CSU|LAW
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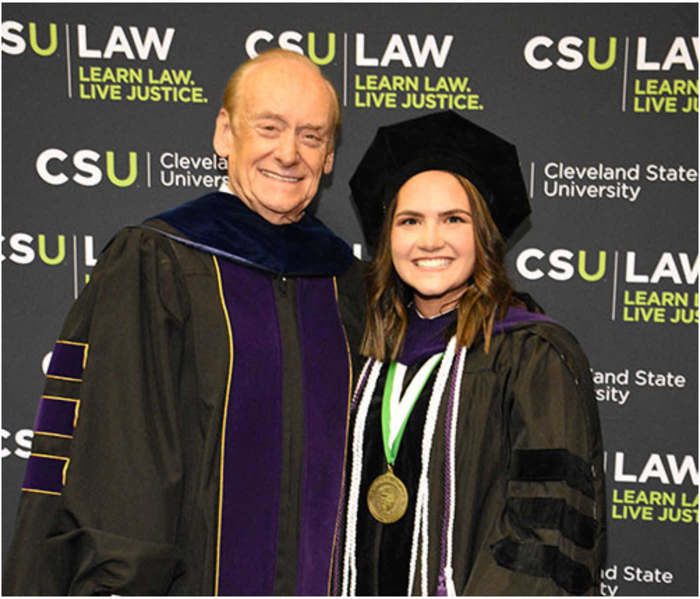
Commencement Issue: Celebrating the Class of 2023

At our 2023 Commencement Ceremony, we celebrated the accomplishments of one of the most resilient classes to ever graduate from our law school with inspiring, powerful remarks from Commencement Speakers **Steve Potash ’78** and **Loree Potash ’79**, the first couple to ever give a commencement address at our law school.

Our 151 graduates included 115 graduating with a JD degree, 7 with an LLM degree, 24 with a Master of Legal Studies (MLS) degree, and 5 with joint degrees. They came to us from more than 78 colleges and universities across the country and around the world.

Watch Commencement Ceremony

View Photo Gallery



Graduate Profile: Class Valedictorian Camille Pollutro '23

"Remember your journey, remember how you got here, thank those along the way, and cherish this moment and what it represents."

2023 Cleveland State University College of Law class Valedictorian **Camille Pollutro's** message to her fellow graduates focused on appreciating the big moments and accomplishments as they set forth on their careers.

Camille first considered law school after her high school English teacher, a former attorney himself, told her that he could see her attending law school.

"I always knew I wanted to go to CSU|LAW! It was the only school I applied to," explained Camille. "CSU|LAW has a unique advantage that no other law school in our area has: a strong community of lawyers and support. You cannot go to a single legal institution without running into a CSU|LAW graduate, and our alumni never fail to provide mentorship once we enter the field. That was such a key factor for me as I plan to stay in Cleveland long-term."

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Cleveland State University
CLEVELAND-MARSHALL COLLEGE OF LAW
Katheryn Hach
Dean's Learn Law Live Justice Award
CSU LAW
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Graduate Profile: Dean’s Learn Law Live Justice Award Recipient Katheryn Hach ’23

Juggling full-time employment and legal studies is challenging in itself. 2023 Cleveland State University College of Law graduate **Katheryn Hach ’23** managed to not only accomplish that while ranking third in her 4LE class, but also become a force in the CSU|LAW and greater Cleveland legal community. For her dedication to academics and service, Katey was selected by **Dean Fisher** as the 2023 recipient of the Dean’s Learn Law Live Justice Award.

“Receiving this honor is an extreme point of pride for me and I’m overwhelmed with gratitude for even having been nominated. I know the past couple of awardees and am extremely honored to be in their presence because they're all superstar lawyers," said Katey.

