

# TRANSCRIPT <sup>2021</sup>



COLLEGE OF LAW  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

## Servant Leadership

**Toledo Law** alumni are leading by example — enriching lives, building better organizations, and creating a just and caring world.

### Inside this Issue:

New Dean's Cabinet Fuels Mission  
Fornoff Competition Turns 50  
Class Notes and More

*Walter Starghill III '19*



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Transcript is published once a year by the College of Law in collaboration with The University of Toledo Office of Marketing and Communications.

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# DEAN'S LETTER



## What a year it has been!

**The COVID-19 pandemic challenged us all in ways we could not have imagined. However, I'm incredibly proud of how our faculty, staff, students, and supporters have persevered throughout the crisis. Despite doing a lot of our work remotely in the past year, I'm confident we have prepared our students and graduates for continued success.**

We're proud of the recognition we have received recently. We were rated No. 1 for most accessible professors in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana by the Princeton Review. We consistently rate highly on this metric, and I'm proud of our faculty's devotion to students. We also ranked No. 4 nationally in the Princeton Review's category of law schools with the greatest resources for women.

Enrollment trends continue to be positive. As of Aug. 31, Toledo Law's entering class in 2021 is 127 percent larger than our entering class in 2015. We also reduced our out-of-state surcharge to \$100 per semester. This change will allow us to better compete for students outside the region.

Toledo Law graduates continue to perform well on the bar exam. The Class of 2018 reported a 96.49 percent ultimate bar passage rate, which ranked No. 1 in Ohio and No. 33 nationally for ABA-accredited law schools. Even as the pandemic brought larger parts of the economy to a halt and introduced immense uncertainty for employers, our 10-month post-graduation employment numbers dipped only slightly.

We're focusing on diversity and inclusion programs and initiatives. Our Launch into Law pipeline program continues to thrive. The successfully endowed Vincent M. & Beverly J. Nathan Memorial Diversity Program Fund will support these efforts.

I'm grateful to our donors, whose generosity helps us support our students every day. For example, a generous match from the Resnick family during Day of Giving helped us raise \$179,704 from 205 donors. You can read more about some of our fundraising highlights later in this issue.

We're in a great position to build on our strengths and provide a transformative legal education for our students. I look forward to traveling again, and I hope to have the opportunity to see you in person soon!

Until then,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Benjamin Barros". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

D. Benjamin Barros  
Dean and Professor of Law  
The University of Toledo College of Law

#1

Most Accessible Professors  
in Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana

*Princeton Review 2021*

#4

Best Law School in Nation  
for Greatest Resources for Women

*Princeton Review 2021*

47%

Women in Entering  
Class 2021

#129

Best Law School in the  
Nation — up seven spots  
*U.S. News & World Report 2022*

127%

Increase in Entering  
Class Size

*Since 2015*

Top

Law School in Nation  
for Public Service

*preLaw magazine 2020*

## BAR PASSAGE

**Toledo Law is committed to a strong bar passage rate, and we recognize it as an important measure of success.**

In 2020, the American Bar Association (ABA) implemented a new, single standard for bar passage among ABA-accredited law schools, which measures a statistic the organization refers to as a school's **ultimate bar passage rate**. The rate reflects the percentage of graduates who sat for a bar exam and passed within two years of graduation. Based on the latest ABA data for 2018 graduates, Toledo Law's 96.49 percent ultimate bar pass rate ranks No. 1 of nine law schools in Ohio and No. 33 in the nation. Our rate is also the top score among Indiana law schools and No. 2 by less than one percentage point among Michigan law schools.

#1

Toledo Law Ranks No. 1  
of Nine Law Schools  
in Ohio for Ultimate  
Bar Pass Rate

#33

Toledo Law Ranks  
No. 33 in Nation  
for Ultimate  
Bar Pass Rate

96.49%

of Toledo Law  
Grads Passed Bar  
Exam Within Two Years  
of Graduation

#

BY THE

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## Ranked #4 Best Law School for Women

### Toledo Law Ranked No. 4 Best Law School for Women by Princeton Review

Princeton Review once again selected Toledo Law in its list of top 164 law schools titled “Best Law Schools 2021.” The college moved up one spot to No. 4 on the national list of the top 10 law schools with the “Greatest Resources for Women.”

Princeton Review identified which law schools offer the greatest resources for women based on the percentage of the student body who identify as women, as well as on student answers to a survey question on whether all students are afforded equal treatment by students and faculty regardless of their gender.

The Best Law Schools rankings are based on data from the company’s surveys of 14,000 students and administrators at 164 law schools.

The Princeton Review’s student survey asked about law school academics, student body, and campus life. It also included questions for respondents about themselves and their career plans. The student surveys were conducted during the 2019-20, 2018-19, and 2017-18 academic years.

The company also selected schools based on surveys of law school administrators during the 2019-20 academic year. The survey covered topics from academics and admission requirements to enrolled students and employment.



### Tax Clinic Adapts to Meet Community Needs

For the Tax Controversy Clinic, a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic at Toledo Law, operational changes were required for the clinic to continue meeting both its educational and community outreach objectives during the pandemic.

Clinic staff and student attorneys were quick to adapt so that they could continue active cases. “We had robust electronic practice management software and secure communications in place,” Clinic Director Chris Bourell said from his home office. “The technology allowed student attorneys to continue their work on active cases seamlessly.”

The clinic continued to accept new cases and to offer consultations, but it was limited in its abilities. Over the summer, the clinic established systems to hold secure virtual meetings with existing and potential clients.

In addition to representing taxpayers with their matters, the clinic also serves to educate both law students and the community. With its in-person events canceled, the clinic came up with new ways to connect virtually, offering free tax discussions and question-and-answer sessions online. The clinic also continues to advise taxpayers with free consultations.

*Pictured is Clinic Director Chris Bourell leading student attorneys in a virtual seminar.*



## WANT MORE NEWS?

Catch up on the latest Toledo Law news at [utoledo.edu/law/news](https://utoledo.edu/law/news)



## Professor Ben Davis Retires

Toledo Law Professor Ben Davis retired on Jan. 31, 2021. To celebrate this occasion, Toledo Law hosted an online conference organized by Davis on Jan. 22 titled “A Virtual Gathering of Friends,” with panels featuring more than 40 experts around the world. Professor Davis was also the subject of several essays in his honor published in an issue of *The University of Toledo Law Review*.

Davis joined the Toledo Law faculty in 2003. He taught in the areas of contracts, commercial law, alternative dispute resolution, arbitration, public international law, and international business transactions.

Davis created international fast-track commercial arbitration, invented the International Competitions for Online Dispute Resolution, and led the adoption by the American Society of International Law of its Centennial Resolution on Laws of War and Detainee Treatment, also known as “the Davis Resolution,” only the eighth resolution in its then history.

Throughout his vast legal career, Davis has served as a global advocate. Bilingual in English and French, he worked in Paris as a strategic business consultant and development consultant for West Africa. Later, as American legal counsel at the Paris-based International Court of Arbitration, he supervised over 1,000 international cases, assisted with drafting arbitration laws in countries such as India and Sri Lanka, and led conferences around the world.

In recognition of his contributions, Davis was conferred emeritus status by the UToledo Board of Trustees at its June 2021 meeting. Davis is a Harvard graduate, having earned his B.A., cum laude, in economics and his J.D./M.B.A.

## New and Newly Endowed Funds

Donor-driven philanthropy tells a powerful story. Over the last year, many new funds have been created, and newly endowed funds have been reinvigorated through donor-driven initiatives. While a non-endowed fund allows for spending until the fund is depleted, an endowed fund will continue in perpetuity, and a portion of the fund’s balance will pay out annually. Together, these non-endowed and endowed funds help to provide sustainable and consistent support at the College of Law. Thank you to all who have created and supported these funds. Your donations make an impact!

### New Funds

- Bobby Kaplan Scholarship for Humanity in Legal Practice Fund
- Buenavides Scholarship Fund
- Harold S. Roos Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Michael and Judith Kadens Scholarship for Diversity in Legal Practice Fund
- Richard A. Schwartz Scholarship Fund
- The Handwork, Jensen, & McDonald Memorial Fund
- The Hon. Frederick H. McDonald Scholarship Fund
- The Hon. William J. Skow Scholarship Fund
- Toledo Law Champions’ Circle Scholarship Fund

### Newly Endowed Funds

- Vincent M. & Beverly J. Nathan Memorial Diversity Program Fund

*The funds listed above were created or endowed between the period of June 1, 2020–July 1, 2021.*

# CONGRATULATIONS, LAW GRADUATES



*Ben Davis*



*Connie Zimmelman*

Toledo Law held an in-person commencement celebration on May 15, 2021, in Savage Arena, where 75 law candidates and graduates were recognized. The number included those from Class of 2021 and Class of 2020, who were invited to return to campus to celebrate.

