more outreach in the coming year.

I count myself fortunate to lead a community of alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends who share the College of Law's dedication to excellence. Together, we support our future leaders by providing the very best in legal education, upholding our professional and individual values, and fostering a sense of community regionally, nationally, and globally.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca E. Zietlow". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Zietlow
Interim Dean and Professor of Law
The University of Toledo College of Law

#148

Ranked by U.S. News
& World Report 2023

91.67%

Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
in 2022

23%

First generation
college students

81%

First generation
law student

3.53

Entering class GPA
fall 2023

60%

Women in entering
class 2023

Exceptional Education at an Affordable Price

Toledo Law offers a phenomenal education at one of the lowest tuition rates of any law school in the region. We are thrilled to offer merit scholarships to most of our students.

#13

for low grad student debt
**U.S News & World Report
2022**

\$18,000

Median first-year merit
scholarship

73%

Received merit scholarship

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College News



Kate Abu-Absi Joins Toledo Law

Kate Abu-Absi joined the College of Law in April 2024 to enhance alumni and student engagement as the program manager of alumni engagement and diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She will develop and foster events that build an inclusive environment across the Toledo Law community. She will assist in implementing strategic goals that build and maintain relations with College of Law alumni as well as execute and manage the College of Law's diversity, equity, and inclusion plan.

"We are delighted to have Kate join the College of Law community. She brings both a wealth of experience of engagement within the University and the city of Toledo, as well as empathy, compassion, and commitment to the job," shared Interim Dean Rebecca Zietlow.

Kate has worked at UToledo for 28 years in both academic affairs and student affairs. Her past positions include instructor in the Department of Theatre and Film, first-year orientation instructor, director of the Arts Living Learning Community, outreach and retention specialist for the College of Arts and Letters and most recently as assistant director of Residence Life.

Known as a fierce student advocate and dedicated mentor, Kate's continued connection to students post-graduation is a testament to her authentic commitment to them as individuals. In her role as assistant director of Residence Life, her focus was on fostering a sense of belonging, specifically for historically marginalized communities.

Kate has two children who have attended The University of Toledo. When Kate is not on campus you will find her working in her garden, reading in her backyard or performing at one of Toledo's community theatres.

Kate earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre and her Master of Liberal Studies from The University of Toledo.



New Joint Degree with Adrian College

The University of Toledo College of Law and Adrian College have announced a new joint degree agreement, allowing students to simultaneously earn a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Toledo Law and a Master of Arts in Criminal Justice from Adrian College.

Participants in the joint degree program can complete both degrees with the same number of credit hours required for the law degree. Enrollment for this program will begin as early as fall 2024.

Toledo Law offers several joint degree and certificate programs, leveraging the University's unique position as one of the few institutions in the country offering degree programs in seven professional fields: law, business, education, engineering, medicine, nursing, and pharmacy.

This new initiative marks the first combined J.D.-graduate degree program with another university, enhancing an existing relationship between College of Law and Adrian College. In March 2016, the two institutions signed an accelerated degree program agreement, known as the 3+3 Program. This program allows undergraduate students at partner institutions to earn both a bachelor's degree and a law degree in six years, instead of the usual seven.

Toledo Law was one of the first law schools in Ohio to introduce a 3+3 Program. Since then, it has partnered with several undergraduate institutions across Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, including Indiana Tech University, Lourdes University, Marietta College, Siena Heights University, Trine University, and the University of Findlay.



Guantánamo Bay Experience Inspires Law Student

Law student Kathryn Tucker's visit to Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, has profoundly influenced her focus on human rights and international law. Through the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Observers program by the Office of Military Commissions, Tucker observed the 48th pretrial hearing for detainees accused of aiding the 9/11 hijackers.

The trials, including those of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and four co-conspirators, highlighted the legal complexities involving multiple government agencies. Tucker noted the lack of constitutional rights for detainees at Guantánamo, raising serious human rights concerns. One defendant, Ramzi Bin al Shibh, was unfit to stand trial due to psychological issues and alleged torture, which Tucker found particularly significant as it marked a historic moment for applying the Geneva Convention to 9/11 detainees.

Tucker also engaged with Bin al Shibh's attorney, deepening her understanding of the legal process and the challenges faced by the defense. This experience has had a lasting impact on her, shaping her perspective on justice and human rights. Tucker encourages other law students to participate in this program, hoping it will foster greater awareness and contribute to a more transparent and just legal system.



Celebrating the Toledo Women Lawyers History Project

The Toledo Women Lawyers History Project Celebration was held in April 2024 to celebrate the impressive tradition of successful women lawyers and judges from Toledo and northwest Ohio and their contribution to the Ohio legal community.

A new installation was unveiled, displaying portraits of the honorees on the main floor of the Law Center near the Forum. Portraits of the honorees were done by artist Paula Mowry '88, a Toledo Law graduate and former legal writing adjunct professor.

Featured speaker, President of the Ohio State Bar Association from 2023-24, Michelle Kranz '93, delivered keynote remarks.

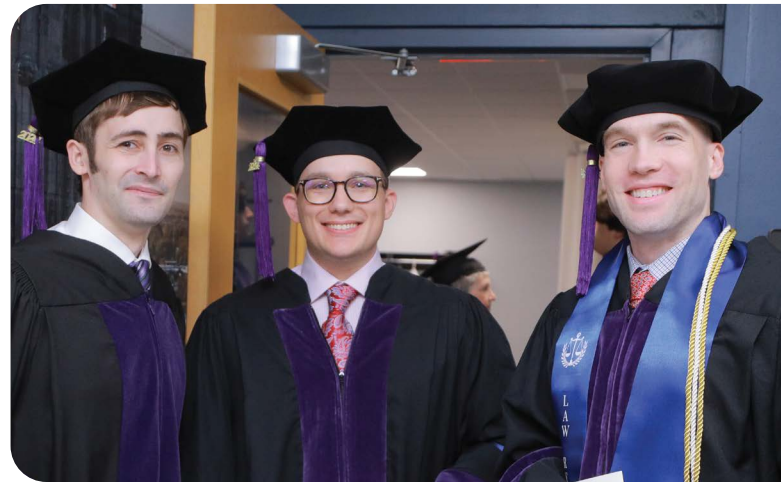
The Honorable Arlene Singer (Ret.) '76 leads The Toledo Women Lawyers History Project and provided remarks at the event.

The Toledo Women Lawyers History Project began in 2014 to honor the rich history of Toledo-area women in law who have paved the way for the women lawyers who have followed in their footsteps. This project was developed through a collaboration between The University of Toledo College of Law and the Toledo Women's Bar Association to discover and preserve the stories of women lawyers in the Toledo area. A digital collection of oral histories and scrapbooks has been developed in collaboration with Toledo Lucas County Public Libraries.

WANT MORE NEWS?

Catch up on the latest Toledo Law news at utoledo.edu/law/news.

Congratulations, Class of 2024!



Toledo Law held an in-person commencement celebration on May 5, 2024, in the Student Union Auditorium, where 105 law candidates and graduates were recognized.

Corey Minor Smith '01 delivered remarks as commencement speaker. Minor Smith's legal career spans over 23 years and has been dedicated to public service as an assistant prosecutor, judicial attorney, and mayoral cabinet member before serving as general counselor for the same public housing authority that provided housing for her and her family. Minor Smith made history as the first African-American to be elected to a city-wide position to serve as an at-large member of Canton City Council. Currently, Minor Smith is appointed to serve with the Biden-Harris Administration as senior counsel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She has received numerous accolades and awards, including the NAACP-Stark County Image Award, NAMI-Stark County Starfish Award,

Boy Scouts of America Buckeye Council Spirit of Scouting Award, She Elevates Woman of Courage Award, induction into the YWCA Women's Hall of Fame, and was named an ATHENA International Women's Leadership Finalist.

UToledo **Trustee Lidia Ebersole** conferred degrees.

