

Akron Law MAGAZINE



Emily Janoski- Haehlen Takes the Helm

Picnic celebrates
expedited pardons

Major gift endows the
deanship

A look back at the
Centennial year



When I started as dean last February, my vision was to reinvest in our long-standing strengths of advocacy and intellectual property and recommit to our roots of producing practice-ready graduates. I set a personal goal to spread the word about the great things happening at Akron Law and to meet as many members of the Akron Law family as I possibly could in my first year.

With that goal in mind, I am excited to bring back the Akron Law Magazine. The purpose of this magazine was—and again will be—to keep our Akron Law community informed about our continued trajectory, to celebrate the accomplishments of our students, faculty and alumni, and to recognize the many ways our alumni contribute to our educational mission.

More than 100 years ago, our founders were purposeful in their vision for the law school. Their original mission statement was to produce attorneys who would affect the destiny of Akron and the nation, and that is exactly what Akron Law does. We give back to our community, have an impact on our communities, and we support the students and alumni of Akron Law.

Today, as I take stock of our faculty, staff, students and alumni, it is apparent that we have already accomplished so many of the things we set out to do this year. The faculty and I started a strategic planning process last spring. We asked ourselves, “Why Akron Law?” The answers that we discussed led to our current strategic plan which, not surprisingly, focuses on producing bar-ready, practice-ready graduates, promoting advocacy through our centers, clinics and other experiential programs, and further strengthening our intellectual property program.

The pages of this first issue of the magazine contain evidence of the strategic plan in action. You will read about our new Academic Success team, the appointment of a full-time director of legal writing and the addition of two full-time assistant professors of legal writing. In terms of experiential learning, read about our Reentry Clinic students’ crucial role in the Ohio Governor’s Expedited Pardon Project and a new study abroad program that begins this spring.

We hope these stories shine a bright light on the accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni and prompt you to consider how you can support the University of Akron School of Law. Please consider giving generously to the Zips on the Rise Scholarship – Law. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Or give online by visiting uakron.edu/giving/law or by texting AkronLaw to 41444. All gifts are tax deductible.

I hope you enjoy reading about the Akron Law family. Please let us know what’s happening with you, so we can share the news, and come visit us—I would love to meet more alumni. I am truly honored to be serving as the dean and I send continuing thanks for allowing me to serve in this role.

Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen

Emily M. Janoski-Haehlen



THE UNIVERSITY of AKRON
SCHOOL of LAW

AKRON LAW MAGAZINE



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University of Akron School of Law

HISTORIC ENDOWMENT

ESTABLISHED BY BENEFACTORS JOSEPH AND LINDA GINGO

A magnanimous \$5 million pledged estate gift from Akron benefactors Joseph and Linda Gingo and announced this fall will endow the deanship at the School of Law. The Joseph M. and Linda L. Gingo School of Law Dean's Chair Endowment spotlights a transformative moment in the life of The University of Akron (UA) and the School of Law.

The endowment is the first dean's chair endowment commitment in UA history. This pledge helps ensure the law school will remain a national leader, strengthened in its ability to attract and retain superior accomplished leaders in legal education.

"This tremendous gift by Joe and Linda is a redefining moment for the School of Law," said President Gary L. Miller. "A promise for the future, this endowment ensures the law school's ability to draw the upper echelon of leadership. The long-lasting effect will be to continue attracting top-flight faculty and students whose preparation readies them for both new and continuing issues surrounding legal education and leadership.

"As the law school moves into its next century of excellence, the Gingos will always be recognized for their leading role in that advancement," he said.

The Gingos have long shared their wise counsel and friendship with institutions in Northeast Ohio and have been historic champions of higher education. A retired chief executive officer, president and chairman of the board of A. Schulman, Inc., Joseph Gingo earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from

Case Institute of Technology (now Case Western Reserve University) in 1966. He earned a law degree from The University of Akron in 1971. In 1982, he was selected for the Sloan Fellowship program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and he received a master's degree in business management from the program in 1983.

Joseph attended law school part-time in the evening while working at The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company full time. His perseverance through law school and the overarching lessons of critical thinking led him to call his law degree his most valued educational accomplishment.

"Linda and I have a lasting love and appreciation for this University," said Gingo, who joined the UA Board of Trustees in 2016 and has served as board chair since 2018. "I am cognizant of the talents and abilities learned there as a student, which have served me ably over many years. Akron's lessons and, more importantly, its camaraderie have always been with me.

"Through this gift, hopefully we can touch a future generation of excellence. Linda and I are thrilled to play a part in the burgeoning success story of Akron Law."

Joseph Gingo

"This tremendous gift by Joe and Linda is a redefining moment for the School of Law."

President Gary L. Miller



Joseph and Linda Gingo are joined by their son Jeffrey Gingo and his wife Allison.

Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen also lauded the impact of the newly established chair.

"The School of Law is honored by the prestige the Gingos' endowment will add to the dynamism of our program," she said. "The support of this generous couple will elevate and assist in driving Akron Law forward. Their words, actions, leadership and lasting friendship will always be hallmarks of the excellence we strive to produce."

This historic gift commitment is a part of the University's \$150 million We Rise Together capital campaign. This forward-looking initiative was launched in February 2020 and raises funds supporting UA in the key areas of scholarship, student support, endowments for faculty and leadership, and support for faculty research and equipment.

LAW SCHOOL WELCOMES STUDENTS FROM KENT STATE IN NEW 3+3 PROGRAM



The 3+3 collaboration with Kent State may mean more KSU sweatshirts around the School of Law.



The University of Akron and Kent State University remain fierce rivals when it comes to athletics and student recruitment, but they called a truce this past summer to create a new pathway for students to obtain a bachelor's degree from Kent State and a Juris Doctor degree from Akron Law in only six years.

