



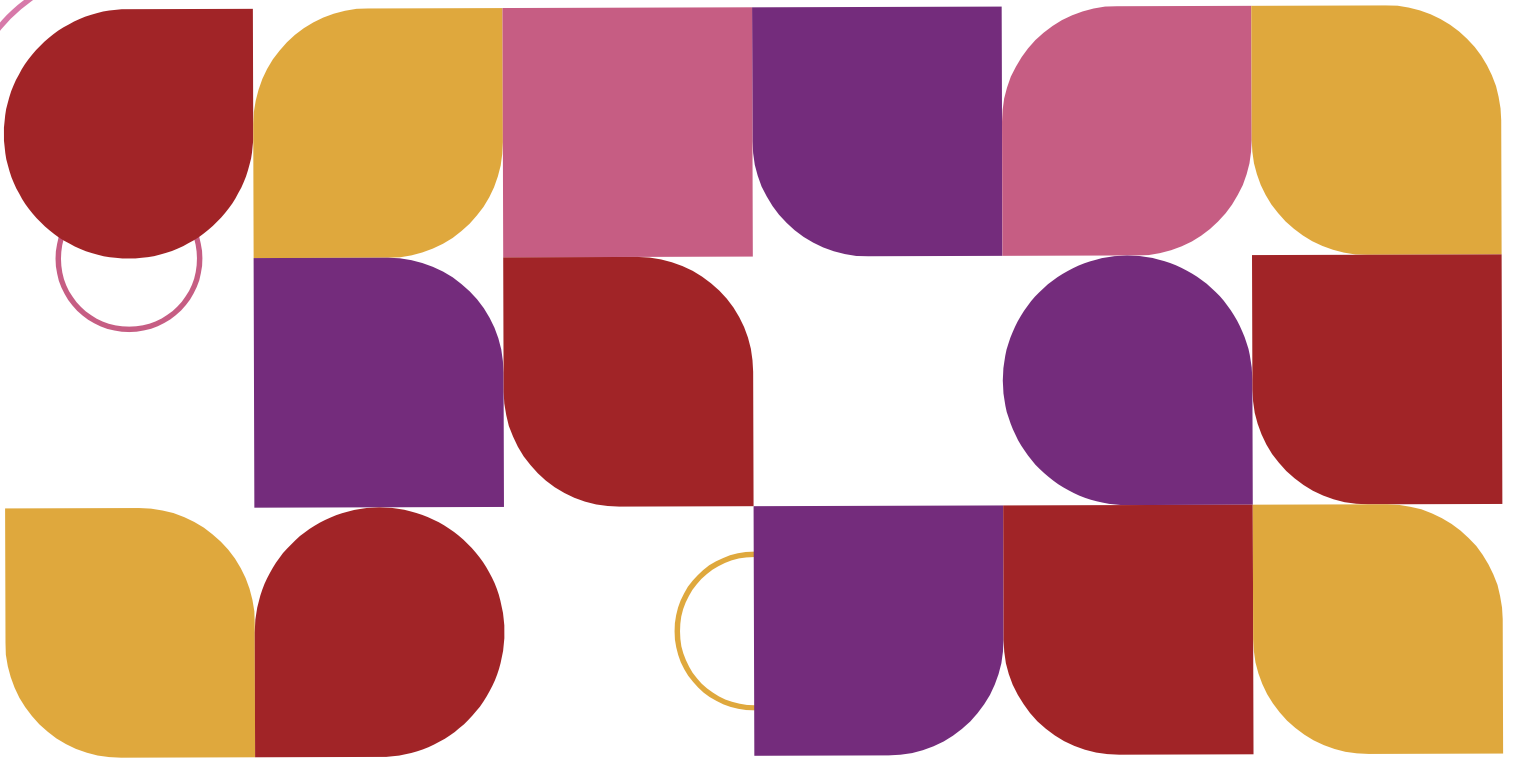
2024

OWBA & OWBF

Annual Meeting and Conference Program

Finding
Common Ground





Website



Registration



*Leadership Institute
Application*

Carpenter Lipps LLP

Attorneys at Law

**We proudly support the OWBA and OWBF
and recognize our woman leaders:**

OWBA / OWBF Past and Present Board Members:

Jennifer A. L. Battle
Amber Merl
Angela Paul Whitfield

Past OWBF Leadership Institute Graduates:

Jennifer A. L. Battle
Kimberly Bojko
Amber Merl
Emily Vincent
Angela Paul Whitfield



President's Message

Lindsey D'Andrea

Senior Assistant General Counsel
OhioHealth
Outgoing President, OWBA



It is my honor to officially welcome you to the 2024 Ohio Women's Bar Association and Foundation Annual Conference and Meeting! Serving as the President of the OWBA for the past year has been one of the greatest honors of my legal career, helping to marshal the organization through a year of growth and reengagement as we focused our energies on returning to our pre-COVID activities.

The growth and development experienced by the OWBA this year would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the OWBA Executive Board, our Board of Trustees stationed throughout the State of Ohio, and the OWBF under the phenomenal leadership of Heather Renee Adams. I witnessed this group of volunteers spend countless hours to plan and attend networking events, our annual Leading with Style event, the Leading the Way Awards Celebration, and thought provoking CLEs. Being a witness to this work was an inspiring reminder of the impactful work we can all accomplish when Ohio's female attorneys work together to support each other. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to this incredible group of women who I am proud to call colleagues and friends.

Looking ahead, I am excited to pass the baton to incoming OWBA President Jennifer Battle and incoming OWBF President Elizabeth Shaffer.

Jen and Libby have compiled a powerful panel of speakers who I have no doubt will leave you energized and inspired to find the common ground in your practice, regardless of the current legal role you hold. Thank you to Jen and Libby for their all their hard work and to this year's Annual Meeting sponsors – this phenomenal event would not be possible without the continued support of our law firm and corporate sponsors!

President's Message

Heather Renée Adams

Partner, Roetzel & Andress, LPA
Outgoing President, OWBF

Welcome back to the 2024 OWBA & OWBF Annual Meeting and Conference! We are thrilled to gather again to reconnect, learn, and build a practice that allows women to flourish!

Finding Common Ground.

This year's theme is *Finding Common Ground*. The Annual Meeting Committee has thoughtfully highlighted relevant and emerging topics that garner varied opinions and perspectives. Our hope is to directly address the legal issues emanating from these topics, explore pathways forward and embrace those ideas on which we all agree. We invite you to actively participate in these robust discussions.

Welcome to our Founding Members, Past Presidents and Trustees.

We are excited to kick-off this week's conference with the *Second Annual President's Brunch*. The President's Brunch was envisioned by *OWBA Past President Jayme Smoot (2022-2023)* and co-chaired by *OWBA Past President Marilyn McClure-Demers (2016-2017)*, *OWBF Past President Amy Ahn-Roll (2020-2021)*, and *OWBF Past President Lucy Higgins (2022-2023)*. This year, Founding Members, Past Presidents and Trustees have traveled from near and far to attend this working brunch. We are grateful for their wise counsel and unwavering commitment to the OWBA and OWBF as we chart the path for the next 20 years.

What's New.

We are excited to bring new elements, speakers, and energy to this year's conference. We welcome keynote speaker **Michelle Simpson Tuegel of the Simpson Tuegel Law Firm**. Michelle is a formidable litigator in defense of women and those in need of advocacy.