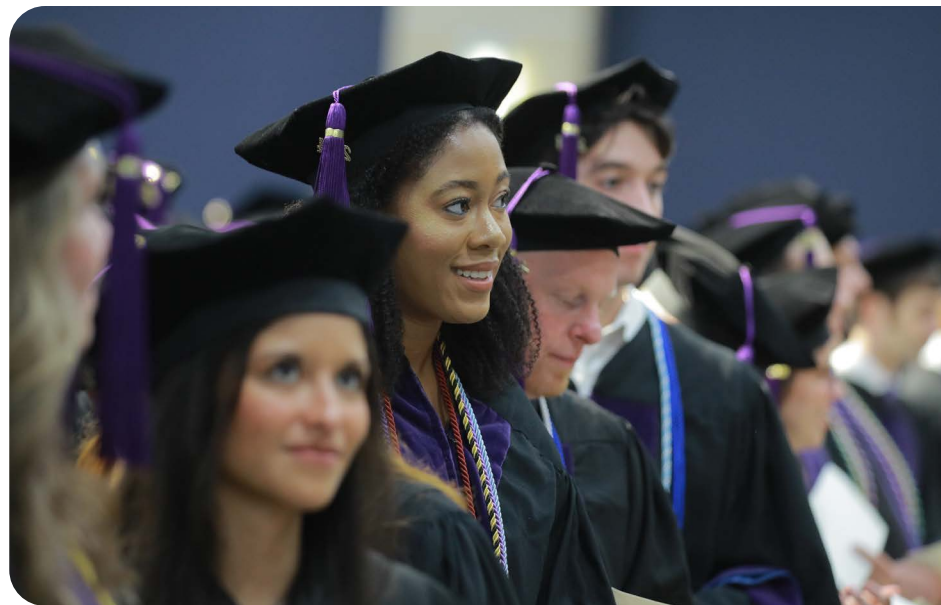
Hannah Twining received the Valedictorian Award and served as student speaker.

A first-generation law student, Twining had a non-traditional career in informal education before law school. During law school, she served as editor-in-chief of Law Review Board 55. "Anywhere my name is listed alongside an accomplishment there is a microscopic footnote containing the endless list of names of those who have inspired me and encouraged me to persevere. Toledo Law provided me with the opportunities to foster skills and refine abilities that will allow me to serve as an advocate in my community, use my voice to uplift others, and shine light in the darkness," said Twining.

Andre White received the Dean's Award, which honors the graduate who has made the most significant contribution to the college while maintaining high academic performance.

White was involved in many organizations, including the Black Law Student Association, the Student Bar, and the Toledo Bar Association. "At Toledo Law, the most valuable learning experiences for me came from my social interactions. Those interactions have helped me gain perspective opportunities, and to refine the path I choose to make for myself," said White.

The graduating students selected **Professors Greg Gilchrist** and **Eugenio Mollo Jr.** as the recipients of the Outstanding Professor Award for Dedication to Legal Education. **Professor Shelley Cavaleri** received the Beth Eisler First Year Teaching Award, which is chosen by the first-year class. **Professor Evan Zoldan** received the Faculty Scholarship Award for his article "Major Questions Doctrine in the States" published in the Washington Law Review (2023).



Watch the livestream recording
at [utoledo.edu/law/events/
commencement](https://utoledo.edu/law/events/commencement).

The Year In Review

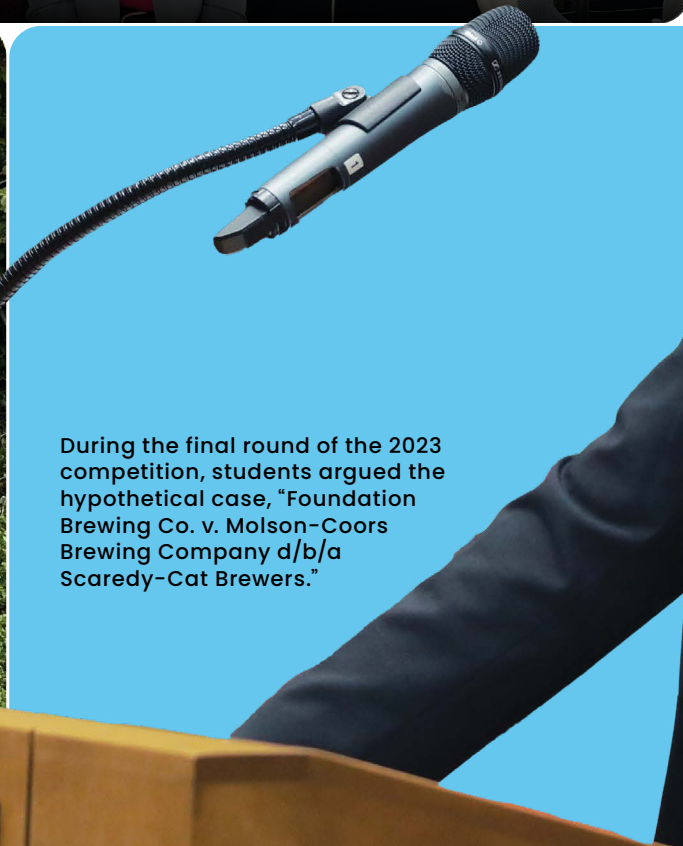
Throughout the 2023-24 academic year, Toledo Law hosted events for students and faculty to engage through networking, building culture, and scholarly enrichment.



International Law Society students participated in the International Law Weekend conference in New York City, hosted by the American Branch of the International Law Association.



The Environmental Law Society organized a team of students and TBA members to clean up Swan Creek and the surrounding streambed as part of the 27th Annual Clean Your Streams Day by Partners for Clean Streams.



During the final round of the 2023 competition, students argued the hypothetical case, "Foundation Brewing Co. v. Molson-Coors Brewing Company d/b/a Scaredy-Cat Brewers."





The Thurgood Marshall Law Association hosted its annual Welcome Reception for Toledo Law students, supporting and promoting the Black Law Student Association.



Panelists discussed "Attacking and Defending the Administrative State" during the Law Review Symposium.



Bad News Barristers, the College of Law's softball team in the Toledo Lawyers Softball League, brought home the championship trophy for the summer 2023 season.



Justice R. Patrick DeWine and Justice Melody J. Stewart of the Ohio Supreme Court visited Toledo Law for "A Conversation with Supreme Court Justices on the Ohio Constitution" as part of the Stranahan Lecture Series.

Spotlight on Excellence: Honoring Our New Faculty

Zsea Bowmani



Courses Taught: Constitutional Law – Rights; Property I – Fundamentals of Ownership; Introduction to Environmental Law

Scholarly Interests: Environmental law and justice, human rights, civil rights

Education History: B.A. History, Stanford University; Minor Creative Writing, Stanford University; J.D., Santa Clara University School of Law

“I am excited to bring my expertise in environmental law and justice to the classroom and beyond to help the people who need it most.”

— Zsea Bowmani

What was your journey to becoming a law school professor? After graduation, I worked at the National LGBTQ Task Force in Washington, DC and the ACLU of Illinois where I focused on US Supreme Court and appellate cases and policies to fight discrimination in employment, schools, criminal law, and healthcare settings. When I returned to California, I was a fellow with the Bay Area Chapter of National Lawyers Guild where I established the chapter’s Environmental Justice Committee and developed working relationships with community groups and legal workers to fight environmental injustice. That work eventually evolved into the Environmental Justice Law & Advocacy Lab at Santa Clara University School of Law that I co-lead with former Deputy General Counsel and current law professor Tseming Yang. As a steering member of SCU’s Environmental Justice Initiative, I was later invited to teach courses on environmental law and policy at Santa Clara Law and the College of Arts and Sciences, before I eventually joined the faculty at Toledo Law.

What is your best piece of advice for the next generation of lawyers? Professionally and personally, live your life such that when it comes to an end, you can be proud of who you are and the choices you made.

What is your favorite thing about living in Toledo? Reconnecting with family.

Is there anything else you would like to share with readers, or you think they would like to know about you? During law school, I worked for the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Cambodia to protect Angkor Wat and other examples of the nations’s cultural heritage in times of war. I also got to intern at the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative in London while the city was hosting the Summer Olympics.

Candice L. Kline



Courses Taught: Business Bankruptcy

Scholarly Interests: bankruptcy and related commercial law practices; dispute resolution practices and implications on efficiency, fairness, and equity

Education History: The University of Toledo, College of Law, J.D.; University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, M.B.A.; Oberlin College, B.A.

Honors Received: I received High Honors in Economics at Oberlin College for my thesis on labor migration. I served on Law Review as Editor in Chief and published on the interested of security and privacy law. My academic and professional career includes other awards and recognitions.

