



Cleveland State University

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

November 17, 2022

RESOLUTION 2022-64

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION TO REMOVE THE NAME CLEVELAND-MARSHALL FROM THE CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW

WHEREAS, the Cleveland Law School was founded in 1897; and

WHEREAS, the original John Marshall Law School, named as an honorific to Chief Justice John Marshall, was founded as an independent entity in 1916; and

WHEREAS, those two entities merged in 1946, forming the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; and

WHEREAS, Cleveland State University acquired the Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1969, and retained the original name through to the present day; and

WHEREAS, there is no evidence that Chief Justice John Marshall has any affiliation throughout the generations to Cleveland State University, the City of Cleveland, and/or the Cleveland Legal Community; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2020, the CSU Cleveland-Marshall College of Law received an online petition urging the removal of any reference to the name Marshall in the name of the CSU law college due to the long association of Chief Justice John Marshall with slavery; and

WHEREAS, following the receipt of the petition, Dean Lee Fisher formed and appointed the Law School Name Committee consisting of 12 students, 10 alumni, 6 faculty, and 3 staff members who were charged to seek wide input, develop findings and options, and make a recommendation or alternative recommendations for consideration about whether “Marshall” should be removed from the CSU Law College’s name; and

WHEREAS, the careful, thoughtful, deliberate process of the Law School Name Committee modeled what the Law College teaches its students, including the importance of due diligence, due process, inclusiveness, transparency, and the need to understand the viewpoints of others; and

WHEREAS, the Law School Name Committee met over 18 months, and followed a process that included a thorough study of the issues, and seeking wide and deep input on the consequence of the decision to remove the name Marshall from the Law College name; and

WHEREAS, that process included six virtual public forums, a 45-page framing document that presented different views on the Law School name issue, a comprehensive online resource library that included information about how other higher education institutions have addressed similar naming issues, and an online survey sent to over 4,000 Law College alumni, students, faculty, and staff as well as CSU and Cleveland legal community members; and

WHEREAS, as a result of their thoughtful study of the issues, Dean Fisher submitted a Report to then Provost Laura Bloomberg in February 2022 that included the comprehensive findings of the Law School Name Committee and volumes of material and research the Law School Name Committee collected and collated; and

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2022, then Provost Laura J. Bloomberg convened an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee pursuant to the University's Space, Unit and Entity Naming Policy, set forth in Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.) Section 3344-3-01 (D) (1) (b) and (c), and the related procedures that support implementation of the policy, for the purpose of making a recommendation to the President on the request to remove the name Marshall from the CSU Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee included faculty, students and staff from a variety of perspectives and areas of expertise; and

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee was provided with a substantial body of information to review, including the comprehensive and exhaustive work done by the Law School Name Committee, that, comprehensive in its scope, became a significant source of information in forming its recommendation; and

WHEREAS, at the completion of its work and deliberation, the Ad Hoc Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the President that the name Marshall be removed from the name of the CSU College of Law for the reasons enumerated in its report: and

WHEREAS, President Bloomberg received and reviewed that report, and pursuant to the procedures that implement the University's Space, Unit and Naming Policy (O.A.C. Section 3344-3-01 (D)(2)), informed the Board through the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of her acceptance of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee to remove the name Marshall from CSU's Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; and

WHEREAS, this matter was received by the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee for review at its September 15, 2022 meeting, during which the Committee heard from Dean Lee Fisher concerning the Law School Name Committee process, and from Patricia Franklin concerning the Report and Recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee; and

WHEREAS, at the close of that meeting, the Committee took the matter under review, having been given access to the Law School Name Committee's materials and the Report of the Ad Hoc Committee; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting held November 16, 2022, the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee of the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve acceptance of President Bloomberg's recommendation to remove the inherited name Cleveland-Marshall from the CSU Cleveland-Marshall College of Law:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cleveland State Board of Trustees has reviewed all of the materials related to the petition to remove the inherited name Cleveland-Marshall from the CSU Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and after careful consideration and thoughtful deliberation hereby approves President Bloomberg's recommendation to remove the name Cleveland-Marshall from the CSU Cleveland-Marshall College of Law; and further orders the CSU Administration to take all necessary actions to remove the Cleveland-Marshall name from the law school building and other identifying spaces, documents and means of communication. Hereafter, the college shall be referred to as the Cleveland State University College of Law.