Recently retired Judge **Connie Zimmelman** '81 was the commencement speaker and delivered remarks. Zimmelman retired on March 31, 2021, as a judge of the Lucas County Court of Common Pleas Juvenile Division.

UToledo **Trustee Richard Walinski** '69 conferred degrees.

**Alia Kadri** received the Valedictorian Award and served as the student speaker.

Kadri served as executive editor of Law Review and was a member of the Night Student Association. Since graduating, she works as an associate at Spengler Nathanson in Toledo.

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

Mise is the first in her family to graduate from high school, college, and now law school. She was the Law Review symposium editor and coordinated this year's virtual symposium. She also served as Delta Theta Phi president, American Constitution Society secretary, International Law Society fundraising chair, and SBA class representative. Now that she's graduated, Mise plans on commissioning as an officer in the U.S. Army JAG Corps.

Professor Emeritus **Ben Davis**, who retired earlier in the year, was honored during the event and spoke to students.

The graduating students selected Professor **Eric Chaffee** as the recipient of the Outstanding Professor Award for Dedication to Legal Education. Professor Chaffee also received the Beth Eisler First Year Teaching Award, which is chosen by the first-year class. Professor **Rebecca Zietlow** received the Faculty Scholarship Award for her article, "The New Peonage: Liberty and Precarity for Workers in the Gig Economy," published in the Wake Forest Law Review. ■



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

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The events highlighted below took place during fall 2020 through summer 2021.



*Toledo Law's Launch into Law pipeline program hosted its third class this summer. The program diversifies the legal profession by creating a pathway for historically underrepresented students to earn a law degree.*



*The Law Alumni Affiliate set up a drive-thru to present graduates with a diploma frame at Law Commencement on May 15, 2021. The gifts were donated by law alumni.*



*Admitted students enjoyed meeting each other and engaging with Toledo Law faculty and staff during the college's first Experience Day on May 14, 2021.*



*We're incredibly proud of faculty innovation and flexibility during the pandemic. Professor Shelley Cavalieri divided her Property I class into multiple sections, which offered face-to-face interaction in a safe setting.*



*During the pandemic, the college converted the McQuade Law Auditorium into our largest classroom space to allow for social distancing.*



# Servant Leadership

Toledo Law alumni  
step in to serve  
and lead.

*by Heather Karns*



*Judith Lanzinger*

### Judith Lanzinger '77

**“[As a law school graduate], like it or not, you will be considered a leader in your community, and as such, will be expected to contribute to it with your time and talent.”**

Speaking to Toledo Law graduates during the May 2006 law commencement ceremony, now-retired Justice Judith Ann Lanzinger '77, reminded the graduates of their shared purpose and calling.

“Make no mistake, the law is a noble, honorable, and learned profession,” she said. “You are expected to be motivated by more than power, money or personal gain. By virtue of your new status, like it or not, you will be considered a leader in your community, and as such, will be expected to contribute to it with your time and talent.”



**Lou Denton '83** “I learned early in my career that there are two things people appreciate hearing — their name and ‘thank you.’” Denton’s philosophy aligns well with servant leadership practices.



Photo: Christopher Descano

Lou Denton

Lanzinger’s call to accept and embrace leadership is no less important or relevant today. However, as often as it is discussed, leadership is rarely understood. While many believe effective leadership is something that automatically comes with an official title or position of authority, leadership doesn’t come naturally to everyone. Some people excel at leading. Others struggle. How do we reconcile that disparity? If a person is competent and delivers results, what is it that makes that leader more successful than someone else? Why can’t other people achieve the same results?

Leadership isn’t always about who is in charge. Leaders can exist anywhere within an organization and aren’t always tied to a title or the organizational chart. Leaders are the people that can rally others around an idea, pull a group together, find a way to support a colleague, or even step back when needed. Leaders champion causes and drive change. They also stand resolute when standing firm is the best decision.

Good leaders understand the importance of being followers as well — that serving others is a function of leadership just as much as any other responsibility. This model is called servant leadership. As defined by Robert Greenleaf, servant leadership is the reverse of the typical leadership model. Servant leadership recognizes that serving people always comes before exerting power. It requires a prolonged approach that must be fostered and built. Servant leadership can’t be directed or employed. It must be intentional and organic. When done well, it can result in more engaged organizations and better relationships between employees and stakeholders.

According to Larry C. Spears, former president of the Robert K. Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership, servant leaders possess and embody 10 important characteristics: Listening, Empathy, Healing, Awareness, Persuasion, Conceptualization, Foresight, Stewardship, Commitment to the Growth of People and Building Community.



**Kris Kober Schmidt '03** Kober Schmidt learned that as a leader she needed to engage differently with team members. “I was listening to fix the problem instead of listening to help people troubleshoot and solve problems themselves.”

Photo: Genny Malloy



Kris Kober Schmidt

Each of these servant leadership traits is important, and our Toledo Law alumni exemplify them in striking ways.

**Kitty Tighe Coriden '71** is the first woman attorney to join Indiana's Bartholomew County Bar Association. She recently retired from serving as judge of Bartholomew Superior Court 2, one of the busiest courts in her county. Coriden also was named The Republic newspaper's 2020 Woman of the Year.

**Lou Denton '83** is president and chief executive officer of Borer Denton & Associates, Inc., an investment advisory firm based in Blue Bell, Pa., near Philadelphia. Denton serves on numerous charitable and for-profit boards. He also works with the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and the Pennsylvania Securities Commission on rulemaking and disciplinary actions.

**Kris Kober Schmidt '03** is a regional manager in the consultant division at LexisNexis in North Carolina. This past year, she and her team won the company's Large Markets Consulting Award for the second year in a row.

**Sean McNulty '94** is chief public defender for the Toledo Legal Aid Society in Toledo, Ohio. His organization recently won the prestigious ABA Hodson Award, which recognizes sustained, outstanding performance or a specific and extraordinary service by a government or public sector law office.

**Duff Milkie '91** is former general counsel and executive vice president of business development for Cedar Fair in Sandusky, Ohio. Cedar Fair is a world leader in regional amusement parks, with resort, recreation, and hotel properties dispersed throughout 48 U.S. states and Canada.



**Sean McNulty '94** McNulty advises new lawyers to “seek out opportunities to lead and demonstrate your value.” This proactive approach will lead to more opportunities and help new lawyers build connections.



Photo: Daniel Miller/The University of Toledo

Sean McNulty

**Briana Parker '18** works in Texas as a policy manager for the Chicago-based nonprofit Elevate. Elevate designs and implements programs to ensure that everyone has clean and affordable heat, power, and water in their homes and communities — no matter who they are or where they live.

**Walter Starghill III '19** is a partner at BraceWood Capital in Southfield, Mich. He also is a health and fitness department head for his faith community, Perfecting Church. Along with another director at the church, he led the effort behind Detroit's Justice March in September 2020.

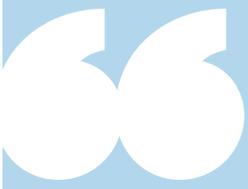
**Patty Wise '85** is a partner at the law firm of Spengler Nathanson in Toledo, Ohio. She served on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Select Task Force on the Study of Harassment in the Workplace from 2015-18. This year, she was elected to serve as board chair for The Ohio Board of Professional Conduct.

## Listening

Listening is an essential trait for any leader, but it's even more crucial for servant leaders. Listening carefully and attentively lets people know they are heard. Listening can give anyone in a leadership position key insight into the needs of their co-workers, employees or anyone else a leader might encounter.

When Sean McNulty was appointed chief public defender for the Toledo Legal Aid Society, he didn't fully understand every aspect of his organization. He took roughly six months to meet individually with more than 50 people within the organization to ask for their input before planning a path forward. McNulty wanted to have an organizational vision and articulate a higher standard to surpass many clients' expectations when they are assigned a public defender.

“We can meet their low bar or surpass it,” McNulty said. “I thought it was better to ask those on the inside first — how can we better represent our clients?”



**Briana Parker '18 Parker subscribes to Umoja, a Kwanzaa Swahili principle that states, “If you want to go fast, go alone — if you want to go far, go together.” Parker prefers working together.**

Photo: Mary Pencheff



Patty Wise talks about the importance and willingness of a leader to hear a counter viewpoint. Wise says she likes when someone shares a different view. This step ensures that all points get explored.

Sometimes you are listening to words, non-verbal cues, or reading the group. As a leader, you understand it is important to listen and hear.

Kris Kober Schmidt said her previous supervisor made a significant impact on her because he always talked about paradigms. He would say that we can all see the same picture, but each of us comes from a different paradigm or different place. He encouraged Kober Schmidt to meet people where they are and take the time to ask questions to understand each person better.