The collaborative program, commonly referred to as a three plus three (3+3) degree program, offers an enhanced educational opportunity for eligible students, allowing them to complete both degrees in a shorter time period and at a lower cost than might otherwise be possible.

"We are delighted to begin this new 3+3 partnership with Kent State," said Emily Janoski-Haehlen, dean of the School of Law. "Year in year out, the law school enrolls more incoming students from Kent State than any other school besides the University of Akron, so we believe there will be

a lot of interest in this new program. In fact, we're seeing it already."

"Kent State is thrilled to offer this opportunity for our students, which allows them to gain such an amazing educational experience through Kent State University and the University of Akron School of Law while also saving time and money," said Melody Tankersley, Ph.D., senior vice president and provost of Kent State. "Our students will be able to transition seamlessly to receive both their undergraduate and law degrees in six years instead of seven."

Interested students may apply for inclusion into the 3+3 program at their initial application for admission to Kent State or at any time while enrolled at Kent State. After selection and admission, students will



"Kent State is thrilled to offer this opportunity for our students, which allows them to gain such an amazing educational experience through Kent State University and the University of Akron School of Law while also saving time and money."

Melody Tankersley, Kent State University

automatically be admitted into Akron Law after they complete three years or more of a baccalaureate degree, and if they maintain good academic, financial and disciplinary standing at Kent State, satisfy the Akron Law character and fitness standards, and meet LSAT and grade point average standards. Kent State will have discretion to select which major will be eligible for the program. The school currently offers degree pathways in the 3+3 program for 11 majors.

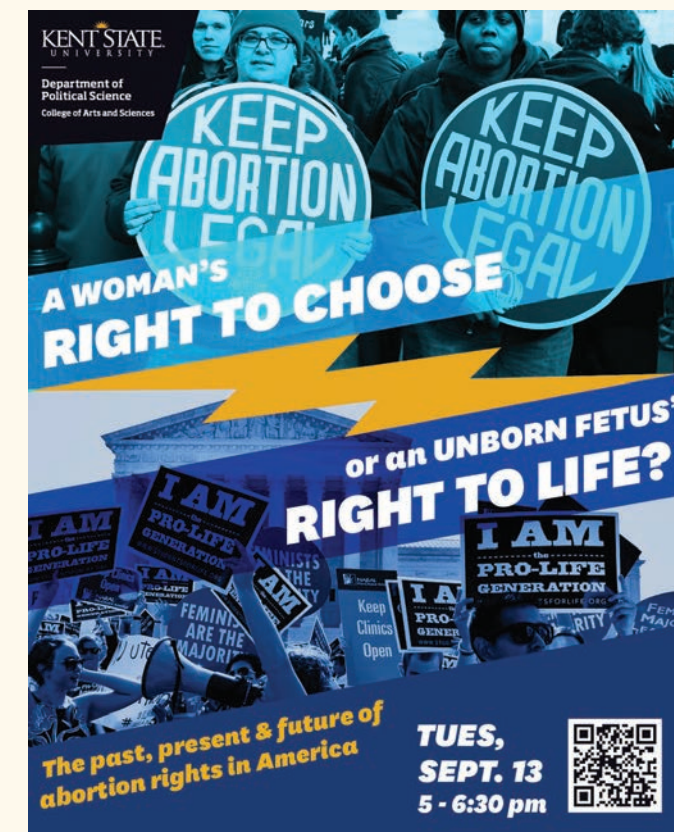
This is the fifth 3+3 program partnership established by Akron Law. Other partnerships are in place with Walsh University, the University of Mount Union, Robert Morris University and Youngstown State University. University of Akron students enrolled in political science or philosophy can also take advantage of the 3+3 with Akron Law.

ANOTHER UA-KSU COLLABORATION

Six School of Law faculty members were prominent participants in a five-part weekly series of webinars this fall sponsored by the pre-law program at Kent State University. The series was organized and moderated by KSU Professor Christopher Banks, the political science department's pre-law advisor.

The overall theme of the series was Supreme Court Activism or Restraint in Today's Culture Wars. Four of the five 90-minute webinars focused on a different major U.S. Supreme case, including *Dobbs v. Jackson, New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, *West Virginia v. EPA*, and *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*. The fifth webinar discussed The Ohio Supreme Court & the Constitutional Politics of Ohio Redistricting.

School of Law panelists included Dean Michael Gentithes, Dean Willa Gibson, Professor Christopher (C.J.) Peters, Emeritus Dean Martin Belsky, Senior Lecturer Gary Spring and Adjunct Professor Joe Muha, general counsel of Discount Drug Mart.



NEW PERU STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Globaltrotting Assistant Dean of Global Engagement and Associate Professor of Law Patrick Gaughan flew to Peru last June and returned with a memorandum of understanding with the National University of Saint Augustine (UNSA) of Arequipa for an Akron Law-only study abroad program this summer.

Students may choose from four options:

1. A five-week, 3-credit summer course, Law & Economics, in Arequipa, taught by Professor Gaughan
2. A 2-credit summer intercession course, Global Lawyering: Negotiation and Contracts, in Akron, taught by Instructor Gary Spring, consisting of six 4-hr. live morning sessions plus asynchronous sessions
3. A two-week, 1-credit Education Abroad Course in Arequipa led by Gary Spring
4. A fourth option that combines options 1, 2 and 3 for 6 credits

"The students traveling to Arequipa and taking the five-week course will have a unique experience of seeing how law and economics plays out in a different culture," Gaughan said. "For example, monopolies are legal in Peru. We'll study why that is the case and how has it impacted Peruvian society and the economy."