Select Publications: I have authored a six-part series in the Commercial Law World magazine on the issue of mass torts and bankruptcy practice. The forthcoming bankruptcy issue will include my discussion of the Supreme Court's decision in Purdue Pharma on whether and under what circumstances, if any, the Bankruptcy Code permits nonconsensual third-party releases in chapter 11 plans.

What drew you to your specific field of law or research?

I landed in bankruptcy because I entered private practice in 2008, when chapter 11 practice exploded during the financial crisis. This was an exciting time and allowed me to grow exponentially in the field. Bankruptcy is one of the last remaining generalist areas to practice. It combines both transactional and litigation work and is very challenging. All areas of law somehow intersect with bankruptcy practice. It's a great perch from which to observe our economy and public policy preferences evolve in debtor and creditor relations.

What was your journey to becoming a law school

professor? My journey began with the College of Law as a nontraditional law student. I was well into my business and banking career when I pivoted into law. Those experiences enriched my views then and now. I returned to the College of Law as a professor because of the strength of my experiences and connections with the law school, including a belief in the institution and my ability to make meaningful contributions.

What is your best piece of advice for the next

generation of lawyers? My best advice is to push for more. This means advocating for your clients and for yourself. You should listen and observe, be curious, and think seriously about where you want to go and what you want to do, with sensitivity to your values and needs. True success in this profession requires perseverance and heart.

What is your favorite thing about living in Toledo?

My husband and I moved to Maumee in 2005 for me to attend law school and we stayed. Although I practiced law in Chicago and nationally, we never left the Toledo area. I was born and raised in Oregon, Ohio and for me law school was a way to return home. I was better able to appreciate the benefits of living in the Toledo area after traveling and living elsewhere. Toledo offers a very high quality of life and is a hidden gem.

What are you most excited to bring to the Toledo

Law community? I have been part of the Toledo Law community since 2005 as a student, an alumna, and as a donor and mentor stakeholder. My contribution as a professor is leadership in the classroom, scholarship, and legal professionalism. My hope is to help other first-generation law students excel in this career and grow in confidence every step of the way.

Deborah Machalow



Courses Taught: Civil Procedure: Pleading & Practice, Civil Procedure: Jurisdiction

Scholarly Interests: reproductive rights; justice and women and the law

Education History: Indiana University Maurer School of Law, J.D.; Stony Brook University, B.A.

Honors Received: Graduated law school summa cum laude and order of the coif; graduated undergraduate studies summa cum laude

Select Publications: Screwed But Not Even Kissed: The Parade of Reproductive and Economic Horribles Likely to Follow Dobbs 26 J. GENDER, RACE & JUST. 81 (2023); Religious Diversity and A Woman's Right to Choose: The Religious Right's Mistakenly Assumed Monopoly on Belief and Religious Support for Abortion, 2022 RUTGERS J. L. & RELIGION 776 (2022); Revisiting the Equal Rights Amendment in the Age of #MeToo, 13 DEPAUL J. FOR SOC. JUST. 1 (2020)

What drew you to your specific field of law or research?

Teaching civil procedure is a dream come true. Before I joined the College of Law, I was a civil litigator and judicial law clerk, so I have a lot of experience with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and with some state civil procedure rules.

What is your favorite thing about living in Toledo? My favorite thing about Toledo is the people. Toledoans are so friendly and warm. As an aside, I also really love the signs posted around town that say, "You will do better in Toledo." They make me smile every time I see them.

Is there a person who influenced your direction in law or academia? My dad always encouraged me to pursue a career in academia. His dream was to be an English professor, but instead, he was a member of the non-teaching faculty at a college. Unfortunately, he never got to see me become a law professor, but I know he would be so proud of me. The wooden name plate that sat in my dad's office (saying "Professor Machalow") now sits on my desk in the College of Law.

"Great lawyers are experts in procedure. As I tell my students, in practice, always go back to the text of the rule – don't rely on your recollection because: (1) memory is faulty; and (2) the rule may have changed."

— Deborah Machalow

Adrian McKinney



Courses Taught: Race and the Law; Criminal Law; Law of American Policing; Criminal Pretrial Litigation

Scholarly Interests: My research lies at the intersection of criminal justice reform and law enforcement accountability. As a woman of color with experience in the criminal justice system, I chose to write on the systemic disparities in our justice system. When examining sentencing disparities, my knowledge and experience allow me to reveal how most of these inequalities continue to affect marginalized communities. With experience in police practices and accountability, I understand some of the most guarded systems in our country. My scholarship explores the role of prosecutors and law enforcement in this complex system.

Education History: University of San Francisco, J.D.; California State University, Northridge, M.P.A.; Occidental College, B.A.

Honors Received: Woman of the Year Award, issued by U.S. Congressman John Garamendi; 2019 Erica J. Murray Young Alumnus Award from Occidental College; 40 Under 40 Award from the Sacramento Business Journal.

What's your favorite and/or least favorite legal case or precedent and why? Hands down, Terry v. Ohio (1968) and Whren v. United States (1996). They encompass some of my least favorite cases in criminal procedure but really say more about how our justice system views societal issues such as race.

Is there a person who influenced your direction in law or academia? Who and how so? I would definitely say my family has been the strongest supporter of my career. As a first generation college and law student, it has been a team effort in every success I have achieved.

What are you looking forward to most about living in Toledo? / What is your favorite thing about living in Toledo? Toledo reminds me so much of Sacramento, California. Sacramento is often called a midwestern town nestled in California and living here I truly understand. I also love having a backyard big enough for our two puppies.

“Find great mentors and sponsors. We do not talk enough about how to create long-lasting relationships in law school and the importance of these relationships.”

— Adrian McKinney

Eugenio Mollo, Jr.

Courses Taught: Immigrant Justice Clinic; Advanced Immigrant Justice Clinic; Immigration Law

Scholarly Interests: clinical teaching, immigration law

Education History: University of Iowa, J.D.; University of Illinois, B.A.

Honors Received: Access to Justice Public Interest Law Award, issued by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO), and the Toledo Bar Association (TBA); Outstanding Professor Award, issued by The University of Toledo College of Law Class of 2024

What drew you to your specific field of law or research?

My parents are immigrants from Italy, so I've always had an interest in immigration. I grew up in a Chicago neighborhood alongside other immigrant families, many of whom were originally from Mexico, Lithuania, and China. Being a first-generation college student, I hadn't really thought about law school until late in my undergraduate studies. When my mentors told me that I could mix immigration with law, my path became clearer. I spent my 1L and 2L summers clerking at nonprofit farmworker law projects in Ohio and North Carolina, respectively, and I participated in my own law school's immigration clinic. It's funny how small decisions in one's past help pave the way for a rewarding and fulfilling career.

What was your journey to becoming a law school professor?

Since being admitted to the bar, I've always practiced immigration law. In 2017, I dipped my toe in law school teaching, instructing Immigration Law as an adjunct professor at Toledo Law every year through 2022. I really enjoyed teaching students about how our immigration laws and policies affect people's lives. I practiced for 15 years before starting my full-time clinical faculty position. For me, it's the perfect blend of teaching and lawyering.

What is your best piece of advice for the next generation of lawyers?

Always show up prepared. If it's your first hearing, deposition, argument, or trial, show up overprepared. You may have a case with a seasoned lawyer and feel inadequate, but solid preparation demonstrates to the court and opposing counsel that you are competent and ready to handle the case. There are many times that you can prevail by mere preparation.



“I moved to Toledo for a two-year immigration fellowship back in 2006. The plan was to stay in Toledo for only those two years, but Toledo, and my now-husband (David Mann, Toledo Law '12), won my heart. Toledo has so much to offer. We love visiting our parks, neighborhood library, theatres, local restaurants, and more. Toledo has been very good to us, and we're happy we've made Toledo our home.”

— Eugenio Mollo, Jr.