Katey served as a leader of several student organizations where she emphasized the elevation of voices of under-represented student populations and actively advocated for the involvement of students in administrative decision-making. She has been a voice for part-time and non-traditional students as their Senator with CSU|LAW's Student Bar Association, going on to serve as Vice President of the Association. She also served two-terms as President of OUTLaw, CSU|LAW's social and political student organization dedicated to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ+) community. Katey also founded the law school's Non-Traditional Law Student Association (NTLSA) to provide part-time and working students with ongoing support and a strong sense of community.

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Graduate Profile: SBA President

Christina O'Brien ’23

Christina O’Brien recalls sitting in her grandfather’s apartment as a young child watching the President on the news. “One day, you will be President,” her grandfather told her. “What do I need to do to become president?” she asked. Her grandfather answered her with words that she’s carried. “You will need to become a lawyer first.”

Now decades later, the 2023 Cleveland State University College of Law graduate has indeed become a lawyer, and spent her final year of law school as president of the CSU|LAW Student Bar Association, advocating that students need to be brought to the table when decisions are being made that affect them.

Christina was raised in a home with a father who was emotionally abusive to her mother and siblings and physically abusive to her mother. On a number of occasions, her mother and siblings had to flee their home to the safety of domestic violence shelters. One of those occasions in particular stands out for Christina.

“I met another child that was staying at the shelter and we began talking about what had happened that day that led to both of us being there,” Christina recalled. “He shared his story that his mother’s boyfriend had been beating her and he came into the room and struck the boyfriend with a chair. He was then locked out of the room while the mother’s boyfriend continued to abuse her. That little boy was the same age as me at the time – 10. I remember thinking how brave he was and that he was so courageous in coming to his mother aid. I promised myself that day that when I was big enough, I would not be silent and would stand up for those that could not speak.”

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2023 HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION
Induction Ceremony
Friday, Nov 3, 2023 - 5:30pm
CSU|LAW
LEARN LAW. LIVE JUSTICE.

Featured Hall of Fame Honorees

Our **6th Annual CSU|LAW Hall of Fame Celebration** honoring our **2023 Hall of Fame Honorees** is on the evening of **Friday, November 3, 2023, 5:30- 8:00 p.m.** at the law school.

This special celebration gives us the opportunity not only to honor the new class of inductees but also is our single best opportunity to raise funds for much-needed student scholarships. The Hall of Fame celebration is the only annual fundraising event sponsored by the law school.

Please consider **purchasing one or more tickets**, **becoming a sponsor**, and/or **placing an ad in the program book** to help celebrate one or more of our 2023 inductees.

Each of our Honorees will be featured in an issue of the CSU|LAW newsletter. Meet two of the honorees below.

David P. Burke

CLASS OF 1980

Shareholder, Carlton Fields, P.A.; General Counsel,

Amalie Oil Company

"CSU|LAW means opportunity and a legal education second to none. Because I had to work to pay my way through school at CSU and CSU|LAW, I needed an opportunity to do that. CSU|LAW gave me that opportunity, for which I am forever grateful. In addition, when I began practice with lawyers who went to some of the top-rated law schools in the U.S., I quickly realized that I had been given the legal education necessary to perform at that level. Thank you, CSU|LAW."

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Hon. Patrick Carroll

CLASS OF 1977

Retired Judge, Lakewood Municipal Court

"At Cleveland State University College of Law, I met other students that became lifelong friends and colleagues. Professor J. Patrick Browne was a wonderful resource and I was fortunate to know him as a professor, mentor, and friend. Serving on the Cleveland State Law Review editorial board led to a judicial clerkship after graduation. Overall, I have been very fortunate to reap numerous benefits from my education at Cleveland State University College of Law."

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John S. Cipolla

CLASS OF 1989

Firm Vice Chair, Calfee, Halter & Griswold LLP

"CSU|LAW was a “springboard” for my family and me. I am extremely proud and thankful to have had the opportunity to attend CSU|LAW back in 1985-1989 as an evening student. Being the son of hardworking “blue collar” parents, I would not have been able to attend law school without the evening program CSU|LAW offered. My law school education was second to none, and I really feel that CSU|LAW and hard work helped me to achieve the “American Dream.” As a bonus – I met my wife of 34 years at CSU|LAW."