Beyond the morning course, the five-week program will include field trips, opportunities to interact with local professionals and students in the field, and plenty of unstructured time.

Founded in 1828, UNSA is one of the oldest public universities in Latin America and is consistently ranked as one of the top public schools in Peru.

UNSA is located in Arequipa, Peru's second largest city, with a population of about 1 million. Arequipa is the seat of the Constitutional Court of Peru and often dubbed the "legal capital of Peru." According to Destination Arequipa, the city is surrounded by a wonderful geography that features dormant volcanos, a fertile valley and one of the world's deepest canyons.



Arequipa is blessed with mild temperatures (65-75 degrees F.) and plenty of sunshine year round.

From L-R in Arequipa: UNSA law faculty member Alberto Gomez; Jorge Toreillo, an Akron businessman and native of Peru who audited one of Professor Pat Gaughan's classes; a Peruvian friend of Toriello's; Professor Gaughan; and his translator.



BRIEFS



BUCKINGHAM LEADERSHIP SERIES

The Buckingham Leadership Series at the School of Law debuted on Sept. 23 to an audience of students, faculty and attorneys taking advantage of the two hours of Ohio CLE. Professor Stefan Padfield moderated the two 1-hour panels, one on M&A transactions, the other on cybersecurity threats. Alumni panelists included Buckingham's Jon Stefanik '07 and Eaton Corporation's Malisheia Douglas '08. Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen and Buckingham Managing Partner Steve Dimengo '86 welcomed the attendees. A reception followed in the Common.



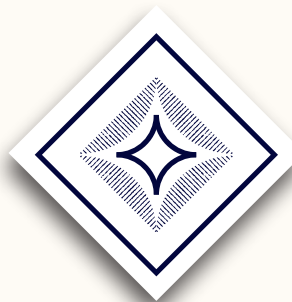
AKRON LAW CARES

Over 100 students, faculty and staff volunteered at the 13th annual Akron Law Cares on Oct. 1. Participants visited 10 different community partners throughout Akron to assist with various projects. Alumni are always welcome to participate!



NEW LEGAL WRITING SUITE

New Director of Legal Writing Charlie Oldfield opened the new Legal Writing Suite (LWS) the first week of October. Students looking for a quiet place to work with some camaraderie can head up to the third floor of the Law Library to join Oldfield. The LWS is a place for students to work on writing projects, ask questions, or just hang out and chat about research and writing! Amenities include a coffee maker, workstations, books, collaborative workspace, and helpful Legal Analysis, Writing and Research Fellows.



LAW SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAM GETS A NEW TEAM AND A REVAMP

The Academic Success Program (ASP) at The University of Akron School of Law started the fall term with a new team and a more robust program. With a new director and two new assistant directors, the department is back at full strength.

Allesan Armstrong, assistant director since January 2018, is the new director of academic success, effective in March, following the retirement of long-time Assistant Dean for Academic Success Nancy Reeves. Prior to Akron, Armstrong taught at Park University in Missouri and worked as an essay grader and individual bar exam tutor for a major bar preparation course provider. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and a Juris Doctor from Oklahoma City University. She is licensed to practice in both Ohio and Oklahoma.

Julie King came on board as assistant director in June. Previously, she was a magistrate for the Lake County Domestic Relations Court. She also served as the director of the court's mediation program. Earlier, she was an assistant prosecuting attorney and chief of the Appellate Division for the Lake County Prosecutor's Office. Over the course of two decades, she also taught in the paralegal program at Lakeland Community College. She received a Juris Doctor from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from the George Washington University. She is admitted to the bar in Ohio and Alabama.

Zachary Lindesmith started as Assistant Director in October. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Akron Law in 2019 and his Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism from Ashland University. He started his legal career primarily litigating plaintiff's personal injury matters as well as plaintiff's labor/employment civil rights claims. He recently completed a fellowship with Equality Ohio where he also served as the legal clinic outreach coordinator, offering courses on LGBTQ+ Lawyering while growing the clinic's referral network. He also has been a Themis Bar Prep essay grader and a volunteer coach with the Akron Law Trial Team.

A revamped program

The changes to the ASP began last spring with the creation of a Faculty Bar Mentor Program.

"The faculty agreed to each take on a group of graduating students and mentor them through the bar exam process, supplementing what we do in ASP," Armstrong said. "The faculty emailed their students regularly. Some met individually with students over lunch. A number of them did supplemental lectures. I think it was really a great success."

Another change to the ASP last spring was the appointment of Professor Willa Gibson as associate dean of academic excellence, in charge of academic success and bar passage. These were among the first steps

to strengthen these programs in a broader initiative under new Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen. "Willa has just been a phenomenal advocate for our department with the faculty," Armstrong said. "A lot of things that we had been trying to get accomplished, she came in and did in two months. She's been great to work with."

Another change this fall was dropping the required Fundamentals course that traditionally had been taught during the first 6-7 weeks of the fall semester. "The students were overwhelmed by it," Armstrong said. "Instead, we're doing a series of voluntary workshops in the first semester, and we'll offer Fundamentals II in the second semester. That will be a bit easier on the students and allow us to focus on the students on a more individualized basis."

“Willa has been just a phenomenal advocate for our department with the faculty. A lot of things we had been trying to get accomplished, she came in and did in two months.”

ASP Director Allesan Armstrong



It's all treats and no tricks in the ASP center on Halloween. L-R, Zachary Lindesmith, Allesan Armstrong, Julie King and Willa Gibson.

The initiative to improve bar passage also includes some changes in the law school's curriculum.

"All students will now have to take the UCC Sales and Business Associations courses," Armstrong said. "These subjects are both highly tested on the current bar exam, especially UCC Sales."

The changes don't stop there.