This year, we are also presenting new CLE topics on Immigration, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Access to Capital, Domestic Violence, and much more.



With Gratitude.

As the outgoing President of the Ohio Women's Bar Foundation, to simply say that I am pleased to have you join us, is an understatement. I am honored to have served as OWBF President, to uplift women, and to be able to share this experience with you. Your financial contributions support the Leadership Institute, Bar Prep Scholarships and the participation of solo and small firm attorneys who may not otherwise be able to participate in our programming.

Thank you to the 2024 Annual Meeting Co-Chairs, **Libby Shaffer, Partner, Dinsmore & Shohl** and **Jennifer Battle, Partner, Carpenter Lipps**. Your vision, leadership and commitment is recognized and appreciated.

Lastly, thank you to **Lindsey D'Andrea, Outgoing OWBA President** and the OWBA and OWBF Officers, Trustees and Committee Members, for all they have contributed this year. Your dedication to driving our mission and realizing our vision to empower, connect and progress women in the law, has been astounding.

Join Us!

You have a place with the OWBA and OWBF. If you are interested in becoming an OWBA member or joining an OWBF Committee, please connect with us online at www.owba.org or reach out to us directly.

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Dinsmore attorneys nationwide are driven by an unwavering commitment to empower our clients to accomplish their goals. We're recognized for our dedication to client service because helping clients is at the center of everything we do.



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Day One

April 11th 2024

Finding 
Common Ground



11 Agenda

April 11, 2024



Time Slots

Session Titles

1:00p - 2:00p

Finding Common Ground: Candid Conversations – Aftermath of Affirmative Action

Panelists

Carolyn Broering-Jacobs, Professor, Cleveland State University
Erin Hatton, Attorney
Marchelle Moore, SVP, External Affairs, Chief Diversity Officer & President, The Encova Foundation Of Ohio
Jennifer Edwards, Partner, BakerHostetler
Moderator: Renuka Raman, Corporate Counsel Big Lots

2:10p - 3:10p

Finding Common Ground - How A Bill Becomes a Law in A Partisan Environment

Panelists:

Nickie Antonio, Ohio State Senator
Nathan Manning, Ohio State Senator
Jessica Miranda, Ohio House Representative
Bill Seitz, Ohio House Representative
Moderator: Jennifer Battle, Partner, Carpenter Lipps

3:20p - 4:20p

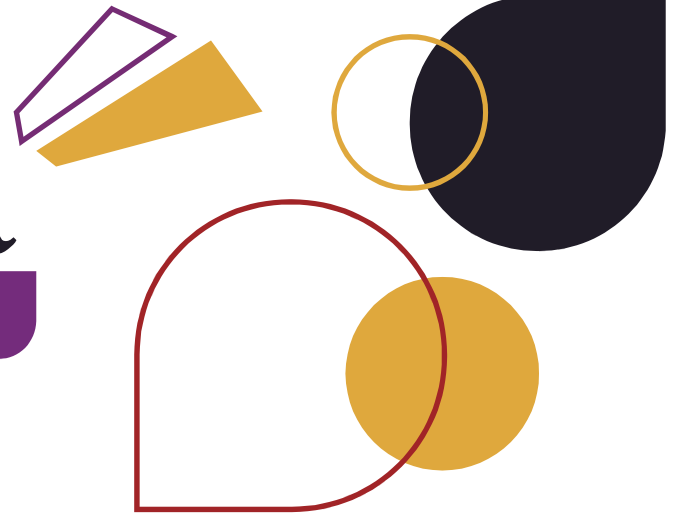
Finding Common Ground – Building a Bridge With Executive Leadership

Panelists

Anne Garcia, SVP & General Counsel, The Ohio State University
Amanda Karn, Director & Assistant General Counsel, North America Skin Care, The Procter and Gamble Company
Christine Merriman, EVP & General Counsel, Enterprise Functions, TIAA
Lisa Whittaker, Director and Managing Counsel, Employment & Labor Law, The J.M. Smucker Co.
Moderator: Libby Shaffer, Dinsmore & Shohl

11 Agenda

April 11, 2024



Time Slots

Session Titles

4:20p - 5:20p

Finding Common Ground – Increasing Access to Capital for Women

Panelists:

Lisa J. Berger, Esq., Founder & Chair of the Board, Fortuna Bank
Councilmember Shaylor Favor, City of Columbus

Cinnamon Pelly, President & CEO, Pillsbury United
Communities

Keena Smith, Founder & CEO, Women’s Center for Economic
Opportunity

**Moderator: Lark T. Mallory, President & CEO, The
Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin
County**

5:30p - 8:30p

Welcome Reception





Day Two

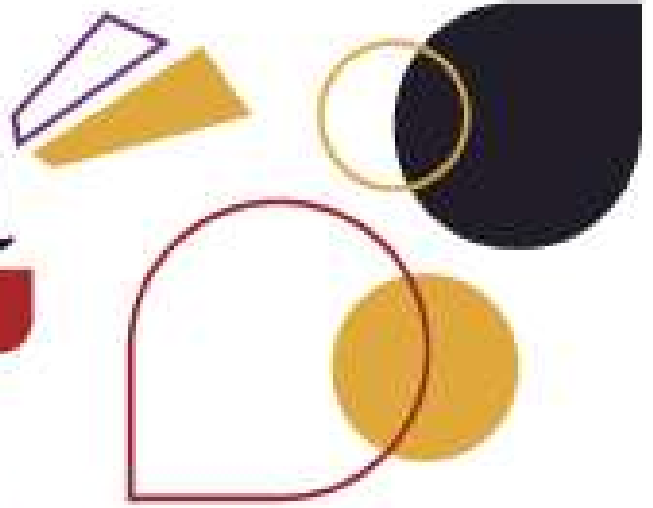
April 12th 2024

Finding 
Common Ground



12 Agenda

April 12, 2024



Time Slots

Session Titles

8:30a - 9:30a

Finding Common Ground: Addressing the Immigration Crisis

Panelists:

Councilmember Lourdes Barroso de Padilla, City of Columbus
Allison Brown, Attorney, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Melissa Gawelek, Attorney, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants

Julie Leftwich, Founder and Executive Director, Immigrant and Refugee Law Center

Eugenio Mollo, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law, The University of Toledo College of Law

Moderator: Stephanie Olivera Mittica, Associate, Roetzel & Andress, LPA

9:30a - 10:30a

Finding Common Ground: Alternative Dispute Resolution and the Remaining Role of the Jury Trial

Panelists

Justice Eve Stratton, Of Counsel, Vorys

Sarah Rudolph Cole, Michael E. Moritz Chair in Alternative Dispute Resolution, The Ohio State University

Angela Phelps-White, Executive Director, Ohio Civil Rights Commission

Judge Carla Baldwin, Youngstown Municipal Court

Moderator: Jennifer Battle, Partner, Carpenter Lipps

12 Agenda

April 12, 2024



Time Slots

Session Titles

10:40a - 11:40a

Finding Common Ground - Keeping Women Safe from Violence and Harassment

Panelists:

Bethany Studenic, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Enlightened Solutions

Trischa Synder Chapman, Baker Hostetler

Moderator: Kami Brauer, Employment Law Partners

Awards Luncheon & Keynote Speaker

11:45a - 2:00p



FEATURING:

MICHELLE SIMPSON TUEGEL

Michelle represented former USA gymnasts who were sexually abused by Larry Nassar, leading efforts that ultimately obtained one of the largest ever settlements for sexual abuse cases in December 2021.



