

TRANSCRIPT 2024



COLLEGE OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Helping Immigrant Communities

Toledo Law completes first year of new clinic opportunity where students build legal skills while representing clients in real immigration cases.

Inside this Issue:

Trial Advocacy Team
Mediation Externship
Alumni Affiliate Message and more

Eugenio Mollo, Jr.

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COLLEGE OF LAW
THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO



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Transcript is published once a year by the College of Law in collaboration with The University of Toledo Office of Marketing and Communications.

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DEAN'S LETTER



As we near the end of the 2023-24 academic year, I am pleased to share some updates and highlights from the past year.

After serving on the Toledo Law faculty for over 25 years, I was thrilled to be appointed interim dean last summer. Serving as dean has imbued in me a new sense of mission for the institution that I love — a mission of access to a quality legal education for all of our students. I am committed to maintaining our dedication to strong teaching and direct contact with students, while also adapting to the challenges in both legal education and the practice of law in the twenty-first century.

Some current challenges we face include the recent decision in the Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard case, preparing for upcoming Bar exam changes, and addressing the introduction of artificial intelligence in legal education and practice. While we respect the legal process and the complexities surrounding the SFFA v. Harvard case, we remain committed to fostering an environment of inclusion and belonging for our diverse student population.

I am delighted to introduce our newest faculty member, Deborah Machalow. She practiced in Wisconsin and New York after graduating summa cum laude from Indiana University Maurer School of Law. We hope to expand our faculty in fall 2024 to include two more new tenure-track faculty members.

I am thrilled to report that our first-year enrollment has seen a remarkable increase of 9% from the previous year. This growth is a testament to the dedicated faculty and staff who provide an exceptional experience to everyone who walks through our doors.

To further our commitment to our graduates, we have introduced a new scholarship for graduating students called Raising the Bar. The scholarship will help cover the expenses that our graduates incur between graduation and taking the Bar exam, allowing them to focus on Bar preparation by alleviating financial concerns during this crucial time.

I am pleased to highlight our Immigrant Justice Clinic in this issue of the Transcript. After launching in fall 2022, it quickly became a popular opportunity for students and a beacon of hope and advocacy for immigrant communities. The work of our clinic exemplifies our commitment to social justice and underscores the vital role of legal education in addressing pressing societal challenges.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends for your support and dedication to our shared mission. Together, we will continue to uphold the highest standards of legal education and make a positive impact in our communities and beyond.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rebecca E. Zietlow". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Zietlow
Interim Dean and Professor of Law
The University of Toledo College of Law

#141Ranked by U.S. News
& World Report 2023**91.67%**Ultimate Bar Pass Rate
in 2022**24%**First generation
college students**19%**Students of color in
entering class 2023**3.53**Entering class GPA
fall 2023**53%**Women in entering
class 2023

QUALITY AT AN AFFORDABLE RATE

Toledo Law offers a phenomenal education at one of the lowest tuition rates of any law school in the region. We are thrilled to offer merit scholarships to most of our students.

#13for low grad student debt
*U.S News & World Report 2022***\$18,000**Median first-year merit
scholarship**73%**

Received merit scholarship

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COLLEGE NEWS



Zietlow Named Interim Dean

Rebecca Zietlow, Distinguished University Professor and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values, has been named interim dean of the College of Law.

Zietlow joined The University of Toledo faculty in 1995. She is a nationally renowned constitutional law expert and teaches constitutional law, federal courts, and constitutional litigation. Her scholarly interest is in the study of the Reconstruction Era, including the meaning and history of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments.

Zietlow is an acclaimed author with books that span the intersection of law and history. She is among a small group of scholars who study the congressional interpretation of the Constitution.

"I am thrilled to take on my new role at the College of Law," Zietlow said. "I am deeply committed to our students, faculty, staff and alumni, and honored to be furthering the mission of our very special community in the year to come."

Zietlow has held several leadership roles in the College of Law, including associate dean for academic affairs and assistant dean for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In 2020, Zietlow was elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. She received the University's Creative and Scholarly Activity Award in 2018 and the UToledo Outstanding Faculty Research and Scholarship Award in 2012. She formerly served as chair of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Constitutional Law and its Section on Women and Legal Education.

Zietlow received her J.D. from Yale Law School and her bachelor's degree in political science from Barnard College of Columbia University.



Kirby and Rapp Join Leadership Team

The College of Law leadership team has seen a lot of change over the last year. In December 2022, Cindy Kirby '92 was named assistant dean for student affairs, and Geoffrey Rapp, Harold A. Anderson Professor of Law and Values, was named senior associate dean for academic affairs in July 2023.