"We've heard from some incoming students who are the first in their family to go to law school that they feel they are at a disadvantage compared with some of their fellow students," Armstrong said. "We think they need a little bit more support and a place to go where they feel like they can ask questions with no judgment, so we're going to launch a first-generation support program that starts in the summer before classes begin."

Meanwhile, Julie King is developing some stress management and time

management workshops.

"We're also going to work on soft skills," King said. "I think knowing how to manage these things is part and parcel of being a law student. When I started in law school, you picked up your books and you went into class. The professor started with the Socratic method and we were all trying to figure out how to handle that and what we needed to do."

She continued, "Today, with our academic support programs beginning in August, we hope students are better prepared and know what to expect. That should reduce some anxiety going into those first couple weeks of classes and through the first semester. And our support continues through to bar prep in the third year. In fact, we've recently started our workshops to prepare the 40 or so students who will take the February bar."

MEET THE INCOMING CLASS OF 2022

The University of Akron School of Law welcomed 142 members of the 2022 Juris Doctor entering class during Orientation Week, August 16-19. The class includes 137 first-year students, five two-year international students and three students who transferred to Akron Law to complete their degrees. Thirty of the incoming students are in the part-time program.

The students are almost equally split between men and women. They range in age from 19 to 48 with an average age of 27. They represent 59 different undergraduate colleges and 47 majors. One hundred and seven (78%) are from Ohio. The others come from 16 states and two foreign countries: Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Canada and Ghana.

The 101 first-year students who started this fall join 32 additional students who started classes in January and four who started in May. Seven of the incoming J.D. class came via the School's 3 + 3 program, which means they completed their undergraduate years at one of Akron Law's partner institutions and will now earn both a bachelor and J.D. degree in six years. The School also welcomed seven Master of Studies in Law students, four of whom started in the spring.

EMILY JANOSKI-HAEHLEN

TAKES THE HELM

Emily Janoski-Haehlen joined the Akron Law faculty as director of the Law Library and professor of law in 2017 after serving as associate dean of the law library at Valparaiso University Law School and as a faculty member and librarian at Northern Kentucky University, Chase College of Law. Only six months passed before then-dean C.J. Peters asked her to step up to the position of associate dean of academic affairs, law library & legal technology programs.

At the time she didn't have her sights set on the dean's seat, but after months of working with Peters on law school matters, she began to see the deanship as something to aspire to. So, when Peters announced in March 2021 that he would not seek an extension of his contract after his four-year term expired in mid-June 2021, Janoski-Haehlen added her name to the candidate list. Following a national search, Akron Law named Janoski-Haehlen the School's first permanent female dean in December 2021. She officially stepped into that role this past February.

"It is an honor to be the first female dean of the School of Law, which makes this position even more special to me," says Janoski-Haehlen. "When I look back on my deanship—hopefully many years from now—I will be proud to say that I shattered the glass ceiling for the women that came after me and hopefully inspired some to follow in my footsteps."

Among her priorities—many of which have already been advanced—are expanding the law school's faculty and staff and devoting more resources to the School's academic success program and legal writing program. She also intends to build on the School's long-standing strengths in practical training, trial advocacy and intellectual property law.

"We have amazing legal clinics, externships, and legal skills teams," she said. "It was gratifying but no surprise to us when Ohio Governor Mike DeWine turned to Professor Joann Sahl and our Reentry Clinic to co-lead his Expedited Pardon Project initiative."

Moreover, she said, next-generation bar exams are going to focus less on multiple-choice questions more on skills like legal writing and research, negotiating, and client counseling. "Many of these are things you really only learn by doing outside the classroom in real-world situations. So, this trend is playing to our strengths."

"Another skill that more and more law firms and other legal employers are expecting their new hires to bring to the workplace is legal technology. That is my area of research, so I'd like to integrate more legal technology skills training into the curriculum."



"It is an honor to be the first female dean of the School of Law, which makes this position even more special to me."



L-R around the dean: Executive Vice President and Provost John Wiencek, Akron Law Professor and Associate Dean Mike Gentithes and President Gary L. Miller.

5 QUESTIONS FOR EMILY JANOSKI-HAEHLEN

1 What influenced you to study law? Were there any other careers you were interested in as a kid?

"I wanted to be a doctor when I was a child. I told my parents I wanted to be a 'rotating doctor' so I could help everyone. We laugh about that now. I decided to study law after taking a class at the University of Kentucky on famous American criminal trials. I studied the Lindbergh baby kidnapping and was fascinated how that case evolved."

2 As you think back on your own life, is there a pivotal mentoring moment that stands out?

"When I was in first-year legal research in law school, I took a job in the law library as a student worker and research assistant. I loved doing legal research and my professor, the associate dean of the law library, recognized that and hired me there. The rest is history. I think it was that job that sparked my interest in teaching law."

3 What advice would you share with other women who might be looking to reach a high-ranking position in their careers or take on a role traditionally held by men?

"I would tell them to aim high and don't let a moment of feeling defeated set you back. I would also tell them to not be afraid to speak up and offer their ideas or to promote themselves. Having a strong sense of self is incredibly important and I learned that from a young age. I had quite a few strong, female mentors that I looked up to but the most influential female in my life has always been my mom. She is a strong woman who went back to school to earn her advanced degree, while raising three children, so that she could teach elementary education at Western Kentucky University. She also taught me the value of family, community and giving back. She still inspires me today."

4 What's something people would be surprised to know about you?

"Two things that might surprise people about me are that I was a competitive figure skater throughout my childhood and into college, and maybe what won't surprise many is that I am an avid Disney fan. I love all things Disney!"