### **Self-Awareness**

The process isn't always smooth. To be good at leading others, leaders need to ask tough questions. Sometimes, that will require the leader to take a close look at themselves and be willing to see areas of concern and work to make improvements.

Briana Parker was new to her organization when she was asked to attend a coalition meeting. During the meeting, the coalition members were talking about race and class within their own organizations. Parker thought it was important to speak up. “Love starts at home then spreads abroad,” she said. “We can't talk about these issues outside of ourselves until we do the work internally, within our own organizations.”

Good leaders take time to reflect on earlier decisions to determine how to make better decisions.

McNulty had such an opportunity early in his role as chief public defender. He found himself slow to delegate responsibilities, and when he did, he didn't always verify



**Patty Wise '85** Wise believes leadership is based on the management concept of the shadow, which requires an understanding of your impact on others. “It’s not what you say, but the shadow you cast that others see.”



Photo: Daniel Miller/The University of Toledo

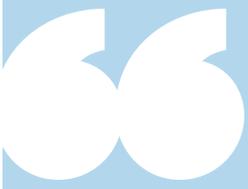
that things were getting done. McNulty felt he should be everywhere and do everything, especially as the organization introduced new initiatives or met with system stakeholders. In reality, he had to make sure that work was being done, while simultaneously not taking it all on himself.

Assessing one’s own strengths and weaknesses is a key step in avoiding these pitfalls. Leaders take the time to look inward and assess their own strengths and weaknesses. It isn’t easy to be honest with yourself about your strengths and weaknesses, but trying to be something you are not can be worse.

Lou Denton says, “Many people will choose to have their name in lights, with fanfare and visibility. You don’t need all that, and you don’t need to keep up appearances. Don’t try to be something you’re not. The key is recognizing into what category you fall. Be humble enough to admit you won’t check all the boxes. Stick to the ones in which you excel.”

Wise reminds herself that there are times when there can be more than one answer or the answer can be improved. The key is talking and listening to others and seeking input.

When Wise served on the EEOC Task Force, she got to know and work with two EEOC commissioners. One a lifelong Republican, the other a lifelong Democrat. She was struck by the fact that each had the utmost respect for the other. This respect translated to their staffs as well. This fits with Wise’s philosophy about leadership based on the management concept of the shadow. “It’s not what you say, but the shadow you cast that others see,” she said.



**Duff Milkie '91 Milkie reminds new lawyers to form good habits at work. He says, “New lawyers often want to do things fast. You aren’t getting paid to do something fast; you are getting paid to do things well.”**

Photo: Mary Pencheff



Duff Milkie

## Persuasion

In servant leadership, persuasion means building consensus to get everyone to support decisions. Kitty Tighe Coriden knows that fact well. She understands that people don't like change, but involving them in the decision-making process can make implementing significant change easier. “I never thought I had all the answers. The staff does all the work,” she said. “I make a decision and put it on the record, but the staff knows how and why things will or won't work. They need to be involved.”

Approaching decisions from a servant leadership perspective can help lead people to perspectives that they may not have considered. Change is not easy, and getting buy-in from people involved can be vital in establishing support for and making changes.

McNulty experienced this firsthand. After talking with many in his organization, he spoke with defender offices in other communities that were already engaging in criminal justice reform. He was introduced to a client-centered, holistic

model of representation that identified and addressed behavioral health needs. This holistic approach can be beneficial to clients while also improving case outcomes. McNulty knew this approach would be challenging, but he thought if he made it helpful, the value could be more easily observed.

Duff Milkie believes that doing things well means defining your problem and providing a solution that fits your situation. By doing this, you become a problem solver and start to gain credibility.

## Conceptualization

Leaders help others look beyond the day to day, keeping them focused on the bigger picture. For servant leaders, this involves understanding how people work in their daily lives, laying the groundwork for helping them expand their vision.

Coriden said one of the most important things she did when she stepped into her role was to make sure everyone knew everyone else's jobs.



**Kitty Tighe Coriden '71** When asked about her leadership style, Coriden said she tries not to be pushy. “I am the ‘worker bee,’ not the idea person, and I am just fine with that.”



*Kitty Tighe Coriden*

*Photo courtesy of photographer Mike Wolanin and The Republic, Columbus, all rights reserved.*

“My office manager came with me, and we worked on cross-training, so work still gets done when people are out,” she said. “My court had a good reputation for processing work almost immediately. Everyone knew what their job was and could step in for someone else if needed.”

Approaching leadership this way created positive results throughout the office and beyond. People inside and outside her organization knew that work would get done on time, since every employee understood their responsibilities and the responsibilities of their coworkers.

Looking beyond just day-to-day work can have other benefits. By taking the long view, servant leaders can help everyone stay motivated. Setting sights on something long term can give people a goal to work toward and, ultimately, reach.

When organizing Detroit’s Justice March last year, Walter Starghill made sure people could hear his voice from everywhere in the crowd. He also trusted his team members to help keep people safe. Team members were strategically positioned within the crowd to ensure marchers remained safe and moved in the same direction. Sometimes being the leader means not being out in front.

### **Commitment to the Growth of People**

People seek to grow personally and professionally. When leaders show interest in the development of others, it is a sign to those individuals they are appreciated and their growth matters.

Parker believes that a leader actively listens and puts people in positions where they can grow and succeed. It is the leader’s job to create a culture of learning.

In showing commitment to the growth of people, Milkie says humility is important. Leaders that allow people to grow and develop show an enormous amount of trust and faith. Servant leaders, in particular, find success in the



**Walter Starghill III '19 Starghill understands that leadership is about listening to and trusting your team. “Creating a safe space for those under your leadership is as imperative as accomplishing the end goal.”**

Photo: Jeremy Cranford



development of others. Milkie says asking yourself simple questions can yield great results. “What does the person working with you need to be successful?” he suggested asking. Creating opportunities for people to be in positions where they can shine also means that each person could need something different. Recognizing that being committed to someone’s growth and development also means taking the time to figure out what that person wants, what his or her goals are, and how you can assist, is also an important part of the process. This shows commitment.

Working on Detroit’s Justice March, Starghill was able to show commitment to others through his leadership. Starghill’s goal was to give those marching an opportunity to express themselves and be heard. He wanted marchers to have a positive, productive way to release the emotions and anxiety they felt at that time. After the march, participants launched a series of events about how government works, how people can have their voices heard and how they can become more involved. This illustrates in a tangible way how a servant leader can develop others by showing commitment to their goals.

## Conclusion

The alumni featured here have not stumbled upon a leadership secret. In fact, some did not intend to become leaders at all. They just happened to step into the opportunity when it was presented to them. All of them recognized the value of engaging and meeting people where they were, listening with compassion and empathy, working together and investing in others.

For the last year, many of us have connected only virtually. Now, as we emerge from behind our screens, seeking good leadership will be essential. Our worlds will look different, as will our stressors, challenges, opportunities, and the people that comprise our teams.

Whether you are leading, or looking for the right leader to follow, strive to be of service. Servant leadership will make your experiences more purposeful and allow you to share in the successful development of others. Leadership is noble when focused on caring, supporting, and bringing out the best in people. ■

# FORNOFF COMPETITION TURNS 50

**Toledo Law celebrates 50 years of Fornoff this year! An idea that was suggested 50 years ago continues its long-standing tradition today.**

Prior to serving on the bench, the Hon. **James G. Carr** was a Toledo Law faculty member and vividly recalled when **Peter Casey III '73** and another law student asked for help setting up a moot court competition in 1971.

When asked what gave him and the other students the idea in the first place, Casey said it came in the form of incentive after an error knocked them out of a different competition.

“Professor Ron Raitt had a brief writing course, and Professor Woody Barkman ran a competition for brief writing and oral argument. We were divided into teams of two, and a few of those teams were sent off to Wayne State Law School for the first regional round of the national competition. We were told we had lost, but we found out later that the judges had used the score of the wrong briefs,” he said. “We had actually beaten the University of Michigan moot court team — but it was too late, and the competition had already moved on. We were devastated, but the experience was the germination for the idea of our own intraschool moot court competition. And here we are 50 years later!”



*(L-R) Judge Carrigan, Mr. Bernardo, Ms. Steinhoff, Judge Rubin, Ms. Lawson, Mr. Smith and Judge Merritt. Image originally published in 1986 Transcript.*

**Harry Zanville '74**, another student who helped bring this idea to fruition, recalled the idea of initiating this competition to attract talented students.

“Dean Krastin was bought into what we were doing but said we could only have travel money for guest judges, not for prizes,” said Zanville. “With his permission, we requested cash and prizes from law book publishers, law supply purveyors, and some large law firms. We divided the contact list and went to work, raising more than enough money and prizes to have a wonderful inaugural competition.”

