Hon. Judith K. Fitzgerald (Ret.) (JD ’73) received the 2020 Bankruptcy Inn of Court Alliance Distinguished Award.

Jay N. Silberblatt (JD ’80) was selected to serve as Vice-President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA).

Kevin Abbott (JD ’81) received the 2020 McClaugherty Award from the Energy and Mineral Law Foundation (EMLF) for his outstanding contributions to the field of energy law. It is the highest recognition given by the EMLF.

David Hickton (JD ’81), the founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security, was appointed to the House Select Subcommittee on Coronavirus. Hickton will play a critical role in overseeing how trillions of dollars in federal COVID-19 relief funding are spent. Hickton also appeared on HBO’s Agents of Chaos.

Mark Nadeau (JD ’81) was recognized amongst the Top 100 Lawyers in Arizona. Mark is the Co-Managing Partner at DLA Piper’s Phoenix office.

Howie Hodges (JD ’85), and other Founding members of One Economy Corporation, formed Centri Tech, a social venture mobilizing the full potential of technology to lift the human condition – a concept it calls "digital advancement."

Jeffrey L. Pollock (JD ’87) was appointed to the Board of Directors for Neighborhood Legal Services.


Stephen Rosenblatt (JD ’88) retired as Chief Counsel of the Sheet Metal Workers’ National Pension Fund. He is currently working on his MSW at George Mason University to begin the pursuit of his second career as a psychotherapist.

Luke Bergstrom (JD ’94) appeared on The Deal podcast to discuss his own experiences as Vice Chair of Latham & Watkins LLP’s M&A practice and technology industry groups.

Marketa Lindt (JD ’94), President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and partner at Sidley Austin LLP in Chicago, was named the 2020 Majorie Matson Woman of the Year by the Pitt Law Women’s Association.


Anne Shea Gaza (JD ’97) was elected to partner of Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, LLP in Delaware. Gaza is the first female Asian American to serve on the leadership team of a large Delaware firm and focuses her practice on patent and trademark litigation, complex commercial litigation, and alternative dispute resolution.

Kenneth P. Skibinski (JD ’98) joined Chartwell Law’s New York office.

Kirk B. Burkley (JD ’02) was named managing partner of Bernstein-Burkley, P.C. Burkley was recognized as one of six Bernstein-Burkley attorneys to be on the 2021 List
of “The Best Lawyers in America.” Burkley was also selected to the Top 50 Pittsburgh lawyers by Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, the only attorney featured on the list to specialize in Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights.

Douglas B. McKechnie (JD ’02) co-authored a textbook, National Security Law, that was published by West Academic Publishing. McKechnie’s research article, “Government Tweets, Government Speech: The First Amendment Implications of Government Trolling,” was also published by the Seattle Law Review.

Lea Bickerton (JD ’05) made Oprah’s national list of Black-Owned Bookstores in America That Amplify the Best in Literature for her shop, The Tiny Bookstore, in Ross Township, Pittsburgh.

Julie Colton (JD ’05), an adjunct professor at Pitt Law and partner at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP, was included on the 2020 PA Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List. Colton was also admitted as a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Kathryn Liebhaber (’05) was named an associate attorney at Weber Kracht and Chelnew Attorneys at Law in Perkasie, Bucks County.

Vjosa Osmani (LLM ’05) (SJD ’15) became the Acting President of Kosovo. Osmani is the second woman to serve as head of state out of post-war Kosovo’s six presidents.

Dr. Jack Rozel (MSL ’05) was awarded the 2020 Behavioral Healthcare Practitioner of the Year by the University of Pittsburgh Department of Psychiatry.

Eva Marcotrigiano (JD ’06) joined the Portland law firm of Rizzo Mattingly Bosworth PC as an associate.

Nicole L. Phatak (JD ’06) joined Clark Hill PLC as a member in the firm’s Tax and Estate Planning division.