5 How can alumni and the UA community support the School of Law?

"I would encourage alumni to visit Akron Law to see all the great programs we have and to meet our students. Alumni can also show their support by building a relationship with a particular program like a clinic, donating to the School, attending events, hiring our students and graduates, and just promoting the reputation of Akron Law in general."

Note: Portions of this article and sidebar originally appeared in The University of Akron Magazine, Spring 2022 issue.



CAMPUS BANNERS



CENTENNIAL KEYNOTE



ARMY COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS



OHIO SUPREME COURT OFF-SITE COURT PROGRAM



KICKOFF EVENT



100 YEARS of LEGAL EDUCATION AT AKRON LAW

One year of centennial celebration

The celebration of the Law School's centennial officially began on Sept. 8, 2021, with an evening kickoff event at the Sheraton Hotel in Cuyahoga Falls hosted by University President Gary L. Miller and Law School Dean Christopher (C.J.) Peters.

The foundation for the year of celebration was laid well in advance. A commemorative section created on the Law School website can still be viewed. It includes an interactive timeline featuring milestones from 1921 to the present and a short video documentary of the School's history.

To raise University, community and law student awareness of the centennial, banners and window graphics were installed inside and outside the Law Center.

A number of special events highlighted the 2021-2022 academic year. The Honorable Joan L. Larsen, a prominent judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, delivered the centennial keynote address on Saturday evening, Oct. 23, following a reception.

After a two-year hiatus, the Ohio Supreme Court resumed its twice-a-year Off-Site Court program in fall 2021 and made The University Akron its first stop. The Court's seven justices heard oral arguments in cases over two consecutive days. Hundreds of local high school students and many Akron Law students were able to see justice in action.

Law students got a close-up view of what it's like to be an officer in the Judge Advocate Generals (JAG) Corps when the Army Court of Criminal

Appeals heard oral arguments in an actual court-martial appeals case. Following the arguments, the judges and advocates answered students' questions. The Court typically holds off-site arguments at law schools twice in the fall and twice in the spring. This was the first time it had done so in Northeast Ohio.



CENTENNIAL PARTNERS

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More than 70 participants in the Ohio Governor Expedited Pardon Project attended a July picnic in Cascade Valley Metro Park to celebrate the first 37 people to receive pardons.

THE EXPEDITED PARDON PROJECT CELEBRATES SUCCESS

Richard “Gene” Hill was arrested and convicted on drug charges for trying to sell cocaine when he was a young father. He served three years. “There is no explanation for what I did. Just poor choices,” he said.

But the “dark clouds” of that felony conviction followed him around for 30 years. “You’re applying for a job or something like that, and all of a sudden, lightning strikes.”

Not long ago, a friend who’d been urging Hill for years to look into getting a pardon took it upon himself to do some research. When he learned about the new Ohio Governor’s Expedited Pardon Project (EPP), he told Hill he was the perfect candidate.

And he was.

Never in trouble with the law again, Hill was welcomed by his local YWCA to run the racquetball program after serving his time. He remains friends with his parole officer. He was a mentor for Team in Training, raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Today, he is an operations manager for a food distributor that seeks to employ workers with felony records.

“Everything I did, day in day out, wasn’t for the grand goal of getting a pardon. I always try to get involved,” he said.

This past March, some 10 months after beginning the intensive application process, Hill received a call from the Office of the Governor that he had been granted an expedited pardon.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

On a sunny Friday afternoon in July, Hill was one of 12 expedited pardon recipients and their families who attended a picnic at Akron’s Cascade Valley Metro Park hosted by School of Law. The picnic celebrated the 37 people who had received an expedited pardon since the project began and another 133 who had been accepted into the program and are somewhere in the process. Also in attendance were representatives from the Office of the Governor, the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (ODRC), the Ohio Parole Board, the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University, several community partners, and 17 Akron Law EPP team students and their families, along with faculty and staff—78 people in all.

The Expedited Pardon Project was launched by Governor Mike DeWine in December 2019 as a partnership among the ODRC, the Moritz College of Law’s Drug Enforcement and Policy Center (DEPC), and Akron Law’s Reentry Clinic. It provides a streamlined alternative to Ohio’s traditional but lengthy clemency process for certain rehabilitated persons who have consistently demonstrated that they’ve become contributing members of society.

The program got off to a slow start due to the pandemic. But by fall 2021, Reentry Clinic students had screened close to 200 applicants, represented over 90 clients, and helped 16 of them obtain pardons.

“This was a celebration of success—to share the excitement and good news about the pardons received, to talk about the overall success of the project, and to build momentum for the future,” said Akron Law Associate Clinical Professor of Law and Assistant Director, Legal Clinic Joann Sahl, who supervises the Reentry Clinic.

THE PARDON PROJECT PROCESS

On the front line of the Expedited Pardon Project are trained and supervised law students, primarily at Akron Law, who manage the initial intake and interview applicants to identify qualified candidates. The students report their



Sarah Ackman, deputy chief legal council in the Governor’s Office, chats with Akron Law Professor Joann Sahl.

findings in summary memos to Sahl and the team at Ohio State led by Doug Berman, Newton D. Baker-Baker & Hostetler Chair in Law and executive director of the DEPC.

Sahl and Berman, in consultation with the Akron Law students and other staff members at DEPC, select the best candidates into the program. These individuals receive free one-on-one help with their pardon application from an Akron Law student who is taking Sahl’s one-semester, for-credit Reentry Clinic course. They may also receive assistance from one of the community partners involved in the project, such as Cleveland-based Legal Works. The Ohio Parole Board decides whether to recommend an applicant to the governor for a pardon following a hearing.

To date, the project has received 437 initial applications. Some applicants don’t have the required 10-year clean record, or they can’t demonstrate a work record, community service and other outward signs of reform. Some have committed certain crimes that automatically exclude them.