Celebrating the Women of Benesch

54%

of the firm is made up of women.

18 women

promoted to Partner
in the past three years.

50%

of our post-January 2021 lateral hires
are women/diverse.



Explore our DEI Commitments:

- Benesch Women's Initiative dedicated to the recruitment, retention and promotion of our female attorneys
- Our B-Sharp initiative specifically designed to support women corporate counsel
- Holding our second Benesch Women's Retreat for all women lawyers this spring

Benesch
beneschlaw.com





Luncheon

April 12th 2024

Finding
Common Ground



Keynote Speaker

Michelle Simpson Tugel Simpson Tugel Law Firm

Michelle Simpson Tugel founded The Simpson Tugel Law Firm with the goal of doing work about which she is most passionate: helping people in their fight for justice. Through her powerful courtroom expertise and dedicated compassion for her clients, Michelle Simpson Tugel is a fierce advocate for the people she represents. Her expertise in cases of sexual abuse, severe injury, and wrongful death, and her deep experience on both sides of the law make her a highly skilled and well-rounded attorney.

Michelle began her career as a victims' rights attorney by doing Title IX work. In working with students affected by sexual assault on college and university campuses, she realized her passion for building relationships with her clients. Their stories and the trust they placed in her fueled her fire, and she knew representing victims was her only path forward.

Since then, Michelle has represented survivors in some of the most impactful catastrophic injury and sexual abuse cases of the past decade. Through her representation of survivors, she is able to personally connect with her clients and find common ground, whether that's through shared experiences as women or as former athletes. Notably, Michelle represented former USA gymnasts who were sexually abused by Larry Nassar, leading efforts that ultimately obtained one of the largest ever settlements for sexual abuse cases in December 2021.



She represented a rape survivor in a case against Hilton Management LLC that resulted in a \$44 million verdict that same year. She was also part of efforts that reached settlements of \$490 million in 2022 and \$850 million in 2021 at the University of Michigan and the University of Southern California, respectively. Outside of sexual abuse cases, Michelle was the first attorney to file a lawsuit in connection with the MGM Las Vegas shooting, which resulted in an \$800 million settlement in 2020.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Olivia Hiltbrand Mistress of Ceremonies

After nearly a decade as a TV news reporter in Ohio, West Virginia, and Rhode Island, I am now a law student at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, pursuing a career in First Amendment and media law. My husband, Brett, is a lifelong Ohioan, and although I'm originally from New York, I consider myself an honorary Ohioan after living here for so long. I am also a young adult cancer survivor who finished treatment in the summer of 2023. I'm now a volunteer with Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the American Society of Hematology.



Committed to a Diverse Profession

We are dedicated to fostering an inclusive and diverse work environment, as evidenced by our recent Mansfield Certification achievement. Our work is more powerful and meaningful when we bring all perspectives to the table.



HEATHER RENÉE ADAMS
SHAREHOLDER,
COLUMBUS



KAREN ADINOLFI
SHAREHOLDER,
AKRON



ARETTA BERNARD
PRACTICE GROUP MANAGER,
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES,
AKRON



ERIKA HAUPT
SHAREHOLDER-IN-CHARGE
OF COLUMBUS OFFICE,
COLUMBUS

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE

**Ohio Women's Bar Association
& Foundation Annual Meeting**



ROETZEL
A LEGAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Swearing-In Ceremony

Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals

Judge Laurel Beatty Blunt attended Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she received a B.S. in Psychology magna cum laude in 1996. She subsequently attended Vanderbilt University Law School and received a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1999. Judge Beatty Blunt was licensed to practice law in Ohio in November 1999.

Judge Beatty Blunt started her legal career at Frost Brown Todd (formerly Frost & Jacobs) in Cincinnati, Ohio where she was a member of the litigation department, focusing primarily on commercial and diet drug defense litigation. Judge Beatty Blunt then returned to her hometown of Columbus and joined Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter where she was a member of the litigation, creditor's rights and bankruptcy, and government affairs departments. Afterward she handled small business, probate, and personal injury matters for Otto Beatty, Jr. & Associates where she sat first and second chair in several trials.

Judge Beatty Blunt then served as Director of Legislative Affairs and Counsel to the Voting Rights Institute for the Ohio Secretary of State. In that role, Judge Beatty Blunt served as liaison to the Ohio General Assembly and 88 county boards of elections. She also oversaw the drafting of legislation, obtained sponsors for bills, and provided testimony and information on bills pertaining to the Secretary of State's office.

In 2009 Governor Ted Strickland appointed Judge Beatty Blunt to serve on the Franklin County Court of Common Pleas. In that capacity,



Judge Beatty Blunt has jurisdiction over felony criminal cases, administrative appeals, and civil matters in which the sum or matters in dispute exceed \$15,000. She has presided over a variety of issues from sentencing on murder and rape case to multi-million-dollar civil litigation. Judge Beatty Blunt was overwhelmingly elected in November 2010, earning 68% of the vote in Franklin County and re-elected in 2016 to a second term. In November 2018, Judge Beatty Blunt was elected to the Tenth District Court of Appeals which hears appeals from the court on which she previously served, as well as appeals from the other divisions of the Franklin County Common Pleas- Probate, Domestic Relations, and Juvenile- in addition to appeals from the Franklin County Municipal Court, the Ohio Court of Claims, and various state administrative agencies.

Finding Common Ground



Bricker Graydon is a proud sponsor of the Ohio Women's Bar Association and Ohio Women's Bar Foundation, and a longtime advocate for equality in the legal industry.

We believe that our strong commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion makes our culture and our work exponentially better.



THE WOMEN'S COLLABORATIVE

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BROWN
HILL
+
RITTER

Working together + achieving more. The Women's Collaborative at Kegler Brown is an action-oriented group that believes in sharing knowledge, connections, a platform to brainstorm, and much more. We're proud to support the OWBA in their initiatives to bring women lawyers together to advance professionally, because we know true success only comes through collaboration.

keglerbrown.com/diversity

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Awards

2024 Bar Prep Scholarship Award Recipients

Danielle Antwi, 3L

Cleveland State University College of Law

Julia Meyers, 3L

University of Akron College of Law



Awards



President's Choice Award

Awarded by outgoing OWBA president for contribution of Support, Energy, Talent, Time and Vision.

