



IN THIS ISSUE...

- Dean Fisher's Welcome Message
 - Donor Spotlight: Robert P. Ducatman Memorial Endowed Scholarship
 - Featured CSU|LAW Hall of Fame Honorees
 - CSU|LAW Students Win MetroLabs Summit Student Cup
 - The Gavel Nets ABA Division Award
 - Upcoming Public Lectures & CLE Events
 - CSU|LAW Faculty News
 - CSU|LAW Alumni Association News & Events
-



Dean Fisher's Welcome Message

Welcome to the 2023-24 academic year!

We had the great pleasure of welcoming our first year class of 179 JD, LL.M., and MLS students. They are talented, energetic, excited, and intellectually curious.

They are pursuing their dream by living, working, and studying a few years of their life like most people won't, so they can spend the rest of their life making a difference in other people's lives like most people can't.

We set some records this year!

- The academic credentials of the 1st year JD class (LSAT/ Undergraduate GPA) are the highest in over a decade.
- Our total number of JD 1st-year students is 151, the largest 1st-year JD class in over a decade, and an over 50% increase in JD enrollment since 2016.
- For the first time in our law school history, we have a J.D. part-time online program that puts us at the forefront of the rapidly changing legal education landscape.
- Applications for the JD Program increased 55%, due in large part to our new J.D. part-time online program.

- We have the largest number of part-time JD students in decades.
- Our percentage of out-of-state JD students is 28%, the largest percentage in our law school history.
- Our total number of first year JD/LL.M./MLS students is 179 students, the largest JD/LL.M./MLS class in our law school history.

Welcome to our very talented first-year class!



Donor Spotlight: Robert P. Ducatman Memorial Endowed Scholarship to Support CSU|LAW Students

The **Robert P. Ducatman Memorial Endowed Scholarship**, established in a joint effort and very generously funded by **Jones Day**, the **Jones Day Foundation**, and **Spangenberg Shibley & Liber LLP**, will support Cleveland State University College of Law students beginning this Fall. The scholarship honors its namesake, **Robert P. Ducatman**

(pictured above), a 1980 graduate of CSU|LAW and a longtime Partner at Jones Day who passed away in 2022.

“Rob didn’t just make lawyers better, he made the profession better,” said **John M. Saada Jr., Partner-in-Charge of Jones Day’s Cleveland office**. “His legacy as a fierce litigator and great trial lawyer will long be remembered, but his legacy as a teacher and a mentor to other Jones Day lawyers will perhaps be his greatest and most lasting contribution to the firm, and to countless others who crossed his path. There is no better way to honor his memory than to create professional opportunities for the future Rob Ducatmans.”

A Cleveland native who worked at his father's auto repair shop from an early age, Ducatman was not only the first to become a lawyer in his family, but also the first to go to college. He attended Cleveland State University as an undergraduate, graduating *magna cum laude* as he continued to work at the auto repair shop to support his studies.

“Rob exemplified the kind of student CSU|LAW has always welcomed—hard working, bright and looking for an opportunity to do well and to do good,” said classmate, longtime friend and **Spangenberg Shibley & Liber Partner Dennis Lansdowne ’81**. “Rob appreciated that CSU|LAW gave him a chance he might not have had at other schools. He never took that opportunity for granted and wanted others to have that same opportunity he had to get a legal education.”

[Read More](#)



2023 HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION

Friday, Nov. 3, 2023 • 5:30 pm
CSU College of Law



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 and other student-focused needs. 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 three of the honorees below.



Gus Frangos

CLASS OF 1982

President and General Counsel, Cuyahoga Land Bank

"CSU|LAW is a treasure. It afforded me to work and go to the night school where the level of teaching was excellent. I apply my CSU|LAW schooling almost on a daily basis in the field of contracts, real estate and negotiation."

[Read More](#)



Tom Green

CLASS OF 2002

Shareholder, Kastner Westman & Wilkins, LLC.

"CSU|LAW is the foundation upon which I've composed a meaningful, enjoyable, rewarding career. Taking advantage of the many opportunities introduced to me at the law school has transformed my life – from meeting a classmate who later became my wife, to impacting my community, to mentoring future generations of attorneys, and to enjoying access to accomplished and distinguished people, travel, and an overall standard of living that I couldn't have imagined on my best day."

[Read More](#)



Judge Lindsay C. Jenkins

CLASS OF 2002

United States District Judge, Northern District of Illinois

"As a first-generation lawyer, CSU College of Law means opportunity. Opportunity to learn from professors and peers, to learn what it means to be a lawyer, and to take the skills I developed here out into the world and make it a better place. I am forever grateful that my legal career began here."

[Read More](#)



CSU|LAW Students Win MetroLabs Summit Student Cup

CSU|LAW 3L students **Sharilyn Clark** and **Zachary Jacobson**, and 2023 graduates **Jessica Cohen** and **Katrice Williams** were members of the interdisciplinary team from CSU that won the national [MetroLab Network's Student Cup Competition](#).

Clark and Williams presented the team's analysis developed for the city of Oakland, California's Privacy Advisory Commission examining data privacy and equity risks in the use of an app-based parking payment system.

The CSU|LAW students project was an outgrowth of their participation in the Data Privacy & Equity Assessment Clinic, supported by the [CSU TECH Hub](#), along with the [IoT Collaborative](#), and co-taught by **Professor Brian Ray**, Director of the [Center for Cybersecurity and Privacy Protection](#).