Elizabeth Shackelford (JD ’06) was honored with the Barbara Watson Award for Consular Excellence, for her work in evacuating US citizens from South Sudan. She wrote an award-winning novel, The Dissent Channel: American Diplomacy in a Dishonest Age.

Tony J. Thompson (JD ’06) was selected to serve as legal counsel for the National Association for Industrial and Office Parks (NAIOP) Pittsburgh. NAIOP is the regional association of developers, owners, investors, and professionals of commercial real estate.

Bethany Hamilton (JD ’07) was named the Director of the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at The George Washington University.

Emilie R. Hammerstein (JD ’09) and Allison R. Brown (JD ’10) have been named shareholders in the Pittsburgh office of Littler Mendelson, the world’s largest employment and labor law firm.

Jonathan B. Skowron (JD ’09) was promoted to Partner at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP in Pittsburgh. He is a member of the Litigation Services Department and has experience in professional liability, product liability, insurance, business tort, and
contractual litigation. He is also active in pro bono work and has represented clients on a variety of matters, including prisoners’ rights cases.

Aleksandra (Sasha) Phillips (JD ’10), an associate at Reed Smith’s office in Pittsburgh, helped win a landmark case for two Russian shell companies accused of financing schemes to interfere in the 2016 election.

Lauren M. Burge (JD ’11) joined Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott, LLC as an associate. Bradley E. Holuta (JD ’12) was selected for membership into The National Trial Lawyers Association Top 40 under 40 Trial Lawyers. Holuta is an Associate Attorney at Marcus & Mack in Indiana, PA.

Kyle Webster (JD ’15), General Counsel for ACTION-Housing, appeared on KDKA to discuss Gov. Wolf’s extension to the moratorium on evictions and foreclosures.

Bryant A. Andrews (JD ’17), Max A. Gelernter (JD ’17) and Sydney Rochelle Normil (JD ’15) were named recipients of the Pittsburgh Business Times 2020 30 Under 30 Awards.

Rishav Soni (LLM ’17) was appointed as director for the Centre of Excellence for Global Studies at The ICFAI Law School in Hyderabad, India.

Melissa N. Fann (JD ’18), an associate at Dinsmore & Shole, received the District 1 (Allegheny County) Difference Maker award.

Linda Hamilton (JD ’18) and Nahla Kamaluddin (LLM ’13, JD ’16) assisted Prof. Sheila Velez Martinez in the preparation of an Amicus Brief on behalf of the University supporting Harvard and MIT in seeking to protect international students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kareemah Mayer (JD ’18) was selected to serve on the board of the Community Action Partnership of Lancaster County.

Kyle A. Peterson (JD ’18) is an associate attorney with the law firm Margolis Edelstein in Pittsburgh. His practice areas include mass and toxic torts and general litigation.

Alyson T. Landis (JD ’19) was named to the 2020-21 class of the Pennsylvania Bar Association Bar Leadership Institute.

Ashley Crane (JD ’20) was presented with this year’s Student Leadership Award by the Pittsburgh Intellectual Property Association (PIPLA). PIPLA is one of the nation’s oldest organizations dedicated to fostering collegial exchanges regarding the nuances and importance of intellectual property.

Kathleen M. Mannard’s (JD ’20) paper, “Lake Erie Bill of Rights Struck Down: Why the Rights of Nature Movement in a Nonviable Legislative Strategy for Municipalities Plagued by Pollution,” was published in the most recent University of Buffalo Environmental Law Journal. Mannard was also one of two scholarship recipients of the annual Allegheny County Bar Association’s 2020 Environment and Energy Law Section.

Doris Gisele Toyou (SJD ’20) defended a resolution on Cameroon before the ABA House of Delegates. The resolution urged the U.S. to take all necessary and proper actions within its power to end ongoing armed conflict in the Northwest and Southwest
regions of Cameroon and to promote change in Cameroon’s electoral process. Doris also serves as co-chair of the African Affairs Committee at the New York City Bar and is a contract attorney with Kirkland & Ellis LLP in New York.