Glenys Spence

Courses Taught: Contracts, Business Associations

Scholarly Interests: business and commercial law, international human rights law, international and comparative law, admiralty and maritime law, immigration law

Education History: University of Pittsburgh School of Law, J.D., Advanced Certificate in International and Comparative Law; Tulane University, LL.M. Admiralty and Maritime Law; The University of Denver, B.A. Communications, International Studies Minor

Honors Received: Harry J. Stiles Scholarship, Tulane University Law School; CALI Award, Carriage of Goods by Sea, Tulane University Law School; CALI Award, Marine Insurance Law I and II, Tulane University Law School; Order of the Barristers Award, University of Pittsburgh School of Law; Academic Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh School of Law.; Partners in Scholarship (PINS) Award – University of Denver; The Dean’s List, University of Denver; Hornbeck Scholar, University of Denver; The Women’s College Scholarship, University of Denver; Continuing Education Scholar, New York University.

Select Publications: “Echoes of the Zong – Confronting Legal Realism in the Arguments for Reparations from the Atlantic Slave Trade and Modern-Day Human Trafficking,” 46 FORDHAM INT’L L.J. 425 (2023).

What drew you to your specific field of law or research? My primary interest is in promoting human rights both domestically and internationally. My practice experience in immigration law exposed various issues of human rights globally. These issues affect corporate governance relating to issues of human trafficking that affect businesses in the U.S. They also affect the supply chain and has the potential to affect national security. Thus, my scholarly research interests tend to intersect and are interdependent.



What is a defining moment in your life that holds great value to you? Becoming a United States citizen is one of the most valuable achievements. Citizenship is not something to be taken for granted. I always remember that at one point in our history, some groups were not allowed to be citizens and all of the rights including the right to vote. For me, citizenship is the greatest gift.

Is there a cause/charity that you hold near and dear to you and why? The Second Harvest Food Bank provides year-round food for those in need. I will support any charity that works to alleviate hunger and fight food insecurity.

“My experience, knowledge, and expertise in the areas of immigration law to help facilitate community engagement for immigrant groups in Toledo and neighboring areas. Also, I have an interest in general maritime law as it relates to the Great Lakes Region. I would like to lend my knowledge and expertise by engaging with the Maritime Academy of Toledo, particularly with the marine environment curriculum.”

— Glenys Spence

Kelly J. Tomlinson



Courses Taught: Lawyering Skills I, Advanced Legal Analysis, 3L Extended Bar Preparation, Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, The Legal Profession and Career Development

Education History: University of Toledo, College of Law, J.D.; Ohio Northern University, B.A. in Communication Arts

Honors Received: American Bar Foundation Fellow (2019); graduated magna cum laude from the University of Toledo College of Law (2006); graduated with high distinction from Ohio Northern University (2002)

What was your journey to becoming a law school professor? My journey to becoming a law school professor was a bit unusual since I have worked in several staff and faculty roles at Toledo Law over the years. While I was awaiting bar results, I worked in a temporary position as a Student Recruiting Associate for the Office of Admissions. My first full-time job after law school was as an associate at a private law firm, where I practiced in the areas of workers' compensation and insurance defense litigation. During my time at the firm, I was also involved in helping to coach Toledo Law's Trial Advocacy Team.

After leaving the firm, I taught and supervised students for a semester in Toledo Law's former Domestic Violence Clinic. While working in the clinic, I was offered an opportunity in our Office of Professional Development, where I worked with our students for nine years. Starting in 2019, I served for about three years as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and then transitioned into my current faculty role as Assistant Professor of Legal Writing

and Director of Academic Success and Bar Preparation. My involvement in various aspects of the law student experience over the years has given me a unique perspective when advising students. I am enjoying the recent opportunity to get back into teaching.

What is your best piece of advice for the next generation of lawyers? Get involved. Do things that you enjoy, or care about, that will help you connect with and learn from other people. Take the time to participate in bar associations or become involved in community organizations outside the legal field and change up your activities periodically so you can meet and learn from new people. My involvement in professional organizations has been a source of meaningful connections with people I wouldn't otherwise have had the chance to get to know because we were not doing the same type of work. Seeing our graduates getting involved and taking on leadership roles in bar associations and community organizations is one of the things that I love about working at the law school. It's a joy to watch people develop leadership skills during their time in school and then see them later becoming community leaders.

What is your favorite thing about living in Toledo? My favorite thing about living in Toledo is the Toledo Museum of Art. It's the first thing I recommend to those visiting the city. My mom is an artist, so I grew up with a love of art and I have been to a lot of art museums in the U.S. and other countries. Our local museum is a gem with a collection that can match those of museums in much larger cities and it often hosts high-quality temporary exhibitions. It's a wonderful place to enjoy a relaxing afternoon with family and friends. Spending time outdoors at our Toledo Metroparks comes in a close second.

Is there a person who influenced your direction in law or academia? Professor Rob Salem definitely influenced my career in academia. Years ago, he inquired whether I might be interested in being considered for a temporary teaching position in the College of Law's legal clinic, which resulted in me being hired to teach in the former Domestic Violence Clinic. I learned a lot about lawyering, advocacy, and teaching from him. He has been a great mentor to me and many other Toledo Law grads.

Alumni Affiliate Message



Greetings Fellow Toledo Law Alumni!

As the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year is under way, some of us may reminisce or reflect on our time at The University of Toledo College of Law and our favorite classes, professors, or colleagues. The College of Law has, no doubt, changed since your time as a law student. So too, have the issues facing law students and the next generation of lawyers, including AI, remote work, and evolving laws at all levels.

Beyond trips down memory lane, I encourage you to revisit or connect with the vibrant College of Law, and engage with its current students, faculty, and staff. The College of Law continues to provide a quality academic and practical experience-based environment to challenge law students, shape future legal professionals, and contribute to legal scholarship and dialogue on precedent and emerging issues.

Law students and the greater Toledo and Northwest Ohio legal community significantly and immeasurably benefit from the opportunities to develop professional relationships. We invite and encourage you to join the alums, students, and faculty at the College of Law Alumni Affiliate at our annual Law LaPalooza event this September. The fundraiser event supports the John W. Stoepler Scholarship Fund, which provides financial assistance to law students based on financial need or academic merit. We encourage you to support and attend the College of Law's events and programs throughout the year to collaborate and engage with law students.

The Alumni Affiliate Board looks forward to continuing to work with and support the College of Law and its students, alongside Interim Dean Rebecca Zietlow and the faculty and staff. I look forward to this year as President working with the dynamic volunteers on the Alumni Affiliate Board and connecting and collaborating with many of you, for the betterment of our profession and communities.

Go Rockets!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah K. Skow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sarah K. Skow, '06

Honoring a Legal Legacy: Richard Walinski's Journey from Philosophy to Law and His Lasting Impact on Ohio's Legal Community

By Kate Abu-Absi



It would be easy to assume that Richard (Dick) Walinski '69, recipient of the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award, was destined to become an attorney. After all, his grandfather Nicholas J. Walinski practiced law in Toledo; his father, Thaddeus N. Walinski, was a judge on the Toledo Municipal Court; and his uncle Nicholas J. Walinski, Jr. served as Judge on the U.S. District Court for the Northwest District of Ohio. Besides being born into a legal dynasty, Walinski has one of the sharpest legal minds in Ohio. Knowing this, you may be surprised to learn that entering the family's profession was not his initial plan. But a series of events — some personal, some global — brought him to The University of Toledo College of Law and changed the course of his life.

Because of a theology class his senior year at St. Francis de Sales High School, Walinski entered The University of Toledo intending to be a philosophy major. There he

discovered a department and especially one professor, Dr. George P. Guthrie, who directed and encouraged his personal wanderings through religious and secular thought. Walinski credits Dr. Guthrie's singular influence. "He shook the foundations. It was a soul-searching time for me. After graduation and a summer hitchhiking through Europe, I entered graduate school at Duquesne University. Graduate study did not invite the same level of philosophical inquisitiveness that I had experienced as an undergraduate."

Disappointed with the graduate-level study in philosophy, yet intent on obtaining a post-graduate degree, Walinski pivoted to his second interest and began his first year at Toledo Law. In part due the country's draft policies for the war in Vietnam, the incoming class was almost double the school's previous norm, severely stressing the college's resources and space. The administration

addressed the issue by drastically increasing the demands of every course, effectively weeding out nearly 40% of the class. Sadly, many of those who failed out were immediately drafted and sent to Vietnam. Some of the former classmates died there.