“We’re all trying to make the process as expedited as possible, but at the end of the day, it’s an extraordinary amount of work for our teams and for the applicants,” Berman said. “A pardon application reflects the person’s entire life, the good and the bad. They must complete an extensive

(continued on next page)

questionnaire, collect all their criminal court documents, get letters of support and write a letter to the governor. This is where Professor Sahl's expertise come to bear, in understanding the kind of material the parole board and the governor care about."

Carla Thomas, another expedited pardon recipient who was at the picnic, seconded Berman's points.

"The process is arduous. Oh, it's daunting. When I started the process of getting records from everywhere, because my charge was from so long ago, it was like, wow," remarked Thomas. "But I just stayed the course. Working with Ms. Sahl and her team, I always felt like I had support. If anybody knows her, [when she says] you will get it done, she means you will get it done. It is arduous, but it was the best decision I ever made in my life."

THE STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

To date, 64 different Akron Law students have represented (or are now representing) 134 expedited pardon applicants, gaining valuable hands-on legal experience in the process. Courtney Middleton, an evening J.D. student and candidate for graduation in May 2023, has been part of the Expedited Pardon Project since she took the Reentry Clinic course in summer 2020.

"I had no legal experience prior to law school, so I'm thankful for this project and how it's helped me understand criminal law and the people affected by their time in the court system," Middleton said. "Some days you're almost in tears listening to what applicants have lived through and overcome. Other days you're smiling simply because of how fun-loving the person is."

At the picnic, Middleton was able to talk with the first client she worked with in the project, Dana Killebrew.

"He recognized me from our Zoom calls. He was so excited," she recalled. "He wanted the pardon so he could go to school and get a job in nursing. He asked me if we could get a picture together."



Student Courtney Middleton with her client Dana Killebrew

A BRIGHT FUTURE

The Expedited Pardon Project got a boost in late 2021 when the General Assembly approved the governor's proposed \$1 million grant to bring three other Ohio law schools into the program and to fund some paid public service announcements (PSAs) and Google search ads. The grant also enabled the School of Law to offer paid internships to some students who had completed the Reentry Clinic course. A separate ODRC grant is helping community partners to spread the word and assist people with their applications.

"The program had a slow start because of COVID, but it's really picked up speed," said Sarah Ackman, deputy chief legal counsel in the Office of the Governor, in September. "The number of applications we're receiving is definitely increasing."

When I meet with an attorney about another clemency case or just someone out in the community, I'm hearing more and more people talking about it. That's a really good sign that the word is getting out."

And not just in Ohio. "The clients are from everywhere," Sahl said. "We had one two weeks ago who now lives in Alaska. We have one next week who's in Montana. We're working now on the case of our first international applicant, who currently lives in Canada."



Professor Sahl meets with some of her Expedited Pardon Project students in November 2021.

MORE ACCOLADES

Governor DeWine was not the first recognize the impressive impact of Professor Sahl and the Reentry Clinic, nor the most recent. The Reentry Clinic has been recognized as a Top 15 Innovative Clinic by National Jurist Magazine and an Innovative and Outstanding Program by the American Association of Law Schools.

This October, Sahl was honored by the Akron Bar Association with this year's Bradford "Buck" M. Gearing Professionalism Award. The award was created to recognize an attorney's exceptional dedication to the standards of the profession and to recognize one who has demonstrated integrity and humanitarian concern within the community.

In November she will be honored by the Catholic Commission of Summit County, which selected the Reentry Clinic as one of three 2022 recipients of the Bishop Pilla Leadership Award for the clinic's commitment to justice, serving our neighbors and the poor and community collaboration. The award is given to groups/individuals that bring together people or organizations in partnership to educate, raise awareness or find solutions to conditions faced by our community and vulnerable neighbors. The award honors the late Bishop Pilla's commitment to Gospel justice and ecumenical partnership.



At monthly Reentry Clinics, Professor Sahl assists law students helping clients apply for a Certificate of Qualification for Employment.



HE CAME BRIMMING WITH IDEAS



Dean Belsky with his wife, Kathleen Waits (far left), and family at the retirement celebration.

The retirement and portrait unveiling reception for Professor Marty Belsky last April was an occasion for toasting and gentle roasting and heartfelt recollecting, as more than a dozen friends, colleagues and family members stepped up to the microphone to address the large group that filled the Common.

Professor of Law, Emeritus Bill Jordan recalled how, as chair of the search committee for a new dean after Dean Hunt announced he was stepping down, a certain candidate caught his attention.

“He looked like a good prospect—longtime legal educator, successful dean at Albany, former Philadelphia prosecutor, where he worked for Arlen Specter, as he may have reminded you – and he also rode the train with Joe Biden back in the day. I was excited. I thought we needed some new blood.”

Things didn’t work out, but they kept in touch. Twelve years later when Dean Aynes announced his intention to retire, Jordan dashed out and called Marty.

“You know the rest. Marty was interested, Marty was hired,

“A devoted educator, colleague, community servant, and family member, Emeritus Dean Belsky is an inspiration to all who know him.”

Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen

and we had the Belsky years at the law school. I had the honor of serving as his associate dean for academic affairs for most of that time. “He came brimming with ideas. He was eager to strengthen our practical education offerings. He supported our clinics. He managed somehow to get the authority and the money to hire our first full-time legal writing faculty members. That was a true milestone in enhancing our students’ educations.

“It was a real pleasure to serve as Marty’s associate dean. I learned a lot as we worked together – always putting the students first. Marty got to know the students in small groups and in his own classes. He always wanted what was best for them.”