Prior Award Recipients

- 1993 | Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Hemann (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio)
- 1993 | Kirsti Talikka Garlock (Attorney at Law (Alexandria, Virginia))
- 1994 | Debra J. Horn (Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis)
- 1995 | Pamela Nagle Hultin (McCarthy, Lebit, Crystal & Liffman Co., LPA)
- 1996 | Magistrate Judge Patricia A. Hemann (U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio)
- 1997 | Maria A. Kortan-Sampson (Goodrich Corporation)
- 1998 | Catherine B. Martineau (Emch, Schaffer, Schaub & Porcello Co., LPA)
- 1999 | Debra J. Horn (Meyers, Roman, Friedberg & Lewis)
- 2000 | Carol A. Childs (Attorney at Law)
- 2001 | Law Firm of Climaco, Lefkowitz, Peca, Wilcox & Garofolill Co., LPA
- 2002 | Lisa Babish Forbes (Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, LLP)
- 2003 | Dawn M. Tarka (Office of the Ohio Attorney General)
- 2003 | Patricia A. Delaney (Assistant Columbus City Attorney)
- 2004 | Paulette M. Ivan (Reminger & Reminger Co., LPA)
- 2005 | Michele Shuster (Kegler, Brown, Hill and Ritter)
- 2006 | Angela Courtwright (Reminger & Reminger, LPA)
- 2007 | Lisa R. House (Reminger Co., LPA)
- 2008 | Irene Rennillo (Rennillo Deposition & Discovery)
- 2009 | The Honorable Patricia A. Delaney (Fifth District Court of Appeals)
- 2009 | Valoria C. Hoover (Kohrman Jackson & Krantz)
- 2010 | Jennifer Rhoads (Ohio Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association)
- 2010 | Denise Platfoot Lacey (University of Dayton School of Law)
- 2011 | Laura A. Sanom (Faruki Ireland & Cox, PLL)
- 2012 | Grace Royalty (U.S. District Court, Southern District of Ohio)
- 2013 | Claudia S. Herrington (Sarnova)
- 2014 | Lisa Kathumbi (Littler Mendelson)
- 2015 | Carrie Starts (Reminger Co., LPA)
- 2016 | Yukiko Yee (Ohio Attorney General's Office)
- 2018 | Lisa Whittaker (Express)
- 2019 | Lindsey D'Andrea (BakerHostetler)
- 2020 | Jennifer Battle (Carpenter Lipps & Leland)
- 2021 | Jayme Smoot (Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company)
- 2022 | Shennan Harris (Squire Patton Boggs)
- 2023 | Heather Renee Adams (Roetzel and Andress)



Awards



Family Friendly Award

OWBA is at the forefront of a profession-wide effort to promote meaningful alternative work arrangements in both private and public practice. Established in 2003, the Family Friendly Award honors those legal employers in Ohio who best exemplify the commitment to work-life balance arrangements, and assures that lawyers can take care of their families and still pursue a successful career.

Prior Award Recipients

- 2003 | Reminger & Reminger Co., LPA.
- 2004 | Bricker & Eckler, LLP
- 2005 | Cuyahoga County Prosecutor William D. Mason
- 2005 | Geauga County Prosecutor David P. Joyce
- 2006 | Eastman & Smith, Ltd.
- 2006 | Betty Montgomery, Ohio Auditor of State
- 2007 | Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, LLP
- 2008 | Honorable Mention: Ott & Associates
- 2008 | Cooper & Walinski, LLP
- 2009 | Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP
- 2009 | Javitch, Block & Rathbone, LLP
- 2010 | McGinty, Hilow & Spellacy Co., LPA
- 2010 | Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray's Office
- 2011 | Perez & Morris, LLC
- 2012 | Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP
- 2013 | Faruki Ireland & Cox P.L.L.
- 2014 | Thompson Hine, LLP
- 2015 | Ice Miller LLP
- 2016 | Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP
- 2017 | Squire Patton Boggs
- 2018 | Delaware County Prosecutor's Office
- 2019 | Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
- 2021 | Barnes & Thornburg LLP
- 2022 | Bread Financial
- 2023 | BakerHostetler



Awards



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Champion Award

The Ohio Women's Bar Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee seeks to recognize a law firm, company, or other legal organization that has a demonstrated commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within the profession.

Prior Award Recipients

2016 | Nationwide Insurance Company

2017 | Ohio Attorney General's Office

2018 | Perez & Morris LLC

2019 | Littler Mendelson P.C.

2021 | Perez & Morris LLC

2022 | Carpenter Lipps & Leland LLP

2023 | Epstein Becker Green

Kurt Tunnell Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Sponsor Award

The Ohio Women's Bar Association's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee seeks to recognize an individual who has demonstrated an individual commitment to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within the profession, particularly through support and sponsorship of diverse attorneys. All Nominees must be current members of the OWBA/OWBF.

Prior Award Recipients

2016 | Anthony Sharett, Partner, Baker & Hostetler LLP

2017 | James (Jim) Johnson, Founder, Summer Work Experience in Law

2018 | Kurt Tunnell, Bricker & Eckler

2019 | Bill Nolan, Barnes & Thornburg

2021 | Kimberly Amrine, Frost Brown Todd

2022 | Jeffrey B. Jones, Littler Mendelson

2023 | Marilyn McClure Demers, Nationwide

Awards

Government in Action Award

This award seeks to promote advancement and leadership opportunities for women working in both government and government related positions. The award honors a woman who has demonstrated strong leadership by promoting opportunities for the advancement of women and who has been influential in the public sector and in the community she serves.

Prior Award Recipients

2016 | Judge Jennifer Brunner & The Honorable Yvette McGee Brown

2017 | Justice Sharon L. Kennedy

2018 | Justice Mary DeGenaro

2019 | The Honorable Nancy Hardin Rogers

2020 | Justice Melody Stewart

2021 | Sherry Maxfield

2022 | Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor

2023 | Sarah Pomeroy



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- Alternative Dispute Resolution (CA Only)

Lucy Higgins

Associate Director,
Recruiting & Fulfillment
614.915.6711
lucy.higgins@trustarray.com



OWBF Leadership Institute

2024 Co-Chairs



Keri Collin
Senior Associate Counsel
Bread Financial



Emily Dicke Miran
Senior Associate General Counsel
The Ohio State University Wexner
Medical Center



Bonnie Lee Wolf
Associate Vice President, Chief Of Staff to
the Chief Legal Officer
Nationwide

OWBF Leadership Institute

For more than a decade, the Leadership Institute has supported and promoted the visibility and career progression of women lawyers in Ohio. This six-month program has helped to connect participants with the tools, resources, and network to achieve their goals. Since 2011, more than 170 women lawyers, from across Ohio, have graduated from the OWBF Leadership Institute. Our alumni represent a broad cross-section of the practice. They serve in positions of leadership in law firms, government, private industry, and public service throughout Ohio and nationally.

The 2023-2024 program featured workshops on effective leadership; diversity, equity, inclusion and access; business development; health and wellness, and much more. The Institute will also facilitate opportunities for crosscohort networking and mentorship in order to help establish longstanding connections.

2023 - 2024 Cohort

Erin Butcher, Bricker Graydon

Lorraine Debose, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office

Gloria Garman, Nationwide

Valerie Jama, The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center

Caitlyn Johnson, Ohio Attorney General's Office

Demitri Johnson, Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency

Colleen Koehler, Littler Mendelson

Caroline Kotlove, Proctor & Gamble

Jennifer Mattson, Nationwide

Erica Oliveres-Vincent, COSI

Jennifer Reed, Ohio Department of Children and Youth/United States Army Reserve

Katherine Roscoe, The Ohio State Wexner Medical Center

Melissa Santiago, Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP

Mary Stanley, Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP

Amy Vogel, Taft

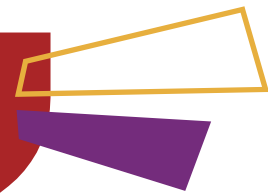
Jessica White, Cardinal Health

Christina Wieg, Frost Brown Todd



'23-'24
Cohort

OWBA Founding Members



Catherine Adams
Sandra J. Anderson
Joan E. Baker (deceased)
Hon. Sandra Shank Beckwith
Sheryl King Benford
Dena Elliott Benson
Janice McKimmie Bernard
(deceased)
Barbara Scott Bison
(Jacobson)
Karen J. Blackwell
Becky Blair
Randal S. Bloch
Amy Reidenbach Bowen
Kathleen Burke
Hon. Mary Cacioppo
Wanda L. Carter
Deborah A. Coleman
Michelle Creger
Joyce M. Deitering
Louise P. Dempsey
Catherine T. Dunlay
Hon. Ann Dyke
Joyce D. Edelman
Hermine G. Eisen
Hon. Sheila G. Farmer
Carol A. Fey
M. Colette Gibbons
Susan Gilles
Frances Floriano Goins
Diane K. Goulder
Pamela B. Griffith
Kathleen K. Haase
Cheryl Hacker
Pamela I. Hanover
Laura A. Hauser
Hon. Patricia Hemann*
Pamela Nagle Hultin*