The Fornoff Competition is named for former Toledo Law faculty member and Dean Charles W. Fornoff. Dean Fornoff retired in 1971 following a distinguished career at Toledo Law as a faculty member from 1938-60 and dean from 1942-60.



*(L-R) Ms. McCarty, Judge White, Judge King, Mr. Zacchigna, Ms. Voyles, Mr. Hunter and Judge Gibson. Image originally published in April 1988 Transcript.*



*(L-R) Mr. Brown and Ms. Walinski, Ms. Pope and Mr. Shook with Judge Farnan, Justice Holmes and Judge Connors. Image originally published in October 1988 Transcript.*

Judge Carr says from the get-go, the Fornoff Competition was to be student initiated and facilitated. Since leaving the full-time law school faculty ranks in 1979 to become U.S. magistrate judge, Judge Carr has assisted with securing judges for the final round of the annual competition.

Professor Emeritus **Lee Pizzimenti**, a retired faculty member and associate dean for student affairs, was involved with the Fornoff Competition throughout her 29 years of teaching at Toledo Law (1985-2014). She played a more prominent role as faculty advisor for over half of those years. Pizzimenti said working with the Fornoff students was probably one of the most gratifying experiences at Toledo Law.

"I always left Fornoff with a positive feeling and a desire to get back to it. It was such a pleasure to watch students develop," said Pizzimenti.

Last year's Fornoff Competition was the first virtual competition due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the technological resources available, the competition did not skip a beat and did not miss a year.

Distinguished University Professor **Eric C. Chaffee** is the current Fornoff faculty advisor. He commented that the Fornoff Competition is a transformative process and a collaborative effort to help improve student advocacy skills, and each stage is important. Chaffee also points out the competition is a major event in the life of the school and helps to build community.

**We look forward to celebrating the next milestone in 25 years!**



*(L-R) The distinguished panel: The Hon. Thomas Moyer, The Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor and Solicitor General Kenneth Starr. Image originally published in 1991 Transcript.*



*(L-R) Counselor for the petitioner, Lynn Nothstine. Image originally published in 1991 Transcript.*



*(L-R) Lynn Nothstine and John Rodriguez. Image originally published in 1991 Transcript.*



*(L-R) Michelle Kranz and Lori Swank. Image originally published in 1991 Transcript.*

# FORNOFF MEMORIES

## Michelle Kranz '93

"Making the Fornoff Finals in the fall of 1991 and the final judges that year: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, then United States Solicitor General Kenneth Starr (yes, that Ken Starr) and Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Moyer.

That evening remains a blur of excitement and nerves that was only enhanced by the post-argument party at The Distillery. However, the next day, Professor Sloan hosted a breakfast at her home, and we were able to visit with Justice O'Connor and her husband, John. Memories that will last a lifetime!"

## Brian Morrissey '17

"Fornoff was the most nervous I have ever been for a public speaking engagement. I recall that I could feel my legs shaking at the beginning of my argument, and I have never felt that before or since. I also remember the judges grilling me on my position, but the preparation with Professors Lammon and Chaffee was so thorough that I did not change my position. What was most valuable about the experience was that it taught me how to evaluate an issue from every possible angle. The time and preparation with the professors was extensive and an invaluable experience. It was one of the best law school experiences to prepare me for practice."



*(Left) Michelle Kranz '93 speaks with 1991 Fornoff Competition judge, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.*

*(Below) Following her visit to Toledo Law to judge the 1992 Fornoff Competition Finals, Michelle Kranz '93, moot court board chair, and Todd Haemmerle '93, vice chair, prepare to take then Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg back to the airport. Judge Ginsburg was on the D.C. Circuit at that time. She was nominated for the U.S. Supreme Court the following summer.*



### Brandy Brown '19

"Standing up at that podium, first to argue of our group, in front of three federal judges was one of the most terrifying and exhilarating moments of my life and career. Once it was done, I knew that I had survived, succeeded, and given it my all. The sense of accomplishment is what I carry with me to this day. When approaching hard things, I simply remind myself that if I could overcome my nerves and fears on that day to give the best oral argument I could, I can do the hard thing that presents itself now. Fornoff was an empowering growth experience I will never forget, and I am so thankful for the opportunity."



### Kara Barshel '22

"The year I competed in Fornoff, the preliminary rounds, practices, and final competition were all completed virtually (thanks, COVID-19). Although I did not get a traditional Fornoff experience, I enjoyed my time competing!

My favorite memory was trying to find a virtual background that all the competitors could use on Webex. My Fornoff partner, Aaron Hill, found a courtroom background that we all used (even though we were pretty sure the flag in the picture was the Texas state flag and not the Ohio state flag).

Navigating through this unique experience would not have been the same without Aaron, Marshall Kueick, and Tanner Easley!"

*(Left) Brandy Brown '19 argues case in front of federal judges during the 2017 Fornoff Competition Finals.*

*(Below left) Eli Boldt '20 and Rena Laws '20 win the Best Team award at the 2018 Fornoff Competition Finals.*

*(Below right) Screenshot of Kara Barshel '22 with other finalists and judges from the 2020 Virtual Fornoff Competition Finals. This was the first virtual format in the competition's history.*



# FACULTY NOTES



**John Barrett**, associate professor of law, remains busy helping negotiate a collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the law school faculty, as well as serving on the American Association of University Professors board. His article “Free Speech Has Gotten Very Expensive: Rethinking Political Speech Regulation in a Post-Truth World” was published in the St. John’s Law Review.



**Kara Bruce**, professor of law, became a co-author of the casebook “Problems and Materials on Secured Transactions.” The rapid shift to distance learning has allowed her to pursue a longstanding interest in educational games, which generous funding from Eastman & Smith Ltd. has supported. She published “Adjusting Lease Obligations in Pandemic Bankruptcies” and “Bankruptcy’s Uneven Response to Nuisance Litigation” in the Bankruptcy Law Letter.



**Lesa Byrnes**, legal writing professor and director of academic success and bar preparation, continued to implement measures designed to improve students’ performance, both in law school and on the bar exam. Byrnes expanded last year’s pilot program using third-year students as academic success tutors. Tutors worked via Zoom with first-year students both individually and in workshop settings on a wide range of topics, including outlining and practice exam writing.



**Shelley Cavalieri**, professor of law, published “Diálogo Plurívoco sobre la Teoría Jurídica Feminista en el Ecuador” (“Plurivocal Dialogue on Feminist Legal Theory in Ecuador”), in *Academia*, a premiere Argentinian journal of legal education, with her two former students Amalia Fernández-Salvador Fallet and Luis Miguel Chiriboga Heredia. She also joined the “Property Law” casebook of Dean Barros and Professor Anna Hemingway as a third co-author,

contributing substantial material regarding racial and gender inequality in the field of property law to the second edition of the book. She continues teaching Property, Trusts and Estates, and courses in health law. In 2021, Cavalieri received the UToledo Creative and Scholarly Activity Award for her high-quality article “On Amplification: Extralegal Acts of Feminist Resistance in the #MeToo Era,” which was published in the *Wisconsin Law Review*.



**Eric C. Chaffee**, Distinguished University Professor, was elected as a member of the American Law Institute and as a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He continued work on his book, “The Corporation Defined: Collaboration Theory and the Corporate Form,” and he authored annual updates to his loose-leaf treatise with Professor Emeritus Howard Friedman, “Securities Regulation in Cyberspace.” He also authored articles on insider trading and ESG investing. Chaffee organized the National Business Law Scholars Conference. He presented his scholarship at various events, and he was quoted by a variety of national media outlets. In 2021, Chaffee received the University’s Outstanding Teacher Award, along with the college’s Outstanding Professor Award and Beth Eisler First Year Teaching Award.



**Maara Fink**, clinical professor of law, worked to ensure that students continued to gain exceptional experiential learning opportunities in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the recently expanded externship program, students were able to complete placements with corporate general counsel's offices, mediation providers, and public service organizations and agencies throughout the region and beyond. Students completed fieldwork hours both in-person and remotely in accordance with COVID-19 protocols. The majority of externship partners found ways to continue to host students, which provided our students with the practical experience necessary for preparedness to practice upon graduation. Fink continues to serve on various boards and committees, including the Ohio Mediation Association and Ottawa Hills Local Schools Board of Education, and was recently appointed to the Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution.



**Llewellyn Joseph Gibbons**, Distinguished University Professor, was appointed the full-time University Research Integrity Officer (RIO). A new edition of his co-authored book, "Mastering Trademark," will be published in 2022. He is currently writing a proposal for the first treatise on the law of research misconduct. Gibbons also went to Peru with Associate Professor Emeritus Bruce Kennedy clearing Peruvian airspace just before the airport was closed and the government declared martial law because of COVID-19.