After four years as dean, Belsky returned to the faculty full time in 2012. He enthusiastically shared his wisdom and experience with his students, to whom he was extremely dedicated. Throughout his time at the University, he has been highly active in the community, chairing and serving on many commissions, including committees on energy, privacy, ethics, religious understanding, gerontology and aging, criminal justice, and science and the law.

“A devoted educator, colleague, community servant and family member, Emeritus Dean Belsky is an inspiration to all who know him,” said Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen.

He continues to teach part-time as Randolph Baxter Professor of Law. His official portrait hangs on the wall just outside the Dean’s Suite.

MUSIC’S LOSS WAS AKRON LAW’S GAIN

Carolyn Dessin started her career as a music teacher and conductor, making the decision to go to law school and become a professor several years later. After more than 20 years on the Akron Law faculty, the Aileen McMurray Trusler Professor of Law was granted emeritus status on May 31. The Law School held a retirement party for Dessin in the McDowell Common on May 25.

For an article published in The Akron Legal News, Dessin told reporter Sherry Karabin, “After I realized I could not make a living as a musician, I began weighing my other options. There were no lawyers in my family, but my best friend from music school’s wife was a lawyer and she seemed to enjoy it. She was a Russian literature major, so I knew you did not need a specific degree to attend law school, and I decided to try it.”

She earned her J.D., magna cum laude, from Villanova University, where she was editor-in-chief of the Villanova Law Review and a member of the Order of the Coif. She began her career as a law clerk for The Honorable Collins J. Seitz in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and as an associate for Morgan, Lewis & Bockius in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the Akron Law faculty in 1999, she was an associate professor at the Widener University School of Law and a visiting associate professor at the University of Idaho School of Law.

Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen spoke about Dessin in the article.

“Carolyn Dessin is an outstanding educator who will be missed by all. She has provided so much to Akron Law over the years through her amazing teaching, countless service commitments to the law school and the students, mentorship of faculty and graduates, advising of moot court teams and overall camaraderie with her peers.

“She was one of the first faculty members I met when I interviewed at Akron Law and I remember we shared a bond over our love of moot court. She has become a dear friend and valued colleague and adviser, and I will miss her. I will especially miss her beautiful singing voice at commencement.”

While she will no longer be a full-time faculty member, Dessin will be teaching two sections of the Wills, Trusts & Estates course in the spring of 2023. And she continues to sing in the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus.



Carolyn Dessin at Carnegie Hall

“Carolyn Dessin is an outstanding educator who will be missed by all. She has provided so much to Akron Law over the years through her amazing teaching, countless service commitments to the law school and the students ...”

Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen



Julie Cortes

Julie C. Cortes was named the assistant clinical professor and director of the Small Entrepreneur and Economic Development (SEED) Clinic. Prior to joining Akron Law, Professor Cortes served as a supervising attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, focusing her practice on the representation of and advocacy for low-wage workers and the re-entry community. As more of her clients abandoned traditional employment due to insurmountable barriers, she saw the opportunity to promote entrepreneurship and small business ownership as a pathway out of poverty, which culminated in her participation in the Innovation Mission Fellowship through the Sisters of Charity Foundation, and the creation of the Legal Center for Low-Income Entrepreneurs at Legal Aid. She now brings her unique expertise to Akron Law. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Cleveland State University and her Juris Doctor from Cleveland Marshall College of Law.



Kerry Lohmeier

Kerry Lohmeier was named associate dean of Law Library Services. Prior to joining Akron Law, she served as a librarian and adjunct faculty member at the University of Utah College of Law, and as a librarian and assistant professor at Concordia University School of Law. She received her Bachelor of Science from Iowa State University, her Juris Doctor with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law and her Master of Science from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Dean Lohmeier is admitted to the bar in New Mexico and is an active member of the American Association of Law Libraries. She has taught a variety of classes covering legal research, foreign and international research, and administrative law for a Master of Legal Studies program. She has published and presented on topics related to legal research, foreign law research, and teaching asynchronous courses.



Charlie Oldfield

Charles W. (Charlie) Oldfield was named director of legal writing and assistant professor of law. He joined the faculty as visiting assistant professor of legal writing in 2016 and was named assistant dean of student affairs in 2017. Prior to that, he was an attorney at Green Haines Sgambati Co., L.P.A. and a law clerk in the Ohio Eleventh District Court of Appeals. The focus of his legal practice included appellate law, labor and employment law, and education law. He has argued cases before several Ohio district courts of appeal, the Ohio Supreme Court and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. Oldfield received his Doctor of Laws from the School of Law, *magna cum laude*, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Administration from Bluefield State College in Bluefield, W.Va. He has served as president of the School of Law Alumni Association Board of Directors and as an Akron Law trial team coach.



Jonathan Moore

Jonathan Moore joined the Akron Law faculty in 2021 as a visiting assistant professor. This fall he transitioned to full-time faculty as assistant professor, teaching Legal Analysis, Writing & Research. He holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from Wheaton College. He spent 12 years in private practice as a civil litigator, first as an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in Chicago and then as an associate and later partner at Warner Norcross & Judd LLP in Grand Rapids, Mich. He concentrated his practice in the areas of securities and shareholder litigation, commercial litigation and electronic discovery.



Sean Steward

Sean Steward joined the Akron Law faculty in November 2022 as assistant professor of legal writing. Previously, he was an attorney at Schulman Roth & Associates. The focus of his practice included personal injury, complex tort, appellate law, labor and employment law, and business law in Northeast Ohio. He has argued several cases in front of Ohio's Fifth District Court of Appeals and briefed cases in several other Ohio appellate districts. He is admitted to practice in both the Northern and Southern Federal Districts in Ohio. Sean is a double Akron alum. He received his Juris Doctor from the School of Law, *magna cum laude* in 2016, and his Bachelor of Arts in History from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2012.