Lynn Balshone Jacobs
Martha Kalina
Kerin L. Kaminski
Hon. Eva D. Kessler
Hon. Anne Kilbane
(deceased)
Hon. Janet Kleckner
Hon. Patricia S. Kleri
Hon. Judith Kilbane Koch
Joan A. Kodish
Martha H. Krebs
Valita R. Kreiss
Pamela S. Krivda
Mark S. Krumbein
Nancy A. Lawson
Delores S. Learmonth
Joan C. Lee
Hon. Teresa Lea Liston
Kleia R. Luckner
Ellen S. Mandell
Catherine Martineau
Ellen M. McCarthy
Dorothy B. McCrory
Carol Newell McIlwain
Jean M. McQuillan
Barbara J. Michael
Jennifer E. Millson
Kimberly A. Miyazawa
M. Elizabeth Monihan
Barbara L. Morgenstern
Hon. Pat E.
Morgenstern-Clarren
Jori Bloom Naegele
Priscilla D. O'Donnell
Mary Lee Pilla
Beverly Pyle
Julie E. Rabin
Mary Ann Rabin

Mary Lynn Readey
Justice Alice Robie Resnick*
Alice Rickel
Jan E. Robertson
Hon. Linda Rocker
Jan L. Roller
Ann C. Rowland
Hon. Dorcas Anne Russo
Frances M. Schaul
Howard A. Schulman
Joan B. Sebelin
Lynn B. Simon
Barbara J. Smith
Hon. Beth A. Smith
Hon. Leslie Spillane
Prudence C. Spink
Elizabeth M. Stanton
Lu Ann Stapleton
Laurie Faith Starr
Hon. Melody Stewart
Barbara Stutz
Kathleen A. Sutula
Holly Taft Sydlow
Hon. Ann Marie Tracey
Katharine A. Van Tassel
Hon. Nancy A. Vecchiarelli
Barbara J. Wagner
Patricia A. Walker
Susan M. Weaver
Linde H. Webb
Hon. Lesley B. Wells
Ann Wightman
Jane Pine Wood
Pamela Kirwin Zerbe

OWBA Past Presidents

1992-1993

Pamela Nagle Hultin
Smith & Hultin LLC

1993-1994

Mary Lynn Readey
The Ohio State University
Office of Legal Affairs

1994-1995

Barbara J. Smith
Smith & Hultin LLC

1995-1996

Linde H. Webb
Lydy & Moan, Ltd.

1996-1997

Laura A. Hauser
Thompson Hine LLP

1997-1998

Kirsti Talikka Garlock
Attorney at Law

1998-1999

Maria A. Kortan-Sampson
Goodrich Corporation

1999-2000

Jami S. Oliver
Oliver Law Offices, Inc.

2000-2001

Helen Mac Murray
Mac Murray, Petersen,
& Shuster LLP

2001-2002

Debra J. Horn
Meyers Roman Friedberg &
Lewis

2002-2003

Suzanne M. Nigro
Attorney at Law

2003-2004

Michelle J. Sheehan
Reminger Co., L.P.A.

2004-2005

Halle M. Hebert
Travelers Insurance

2005-2006

Monique B. Lampke
University of Dayton Law School

2006-2007

Pamela D. Houston
SSA, Office of Disability
Adjudication and Review

2007-2008

Susan E. Petersen
Petersen & Petersen, Inc.

2008-2009

Michele Shuster
Mac Murray, Petersen,
& Shuster LLP

2009-2010

Lisa House
Reminger Co., L.P.A.

2010-2011

Valoria C. Hoover
Kohrman Jackson & Krantz PLLL

2011-2012

Jennifer Breech Rhoads
Ohio Petroleum Marketers &
C-Store Assn.

2012-2013

Michelle Proia Roe
Mettler-Toledo, LLC

2013-2014

**Magistrate Judge Stephanie K.
Bowman**
U.S. District Court, Southern
District of Ohio

2014-2015

Claudia Herrington
JobsOhio

2015-2016

Grace Royalty
U.S. District Court, Southern
District of Ohio

2016-2017

Marilyn McClure-Demers
Nationwide

2017-2018

Lisa Kathumbi
Bricker & Eckler

2018-2019

Tara Aschenbrand
OhioHealth

2019-2020

Lisa Whittaker
EXPRESS, LLC

2020-2021

**The Honorable Mary
DeGenaro**
Ohio Auditor's Office

2021-2022

Erin Rhinehart
Faruki, PLL

2022-2023

Jayne Smoot
Nationwide

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2024 - 2025

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Judge

Kourtney Bruckner

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Allma Miller

Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.

Sarah Perez

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Youngstown Municipal Court

Jennifer Edwards

BakerHostetler

Christina Niro

Frantz Ward LLP

Morgan Napier

Faruki LLP

Meleah Skillern

Lewis Brisbois

Marla Gilreath

OhioHealth Information
Partnership



OWBF Past Presidents



Angela Marie Courtwright
2011-2012

Sommer Sheely
2017-2018

Valoria (Val) Hoover
2012-2013

Stephanie Chmiel
2018-2019

Denise Platfoot Lacey
2013-2014

Angie Paul Whitfield
2019-2020

Marilena DiSilvio
2014-2015

Amy Ahn-Roll
2020-2021

Pat Gajda
2015-2016

Kiko Yee
2021-2022

Sasha Blaine
2016-2017

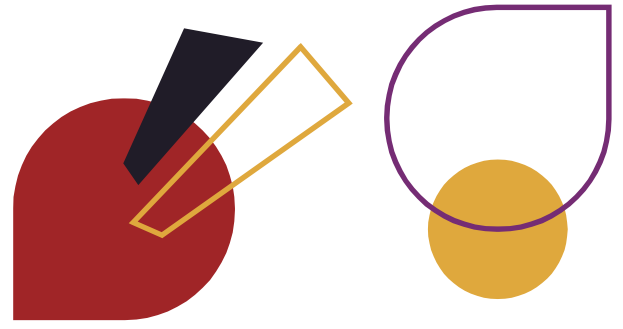
Lucy Higgins
2022-2023



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2024 - 2025

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Emily Miran

The Ohio State University Wexner Center

Leadership Institute Trustee, Co-Chair

Keri Collin

Bread Financial

Leadership Institute Trustee

Demetri Johnson

Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

Leadership Institute Trustee

Mary Stanley

Vorys

At-Large Trustee

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Benesch

At-Large Trustee

Sherri Warner

Roetzel & Andress, LPA

At-Large Trustee

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At-Large Trustee

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Amanda Karn

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Bonnie Wolf

Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company

Immediate Past President

Heather Renee Adams

Roetzel & Andress, LPA

Scholarship Trustee, Co-Chair

Darcy Jaladoni

Porter Wright Morris & Arthur

Scholarship Trustee

Lorraine Debose

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office

Faculty



Heather Renee Adams

Partner, Roetzel & Andress, LPA
Outgoing President, OWBF

Heather is a commonsense, driven, traditional labor and employment attorney who provides practical guidance to employers across a spectrum of commercial and employment litigation matters, including single-plaintiff and multi-party cases, high-stakes whistleblower actions, wage and hour disputes, restrictive covenant litigation, and various other areas of employment law.