**Gregory M. Gilchrist**, professor of law, taught Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure, and a seminar on corporate criminal liability. Gilchrist serves as the advisor to The University of Toledo Law Review, which in addition to its usual publications this year published its Deans' Issue and hosted a symposium on national security. He also advised the Criminal Law Moot Court team. The Ohio Supreme Court appointed Gilchrist to the Board of Commissioners of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection.

He continues to represent federal criminal defendants by court appointment and routinely brings judges, prosecutors, and other court personnel into his classroom or brings his class into court.



**Rick Goheen**, assistant dean for the LaValley Law Library and associate professor of law, guided the LaValley Law Library through its portion of the College of Law's ABA accreditation visit and also served as the librarian member of the ABA site visit team for Mercer Law School.



**Kenneth Kilbert**, professor of law, published "Lake Erie Bill of Rights: Stifled by All Three Branches Yet Still Significant" in the Ohio State Law Journal Online. He organized the 20th annual Great Lakes Water Conference titled "Water in the Courts," which was conducted as a live interactive webinar on Nov. 6, 2020, due to COVID-19.

## FACULTY NOTES



**Jessica Knouse**, professor of law, received the Eastman & Smith Faculty Achievement Award for improving the quality of teaching and reputation of the College of Law. She served as co-chair of the Feminist Legal Theory CRN's Planning Committee for the Law and Society Association's Annual Meeting, where she will present a work-in-progress titled "Marriage and Nonmarriage during the Pandemic." She worked with Professors Cavaleri and Zietlow to co-author a piece for The Hill titled "Mask Mandates are Constitutionally Permissible." Knouse also spoke about Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's work as a litigator on a panel titled "Remembering Justice Ginsburg."



**Bryan Lammon**, professor of law, was on sabbatical for the 2020–21 academic year. He published, or accepted an offer to publish, several papers on appeals from the denial of qualified immunity, including in the Georgia Law Review, Illinois Law Review Online, Penn State Law Review, and University of Chicago Law Review Online. Lammon authored two amicus briefs, one in support of a petition for certiorari in the U.S. Supreme Court and one in support of rehearing in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. He regularly wrote on appellate-jurisdiction issues on his blog, Final Decisions. In 2021, Lammon received the UToledo Creative and Scholarly Activity Award for his highly cited article "Finality, Appealability and the Scope of Interlocutory Review," which was published in the Washington Law Review.



**Katherine Raup O'Connell**, legal writing professor and director of legal writing, 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. This spring, as a COVID-19 accommodation, she coordinated a synchronous streaming of the Court of Appeals Oral Arguments, followed by a question-and-answer session for all our Lawyering Skills students. Last fall, in addition to teaching Lawyering Skills, she taught a transactional drafting seminar, a new legal writing curriculum offering.



**Nicole Buonocore Porter**, professor of law, was appointed a Distinguished University Professor, the highest permanent honor the University bestows on faculty members. She published two articles and one online essay this past year. She also accepted offers to publish two additional articles in Illinois Law Review and UC Davis Law Review. She completed the second edition of her “Disability Law” casebook. In October, at an annual labor and employment conference, Porter was selected for a national award recognizing her outstanding academic contributions to the field of employment law scholarship. In 2021, Porter received the UToledo Creative and Scholarly Activity Award for her high-quality article “Cumulative Hardship,” which was published in the George Mason Law Review.



**Marilyn Preston**, legal writing professor, will continue her work with the Law and Leadership Institute (LLI) summer session hosted at the college, which aims to interest students from diverse backgrounds to consider the legal profession. LLI was recently awarded the ABA Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity. She taught two online classes this summer, Lawyering Skills II and Mastering Law School Exams. Preston also created and taught a new class, Law and Public Administration, in the joint-degree J.D./M.P.A. (Master of Public Administration) program.



**Geoffrey C. Rapp**, Harold A. Anderson Professor of Law and Values, was appointed senior associate dean for academic affairs. He chaired an ABA site team as part of Drake University Law School’s re-accreditation. He continued to serve as a faculty advisor

for the University’s chapter of the Student Veterans of America and a member of the Department of Athletics Professional Sports Counseling Panel, which advises UToledo athletes considering professional sports careers.



**Rob Salem**, associate dean for diversity and inclusion and clinical professor of law, moderated a virtual presentation by Professor David Harris from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law on police misconduct and confrontations with civilians. Salem was also a presenter for the annual Toledo Bar Association Labor and Employment Seminar. His presentation was on the impact of the *Bostock* Supreme Court decision, which held that sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act includes protection for LGBTQIA+ people. Salem serves on several local and statewide nonprofit boards, including Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio and the Toledo Legal Aid Society.

## FACULTY NOTES



**Joseph Slater**, Distinguished University Professor and Balk Professor of Law & Values, had the third edition of one of his casebooks published, contributed to the academic website JOTWELL, and has a book chapter on police unions forthcoming. He was quoted in various media, including Forbes, NPR, and Bloomberg/BNA, and he published an op-ed in the Chicago Sun-Times. He was a member of the law faculty union bargaining team. He coached a successful Labor & Employment Law Moot Court team. He admires the effort of students during a year of online instruction, but he looks forward to teaching in-person in the fall.



**Lee J. Strang**, John W. Stoepler Professor of Law & Values, published the third edition of Volumes 1 and 6 of “Cases and Materials on Federal Constitutional Law,” three symposium

essays, and two book reviews. He will deliver the Brendan F. Brown Lecture this fall on his forthcoming book, “A Light Unseen: The History of Catholic Legal Education.” He presented at numerous law schools, and he was elected chair of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Constitutional Law. Over the summer, Strang was a visiting senior fellow at the Mathias Corvinus Collegium in Budapest, Hungary, where he taught classes, attended workshops, and presented scholarship. In 2021, Strang received the University’s Inclusive Excellence Award and the UToledo Creative and Scholarly Activity Award for “Originalism’s Promise: A Natural Law Account of the American Constitution.”



**Rebecca Zietlow**, Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values, was appointed a Distinguished University Professor, the highest permanent honor the University bestows on faculty members. Zietlow was also named a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She published “The New Peonage: Liberty and Precarity for Workers in the Gig Economy” in the Wake Forest Law Review. Zietlow presented at the University of Maryland Constitutional Law Schmooze, the annual Colloquium

on Scholarship in Employment and Labor Law, and the Loyola University Chicago Constitutional Law Colloquium. She also presented “Fugitive Slaves as Constitutional Actors” at the Indiana University Mauer School of Law. Zietlow was appointed associate dean of academic affairs at the college effective Jan. 1, 2022.



**Evan C. Zoldan**, professor of law, researches and writes in the field of legislation. He published “The Vanishing Core of Judicial Independence” in the Nevada Law Journal and “Delegation to Nonexperts” in the Penn Law Review Online. He has accepted offers to publish “The Conversation Canon” in the Kentucky Law Journal and “Canon Spotting” in the Houston Law Review. He presented his work at numerous conferences, including the Loyola University Chicago Constitutional Law Colloquium, Southeastern Association of Law Schools, and the Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting.



Explore faculty profiles at  
[utoledo.edu/law/faculty](https://utoledo.edu/law/faculty)

## HONORING **LEGACIES**

# Vincent & Beverly Nathan

### Nathans' Legacies Live on Through Diversity Fund

Former Toledo Law Professor **Vincent Nathan**, who passed away in November 2017, and his wife **Beverly**, who died 16 months later, each made it their life's work to serve and advocate for people in marginalized communities.

Thanks to the vigorous efforts of three former colleagues and close friends — **Paul Belazis** '79, **Jackie Boney** '76, and **Cary Cooper** '69 — Vince and Bev's legacies will permanently endure at Toledo Law through the Vincent M. & Beverly J. Nathan Memorial Diversity Program Fund.

Belazis, Boney, and Cooper reached out to friends and loved ones to honor Vince and Bev's memory by supporting diverse students at Toledo Law. Thanks to their efforts and the gifts of many donors, the fund is endowed with more than \$50,000 in gifts and pledges.

The fund bearing the Nathans' name is designed to recruit diverse students into the legal profession, support them throughout their education, and help them thrive in their careers. The fund will provide additional resources to expand Launch into Law, a diversity pipeline program that hosted its third class in the summer of 2021.

**The Nathan Memorial Diversity Program Fund is designed to recruit diverse law students and help them thrive in their legal careers.**



Launch into Law introduces historically underrepresented students to the legal world through a one-week immersive experience in which they learn tips and strategies to improve their LSAT scores, network with established legal professionals, and get a behind-the-scenes look at law school and the legal system.

- Starting in its second year, the Launch into Law program doubled its class size
- Participants increased their practice LSAT scores by an average of seven points over the course of the program, with improvements as high as 16 points
- More than half of the 2021 cohort plans to apply to Toledo Law next year

In addition to the support received from the Nathan Memorial Diversity Program Fund, Launch into Law also received support this past year through the Toledo Bar Association Foundation.

