

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



LATEST NEWS

MAY 2023



Professor Mary Crossley Appointed Interim Dean of the School of Law effective July 1

Provost Anne Cudd has appointed John E. Murray Faculty Scholar and Director of the Health Law Program, Professor Mary Crossley, to Interim Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law effective July 1. She has deep expertise and a long history at Pitt, and she joined Pitt in 2005 as a Professor of Law and Dean and served as dean of Pitt Law through 2012. Provost Cudd thanked Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi for his commendable, generous service as interim dean. [Read more](#)



Professor Jerry Dickinson Appointed as Vice Dean of the School of Law

Professor Dickinson's teaching and scholarship specialize in constitutional law, civil rights, property, and race and the law. His scholarship has been featured in numerous respected law reviews. His scholarly work has been cited by U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Third and Sixth Circuits, amicus briefs filed by Members of Congress in federal courts, and by foreign and international courts, such as the High Court of South Africa. His work has also been featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Hill*, and *The Atlantic*. [Read more](#)



2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards

On Thursday, May 18, 2023, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law gathered to recognize Law Fellows donors and celebrate the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. This year's recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award were Joseph J. Bosick (JD '73), and Laura E. Ellsworth (JD '83). Additionally, Kevin W. Tucker (JD

'11) received the Young Alumni Award and the Honorable Doris A. Smith-Ribner (JD '72), was recognized for her long career in public service with the Pro Bono Public Service Award.

[Read more](#)



The Honorable Mark R. Hornak (JD '81) Serves as Pitt Law's 2023 Commencement Speaker

The Honorable Mark R. Hornak (JD' 81), Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, delivered the keynote address at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's commencement ceremony on May 5. [Read more](#)



The Honorable Mary Jane Bowes (JD '79) Receives PBA Clarity Award

The Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) Plain English Committee presented its 2023 Clarity Award to Judge Mary Jane Bowes, Superior Court of Pennsylvania. The award was created by the committee to recognize "those who have done the most to foster plain English in the legal field." Elected in 2001, Judge Bowes has served on the Superior Court of Pennsylvania for 22 years. She currently serves as president of the University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni Association. [Read more](#)



The Honorable Doris Smith-Ribner (JD '72) Receives the Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts 2023 Judge Justin Johnson Award

PMC presented the Judge Justin Johnson Award to Judge Doris Smith-Ribner (Ret.). Judge Smith-Ribner served on the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court for almost 22 years and was the first African American woman to serve on the Court. Judge Smith-Ribner was solicitor for Allegheny County City Controller and served as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Allegheny County. [Read more](#)



Pitt Law Center for International Legal Education Rule of Law Program Featured in Pitt Magazine

The Center for International Legal Education (CILE) is home to the LLM and SJD programs at Pitt Law. Each year a select number of international students study American law and other substantive specializations that will prepare them for careers as global lawyers. This year,

a cohort of law students from Afghanistan and Ukraine came to Pitt Law to gain the skills needed to help their people thrive, and their countries rebuild. [Read more](#)



Prisoners and Pitt Students Both Learn in Law School's Inside-Out Class

Led by Professor David Harris, Pitt Law is one of only a handful of law schools in the country with a class that's part of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program, bringing 14 law students last fall to the State Correctional Institute in Greene County for a weekly class alongside 14 incarcerated men. Harris learned about such courses when he interviewed the program creators on his podcast, "Criminal Injustice," a few years ago. "My hopes were that we would create a real learning community inside," he said — to have both groups act as peers to one another "and to give each other the kind of respect and dignity that all of us crave on the outside, but those on the inside don't always get. And I hope the inside students will feel, at least for those hours ... that they were just as important as anyone else ... that they were being treated as people with worth, that they had experiences in life that counted." [Read more](#)



Pitt Law Opens Professional Lending Closet in Honor of William Theisen (JD '19)

We were honored to host alumnus William Theisen's (JD '19) wife, Jessie, and parents, Babs and Chris, for a look at the William J. Theisen Professional Lending Closet, which opened officially on April 18. The Professional Lending Closet includes suites, ties, dresses, jackets, and more. The clothing is intended for job interviews, career fairs, networking events, and the workplace. It will be free for anyone in our Pitt Law community. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact [Lori McMaster](#).

In addition, to ensure we have a wide array of sizes and options, you can also help us by donating to Pitt Law for the lending closet [here](#).