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1971
HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge.

125th Anniversary Video

Our distinguished alumni, faculty, students, staff and supporters tell the story of our rich history that has shaped the Northeast Ohio legal landscape and beyond in this new video which debuted at Commencement celebrating our 125 years of ***Learn Law Live Justice***.

Professor Award Recipients

During the 2023 CSULAA Annual Recognition Luncheon May 25, **Dean Fisher** presented **Prof. Brian Ray**, **Leon M. and Gloria Plevin Professor of Law** and Director of the Center for Cybersecurity and Privacy Protection, with the **2023 Dean Wilson G. Stapleton Award for Faculty Excellence** and **Dean Fisher** recognized **Prof. Milena Sterio, Charles R. Emrick Jr.-Calfee Halter & Griswold Professor of Law** and Director, LL.M. Program, as the recipient of the **2023 CSU Distinguished Professorship**.

Remembering Dean and Professor Lizabeth Moody

It is with great sadness we learned **Professor Lizabeth (Liz) Moody** passed away in Florida on May 19, 2023. We send our sincerest condolences to her family and many friends.

Professor Moody was an icon in legal education. The *National Jurist* once rated her as one of the 25 most important people in legal education. Her biography has been placed in the Library of Congress as one of the Women Trailblazers in the Law.

Professor Moody was inducted in our CSU|LAW Hall of Fame in 2017. In 1967, she joined our adjunct faculty and in 1970, she joined our full-time faculty, and served as a member of our faculty for 20 years. She was the second woman member of our tenure track faculty, after Professor (and later Judge) Ann Aldrich. In 1987-88, she served as Interim Dean of

CSU|LAW, the first woman to hold that position.

Professor Moody generously funded the **The Lizabeth A. Moody Endowed Scholarship Fund** for students with a demonstrated financial need or who may present unique barriers to graduation.

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Living Justice.
Living Leadership.
Dean Lee Fisher

Living Justice Podcast

Dean Fisher’s popular biweekly podcasts provide our listeners with inspiration and insight into the lives and careers of leaders and advocates for justice. He interviews guests from current and former U.S. Senators, Governors, Attorneys General, Ohio Supreme Court Justices, CEOs, judges, and lawyers, to disrupters, changemakers, and innovators.

Catch the Dean's Latest Podcast:

May 24, 2023: Episode 21
U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio Judge Dan Aaron Polster

Listen

Video Podcast

Upcoming Public Lectures & CLE Events

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY 1964
CSU School of Film & Media Arts
C|M|LAW
LEARN LAW LIVE JUSTICE

All Rise: A Festival of Film & Law

Five Films – Five Days - 5pm
Monday, October 16 - Friday, October 20

All Rise: A Festival of Film & Law is back! Following last year's successful inaugural event, we're pleased to present another slate of documentary and narrative films at the intersection of law and film. Five films will be presented at 5 P.M. across five days. Panel discussions and a diverse selection of guest speakers at each event serve as a catalyst for compelling conversations surrounding cinema, law and justice.

The festival takes place at Playhouse Square with screenings at the Westfield Studio Theater, the CSU School of Film & Media Arts, and the CSU College of Law.

All screenings are free and open to the public. SCHEDULE TBA

Learn More

Prof. Chien Presented on Drug Courts to Taiwanese Experts

Professor Shih-Chun Steven Chien presented in Taiwan at the 2023 Symposium for Drug Treatment Reform and Prevention of Recidivism, organized by the Taiwanese Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the High Prosecutor's Office. He discussed the structure and challenges of drug courts in the United States.