**Hussien Kazwini** is a past Launch into Law participant and now a current Toledo Law student. "Deep down, I knew I wanted to be a lawyer because of my intense desire to help other people, but I didn't know what the path to becoming one looked like. Launch into Law solved this problem," he said of his experience with the program. Kazwini also enjoyed meeting and connecting with people, which helped him decide that Toledo Law was the best fit for his legal education.

Stories like this are exactly the kind of impact Vince and Bev had on people they encountered in life and now will continue to bring about for future generations. ■



To contribute to the Vincent M. & Beverly J. Nathan Memorial Diversity Program Fund, visit [tol-edo.org/VinceBevNathan](https://tol-edo.org/VinceBevNathan)

# HONORING LEGACIES

## Melvin Resnick

### Judge Melvin L. Resnick Legacy Continues 13 Years After Passing

Students seeking public service careers in areas such as criminal defense and government agencies will have additional support at Toledo Law, thanks to a major investment in the Judge Melvin L. Resnick Law School Scholarship Fund. Established in the wake of Judge Resnick's death in 2008, the fund has supported 16 students with awards totaling more than \$20,000.

This year, members of the Resnick family put forth a \$100,000 dollar-for-dollar matching challenge that dramatically increased the fund's scholarship capacity.

Although it has been 13 years since Judge **Melvin L. Resnick** passed away, the influence he had on Toledo's legal community is still evident. He was a mentor to countless attorneys throughout their careers, showing them how to faithfully represent their clients' interests and work through some of the most challenging legal questions.

"Mel Resnick was an incredibly important mentor and friend for whom I will be eternally grateful," remarked **Ross Silverman** '85, partner at the Katten law firm. "I spent my

last two years of law school working as a full-time civil bailiff for Mel and going to law school at night. Those years were crucial in my personal and professional development. He treated me like a son, and his inexplicable confidence in me gave me the confidence I needed at a critical time in my life."

Judge Resnick's friends and former colleagues have cited his razor-sharp intellect, love of the law, fairness, unwavering respect for the litigants before him, generosity with his time for fellow jurists, and deep affection for his family as the qualities that defined his life — qualities he was intentional to pass on to future generations of lawyers who have followed his lead. In a sense, through the scholarship honoring Judge Resnick's outsized imprint on the Toledo legal community, it's as if he is still mentoring — empowering Toledo Law students to pursue their ambitions and realize their full potential. ■



Support the Judge Melvin L. Resnick Law School Scholarship Fund at [tol-edo.org/MelvinResnick](https://tol-edo.org/MelvinResnick)



**...his inexplicable confidence in me gave me the confidence I needed at a critical time in my life."**

ROSS SILVERMAN '85

## HONORING LEGACIES

# Sara Rios

### Fellowship Honors Rios Legacy and Equips Advocates for Racial and Social Justice

**Sara E. Rios** '85, affectionately known as Sarita to her friends and loved ones, was a warrior for the dignity and well-being of marginalized people up to her final days in 2015 when she completed her battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. This fall, a group of Sara's friends, who cherish and long to honor her memory, will announce the result of a fundraising effort to establish a summer fellowship for Toledo Law students seeking to follow in her footsteps by working for social and racial justice.

The barriers to practicing public interest law can be high, especially for students who are motivated to pursue this career path because of personal experiences with disadvantage and social adversity. At the same time, the vital work experiences obtained through summer internships at public

interest and social justice organizations are often unpaid or offer minimal compensation. The Sara E. Rios Memorial Fellowship for Social and Racial Justice will unlock these opportunities by providing annual awards for students who have pending job offers, similar to existing Public Interest Summer Fellowships awarded through the college's Office of Professional Development.

Sara's career represents the best of Toledo Law's contributions to our society. Her legal education opened doors for her. She spent her ensuing years opening doors for others through her work at organizations like the Ford Foundation as director of the human rights and social justice program and the Ruth Mott Foundation in Flint, Mich. as president. Wherever she went, she earned respect and admiration from those who knew her. ■

**[Sara's] legal education opened doors for her. She spent her ensuing years opening doors for others through her work.**



Support the Sara E. Rios Memorial Fellowship for Social and Racial Justice Fund at [tol-edo.org/SaraRios](https://tol-edo.org/SaraRios)



# DEAN'S CABINET

**Ten of Toledo Law's most accomplished alumni and rising stars have assembled into a new advisory group known as the Dean's Cabinet.**

"The College of Law has been steadily improving in almost every core measure of success for more than half a decade," explained College of Law Dean Ben Barros. "We're in a great position to build on that success. To reach our full potential, though, we need the collective wisdom and perspectives from alumni who have proven they know how to turn a Toledo Law education into incredible careers."

Cabinet members include chair **A. Louis Denton** '83, president and CEO of Borer Denton & Associates, Inc.; **Julia Bates** '76, Lucas County prosecutor; **Mui-Ling Dong** '92, law clerk for Lucas County Court of Common Pleas; **Myron Duhart** '96, Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals judge; **Ken Martin** '90, retired partner with Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer; **Nykolos McKissic** '17, associate at Polsinelli; **Duff Milkie** '91, former general counsel and executive vice president of business development for Cedar Fair L.P.; **Ed Ruckert** '75, retired partner at McDermott Will & Emery; **Nicholas Wittenberg** '11, associate vice president at Deloitte Government & Public Services; and **Connie Zimmelman** '81, recently retired Lucas County Juvenile Court judge.



*A Louis Denton (Chair)*



*Julia Bates*



*Nykolos McKissic*



*Duff Milkie*

The cabinet's primary charge is to support the growth of the college and advance its national reputation. In addition to advising the dean, the cabinet will also play an important philanthropic role. Each cabinet member has made a significant financial commitment to the college that sets an example for other Toledo Law alumni and friends to follow. Moreover, they will help identify potential financial supporters for the college's strategic initiatives.

"I hear all the time from alumni that they wouldn't have had their successful careers if it wasn't for Toledo Law. They regularly tell me they would hold the education that they received here up against those of much more prestigious schools," Dean Barros remarked. "That's what Toledo Law is about: creating great opportunities and preparing our students to seize them. The degree to which we can accomplish that mission is determined largely by the availability of resources and the engagement of our Toledo Law community. The Dean's Cabinet is helping us grow in both of those areas."

The Dean's Cabinet will meet three times a year with opportunities outside scheduled meetings to assist with fundraising, student recruiting, faculty recruiting, student mentoring, and strategic networking.

"I can't begin to thank our cabinet members enough for the commitment they've demonstrated to the college and, most importantly, to the students we serve," Dean Barros commented. "With this group and those I hope will join us in the future, I have no doubt that Toledo Law will continue to thrive and provide great opportunities for our students."



*Mui-Ling Dong*



*Myron Duhart*



*Ken Martin*



*Ed Ruckert*



*Nicholas Wittenberg*



*Connie Zimmelman*

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES



## **Message from the Law Alumni Affiliate**

This is a new year and a new reality for the College of Law. Who would have imagined that in the spring of 2020, our life as we know it would change forever? No students bustling off to class, no study groups in the law library, no activities in the Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick Lounge, and our first virtual commencement. In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, the law school was forced to quickly modify daily operations.

However, even in the midst of unprecedented times, the spirit, ingenuity, and flexibility of our students and their families were fantastic. The law school faculty and staff sprang into action and quickly converted courses to remote instruction in record time. Our resilient students “went to class” in new ways.

We are all in this together, and I am so proud of how the Toledo Law community came together to respond to the worst pandemic in a century, the shutdown of the global economy, which exacerbated the inequalities that existed prior to the pandemic and the social unrest not seen in two generations. Challenging times will reveal the character of the people who are in the middle of them. The Toledo Law community has responded to these challenges with determination, courage, and compassion. We have seen students stepping forward to lead, faculty adapting to new circumstances, and staff working extremely hard to provide support in response to unprecedented times.

I am extremely proud to be the president of the Alumni Affiliate, and I look forward to brighter days ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Duhart". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Judge Myron Duhart '96  
Law Alumni Affiliate President, 2021-22

## 1971

**Tom Pletz**, of counsel at Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, accepted the Robert A. Kelb Distinguished Service Award from the Toledo Bar Association on Dec. 30, 2020.

## 1976

**Chris Burris** authored a crime novel, "A Question of Ethics."

**Arlene Singer** retired from the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals in February 2021.

## 1978

**William Snyder** is pleased to announce the Conseil de l'Ordre of the Paris Bar approved registration of the international law firm association between the Paris firm Protat and William M. Snyder, now based in Toledo, Ohio.