Heather has given numerous presentations on development with the traditional labor and employment law landscape, litigation strategies, and workplace solutions.



Nickie J. Antonio

*Senate Minority Leader
The Ohio State Senate*

State Senator Nickie J. Antonio (D-Lakewood) represents District 23 and serves as Minority Leader in the Ohio Senate. Antonio, who was first elected to the Senate in 2018 and again in 2022, previously spent eight years in the Ohio House of Representatives representing District 13. Antonio has previously worked as a Lakewood City Councilmember, Executive Director of an outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program for women, Adjunct Professor and a teacher for children with special needs.



Faculty



Kelley Barnett

Vice President & Corporate Counsel

Kelley Barnett serves as Vice President and Corporate Counsel for Labor and Employment at AmTrust Financial Services, a global property and casualty commercial insurer and carrier headquartered in New York City. Ms. Barnett works with business partners and executives in the US and internationally. Kelley Barnett has excelled in the first two decades of her career and is now helping other female lawyers navigate the male-dominated legal industry.



Hon. Carla J. Baldwin

Presiding & Administrative Judge Youngstown Municipal Court

Carla J. Baldwin was elected as a Judge in Youngstown Municipal Court in 2017. She has served as Administrative and Presiding Judge of Youngstown Municipal Court since the fall of 2018. She presides over misdemeanor criminal cases and traffic cases as well as two specialized dockets: Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court. She most recently worked as a full-time Magistrate in Mahoning County Juvenile Court. Prior to this appointment, she worked for the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office for eight years, serving as an Assistant County Prosecutor in both the Criminal and Juvenile Divisions. She presently serves as an Adjunct Instructor in Criminal Justice Studies at Eastern Gateway Community College.



Faculty



Lourdes Barroso de Padilla Councilmember City of Columbus

In November of 2021, Lourdes Barroso de Padilla made history by becoming the first Latina to be elected as a member of the Columbus City Council. She is a bilingual, first-generation Cuban-American who was born and raised on the eastside of Columbus.

In her role on Council, Lourdes works to bring equity and pride to all residents. In 2022, Barroso de Padilla founded Columbus' first ever Latino Heritage Month Parade and Festival. In 2023, she spear-headed legislation to level the playing field for pay equity and prevent employers from asking applicants about their salary history.



Jennifer Battle Partner, Carpenter Lipps Incoming President, OWBA

Jennifer Battle represents a diverse array of clients around the country, from Fortune 500 companies to midsize/small businesses and individuals, on both sides of business disputes. Her experience includes litigation, trial, and appellate work in a variety of business tort and contract disputes. Her focus is on helping clients of all types navigate complex litigation successfully. She is committed to obtaining positive outcomes for her clients through trial readiness, a thorough understanding of her clients' businesses and goals, and a clear case strategy.



Faculty



Lisa J. Berger
Founder & Board Chairman
Fortuna Bank

Lisa Berger is the Founder of Fortuna Bank a woman-operated financial institution. Fortuna Bank is an Ohio-chartered commercial bank in the process of formation. Fortuna strives to be the best bank for all of our communities with a specific focus on lifting women beyond the barriers to their financial success.



Trischa Snyder Chapman
Partner, BakerHostetler

Trischa Chapman focuses her practice on handling large-scale discovery in bet-the-company litigation and crisis-management matters, such as those related to major civil, criminal, congressional and regulatory proceedings.

Having spent several years as a seconded attorney to a Fortune 15 healthcare company, Trischa has been deeply involved in developing and executing litigation strategies from both the in-house and the outside-counsel perspectives. Her judgment, technical discovery skills and client-oriented approach ensure that responses to discovery inquiries advance and coordinate with the overall strategies to address the immediate crisis, correct issues that lead to the crisis and further the client's long-term objectives.



Faculty



Kami Brauer

Partner, Employment Law Partners

Kami D. Brauer is a Partner at Employment Law Partners, LLC. She represents all types of workers, from laborers to executives, providing smart and innovative counseling and litigation services. Kami has been recognized as one of the top lawyers in Ohio by Ohio Super Lawyers magazine for the years 2021 through 2024 and serves as an Arbitrator for employment matters with the American Arbitration Association. Currently, Kami is the Chair of the Ohio Employment Lawyers Association and serves on its Amicus Committee and Membership Committee.



Carolyn Broering-Jacobs Clinical Professor Cleveland-Marshall College of Law

Carolyn Broering-Jacobs is a clinical professor and the former director of legal writing at the Cleveland State University College of Law. In addition to teaching in the Civil Litigation Clinic, other courses include legal writing and litigation, first-year legal writing, appellate advocacy, transactional drafting and torts. She also is the faculty advisor to the College of Law Moot Court Program.

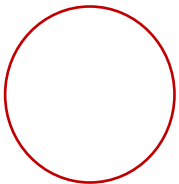


Faculty

Councilmember Shayla Favor

City of Columbus

Shayla Favor has served on Columbus City Council since 2019 when she was first appointed to fill a vacancy. She was re-elected in 2023. Favor is intentional that everything she legislates and advocates for is filtered through an equity lens in order to address disparities and combat racism through policy. During her tenure, Favor has created the Columbus Youth Council, spearheaded the effort to amplify and fund Deliver Black Dreams and expanded the City's effort to protect immigrant and refugee families through the Columbus Families Together Fund. As the chair of the Housing Committee, Favor has lead the Housing for All legislative package to strengthen homeownership, protect renters, and expand affordable housing options.



Keena Smith

*President and Chief Executive Officer
Women's Center for Economic
Opportunity*

Founded in 2013, the Women's Center for Economic Opportunity (WCEO or WCEO) advances racial, gender and economic equity. WCEO facilitates successful access to capital (knowledge and financial) and connections for African American women and other beloved women of color. WCEO is an advocate for the elimination of racism and closure of the racial and gender wealth gap. WCEO celebrates our allies who live and practice anti-racism. Creating Sustainable Impact Keena's goal.

Faculty

Jennifer Edwards
Partner
BakerHostetler

With a practice that spans traditional labor and employment in both the public and private sectors, Jenni Edwards is frequently called upon by senior executives to advise on high-stakes employment issues. Her strategic vision and creative problem-solving skills are an asset when negotiating collective bargaining agreements, developing litigation strategy and investigating complaints of misconduct, especially against C-suite members. Jenni excels in navigating the “gray areas” of the law and in helping clients develop common sense, business-focused plans for long-term compliance strategies, in litigation and arbitrations, throughout labor and settlement negotiations and in day-to-day employment issues.