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In Memoriam

- Hon. Patricia Hemann '80
- Michele Hyndman '05

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2023 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SYMPOSIUM

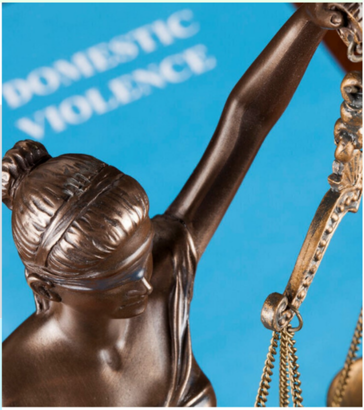
Thursday, June 1, 2023
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

In Person at the
CSU College of Law
Moot Court Room
1801 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland
Walk-ins are welcome

OR

Live Interactive Webinar
Virtually via Zoom

SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS



6.5 CLE Credit Hours
(Full Day, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
Pending Approval

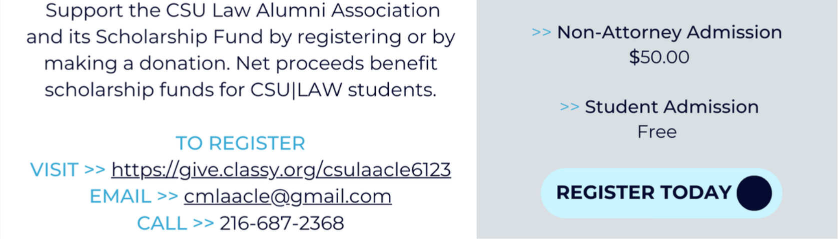
3.0 CLE Credit Hours
(Half Day, 8:30 a.m.-Noon or 1:00-4:30 p.m.)
Pending Approval

CPT Credits
Pending Approval

REGISTRATION

Lunch will be provided for Full Day, In Person attendees.

>> General Attorney Admission
Full Day: $160.00
Half Day: $90.00



Support the CSU Law Alumni Association and its Scholarship Fund by registering or by making a donation. Net proceeds benefit scholarship funds for CSU|LAW students.

TO REGISTER
VISIT >> https://give.classy.org/csulaacle6123
EMAIL >> cmlaacle@gmail.com
CALL >> 216-687-2368

>> Non-Attorney Admission
$50.00

>> Student Admission
Free

REGISTER TODAY ●

2023 Domestic Violence Symposium

Thursday, June 1, 2023 | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
CSU College of Law-Moot Court Room OR Virtually via Zoom

6.5 CLE Credit Hours (Full Day, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)
3.0 CLE Credit Hours (Half Day, 8:30 a.m.-Noon OR 1:00-4:30 p.m.)
Pending Approval

The CSULAA's 2023 Annual Meeting will follow this All Day CLE

Register

CSU|LAW Alumni Association CLE On-Demand Webinars

The CSULAA's 2023 Annual Meeting will follow this All Day CLE

2022 Ethics Seminar with Kegler Brown

2.5 Professional Conduct CLE Hours

Register

The Hopes and Hold-Ups of Immigration Law: A New Administration and the Effects of a Pandemic

1.0 General Credit CLE Hour

Register

Landlord Tenant Law

2.0 General Credit CLE Hours

Register

The Home Construction Project

3.0 General Credit CLE Hours

Register

Small Business Law Update: New Legal Landmines for Small Businesses to Avoid

2.0 General Credit CLE Hours

Register

Record Sealing Update: An Overview of the Big Changes in Ohio’s Expungement Law

1.0 General Credit CLE Hour

Register

Revisiting the Calls for Equality in the Criminal Justice System and Ohio’s Path Forward

2.0 Professional Conduct Credit CLE Hours

Register

Modern Issues in Divorce; Custody, Support and Finances

2.0 General Credit CLE Hour

Register

The Law After 9/11: Changes in Privacy, Prosecution and Procedure

1.0 General Credit CLE Hour

Register

Lawyers on Nonprofit Boards

1.0 Professional Conduct Credit CLE Hour

Register

Give

Volunteer

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Have exciting news to share? Send us your news to include on our website, social media or in a future newsletter. Email AlumniNews@law.csuohio.edu.