## 1979

**Linda Mansour** was a 2021 YWCA of Northwest Ohio Milestone Award Honoree.

## 1980

**Michael DiLauro** was a panelist at an American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors program entitled "COVID-19, Remote Testimony & 'The New Normal': What Will the Testimony of Forensic Science Experts in Criminal Cases Look Like Going Forward." He also gave an ABA CLE with the Hon. Roderick Kennedy titled "Developing and Using Meaningful Forensic Science Standards."



**Roderick Kennedy** recently co-chaired a task force to develop best practices for redistricting in New Mexico. He teaches

Scientific Evidence at the University of New Mexico School of Law and advises the Albuquerque Police Force Review Board.



**Vernon Preston**, well known for his love of community and avid volunteer work in Findlay, Ohio, retired in February 2021 after 27 years of distinguished judicial service.

## 1981

**Connie Zimmelman** retired from the Lucas County Juvenile Court on March 31, 2021. She also served as The University of Toledo College of Law's Commencement Speaker in May 2021.

## 1985



**Patricia Wise** was elected to serve as board chair for the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct. Her term began Jan. 1, 2021.

## 1986

**Bradley Le Boeuf** published a book review of "The Watergate Girl: My Fight for Truth and Justice Against a Criminal President" by Jill Wine-Banks in the July-September 2020 issue of Ohio Lawyer. He also published a book review of "The Affirmative Action Puzzle" by Melvin Urofsky, published in the winter 2021 issue of Labor and Employment News, a publication of the Ohio State Bar Association.

**David Waxman** was recognized in the 2021 edition of Ohio Super Lawyers.

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1991

**Brian English** is in private practice in Lansing, Mich. His daughter, Erin English, is currently a student at Toledo Law.

1992

Judge **D. Chris Cook** of Lorain County was elected to serve as board vice chair for the Ohio Board of Professional Conduct. His term began Jan. 1.



**John Condren** was named a partner with the Buffalo, N.Y. law firm of Barth Condren LLP, where he practices insurance defense

and coverage litigation. He resides in Amherst, N.Y.

**Cristin Reid English** is chair and CEO of Capitol National Bank in Lansing, Mich. Her daughter, Erin English, is currently a student at Toledo Law.

**Dean Horrigan** received the 2020 Access to Justice Award for Public Interest Law for his representation of the elderly, many of whom have a disability and are underserved.

**James Knepp II** was sworn in as a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio on Nov. 19, 2020, after serving 10 years as a U.S. magistrate judge.

1994

**Steven Clouse** is a solo practitioner in Albion, Ind. The practice focuses on representation of municipal clients.



**Randall Fuller** is president-elect of the Ohio Association to Domestic Relations Judges.

1996



**Myron Duhart** was elected to the Ohio Sixth District Court of Appeals. He will also serve as president of the Toledo

Bar Association and president of the College of Law Alumni Affiliate.



**Lori Olender** was elected and sworn in as judge to the Lucas County Common Pleas Court.

1998



**Adolfo Tornichio** was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to serve as judge of the Greene County Court of Common Pleas General Division.

1999

**William Connelly Jr.** was elected as acting presiding and administrative judge for the Toledo Municipal Court.



**J. Douglas Miller** was named national service line leader for intellectual property, technology, and data at the national law firm of Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP.

## 2001

**Nicole Khoury** was a 2021 YWCA of Northwest Ohio Milestone Award Honoree.



**Corey Minor Smith** was an inaugural Image Award recipient by the Stark County Ohio NAACP and was featured in an Audible Original “We’ve Got Answers” with Charlamagne Tha God and James Altucher.

## 2005



**Eric Marks** was appointed by Governor Mike DeWine to the Lucas County Common Pleas Court.

## 2006

**Gary Steinbauer** was promoted to shareholder at Babst, Calland, Clements & Zomnir, P.C. in the firm’s Pittsburgh office. He focuses his practice on environmental regulatory matters.

## 2008

**Timothy Effler** is a 2020 recipient of a 20 Under 40 Award sponsored by Leadership Toledo.

**Candice Kline** was appointed 2021 chair of the Business and Securities Law Section Council at the Illinois State Bar Association.

## 2009

**Katherine Hunt Thomas** is a 2020 recipient of a 20 Under 40 Award sponsored by Leadership Toledo.

## 2011



**Nicholas Wittenberg** and his wife, Colby Wittenberg, had their third child, Davis King Wittenberg, born on Oct. 22, 2020.

Nick was recently senior legal counsel for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

## 2012



**M. Zack Hohl** was elected partner at Graydon Law. He practices in the areas of environmental and real estate law out of Cincinnati.

**Taylor Knight** was honored as a Rising Star in the 2021 edition of Ohio and Kentucky Super Lawyers.



**John Powers** launched a solo intellectual property practice in January 2021. His practice mainly focuses on patent procurement and enforcement, and he deals with a wide range of technologies.

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

## 2013

**Brittany Asmus** was honored as a Rising Star in the 2021 edition of Ohio and Kentucky Super Lawyers.



**Lidia (Bosek) Ebersole** was selected to 2021 Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch for Energy Law, Litigation-Real Estate, and

Transportation Law and as an Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star by Ohio Super Lawyers magazine.

**Arline (Laurer) Hanna** was promoted to second assistant public defender of the Wayne County Public Defender's Office in Lyons, N.Y. in November 2020.



**Elijah Welenc** has been a civilian contract specialist with the U.S. Air Force since 2014. He is currently a contracting officer with USAFE in Germany.

## 2015



**Marissa Fitzpatrick** joined the Toledo area law firm of RCO as a new associate in late 2020. She is with RCO Law's Wealth Preservation Practice Group.

## 2016



**Katrin McBroom** is now a partner at Semro Henry & Barga Ltd.

## 2020



**Eli Boldt** joined the Toledo area law firm of Marshall & Melhorn as an associate. He practices in the firm's business, litigation, and education practice groups.

**Benjamin Noll** joined Martin, Browne, Hull & Harper P.L.L. in Springfield, Ohio as an associate attorney.

# ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM

Toledo Law pays tribute to members of our community who passed away over the last year between July 1, 2020-July 1, 2021.

## 1960s

- '62 **Thomas A. Meehan**  
02/09/2021
- '62 **Arthur Franklin Raker**  
12/13/2020
- '66 **Stewart John Greenleaf**  
02/09/2021
- '66 **Peter Michael Handwork**  
09/05/2020
- '66 **Robert William Pike**  
09/13/2020
- '67 **Charles Edward Racine**  
12/28/2020
- '67 **Joseph David Weisberg**  
01/04/2021
- '69 **Bruce A. Ewen**  
12/12/2020
- '69 **James Dean Jensen**  
08/06/2020
- '69 **James D. McNeil**  
11/22/2020

## 1970s

- '70 **Benjamin M. Smith Jr.**  
01/27/2021
- '72 **John Czarnecki**  
01/09/2021
- '72 **Dennis Craig Dickson**  
05/21/2021
- '72 **Peter Michael Zaums**  
08/09/2020
- '73 **James Earl Barber**  
11/24/2020
- '74 **David Romain Pheils Jr.**  
09/29/2020
- '76 **James H. Granecki**  
02/06/2021
- '76 **William R. Lindsley Jr.**  
12/01/2020
- '76 **Robert Howard Welly**  
01/11/2021
- '77 **John Michael Carey**  
07/30/2020
- '79 **Robert Lewis Clark Jr.**  
01/30/2021
- '79 **William Dawson Frey**  
07/14/2020
- '79 **Scott Edward Spencer**  
07/02/2020

## 1980s

- '83 **Jack J. Brady**  
10/25/2020
- '86 **Patricia Ann Cooley**  
04/27/2021
- '86 **Keith Lance Mitchell**  
04/01/2021
- '88 **Matthew J. Zovac**  
12/13/2020

## 2000s

- '03 **Christopher J. Hensien**  
10/11/2020

## 2010s

- '12 **James Robert Hart**  
07/03/2020

# ALUMNI HONORS



**Tunji Abayomi '79**

*Distinguished Alumni Award*

Tunji Abayomi received the college's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2020. The award is presented to a graduate who demonstrates distinction. Tunji has spent more than 37 years in private practice in Nigeria as a human rights advocate. As pro-chancellor and chair of the Governing Council for Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, he's now advancing academics and research. Tunji made video remarks during our State of the College Address on April 7, 2021. His remarks can be viewed at [bit.ly/tunji-abayomi](https://bit.ly/tunji-abayomi).



**Eddie Cole '51**

*Commissioned Portrait*

Eddie Cole turned 100 years young on Oct. 1, 2020. This year marks his 101st birthday. Last fall, we continued to celebrate his achievements. **Monica Hoskins '11**, president of the Thurgood Marshall Law Association, hosted the Eddie M. Cole Scholarship Virtual Fundraiser on Oct. 7, 2020. The event featured keynote remarks by Judge **Myron Duhart '96**. There was also an unveiling of Eddie's commissioned portrait, painted by **Darryl Hines '79**. Watch the TMLA Cole Scholarship Fundraiser at [bit.ly/eddie-cole](https://bit.ly/eddie-cole).