Walinski excelled as a student and became the first editor-in-chief of The University of Toledo Law Review. Immediately following their admission to the Ohio Bar in 1969, Walinski and classmate Cary Rodman Cooper formed Cooper & Walinski. They practiced together there for 42 years. The firm grew to become the fourth largest law firm in Toledo and eventually the largest in the country to have women as the majority of partners. In the first several years, most of the new lawyers had been, like the firm's founders, top-of-the-class graduates of Toledo Law. But other lawyers soon joined, coming from many of the country's most prestigious law schools. The firm's clients ranged from the impoverished to Fortune 100 companies and governmental entities.

Walinski's first big opportunity came just ten months into his career. It put him alongside Robert (Bobby) Kaplan, a titan of Toledo's legal community who had established himself in criminal defense and civil rights during the previous decade. On the morning of Sept. 18, 1970, a 33-year-old white police officer, William Miscannon, was murdered. Two members of the Toledo chapter of the Black Panther Party were arrested. Walinski, serving as a public defender that morning, interviewed both were arrested. One was John McClellan; he was charged with capital murder. Both men declined Walinski's offer to serve temporarily as their attorney, saying that their attorney, Bobby Kaplan, would represent them in court that day. While Walinski had heard Kaplan's name many times, he had yet to meet the local legend. He decided to stay and watch Kaplan in court. That decision would change the trajectory of Walinski's life.

During the defendants' first appearance in court, Kaplan took a one-week continuance. As had been standard practice at the time, he did not request a preliminary hearing for the defendants. Walinski, however, had a recent Supreme Court decision which held that preliminary hearing is a critical stage in the defense of a criminal case. He knew that if McClellan were eventually convicted of the murder and the case went up on appeal, whether the defendants had requested that hearing would be crucial fact. Right after the hearing Walinski approached Kaplan, introduced himself, and said, "You made a big mistake in there, Mr. Kaplan." He explained the recent ruling and told Kaplan that he needed to immediately request the preliminary hearing because the grand jury would quickly indict both defendants and that would moot their right to the hearing.

After dismissing Walinski's advice, Kaplan later told his wife that he had "met an angel" in the courtroom that day. He said Walinski was absolutely correct; failing to ask for a preliminary hearing could deprive his clients of a critical right. Three days later Kaplan called Walinski and asked him to join McClellan's defense team alongside himself and Milton Henry, a former Tuskegee Airman and nationally renowned attorney.

Charges that a Black Panther had murdered a white Toledo Police Officer quickly exacerbated an already volatile atmosphere of racial unrest in Toledo and made the national news. But the criminal case was widely believed to be open and shut. Despite the prosecutors' confidence that a guilty verdict would be swift, the trial required five full months of testimony. It was believed then to be the longest criminal case in U.S. history. The jury deliberated for nine days, also at that time the longest in U.S. history. The trial ended in a hung jury. A second trial, while not lasting as long, also ended with a hung jury.

Walinski's career catapulted from that auspicious start and began a lifelong friendship with Mr. Kaplan. His practice included litigation involving an unusual mix of contract, criminal, and prison-conditions cases in various jurisdictions.

For 32 years, his primary focus involved representing Dana Corporation. In a 1992 letter to Governor George Voinovich, the chairman of the company's board, Southwood J. Morcott, stated that Dana sent either Walinski or a prominent antitrust lawyer from Washington D.C. to appear wherever in the country lawsuits "of special interest to the company were filed." Even when Dana used other counsel, Walinski was often asked "to give direction... and sometimes even manage the litigation from afar." The relationship endured because, according to the chairman, Walinski had "superior legal ability . . . a quick, well-ordered mind and uncommonly sound judgment. Most importantly," he said, Walinski "is a man of unwavering integrity."

Federal Judge Jeffrey Helmick shares that sentiment. As Bobby Kaplan's nephew, Helmick has known Walinski since he was in high school and has considered him a mentor ever since.

"[Walinski has] depth of intellect, skills in arguing, strategy, leadership, and masterful cross-examination skills. But Dick has also served as a patient mentor whose invaluable lessons have elevated countless young lawyers."

— Federal Judge Jeffrey Helmick

Walinski represented state-government defendants in federal-court litigation over conditions of confinement in Ohio and the U.S. Virgin Islands. He also represented the court-appointed special master in federal litigation in Georgia, Texas, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. In Texas, it was the landmark case *Ruiz v Estelle*, presided over by Federal Judge William Wayne Justice. He had appointed Toledo Law professor Vincent Nathan as special master in the case. The state then hired the nationally renowned law firm Fulbright & Jaworski, which had been involved in such high-profile cases as the Nuremburg Trials and Watergate.

Judge Justice's clerk at the time was a young Harvard Law graduate, Fritz Byers. He recalls that the judge's order triggered a complete overhaul of the Texas prison system. As part of the state's resistance to the court order, Texas sought to indict a member of the special master's staff. Walinski and Cary Cooper were appointed to represent the Office of the Special Master. Fulbright & Jaworski again represented the state. To Byers, it seemed at first unfair, a David and Goliath miss-match. Mr. Byers still recalls the brilliant defense that was presented for the special master at trial. During the trial, the state relented, and the matter was settled out of court. Cary Cooper and Richard Walinski headed back to Toledo. Fritz Byers was not far behind.

For the first time, Byers considered Toledo as a potential city in which to practice law. Forty odd years later, Byers has made Toledo his home and feels he is “not being sentimental to say that meeting Dick Walinski was fundamental to shaping the great good fortunes in my life.” Beyond his abiding love and respect for his friend and colleague, Byers admires Walinski for his “fidelity to the rule of law. His integrity and profound belief in law have elevated the quality of our community’s practice, legal analysis and judicial decision making.”

Twice in his career, Walinski took a sabbatical from his firm to serve as Chief Counsel to two of Ohio’s attorneys general: William J. Brown, a Democrat, and Betty D. Montgomery, a Republican. He is the only person in Ohio to have been appointed as Chief Counsel by attorneys general from each major political party. In addition, Walinski served as chair of the Ohio Supreme Court’s committee that drafts and revises the rules governing practice and procedure in all Ohio courts. Criminal defense lawyer, Jon Richardson Toledo Law ’72 and attorney Mark Wagoner mentioned the impact Walinski had had on Ohio law, both describing him as one of a small number who had the largest formative influence on the Ohio Rules of Evidence.

The joy of spending the afternoon with Dick Walinski is multifaceted. He loves the law and is still excited by both the big-picture, societal impacts and the minute intricacies that can determine the outcome of cases. Wagoner expressed this very trait by saying,

“For Dick, the law rises above all else and his high ideals set the standard among his peers. He represents the best of us, and he belongs on the Toledo legal community’s Mt. Rushmore.”

— Mark Wagoner

Walinski’s love and respect for both of his parents is deep, but it was father’s influence and nightly conversations that led him to drill deeply into a topic. As Walinski shared, “The disciplined discussion in those conversations became the methodology of my professional life.” This methodology is reflected in Helmick’s observation that, “it is common for attorneys to blame judges or juries if they did not receive the ruling they were after, but Dick always looked internally. Always wondered, what did I do wrong? How could I have gotten a more favorable outcome for my client?”

This year’s College of Law Distinguished alum, Richard Walinski, is generous with his time and his laughter. He freely explains complex legal issues and rulings, and more than anything else, he praises others. He insists that nothing that he has accomplished has been done alone. The names that he lists include colleagues in his firm, heroes, mentors, educators, and dear friends and is Shakespearian in its scope. It would be impossible to list everyone that Walinski mentions. But if you had been in a classroom or courtroom, your name would very likely be mentioned. As far as he is concerned his success depended on assistance from a multitude of colleagues “with outstanding character and superb legal minds.”

Richardson summed up Walinski’s contribution best saying, “We’ve known each other for 50 years and tried some big cases together. There are those who think of him simply as a scholarly theoretician. The guy who writes the high-minded law review articles and listens to classical music at home — that’s “Richard.” The guy in the courtroom — that’s “Dick.” If you think he doesn’t enjoy being in the trenches, try a case with him sometime. In theory or in practice he always demonstrates how it’s supposed to be done. Our Bar and our community are beyond fortunate to have him. He would be a guide to excellence anywhere in the country. We’re lucky he stayed home.”

