

Pitt Law Alumni Class Notes

Honorable John H. Corbett, Jr. (71) passed away on June 26, 2020. In honor of John's life, his wife, Marianne Corbett, established the Honorable John H. Corbett Jr., '64 Memorial Scholarship Fund at Central Catholic High School. Judge Corbett graduated from Central Catholic in 1964.

Rick Kelson (JD '72) passed away on Feb. 13, 2021, at 74. Kelson, former Chairman of the Board of Ingevity, served as Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of ALCOA, Inc. and Chief Executive Officer of ServCo, LLC. He also served on the Board of Visitors at Pitt for 21 years.

Anne Feeney (JD '78) passed away on Feb. 3, 2021. Before turning her attention to her solo career as a musician, Anne worked as a trial attorney. She was involved in the founding of Pittsburgh Action Against Rape and became the first female president of the Pittsburgh Musicians' Union.

James "Jim" R. Schadel (JD '78) passed away on Dec. 28, 2020. Jim received the prestigious Order of the Coif Award from Pitt Law. For more than 36 years, he defended clients in a wide range of civil litigation, including professional liability, general liability, auto, contracts, construction, and product liability before state and federal courts in Pennsylvania. Jim was an active member of the PA and Allegheny County Bar Associations, the PBA Lawyers' Professional Liability Committee, the PBA and ACBA Ethics Committees, and the ACBA Lawyer Insurance Committee. Most recently, he served on the Pennsylvania Bar Association House of Delegates and Allegheny County Bar Association's Board of Governors.

Jay N. Silberblatt (JD '80) was elected as the Vice President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) and will become the 128th President of the PBA in 2022. Jay is a member of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania CLE Board and a Hearing Committee Member for the Disciplinary Board. He has served as Chair of the PBA Civil Litigation Section and Chair of the Civil Litigation Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association and currently serves on the ACBA Board of Governors. Jay is a Fellow of the Academy of Trial Lawyers of Allegheny County, a select group of the top trial lawyers in Allegheny County, where he has served as a member of the Board of Governors, has been active on its Professionalism Committee, and has served as Chair of its Electronics for the Litigator Committee and its Website Committee.

Paul Burke (JD '81) rejoined Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. as Of Counsel, having been one of its founding members. He practices with the firm's Corporate, Energy and Natural Resources, and Real Estate division.

Michael Ruggio (JD '82) and his partners at Ice Miller LLP hosted a live webinar, "Telehealth Overview," on June 9. The program addressed telehealth benefits, applications, types of connectivity, and remote patient monitoring. Ruggio also presented another CLE addressing the new challenges in healthcare and the CARES Act on Feb. 2 with Pitt Law Professor Mary Crossley.

John Kropf (JD '88) presented a virtual lecture, "Global Privacy Law and Conflict," on Feb. 16 for Pitt Law's Center for International Legal Education. Kropf discussed his illustrious 23-year career and experience in working in the field of privacy law.

Lisa M. Fowlkes (JD '90) reminisced about one of her greatest inspirations, a letter from the late Chief Judge A. Leon Higginbotham in a recent LinkedIn blog post. Lisa leads the Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. She is the first woman and first person of color to hold this position.

A.C. Ansani (JD '94), a veteran gaming attorney, has joined Howard & Howard's law firm in their Las Vegas, NV location. A.C. has been a fixture in the gaming industry since 1998. Before Howard & Howard, he worked for Scientific Games Corporation, Rocket Gaming Systems, Bally Technologies, Software as a Service, and is licensed in Nevada and Pennsylvania.

Anne Shea Gaza (JD '97), a partner at Young Conaway, was presented the award for "Outstanding IP Litigator" in Delaware by Managing Intellectual Property on Apr. 7. Anne was recognized for her remarkable achievements and developments in the Intellectual Property industry over the past year. She is also co-chair of Young Conaway's Intellectual Property Group and a member of the firm's Management and Diversity Committees.

Kevin L. Barley (JD '00) joined Steptoe & Johnson's Litigation Department as Of Counsel, focusing his practice on energy and business litigation.

Kirk B. Burkley (JD '02), managing partner of Bernstein-Burkley, P.C., was named Chairman of the American Board of Certification for 2021. The American Board of Certification is the nation's premier legal specialty certification organization that certifies attorneys as specialists in business bankruptcy, consumer bankruptcy, and creditors' rights law.

Elizabeth Hughes (JD '04), President of Pitt Law's Alumni Association, was promoted to Senior Associate Counsel at UPMC, and addressed the Class of 2021 at Pitt Law's Commencement ceremony on May 8 at the Petersen Events Center.

Antoinette Oliver (JD '07) and Robert Dauer Jr. (JD '00) were recently appointed to Meyer, Unkovic & Scott's management committees.

Jennifer M. Gardner (JD '08) was promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the Pittsburgh office. She is a member of the Global Corporate Group, focusing on employee benefit and executive compensation matters.

Anthony J. Renaldo (JD '08) was recently promoted to partner at Chartwell Law. As a member of the firm's offices in Deerfield Beach, FL, he focuses on insurance defense matters involving first-party and third-party defense litigation.