Lark T. Mallory
President & CEO
**The Affordable Housing Trust of Columbus
and Franklin County**

Currently, Lark serves as President and CEO for the Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County, a business that provides financing to developers of affordable housing. The loan portfolio includes construction loans, traditional single property loans and structured financing and bond transactions. She is also Fund Manager for the organization’s \$100M Housing Action Fund. Previously, she served as General Counsel and Board Secretary for the organization.

Lark is a trusted advisor to her clients, bringing business insight and expertise to complex business situations with expert legal, financial, tax, and governance insights.

Faculty



Anne Garcia

Senior Vice President & General Counsel
The Ohio State University

As Senior Vice President and General Counsel for The Ohio State University, Anne Garcia serves as the chief legal advisor to the President, Board of Trustees, and University and Wexner Medical Center officers and administrators. As the leader of the Office of Legal Affairs, she manages a team of attorneys, paralegals, compliance specialists, risk managers, insurance consultants, and other professionals, which provides strategic advice and legal counsel to the university on all its key matters and risks. In addition, Anne oversees the Office of University Compliance and Integrity, which is responsible for compliance efforts across Ohio State. e



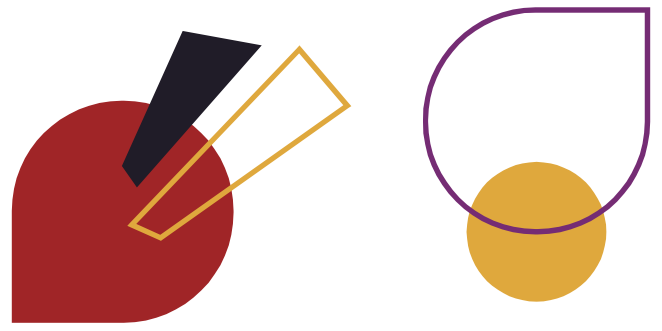
Erin Hatton

IP & Commercial Transactions Attorney

Erin J. Hatton is an intellectual property and commercial transactions attorney. She is responsible for negotiating global supplier agreements for firmwide technology tools and services and advises the Corporate Legal Team in negotiations for law firm services. She also leads and manages the legal advisement team for global, Tech for Social Good programs, which provide pro bono technology solutions to non-profit organizations across hundreds of communities in each region of the world.



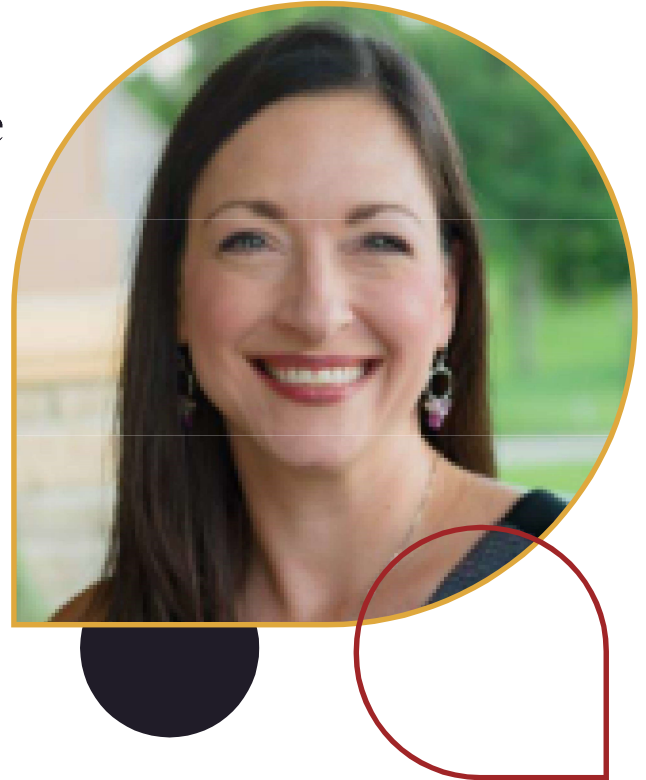
Faculty



Amanda Karn

Director & Assistant General Counsel,
North America Skin Care / Procter & Gamble

Amanda, as the Director & Assistant General Counsel, North America Skin Care, leads the legal support for P&G's North America Skin Care and Personal Care businesses. Previously, she played a similar role in P&G's North America Hair Care business, supporting renowned brands like Olay, Old Spice, Safeguard, Ivory, Pantene, Head & Shoulders, Herbal Essences, and Aussie through advertising disputes, litigation, and regulatory compliance.



Julie Leftwich

Founder & Executive Director
Immigrant & Refugee Law Center

Julie Leftwich is a passionate human rights lawyer who has extensive experience working with immigrants and refugees. She has worked locally, nationally, and globally to advance human rights and gender equality, especially in conflict affected countries, and has a deep understanding of the issues facing these communities. She is a recognized expert in gender, peace and security. Julie has developed initiatives and managed programs related to gender justice, women's rights, and the rule of law in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Eastern Europe and Latin America, and has advised, trained, and published extensively on gender, peace and security, women's rights, international human rights law, gender-based violence, refugee and asylum law, and human trafficking..



Faculty



State Senator Nathan Manning Ohio State Senator The Ohio State Senate

Senator Nathan Manning is serving his second term in the Ohio Senate representing the people of the 13th Senate District, which includes all of Lorain County and portions of Erie and Huron counties. He was elected to the Senate, where he now serves as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, after serving two terms in the Ohio House of Representatives. He also previously served as prosecutor for the city of North Ridgeville and currently a partner at the law firm Manning & Manning with his sister, Allison.



Christine Merriman Executive Vice President & General Counsel, Enterprise Functions

Christine serves as Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Enterprise Functions, at TIAA, a Fortune 100, financial services company, where she directs and oversees advice and support provided by the company's enterprise legal functions, including Corporate Secretary, Litigation and Regulatory Enforcement, Technology Law, Privacy, General Corporate Law, Intellectual Property, Contracts, Investigations, Employment and Benefits Law, and the Ethics Office.



Faculty



Jessica Miranda

*State Representative
Ohio House of Representatives*

State Rep. Jessica Miranda is a lifelong Ohioan with a passion for ensuring access to early childhood education, fair school funding, and greater economic opportunity for the taxpayers and families of Ohio's 28th House District, which includes a portion of Hamilton County. Since 2022 she has been honored to serve as the Ohio House Democratic Whip, a leadership position chosen by her colleagues. A graduate of Talawanda High School, she is a proud product of public schools, and her children attend the Winton Woods City School District.



Eugenio Mollo

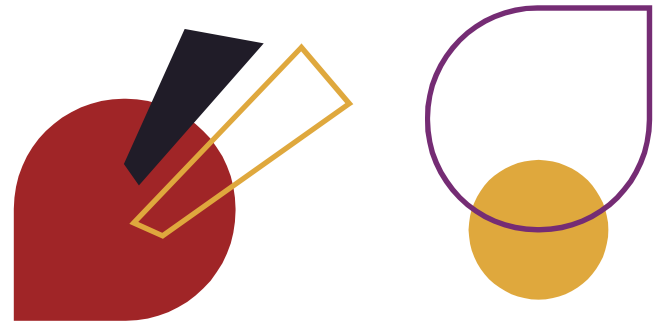
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of Toledo College of Law

Eugenio Mollo, Jr. launched and teaches the Immigrant Justice Clinic. He joined the College of Law in 2016 as an Adjunct Professor of Law to teach Immigration Law courses. Mollo joined the Legal Clinic as a Clinical Assistant Professor of Law in August 2022.