**Carolyn Edwards '70**

*Commissioned Portrait*

On April 14, 2021, Marquette University Law School hosted a virtual gathering to celebrate the work and unveil the portrait of Professor Emeritus Carolyn M. Edwards. Carolyn was a trailblazing faculty member with a long and distinguished career. At Marquette, she taught contracts, sales, secured transactions, and negotiable instruments. Carolyn formally retired in 2015 but returned to teach part-time until December 2019. She has served as a role model for a generation of law students. Watch the virtual dedication at [bit.ly/carolyn-edwards](https://bit.ly/carolyn-edwards).



**Arlene Singer '76**

*Commissioned Portrait*

The Toledo Women's Bar Association celebrated Women's History Month this year by inducting recently retired Judge Arlene Singer to its "Wall of Women Pioneers" currently showcased in the LaValley Law Library. **Paula Mowry '88** illustrates the pioneer portraits for the Toledo Women Lawyers History Project (TWLHP). TWLHP also unveiled its new website made possible through the Toledo Lucas County Public Library. Arlene has been the leader behind this project, along with **Tom Pletz '71**. View the digital collection at [bit.ly/twlhp-digital](https://bit.ly/twlhp-digital).

# ALUMNI BOOKS TO READ

## #Driven

**Corey Minor Smith '01**

*Non-Fiction*

Life is full of obstacles and roadblocks, but we are the drivers on the road to our own destiny. In the motivational memoir “#Driven,” Corey Minor Smith shares her compelling story of how she propelled forward in the face of significant challenges. Today, Corey is an accomplished attorney, author, and transformational speaker. Her heartwarming account serves as a source of inspiration to hold fast to your hopes and dreams and push forward until they come to fruition.

## Inspiration in My Shoes

**Diana Patton '96**

*Non-Fiction*

Diana Patton shares her experience growing up biracial through abuse, racism, and heartache. The book proves that no barrier is too high, and that inspiration comes in many surprising forms. Diana’s memoir highlights both the struggles young women face and how those struggles can be transformed into triumphs. She overcomes unthinkable tragedy before molding her experience into an opportunity to connect with others.

## The Accidental Patriot

**Joseph Bauer '81**

*Fiction*

The book is a story of citizenship and service, loyalty and love, and how personal transformation happens in unexpected ways. After the government’s first choice to design a secret installation is discovered and murdered by foreign agents, the president turns to a lonely widower to take her place. The Navy SEAL overseeing the project worries that he’s vulnerable. Fears prove warranted, while a terrorist offensive takes shape.

## Zone of Action: A JAG’s Journey Inside Operations Cobra II and Iraqi Freedom

**Kirk Warner '83**

*Non-Fiction*

“Zone of Action” is a front-row seat to major combat operations, leadership, tragedy, and nation-building through the observations of a senior Army JAG. The book details his official and inner journeys and those of soldiers and Iraqis encountered along the way. It reveals the sacrifice of unsung heroes and the challenges of liberating and occupying a broken country.

## Cell 26: Detention Memoir of a Political Detainee

**Tunji Abayomi '79**

*Non-Fiction*

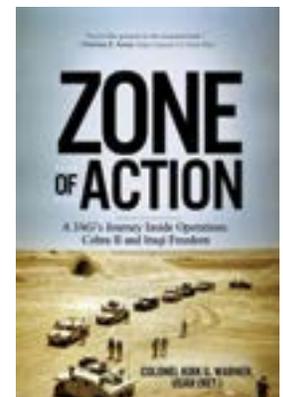
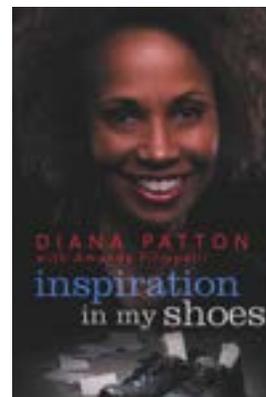
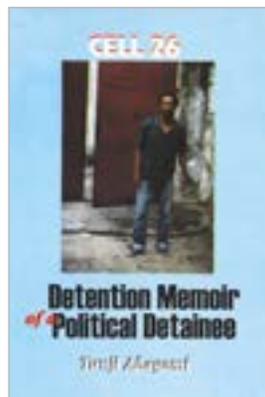
Tunji Abayomi has spent more than 37 years in private practice in Nigeria as a human rights advocate and democratic leader. Nigeria was under military rule from 1966-99. Working as a human rights advocate in a country under a military regime can be dangerous. From 1995-96, Tunji was detained three times, with one detention lasting almost a year. His inspirational memoir details his experience as a political detainee.

## Have You Written a Book?

Share your alumni-authored book for possible inclusion in future issues of Transcript. We’ll also add your book to our LaValley Law Library alumni collection. Send us a hard copy of your book with a brief author biography to the address below.

### Attn: Alumni Book Collection

The University of Toledo College of Law  
1825 West Rocket Drive, Suite 1030  
Toledo, OH 43606



# ARE YOU RECEIVING ALUMNI eNEWS?

The following stories highlight the amazing work being done by our law alumni. Profiles were included in Alumni eNews between Nov. 2, 2020-May 3, 2021. The stories are based on what alumni were doing at the time they were featured and offer a closer look at their professional and personal lives. Sign up at [utoledo.edu/law/alumni/mailing-list](https://utoledo.edu/law/alumni/mailing-list) if you aren't receiving Alumni eNews.



## Finding Inspiration

**Victor Aberdeen** '18 is an associate at a Chicago law firm, where he works in civil litigation and insurance defense. Trial practice at Toledo Law helped him think like a trial attorney.



## Advocating Change

**Janet Hales** '91 is executive director of Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. — a nonprofit law organization working to change the systemic causes of poverty and inequality.



## Shaping Global Dialogue

**Linda Amrou** '15 is a program officer at Columbia University's Global Centers in New York City, where she designed a first-of-its-kind scholarship program to support displaced students.



## Seizing Opportunities

**James Knepp** '92 was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio. He finds the most satisfying aspect of his job is helping people solve problems.



## Optimizing Flexibility

**Sheila Nolan Gartland** '86 is a partner at a Columbus law firm, where she focuses on finance, real estate, and energy cases. She believes in working hard, staying flexible, and giving back.



## Powering Solutions

**Nyk McKissic** '17 is a nonprofit organizations associate at Polsinelli, within the firm's Dallas office. He provides strategic counsel to nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations.



## Dedicating Focus

**Gayle Shor Goldsmith** '89 is an environment and sustainability consultant. She's combining her passion and experience to make a difference within the field of environmental law.



## Launching Careers

**Steven Vandercook** '14 works as a contracting officer at NASA's Kennedy Space Center to support the next chapter in human space flight. His J.D./M.B.A. helped him land his dream job.



## Cultivating Success

**Mia Gonzalez** '12 is a director of business development in Kansas City, Mo. She's now found the perfect career path to apply her business and legal skills.



With close to 8,000 living law alumni, there are many more stories to tell. Go to [utoledo.edu/law/alumni/stories](https://utoledo.edu/law/alumni/stories) to view our latest alumni profiles.

# DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE A LEGACY?

There are many ways to make an impact at Toledo Law beyond cash gifts. Planned gifts can be great tools for giving. If you are working through a major life change such as the sale of a business, retirement, or estate planning, don't wait until you have finished the transition to see how planned giving vehicles could fit in. A conversation costs nothing and may reveal valuable opportunities for you.

**Bequest:** Commit an amount of your estate in your last will and testament or estate planning trust

**Retirement Assets:** Name Toledo Law as beneficiary of your retirement account

**Life Insurance:** Name Toledo Law as beneficiary of your life insurance policy

**Charitable Remainder Trust:** Make your gift to a new charitable trust and receive a lifetime of tax-advantaged income

**Charitable Gift Annuity:** Make a gift to Toledo Law and receive in return fixed payments of tax-advantaged income for the rest of your life

If you have questions or want to discuss a legacy through planned giving, please contact **Kirk Ross**, director of planned giving, at 419.530.5410 or [kirk.ross@utoledo.edu](mailto:kirk.ross@utoledo.edu).



**COLLEGE OF LAW**  
**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO**

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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](https://utoledo.edu/law/alumni/events)

 [utoledo.edu/law/alumni/magazine](https://utoledo.edu/law/alumni/magazine)

 @UToledoLaw

## SHARE MAGAZINE FEEDBACK

This issue unveils a redesign of Transcript. The new look reflects the bold energy of our alumni. Scan code below and let us know your thoughts.