[Learn More](#)



The Gavel Nets ABA Division Award

Each year, the American Bar Association's Law School Division reviews applications from around the country for the prestigious Law School Newspaper Award. This year CSU|LAW's [*The Gavel*](#) has earned the distinction—the first time it has done so in over 20 years.

Student newspapers are selected for this award for their “exceptional character and commitment within the community” and for “specific reporting [that] has brought about changes at [their] law school[s].”

“We also capture the work that students are doing to make a change in their communities,” said **Managing Editor Philipp Corfman**. “[By] creating stories about the Yemen

Accountability Project and the ABA Legal Education Police Practices Consortium, [*The Gave*] highlights how [CSU|Law] students are making real change and connect readers to ways they can become active advocates.”

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Public Lectures & CLE Events

WAR CRIMES IN UKRAINE CONFERENCE: THE ABDUCTION AND DEPORTATION OF CHILDREN

OCTOBER 5, 2023
4:30P - 6:30P
MOOT COURTROOM
2 hr CLE (pending)

Co-Sponsored by the Cleveland Council on World
Affairs, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association,
and the City Club of Cleveland.



U.S. AMBASSADOR
STEPHEN RAPP
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



MYKOLA KULEBA
PANELIST



ROMAN SHEREMETA
PANELIST



CLINT WILLIAMSON
PANELIST



Dean **MICHAEL SCHARF**
PANELIST



Moderated by
CSU Distinguished Professor
Milena Sterlo

CSU | **LAW**
CLEVELAND STATE
UNIVERSITY | **LEARN LAW. |**
LIVE JUSTICE.

Conference: War Crimes in Ukraine: The Abduction and Deportation of Children

Thursday, October 5 | 4:30 p.m.

Moot Court Room

Co-sponsored by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs , Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, and The City Club of Cleveland.

This Conference will address the ongoing war in Ukraine with a particular focus on the war crime of abduction and deportation of Ukrainian children by the Russian authorities. Over the past year, Russian authorities have willfully separated Ukrainian children from their families and have orchestrated a policy whereby such children are adopted by Russian families. The Conference will focus on the ongoing International Criminal Court's investigation into the war crime of abducting and deporting children, as well as on other relevant international law issues related to imposing accountability on Russian President Vladimir Putin and Maria Lvova-Belova, Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights.

2 CLE hours pending

[Learn More](#)

BEHAVIORAL TELEHEALTH

Clinical and Legal Considerations
for Mental Health Providers in the
Age of Virtual Therapy

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 13 • 9 AM - 12:15 PM

DR. LAURA C. HOFFMAN
Assistant Professor of Law, CSU|LAW
Co-Director for the Center for Health Law
and Policy



BRADLEY D. REED, J.D.
Partner, Frantz Ward LLP



STACY SIMERA, MSSA, LISW-S
Licensed Social Worker



Live webinar or in-person
3.0 CLE

REGISTER AT [CSULAW.ORG](https://www.csulaw.org)

CSU|LAW
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CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY

**Behavioral Telehealth: Clinical And
Legal Considerations For Mental Health
Providers In The Age of Virtual Therapy**

RESCHEDULED: Friday, October 13 | 9:00 a.m.

Moot Court Room or Live Webinar

Behavioral Telehealth: Clinical And Legal Considerations For Mental Health Providers In The Age of Virtual Therapy is a course that will cover the rapidly shifting trends in telehealth and will be facilitated by mental health and legal experts.

3 CLE hours

Approvals have been submitted for the Ohio Supreme Court, Ohio CSWMFT, & OPA

[Learn More](#)

A Festival of Film & Law

ALL RISE

5 DAYS. 5 FILMS. 5 PM.

October 16-20, 2023



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. Ray Leads EU AI Act Grand Challenge Team

Professor Brian Ray led an interdisciplinary team of AI experts at the first annual EU AI Act Grand Challenge hosted by St. Gallen University. Professor Ray's team was one of 12 teams selected internationally to compete in the two-stage competition to assess multiple AI systems for compliance with the draft European Union AI Act.

[Read More](#)



Prof. Hoffman Co- Authored Publication with the Journal of Palliative Medicine

Professor Laura Hoffman, co-director of CSU|LAW's Center for Health Law and Policy, co-authored an article published in the *Journal of Palliative Medicine*, unveiling Palliative Care Law and Policy GPS, a groundbreaking achievement at the intersection of healthcare and policy.

[Read More](#)



Prof. Moncrieff Discussed Gender Affirming Care Laws on NPR

Professor Abigail Moncrieff, co-director of CSU|LAW's Center for Health Law and Policy, was interviewed by *NPR* for a story on legal issues with medical care for transgender children.

[Read More](#)



Prof. Laser Posted on Generative AI Law

Professor Christa Laser wrote about the legal questions surrounding AI-generated artwork in the *Technology & Marketing Law Blog*.

[Read More](#)



Prof. Kalir Penned Op- Ed on SCOTUS’ “Creative 303” Opinion

Professor Doron Kalir published an op-ed in the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, on the Supreme Court’s recent “Creative 303” opinion. That opinion, Professor Kalir explains, effectively allows — for the first time in the Court’s history — a service provider in the open market to discriminate against its clients on the basis of their sexual discrimination.

[Read More](#)



Prof. Witmer-Rich Interviewed on DNA use

Professor Jonathan Witmer-Rich was interviewed by WCPN for a story on how DNA can help move cold-case investigations forward and bring closure for victims' families.

[Read More](#)

In Memoriam

- [Emily Sweeney '81](#)
-

CSU|LAW Alumni Association CLE On-Demand Webinars

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](#)

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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.