Faculty Notes



Zsea Bowmani, assistant professor of law, researches and writes on environmental law and policy, and emerging issues surrounding AI. He was invited to speak at the College of Medicine and Life Sciences on reproductive health law and policy, and presented at ClassCrits 2023 Conference on climate justice. He will teach an environmental law survey course starting Fall 2024, in addition to Property and Constitutional Law courses. Bowmani continues to collaborate with the City's Office of Sustainability and community group Junction Coalition 419 to address outstanding local environmental injustices.



Lesa Byrnes, legal writing professor, continued in her role as director of legal writing. As director, she oversees the college's legal writing program, including coordinating

panels of legal practitioners addressing first-year Lawyering Skills students on objective legal writing and appellate advocacy and the annual Sixth District Court of Appeals of Ohio oral arguments at the college. She was recently selected as one of the recipients of The University of Toledo's 2023-2024 Outstanding Teacher Award. This award recognizes a commitment to student success and significant contributions to the mission of the University.



Shelley Cavalieri, professor of law, continues teaching Property and a course on Trusts and Estates. She is delighted to be teaching Women and the Law to groups of excited students. She was honored to receive the Beth Eisler Award for teaching in the first-year program at the 2024 commencement. She is also actively mentoring junior faculty through the AALS section on Women in Legal Education.



Maara Fink, clinical professor of law, serves as director of the College of Law Externship Programs through which students gain practical experience in corporate counsel, public interest, and mediation placements throughout Northwest Ohio and beyond. She continues to focus on creating new and unique opportunities for students to gain exposure in a variety of fields and geographical locations. Students often pursue post-graduate employment in the placements in which they served as externs. Professor Fink currently serves as president of the Ottawa Hills Local Schools Board of Education and continues to support the advancement of dispute resolution initiatives in Ohio as a board member with the Ohio Mediation Association and chair of Strategic Planning Subcommittee of the Supreme Court of Ohio Dispute Resolution Commission. Professor Fink provides annual updates to Chapter 6, Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution, Baldwin's Ohio Practice – Domestic Relations Law.



Llewellyn Joseph Gibbons,

Distinguished University Professor of Law, continues to serve as the University Research Integrity Officer. The leading Chinese IP publisher will translate his co-authored book *Mastering Trademark Law and Intellectual Property Management* into Chinese. He is happy to return to lecturing and participating in conferences in person. In the spring and summer of 2024, he gave six talks in China on topics related to artificial intelligence and IP, and he has been invited to return next year.



Gregory M. Gilchrist, professor of law, taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and White-Collar Crime at Toledo Law and the University of Houston Law Center. Gilchrist serves on the Board of Commissioners of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. He serves as a member of the CJA Panel

for the Northern District of Ohio, representing defendants charged with felonies in federal court by court appointment. Gilchrist strives to bring the courtroom to the classroom, informing his teaching by reference to his practice experience, and bringing judges, prosecutors, private counsel, and other court personnel to class. This year Gilchrist was selected to serve as an inaugural Fellow at the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership. As a Fellow, Gilchrist will teach a newly designed class for undergraduate students on *Civil Discourse*. The class will explore the value of civic discourse to an open, free, and democratic society while providing students with an opportunity to learn and practice the core skills necessary to engaging on difficult topics among people with different and divergent perspectives.



Rick Goheen, assistant dean for the LaValley Law Library and associate professor of law, traveled to Topeka, Kansas to serve on the ABA site visit team for Washburn Law School's reaccreditation. In cooperation with OhioLINK and University Libraries (Carlson and Mulford), Dean Goheen and the law library staff are working on a year-long transition from the

Sierra integrated library system to Ex Libris' Alma platform. They continue their work on technology upgrades for instructional spaces in the Law Center.



Jessica Knouse, professor of law, briefly stepped away from her usual courses to teach the entire 1L day class *Contracts I and Contracts II*. While preparing these new courses, she also participated in various events at The University of Toledo, including the Department of Women's and Gender Studies Feminist Faculty Series (speaking on *Current Issues in Trans Rights*) and a WLSA/FJLS panel on then-pending SCOTUS case *United States v. Rahimi*. She served as advisor to the Law Review and FJLS. She taught LSAT Skills classes and spoke at BGSU's Pre-Law Camp.

FACULTY NOTES



Deborah Machalow, assistant professor of law, joined the University of Toledo College of Law faculty in the fall of 2023. She teaches Civil Procedure: Pleading and Practice, and Civil Procedure: Jurisdiction. Her scholarly interests focus on reproductive rights/justice and women and the law. Since joining the faculty, she has presented on abortion for the Toledo Women's Bar Association, the Jewish Federation of Greater Toledo, and Medical Students for Choice and People in Health Care.



Eugenio Mollo, Jr., clinical assistant professor of law, co-presented "No Time to Think: Exploring Models of Clinic Coverage to Support Scholarship, Professional Development, and Sustainability" at the Midwest Clinical Legal Education Conference held at

the University of Minnesota Law School. He also presented on a panel called, "Finding Common Ground: Addressing the Obstacles in Current Immigration Policy" at the Ohio Women's Bar Association and Ohio Women's Bar Foundation annual meeting in Columbus. Locally, in partnership with the Lucas County Prosecutor's Office, Victim and Witness Assistance Office, the Immigrant Justice Clinic held a brief-advice legal clinic at the Sofia Quintero Art and Cultural Center, focusing on immigrant victims of domestic violence. In 2024, Eugenio joined the Board of Trustees of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation.



Katherine Raup O'Connell, legal writing professor, celebrated twenty years of teaching at the College of Law. This year she will continue teaching the first-year law courses Lawyering Skills I and II which focus on legal research, objective writing and analysis, and appellate advocacy. In January 2024, she joined the UToledo's Faculty Senate and will sit on its Student Affairs Committee in the 2024-2025 academic year. She continues as

College of Law representative on UToledo's Student Legal Services Board, serving on its Finance and Bylaws Committees.



Marilyn Preston, legal writing professor and also site administrator for the Law and Leadership Institute (LLI). LLI is a comprehensive four-year program for underserved high school students from 9th to 12th grade. As administrator, she coordinates field trips to the Toledo Courts, a four-day internship program for upper-class at various legal organizations and law firms, and college visits. In addition, she schedules speakers, including legal practitioners, Judges, law school and undergraduate admissions directors, Toledo Law students, and the Dean and Associate Deans, and faculty to talk to the students on pursuing a career in the law. This year our current 12th graders will be flying to Washington, D.C. with seniors from all the other 5 LLI sites in Ohio to tour several colleges and other famous sites in our nation's capital.



Geoffrey C. Rapp, Harold A. Anderson Professor of Law and Values and senior associate of academic affairs, was awarded a Master of Strategic Studies degree from the U.S. Army War College in July 2024. He served on the Law School Admissions Council (LSAC) Assessments Committee and on the search committee for the LSAC's next CEO. He also served on the Data Collection Advisory Group for the ABA's Section on Legal Education. In addition to teaching law school courses, he also co-taught a course in the College of Business on Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) aimed at UToledo undergraduate student-athletes.



Rob Salem, clinical professor of law, continues to serve on the Board of Governors of the Ohio State Bar Association, where he also serves on

the Government Affairs Committee. He was also recently inducted into the Ohio State Bar Foundation Class of 2024. Salem was awarded the Toledo Bar Association's Community Service Award at the Association's annual meeting in June of 2023. He presented on end-of-life legal issues for LGBTQ people at a program that was co-sponsored by the University of Toledo Colleges of Nursing and Pharmacy. Salem also collaborated with area legal services organizations and the city of Toledo to develop Tenant Tuesday, a program that offers limited legal assistance to people experiencing housing issues. Additionally, he worked with the Lucas County Domestic Relations Court to implement LGBTQ-friendly policies in the court's Domestic Violence Resource Center, and he worked with students to host two name-change clinics for the local transgender community. Salem also serves on the boards of the Toledo School for the Arts, Toledo Victory Center, Toledo Legal Aid Society, and the Ohio Advisory Committee for the United States Commission on Civil Rights.



Joseph Slater, Distinguished University Professor and Eugene N. Balk Professor of Law and Values, continues to write about labor law, and is working on a new edition of one of his casebooks. He teaches Torts, Evidence, and Labor and Employment law classes. He is a member of the Federal Service Impasses Panel (appointed by President Biden), a body that resolves bargaining impasses for federal sector unions and employers. He had several speaking opportunities last year, including one at the annual conference of the ABA Section on Labor and Employment Law. He served on the faculty appointments committee which hired three new law professors last year. He is a leader of the law faculty union. He contributes to the website JOTWELL. He coached the Labor & Employment Law Moot Court team. He enjoyed playing music with students at a law school event.