Prior to joining the full-time faculty, Mollo began his legal career as an Equal Justice Works Fellow at Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) in Toledo, a nonprofit law firm that represents low-income individuals and groups to achieve equal justice and opportunity.



Faculty



Stephanie Olivera Mittica

Associate
Roetzel & Andress, LPA

Stephanie helps employers from small businesses to large companies in the private and public sectors and everything in-between resolve and avoid employment lawsuits. She counsels them on compliance with local, state, and federal employment laws, including the FMLA, ADA, and FLSA, as well as contract, policy, and discipline/discharge issues that regularly arise. In addition, she defends employers against all types of employment-related litigation matters, including claims of discrimination based on race, gender, disability, age, and sexual harassment, as well as hostile work environment, wage and hour, and Section 1983 claims. Stephanie also is experienced in handling public accommodation related matters.



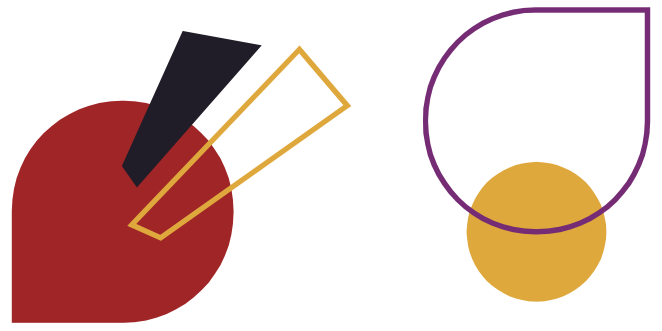
Cinnamon Pelly

President & Chief Executive Officer
Pillsbury United Communities

Cinnamon currently serves as President and Chief Executive Officer of Pillsbury United Communities, a united system of programs, neighborhood centers and social enterprises based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She is a community-minded, award-winning influencer passionate about policy change, extensive philanthropic experience, and proven career delivering results in banking, operations, media relations, community engagement, education, and health. Cinnamon has over 25 years of corporate and not-for-profit experience. She has served in nearly every potential functional area including strategic execution, operations, finance, people operations, fundraising and philanthropy, marketing, programs,



Faculty



Renuka Raman

Corporate Counsel
Big Lots

Renuka Raman is a corporate counsel at Big Lots. She has had a 19-year career handling commercial law, corporate law and compliance matters, both domestic and international.



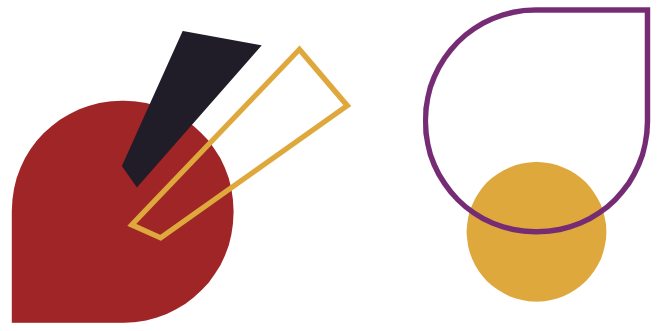
Sarah Cole

Associate Professor, The Ohio State
University, Moritz College of Law

Professor Cole is the Michael E. Moritz Chair in Alternative Dispute Resolution at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. She teaches courses in mediation, arbitration, alternative dispute resolution, torts, and labor law. A nationally prominent expert on alternative dispute resolution, Professor Cole researches and writes about legal and policy issues that arise because of the increased use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in the justice system, particularly arbitration and mediation.



Faculty



Elizabeth “Libby” Shaffer Partner, Dinsmore & Shohl Incoming OWBF President

Known for her responsiveness to clients and her ability to resolve cases early with her writing skills, Libby focuses her practice as a Partner at Dinsmore on defending clients against allegations relating to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, Fair Credit Reporting Act, the Electronic Fund Transfer Act, Regulation E, and related state consumer protection laws. She works with some of the nation’s largest debt buyers, debt collectors, and collection counsel throughout the country defending and resolving class actions in federal and state consumer protection matters.



State Representative Bill Seitz

The Ohio House of Representatives

A lifelong resident of western Hamilton County, State Representative Bill Seitz has worked to represent the best interests of the Greater Cincinnati area at the Statehouse. Known for his colorful floor speeches and legal acumen, in a 2016 ranking of all 132 legislators published by Columbus Monthly Magazine, Seitz was rated best speechmaker, savviest, funniest, and most knowledgeable and was also recognized as second most effective and hardest working. He has put these talents to good use on issues that matter to his constituents.



Faculty



Marchelle E. Moore

Senior Vice President, External Affairs, Chief Diversity Officer and President of the Encova Foundation of Ohio at Encova Insurance.

Marchelle E. Moore is the Senior Vice President, External Affairs, Chief Diversity Officer and President of the Encova Foundation of Ohio at Encova Insurance. Encova Insurance is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio offering auto, home and business insurance in 27 states and Washington, DC.

As Encova's first Chief Diversity Officer, Marchelle leads Encova's innovative efforts to make Encova an inclusive and equitable atmosphere for all associates. As Senior Vice President of External Affairs and President of the Encova Foundation of Ohio, Marchelle is responsible for leading strategic corporate citizenship initiatives and advancing the organization's philanthropic efforts across its geographic footprint.



Lisa Whittaker

Director & Managing Counsel,
Employment and Labor

Lisa Whittaker is the Director and Managing Counsel, Employment and Labor Law for The J.M. Smucker Company ("Smucker"), a leading consumer packaged goods company headquartered in Orrville, OH. Ms. Whittaker joined Smucker in April 2021 and provides practical and business-oriented advice to cross-functional partners on a variety of topics. Ms. Whittaker is a strategic thought partner who recommends solutions to complex employee-related matters. Her specific strengths include reducing risk to the business, educating, and empowering associates, and preparing/updating policies, procedures, and handbooks. Ms. Whittaker also defends the company in litigation.



Angela Phelps White
Executive Director
The Ohio Civil rights Commission

Angela Phelps-White assumed duties of Executive Director of the OCRC on March 16, 2020. Director Phelps-White's professional and personal achievements demonstrate a commitment to public service and upholding the rule of law. She has broad experience in the public sector, including nearly seven years with the State Employment Relations Board, seven years at the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and thirteen years as a magistrate with the Franklin County Common Pleas Court. Director Phelps-White also served as a Judge for the Franklin County Common Pleas Court.



Melissa Gawelek
Staff Attorney
U.S. Committee for Refugees and
Immigrants



Melissa is an immigration attorney who focuses on advocating for immigrants and their families. Melissa helps to guide clients through the processes of obtaining green cards, gaining citizenship, petitioning for family visas and many other immigration issues including asylum and removal defense.

Faculty



Alexandria Ruden Supervising Attorney The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland

Marchelle E. Moore is the Senior Vice President, External Affairs, Chief Diversity Officer and President of the Encova Foundation of Ohio at Encova Insurance. Encova Insurance is headquartered in Columbus, Ohio offering auto, home and business insurance in 27 states and Washington, DC.

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"Faruki is a heartland gem: expertise, value, empathy and loyalty."

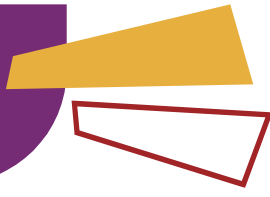
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