Alecia Bencze

Alecia Bencze was named director of career services and strategic initiatives. She started at Akron Law as the assistant director of career services and student advising in 2017. Following her promotion, she continues to assist first-year law students in finding career opportunities and develops career services programs. She also prepares reports; manages the School's social media accounts, and connects with faculty, staff, students, and alumni through digital marketing. She received her Juris Doctor from Akron Law, her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Mount Union, and most recently her Master of Arts in Communication from The University of Akron. Prior to joining Akron Law, she was an assistant prosecutor in the Portage County Prosecutor's Office, Civil Division.



Anthony Collucci

Anthony Collucci returned to the Akron Law Admissions Department this summer as the director of admissions. He previously served as assistant director of admissions from 2014-16. He brings 11 years of experience at Akron Law and a total of 15 years of director-level experience at The University of Akron to his new role. In his new position, he will provide leadership and coordination of recruitment, admissions, enrollment, and financial aid programs and will assist in the development and execution of strategic recruiting and marketing plans. Collucci received his Bachelor of Science in Political Science from The University of Akron in 2012.



Katia Lagasse

Katia Lagasse is the new program coordinator for the three School of Law centers and Career Services. She will be responsible for assisting with the various programs and events offered and for administrative and planning support, working with students and interacting with alumni and employers. Lagasse received a Bachelor of Science from Western Washington University where she majored in business administration with a concentration in marketing and a minor in international business and sociology. She previously worked at the University of Puget Sound in the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations. She recently relocated from Washington state to Northeast Ohio.



Andrew Costigan

The Law School has hired Andrew Costigan as the assistant dean of student affairs. He will provide leadership to all activities related to student affairs, including advising, scheduling, orientation, commencement, disciplinary referrals, student organizations and disability services, and he will oversee student bar admission reporting including character and fitness review. Costigan received a Bachelor of Arts from John Carroll University, a Master of Arts from Boston College, and a Juris Doctor from Akron Law (2022). His career in higher education administration includes serving in student affairs on multiple campuses and working for a division of the National Council for Higher Education. He brings fifteen years of experience in higher education and nonprofit leadership to his new role.

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AKRON LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ANNUAL AWARDS EVENT

The School of Law recognized its 2021 outstanding alumni, student and faculty award recipients at the Akron Law Alumni Association (ALAA) Annual Awards event on May 13.



2021-2022 ALAA President Darrin Toney addresses the crowd at the awards breakfast.



The Outstanding Alumni Award recipients were the Honorable Annalisa Stubbs Williams '84, Judge, Akron Municipal Court, and Steven A. Dimengo '86, managing partner of the Akron-based law firm of Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLC.



Dean Emily Janoski-Haehlen greets Michael Williams '85, husband of Judge Annalise Williams.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Akron Law 2L **Mycheala Holley** and alumni **Monica B. Andress '20**, **Alex Quay '09**, and **Lauren Zidones '21**, were named to the Greater Akron Chamber's 30 for The Future cohort. The award honors "young professionals (ages 25-39) who are recognized as trendsetters in their industries, leaders in their organizations and in the community, and catalysts for growth and impact."

Moriah Cheatham Williams '19, and **Lauren Zidones '21**, were recognized by Crain's Cleveland Business in its 20 in Their Twenties list of talented young leaders in Northeast Ohio's business and nonprofit community for 2022.



Moriah Cheatham Williams '19



Lauren Zidones '21

Stephanie L. Deka '12 and **Stephanie Hand-Cannane '13**, attorneys at McGlinchey Stafford, were named to the 2023 *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*.

2020s

Diana E. Konik '21, has joined Phillips Lytle, LLP's Buffalo office as an associate in the land, environmental and energy practice group.

Caleb Ohrn '21, has joined Vedder Price's Dallas office as an associate.

2010s

Laura L. Wallerstein '10, has joined the offices of McDonald Hopkins, LLC, as a member of the business and real estate practices.

Kirsten R. Armstrong '12, has been promoted to managing attorney of the Pennsylvania branch of Zwicker and Associates, PC.

Alexander J. Johnson '13, has joined Ulmer & Berne LLP's Cincinnati office in the venture law practice group.

Taylor W. Trout '15, is a newly elected partner at Keating Meuthing & Klecamp in Cincinnati in the firm's largest litigation group.

Kale D. Anderson '19, started at the Center for Arkansas Legal Services as a staff attorney.

2000s

Jeffrey Mitchell '00, after serving as the Wyoming County (Pa.) district attorney for 12 years, hiked a 2,200-mile portion of the Appalachian Trail from March 4 to July 29, 2022. No bears were seen during the adventure.

Bradley S. S. Dunn '07, was named as an administrative law judge by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

1990s

Christine L. Lane '95, has been appointed as a partner to Maiello Brungo and Maiello, LLP, in the education law, employment law, and litigation teams in Pittsburgh.

1980s

Lawrence M. Kelly '83, has been elected to serve as vice president of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice (formerly the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association).

CONNECT

Have you recently moved or changed jobs? If so, please submit your news and update your contact information on the Alumni page of the Akron Law website:

uakron.edu/law/alum

16TH ANNUAL AKRON LAW WINTER INSTITUTE

Feb. 8–10, 2023, Naples, Florida

For details, visit uakron.edu/law/alum/winter-institute

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Welcome Reception

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023 | 6 – 7:30 P.M.

Program (7.5 hours CLE)

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023 | 7 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Program (5.0 hours CLE)

Friday, Feb 10, 2023 | 7 A.M. to 1 P.M.

WE'RE GOING GREEN!

Register online at uakron.edu/law/alum/winter-institute or contact Andreas Ellis at ellis@uakron.edu or 330-972-5298.

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