FACULTY NOTES



Kelly Tomlinson, assistant professor of legal writing and director of academic success and bar preparation, taught Lawyering Skills I, Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility, and 3L Extended Bar Preparation during the 2023-24 academic year. In summer 2024, Professor Tomlinson began a three-year term on the Law Alumni Affiliate Board of Governors. This year, she served as chair of the Toledo Women's Bar Association CLE committee and helped coordinate a continuing education session about the passage of Ohio's fall 2023 ballot initiatives, Issue 1 and Issue 2. She continues her active involvement with the Morrison R. Waite American Inn of Court.



Rebecca Zietlow, interim dean, Distinguished University Professor, and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values, published

"Reproductive Justice and the Thirteenth Amendment" in Boston University Law Review Online, and "Abortion, Citizenship, and the Right to Travel" in Employee Rights and Employee Policy Journal. She presented numerous lectures including "A Constitution of Liberation at The Second Founding? The Significance of Reconstruction in Constitutional History, Law, and Politics" at Tulane Law School, "Constitutional Tools for Protecting Democracy" at the 2024 AALS Annual Meeting law and Humanities Section program, "The Counter-Majoritarian Difficulty Revisited" at the 2024 Annual Loyola University Colloquium on Constitutional Law and the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association, and "Abortion Rights and Fugitives From Slavery" at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. She was elected Chair of the AALS Section on Law and Humanities, and appointed to the Law School Admissions Council Committee on Diversity.

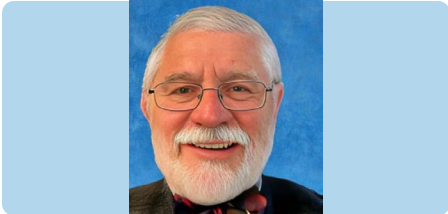


Evan C. Zoldan, professor of law and director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes, researches and writes about legislation, administrative law, and statutory interpretation. This year, his scholarship appeared in U.C. Irvine Law Review, the Washington University Law Review, and the William & Mary Law Review. He wrote a series of blog posts on state statutory interpretation for the Brennan Center's State Court Report. He presented works in progress at the Legislation Roundtable, the Constitutional Law Colloquium, and the Southeastern Association of Law Schools Conference. He organized the 23rd annual Great Lakes Water Conference, which explored the Clean Water Act.

Explore faculty profiles at utoledo.edu/law/faculty.

Alumni Class Notes

1979



Edward (Ted) Kurt was recently elected to a four-year term on Maumee City Council. He had previously served as general counsel to St. Charles Hospital and the former Mercy Hospital.

1981

David Barrett was the 2023 winner of the Excellence in Agricultural Law award for private practitioners by the American Agricultural Law Association.

1986

Bradley Le Boeuf was appointed in 2022 by the Mayor of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio to the Board of Trustees of the Cuyahoga Falls Library. His recent book review of "President Garfield: From Radical to Unifer" by C.W. Goodyear was published in "Ohio Lawyer," Vol. 38, No.1 (Feb. 2024). Note: the submission in the spring 2024 edition of the Transcript was an error.

1993

Judge Phillip Naumoff currently sits on the Ohio Supreme Court Re-entry Court Task Force. He was elected to the Richland County Common Pleas Court General Division in 2018.

1995



Marjan Neceski is a new partner at RCO Law in Toledo, working in the Business & Corporate and Litigation Practice, bringing over 25 years of significant legal experience to the firm.

1996



Timothy Molyneux served in the U.S. Army as a judge advocate general and deployed to Iraq in 2009-10. He was awarded a Bronze Star for his service there.

2001



Corey Minor Smith served as The University of Toledo College of Law's commencement speaker in May 2024.

2003



Amy Corron Power has joined the Houston office of Norton Rose Fulbright as staff counsel, eDiscovery Services, named a 2023 "Top Workplace" in Houston for the third consecutive year.

2004



Michael Adams is president of the Grand Rapids, Michigan Bar Association. His one-year term commenced in June 2024.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2005



Judge Eric Marks of the Lucas County Common Pleas Court, General Division was appointed to the Commission on Continuing Legal Education by the Ohio Supreme Court.



Adam Nightingale was sworn in as the 123rd president of the Toledo Bar Association in June 2024 serving a one-year term.

2006



Jennifer Shepler (Adams) was named to Board of Directors at Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC.

2007

Elizabeth Rumley (Springsteen) was this 2023 recipient of the AALA Excellence in Agricultural Law award for academia from the American Agricultural Law Association.

2009



Katherine Hunt-Thomas is a recipient of the Ohio State Bar Foundation's 2024 Community Service Award for Attorneys 40 and Under.

2011

Nicholas Turner was selected as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the U.S. Army Reserve Military Intelligence Readiness Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

2012

Bradley Proudfoot was elected the City of Wadsworth's new director of law in November 2023. He began his four-year term on January 1, 2024.



Matthew Spaulding was elected a partner at Shumaker. His law practice concentrates on representing public and private companies on corporate and technology-related matters.

2013



Lidia Ebersole has been appointed to The University of Toledo Board of Trustees by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine to a term ending July 1, 2032.



Jamar King was elected to the partnership at Thompson Hine LLP. He focuses his practice on solving legal problems for clients operating in the complex realm of government procurement.

2016



Chelsie Camden (Lipscomb) was selected as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate (DSJA) at Vance Air Force Base, Oklahoma, advising commanders on training world-class pilots.



Michael Hanchett, an associate attorney for Plunkett Cooney was recently selected by the Lawyers for Civil Justice (LCJ) as a member of the organization's Fellows Class of 2024. He was also recently named to the 2024 Class of Up & Coming Lawyers by Michigan Lawyers Weekly.



Kayla Henderson, was elected partner at RCO Law in Toledo, practicing in Litigation defending healthcare providers in medical malpractice/professional liability claims ranging.

2020



Eli Boldt joined Bowling Green State University's Office of General Counsel as an assistant general counsel.



Benjamin Colsten accepted a new position as deputy public defender with the San Bernardino County Public Defender's Office.

2021

Conner Veverka was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice during their annual Sunshine Week celebration in March 2024. Conner was a clerk for Nick Wittenberg '11 at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2022



Jordan Messmer joined Reminger Co., LPA's Toledo office.

SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTE

Share your latest news at utoledo.edu/law/alumni/class-note. Notes will be published in the next issue of Transcript and may be edited for consistency or clarity.

Alumni In Memoriam

Toledo Law pays tribute to members of our community who passed away between July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024.

1960s

- '62 **James Paul Silk Sr.**
10/23/2023
- '62 **Judson Porter Spore Jr.**
8/4/2023
- '63 **Joseph Goldberg**
4/1/2024
- '65 **James R. Jeffery**
11/23/2023
- '66 **Joseph William Westmeyer Jr.**
12/26/2023
- '66 **Robert Edward Witt**
7/22/2023
- '68 **Ronald Joseph Manuszak**
1/22/2024
- '69 **Stephan Henry Miller**
11/30/2023
- '69 **Thomas John Szyperski**
1/5/2024

1970s

- '70 **T. Scott Johnston**
5/17/2024
- '70 **John Craig Turin Sr.**
10/25/2023
- '71 **Russell Edwin Shaffer Jr.**
12/25/2023
- '73 **David Harlow Pritchard**
4/14/2024
- '73 **Ronald James Tice**
11/24/2023
- '74 **Dr. Thomas Edward Carney**
11/26/2023

- '74 **Robert Wayne Morgan**
1/5/2024
- '75 **Gregory Dziegielewski**
10/21/2023
- '75 **Stanley Douglas Russell Jr.**
4/1/2024
- '75 **Thomas L. Stierwalt**
12/14/2023
- '76 **Jack Eugene Baxter**
2/18/2024
- '77 **Dr. Joseph Christian Beins**
9/9/2023
- '77 **Michael David Demchak**
8/1/2023
- '77 **Charles Franklin Loutzenhiser Jr.**
3/7/2024
- '79 **The Hon. John Stewart Collier**
3/16/2024
- '79 **Clint M. McBee**
8/8/2023