Keep in Touch with Pitt Legal Income Sharing Foundation

Were you involved in Pitt Legal Income Sharing Foundation (PLISF), a past recipient of a PLISF scholarship, or do you simply want to support Pitt Law students working in public interest? If so, PLISF wants to keep in touch! Please fill out the survey to share your current contact information. [Complete Survey](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



The National Institute for Trial Advocacy is hosting a week-long Deposition Skills and Trial Skills course at the Barco Law Building starting August 7. Whether you're just starting and need to build your skills or looking to hone your existing expertise – this course has something for everyone. Gain years of litigation experience in and out of the courtroom with this comprehensive program. [Learn more and register](#)

Save the Date! The Pitt Law Homecoming Reception will be held on Friday, October 13. The Pitt Panthers Homecoming Football Game will take place at Acrisure Stadium on Saturday, October 14, against the Louisville Cardinals.

FACULTY NEWS



Professor Greer Donley was selected for the Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award in the Junior Scholar category at the University of Pittsburgh. Chancellor Gallagher said Donley's "scholarship on reproductive rights is creative and visionary." He continued, "[Her] peers identified [her] as a shining light among junior law professors around the country and a leader among a cohort of abortion law scholars."

Professor David Harris received the Chancellor's Distinguished Public Service Award at the University of Pittsburgh. The award recognizes Harris's years of service on multiple commissions and task forces concerning public safety, providing expertise on criminal justice issues in testimony to public bodies and the media, teaching an Inside-Out class combining law students with incarcerated individuals, and incorporating these efforts into both teaching and scholarship.

Professor Mike Madison co-edited the fifth book in the Knowledge Commons series, *Governing Smart Cities as Knowledge Commons*, with Cambridge University Press. This volume deepens our understanding of community governance institutions, communities' social dilemmas, and the dynamic relationships between data, technology, and human lives.

Professor Ann Sinsheimer has been awarded a Pitt Momentum Funds Teaming Grant for her project, with co-investigators from LRDC and the School of Education, "Testing the Effectiveness of Faculty as Facilitators of Psychosocial Resilience Interventions for Students in Professional and Graduate Programs. Sinsheimer's project was one of only two to receive an award at the Teaming Grant level.

CLASS NOTES



Pitt Law welcomes news and updates and encourages you to keep us informed of your personal and professional accomplishments by submitting a Class Note!

<https://www.law.pitt.edu/alumni/reconnect/note>

Michelle Bodian (JD '11) was elevated to partner at Vicente LLP. Bodian is co-chair of the firm's national Hemp and Cannabinoids Department and counsels clients through the state-by-state patchwork of regulatory requirements.

Scott Duffy (JD '97) has been appointed Houston Harbaugh's new Corporate Group Practice Area Chair. He concentrates his practice on business law and is the new chair of the Firm's Business Law practice.

Amanda Grant (JD '11) has been promoted to Chair of the Chester County Bar Association's Young Lawyers' Division (YLD). Amanda has served as an officer of the YLD since 2021 when she first served as Secretary/Treasurer.

Thomas Hauser (JD '91) will become Managing Partner of the Baltimore office of national law firm Ballard Spahr, on October 1. As Managing Partner, Mr. Hauser will serve on the firm's Expanded Board and oversee operations for its Baltimore office, home base to more than 35 attorneys who advise clients on corporate, real estate, and financing transactions; in regulatory compliance matters; and litigation.

Gabrielle Lee (JD '16) received the Allegheny County Bar Association Homer S. Brown Division 2023 Young Leader Award. The Young Leader Award is given to a HSBD member under the age of 40 who has actively participated in HSBD and has positively affected African Americans.

Mariah H. McGrogan (JD '14) has been promoted to partner in Reed Smith LLP's Pittsburgh office. She was previously an associate. Mariah is a litigator in the Labor & Employment Group with extensive experience representing clients in employment-related disputes, including litigation involving claims of harassment, retaliation, discrimination, wrongful discharge, and breach of contract.

David Rosenberg (JD '82) was recognized in *The Legal Intelligencer's* 2023 Professional Excellence Awards for the Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is given to legal professionals who have left an imprint on the state's legal history during their careers.

Norman Steinberg (JD '64), the Emmy-winning screenwriter who teamed with Mel Brooks on *Blazing Saddles* and *My Favorite Year* and wrote for the Michael Keaton-starring *Mr. Mom* and *Johnny Dangerously*, passed away on March 15, 2023. Steinberg also wrote *Yes, Giorgio* (1982), starring Italian opera star Luciano Pavarotti in his feature acting debut, and co-wrote *Funny About Love* (1990), directed by Leonard Nimoy and starring Gene Wilder and Christine Lahti.