Rachel E. James (JD '09) joined Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C. and is a member of the Corporate, Real Estate, and Energy and Natural Resources practice division. She focuses on all aspects of real estate and energy matters, including asset acquisitions and divestitures.

Major Dimitri Facaros (JD '10), a Judge Advocate and US Army Training Officer for the international Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy published a book review regarding Craig Forcese's 2018 novel "Destroying the Caroline: The Frontier Raid that Reshaped the Right to War" (Irwin Law). Additionally, Facaros authored two publications. The first entitled, "For Hood's Revelation about DOD's Goal to Prevent Sexual Assault and Harassment," by Train Gender Publisher in Lawfire. And, the second article, "Women, Peace, and Security: Is DOD Turning a Human Rights Corner" was just published by Just Security.

Aleksandra "Sasha" Phillips (JD '10) joined Meyer Unkovic & Scott as an Associate in the firm's Litigation & Dispute Resolution Group. Aleksandra handles a wide range of domestic and foreign matters. An advocate of using art in wellness programs, she teaches workshops and leads motivational seminars for women in various organizations, including the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

M. Patrick Yingling (JD '11) has been promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the firm's Chicago office. He has obtained numerous pro bono wins for clients in LGBTQ+ rights, immigrant rights, veteran rights, mental health, anti-corruption, and democracy. He also edits and publishes the Third Circuit Bar Association's newsletter *On Appeal*.

Gary Sanderson (JD '12) has been named partner at Meyer, Unkovic & Scott.

Morgan M. Bonekovic (JD '16) joined Pollock Begg, a Pittsburgh family law firm. Morgan is an associate attorney focusing on divorce, equal distribution, support, custody, and protection from abuse cases. A graduate of the Allegheny Bar Association's Bar Leadership Initiative, she serves on state and local bar association committees to advance family law practice, protect LGBTQIA+ rights, and support equitable environments for racial and ethnic minorities.

Ryan Davis (JD'16) was awarded Rookie of the Year by the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) for his work with the Veterans Affairs (VA) Technology Transfer Program—a unit that determines which outcomes of veterans' health-based research may have application or commercial potential in the real world.

Nicole M. Pardus (JD '16), an attorney with Long & Long LLC, clinched a place on the 2021 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers Rising Stars list. She plays an active role in the Westmoreland Bar Association, serves as Vice-Chair of the Westmoreland Young Lawyers Division. Also, Nicole was recently appointed secretary of the Board of Directors of Laurel Legal Services, a nonprofit organization providing free civil legal services to qualified low-income clients in six counties in Western Pennsylvania.

Kyle D. Stelmack (JD '16) was promoted to Partner at O'Malley & Langan Law Offices.

Justin D. Beck (JD '17), an Associate Attorney at Thomas, Thomas, & Hafer LLP, received the American Bar Association Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section (ABA TIPS) Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Law Committee Rising Star Award during the Pennsylvania Bar Association Virtual Annual Meeting. The ABA TIPS Rising Star Award recognizes members who exhibit professional excellence in workers' compensation service to the profession and the bar,

service to the community, a reputation for or advancement of legal ethics, professional responsibility, and involvement and contribution in ABA activities.

Jessica Gaynell Moss's (MSL '18) work with the Sibyls Shrine artist residency program was highlighted in the Pittsburgh City Paper. This program is centered on black women, womxn, trans women, and femmes who are mothers and identify as artists, creatives, and/activists in Pittsburgh.

Connor Sease (JD '19) was recognized by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as among "Pittsburgh's 50 Finest", which honors outstanding young professionals in our community. In accepting the distinction, Connor committed to raising awareness and funds to help the Foundation realize its mission of controlling and curing cystic fibrosis.

Brandon Lee (JD '20) has joined Norris McLaughlin's Liquor Law, Manufacturing, and Distribution Practice Group. Lee handles regulatory work with various states' alcoholic beverage control, the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, and the Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau. Lee is an active member of the Philadelphia Bar Association and Allegheny County Bar Association and spent three years as a dedicated volunteer for Forgotten Harvest, providing families in need with fresh, nutritious, and free food.

Sulaiman Almualllem (SJD '21) successfully defended his dissertation, "A Reformatory Legal Vision for the Kingdom: The Adoption of Rules of Discovery in the Civil Procedural System of Saudi Arabia: Considering the Example of the United States Discovery Regime."

Brianna Bell (JD '21) received a 2021 Equal Justice Works Fellowship, one of the country's most prestigious and competitive post-graduate fellowships. As an Equal Justice Works Fellow, she will be hosted at KidsVoice. She will provide legal assistance and support to children in the Allegheny County child welfare system with special education needs who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Brianna's Equal Justice Works Fellowship is co-sponsored by PNC and Reed Smith LLP.

Yemi Olaiya (JD '21) was featured on Pittsburgh's Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition website for their Black History Month profile series.

Carrie Thompson (JD '21) was recently nominated by the Pitt Law faculty for the 2021 Outstanding Law Student Award from the National Association of Women Lawyers.