1980s

- '81 **Harold Andrew Kelley**
9/5/23
- '81 **Richard Louis Sanders**
2/18/2024
- '83 **Paul Edward O'Reilly**
10/7/23
- '85 **Scott Keillor**
10/27/23
- '86 **Kathryn J. Woodward**
2/27/24

- '87 **Alan Marvin Gruenhagen**
6/4/2024
- '89 **Stanley Bernard Linver**
10/25/2023

1990s

- '90 **Robert Lewis Doty**
1/7/2024
- '90 **Luke P. Gallagher**
5/8/2024
- '93 **Catherine Michelle Molaro**
12/31/2023
- '95 **Nirakar Chand Thakur Jr.**
2/26/2024
- '95 **Sandra Ann Westfall**
2/20/2024
- '96 **John Putnam Smith**
1/13/2024
- '97 **Dr. William Anthony Sodeman Jr.**
5/12/2024
- '98 **Mary Margaret Steltenpohl**
6/12/2024

2000s

- '00 **Matthew Karoly Ujvagi**
3/30/2024

2010s

- '16 **Brett Thomas Schuelke**
6/21/2024
- '19 **Karen A. Davis**
11/9/2023

New Funds

Newly Endowed Fund

Cara Anne Roecker Memorial Scholarship

Provides scholarships for students in memory of Cara Anne Roecker ('05) whose distinguished academic performance paired with the respect she earned from faculty and fellow students propelled her into a career with Chicago law firm Katten Muchin Rosenman. All this she accomplished while facing severe chronic pain from an injury earlier in her life. Her experience compelled her to write about and advocate for the rights of people who suffer from chronic pain until her death in 2016.

Tempie Ruth McConnell Law Scholarship

Provides scholarships in memory of Tempie Ruth McConnell by her husband The Hon. C. Allen McConnell ('72) and family in honor of the love and support she provided throughout his legal education and their life together. Tempie deeply valued education and spent her entire professional life as a teacher, counselor, and administrator at various Toledo-area schools.

New Funds

Dean D. Benjamin Barros Law Scholarship

Provides scholarships in honor of immediate past Dean D. Benjamin Barros for his contributions to the mission and strength of the University of Toledo College of Law during his eight years of service.

Wilson & Johnson Private Foundation Scholarship

Provides renewable \$30,000 scholarships to cover tuition, fees, and additional expenses for academically high-achieving students who demonstrate leadership within the college.

Raising the Bar Fund

The Raising the Bar Fund is a competitive stipend designed to improve the rate of Toledo Law graduates who pass the bar exam on their first attempt. It will do so by providing the financial means for recipients to make exam preparation their full-time job by taking adequate time off work.

Personal Hardship Inspires New Scholarship



George Wilson ('80) credits Toledo Law with changing his life. Financial struggles were a major part of Wilson's early life all the way through college and law school. To make ends meet, he started a driveway blacktop business that he worked in the summers. Even though this allowed him to attend law school and reduce the debt he needed to take on, it came at a heavy cost to his grades, social life, and professional network.

Educational costs will be the furthest thing from the minds of several high-achieving Toledo Law students over the next five years thanks to his philanthropic vision. As he considered how he could give back and reinvest in the college, he thought, "What if someone had paid my way through law school? That would have been unbelievable for me. It would have been a game-changer. I probably still would have worked some, but not as much. Whoever those lucky people are who are selected for the scholarship, I just want to change their lives."

The first two \$30,000 scholarships will be awarded from the Wilson & Johnson Private Foundation Scholarship Fund for the 2024-25 academic year — enough to cover full tuition and fees at current levels with some left for books, living expenses, and other necessities.

Wilson is the founder and managing partner of Wilson & Johnson, a law firm in Naples, Florida, specializing in tax, estate planning, real estate, and business law for high-net-worth individuals. In 2018, he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the College of Law.

Time Your Impact: Give From Your IRA

An individual retirement account (IRA) is an appealing way to save for retirement. Throughout your career you can make regular contributions to it and enjoy the tax savings. Eventually, the tax bill comes due — when taking annual distributions and again when you leave your IRA to heirs. If you want to avoid the tax bite and help College of Law students achieve their dreams, then consider a gift from your IRA.

Make Your Gift Today

If you're 70½ years of age or older, there are multiple ways you can use your IRA to make a tax-free gift to The University of Toledo Foundation. The most common option is a qualified charitable distribution allowing you to transfer up to \$105,000 in 2024 to charity without paying income tax. For individuals currently taking a required minimum distribution, your gift can satisfy all or part of your obligation.

Magnify Your Impact After Your Lifetime

Regardless of your age, you can make a legacy gift from your IRA by designating The University of Toledo Foundation as a beneficiary of your account. This is a great option for extending support from your IRA beyond your lifetime. By doing this you could also greatly reduce the tax burden for your heirs.



For more information, contact Nick Kulik, Senior Director of Planned Giving, at 419.530.5410 or nicholas.kulik@utoledo.edu.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 5, 2024

10 a.m. | UToledo Homecoming Parade

The Rockets face off against Miami University at the Glass Bowl Stadium, with kickoff set for 3:30 p.m. Join your fellow classmates at the Toledo Law tailgate! Learn more at: utoledo.edu/law/calendar

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024

The Toledo Way Series

Noon | College of Law Auditorium

Sons of Toledo and Holistic Approaches to Legal Aid. Guests include Sean McNulty '94, Director, Toledo Legal Aid Society and Jeremy Pratt Jr., Fellow-Toledo Legal Aid Society

Friday, Oct. 18, 2024

9 a.m.-3 p.m. | Law Review Symposium

"Beyond the Code: Ethical and Regulatory Dimensions of AI in Law"

Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2024

Noon | Fornoff Competition

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024

The Toledo Way Series

6 p.m. | College of Law Auditorium

Civil Discourse – Guest Speaker Former Ohio Governor Dick Celeste

Friday, Nov. 8, 2024

Virtual Great Lakes Water Conference

9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

"Climate Migration in the Great Lakes Region"

Wednesday, Feb. 26- Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025

Day of Giving

Mark your calendar and start thinking about how you will support Toledo Law during our annual Day of Giving! When you designate a gift of any amount to Toledo Law, it stays within the college to benefit our students. One of the most powerful ways you can support the college, in addition to making a gift, is to become an advocate and encourage others to give as well.

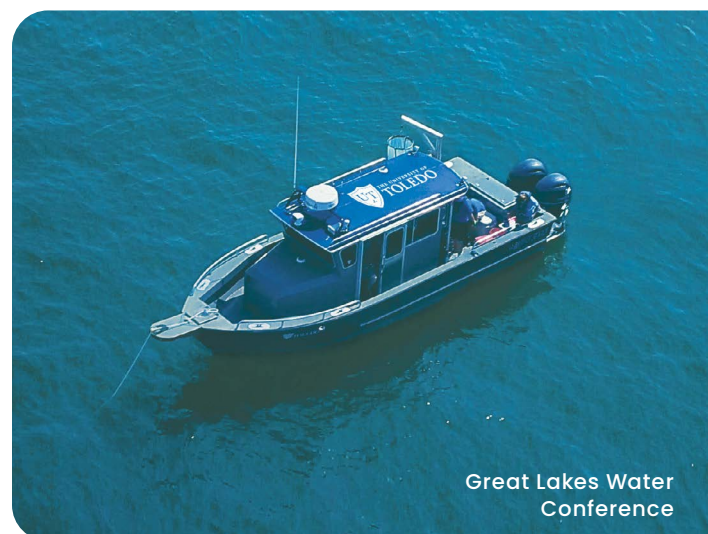
More about Day of Giving coming soon. Keep an eye on the Alumni e-News to sign up as an advocate!



Homecoming



Law Review Symposium



Great Lakes Water Conference

STAY UP TO DATE

Visit the College of Law events calendar for event details. utoledo.edu/law/calendar



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EXPLORE EVENTS

We look forward to seeing you at Toledo Law alumni networking events, reunions, conferences, and other special occasions throughout the year. Visit our alumni events page for the latest schedule.

utoledo.edu/law/alumni/events

utoledo.edu/law/alumni/magazine

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Share Your Stories

Email us at lawcommunications@utoledo.edu to share your student or alumni story.