Kirby is a Toledo Law alum and has practiced law in the Toledo area for over thirty years, concentrating in family law. She is a strong supporter of LGBTQ+ rights and legal issues and has represented members of the LGBTQ+ community in family law cases across the state.

She is the current president of the Toledo Bar Association, which she has been actively involved in for years and has served as chairperson of numerous committees in the past. She has also served as a mentor to a new lawyer for the Supreme Court of Ohio every year that the mentor program has been in existence.

Kirby earned her J.D. from Toledo Law and B.A. in Psychology from The University of Toledo.

Rapp joined the College of Law faculty in 2004, where he teaches and writes in the areas of corporate law, torts, and the sports industry. He returns to this role after having served as the associate dean for academic affairs from 2015-20 and senior associate dean for academic affairs from 2020-21.

Rapp has served on ABA Site Visit Teams, was the Chair of the AALS Section on Associate Deans for Academic Affairs and Research in 2019, served on the Section's Executive Committee in 2017, and its Planning and Nomination Committee in 2016. He serves on the LSAC's Assessments Committee and served on its Finance and Legal Affairs Committee from 2017-19.

Rapp earned his J.D. from Yale Law School and B.A. in Economics from Harvard College.



WANT MORE NEWS?

Catch up on the latest Toledo Law news at utoledo.edu/law/news.



Fiona the Law Dog

When Cindy Kirby '92, assistant dean for student affairs, joined the College of Law leadership team in December 2022, she brought a bonus member of staff with her — Fiona, the law dog.

Fiona is an Irish Red and White Setter who is a Certified Therapy Dog through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. Originally, she was trained to assist Kirby's clients at her family law practice. When Kirby decided it was time to close her practice and embark on a new journey assisting students at Toledo Law, Fiona had a simple switch from calming clients to bringing joy and stress relief to law students.

"Fiona feels most fulfilled when she is comforting others," shared Kirby. "It always brightens her day when she gets to be there for the students to help them decompress and let their worries go for a few moments."

Fiona can be found napping in the Dean's suite or wandering through the Forum between classes to greet students. Students visit the Dean's suite to see Fiona between classes and during study breaks.

"It's great having Fiona on campus," said Sydney Voss, 2L. "Whenever she makes her rounds around the school, it always brightens my day. She provides a break from the stress of class and a pretty good reason to be happy, even if just for a moment."

Fiona the law dog has contributed to countless smiles in the Law Center over the last year, and many more are still to come!

While most students and visitors to the Law Center are excited to meet Fiona, she understands that not everyone is comfortable around dogs. In these cases, arrangements are easily made to accommodate those who prefer to avoid interacting with her.



Students Provide Mediation Services at Local High School

Rogers High School and Toledo Law collaborated to address some of the challenges that students are facing in the post-COVID era. They are working to address decreased attendance and the need for peaceful conflict resolution. Rogers High School Community Hub is committed to being responsive to its students' needs. To tackle these issues, the Rogers team approached Professor Maara Fink to discuss a mediation program.

The mediation program launched at the end of the spring 2022 semester. Hub Director Josh Davies said, "An idea is only valuable if someone has the time and expertise to put it into action. Our partners at Toledo Law — both Professor Fink and the student mediators — have brought this idea to life and expanded our school's capacity to meet our students' needs."

Students serve as mediators on-site at Rogers High School, working under the training and guidance of Professor Fink. A student in the spring 2023 clinic, Maha Zeidan, shared, "In the long run, programs like these can help students avoid citations, criminal charges, and even incarceration. It was so fulfilling to have this kind of impact. We provided a resource they wouldn't have had otherwise."

Initially focused on truancy mediation, the mediation team expanded its work to include conflict mediation. Recent changes in the law have complicated how student truancy is measured and dealt with. The Toledo Law Mediation Team provided various benefits, including empowering students to find solutions to problems and avoiding potential legal issues.

The Mediation Team's time, expertise, and compassion have had a significant impact on the school and its students, including a new initiative to provide after-school activities that promote career exploration in the legal field. Rogers and Toledo Law are committed to continuing and expanding their partnership in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2023!



Toledo Law held an in-person commencement celebration on May 7, 2023, in Nitschke Auditorium, where 83 law candidates and graduates were recognized.

Candice Kline '08 delivered remarks as commencement speaker. She is a partner at Saul Ewing LLP, focusing on bankruptcy and restructuring situations and commercial litigation. Her practice includes loan and deal work, including M&A, workouts, and loan administration. She represents

debtors, creditors, fiduciaries, and public interest stakeholders. She practices in Illinois and Ohio with a nationwide docket in complex commercial matters. Prior to her legal career, Candice earned her M.B.A. in Finance and Marketing, and forged a career for many years in global commercial banking and business.

UToledo Trustee **Will Lucas** conferred degrees.

Ziena Hatem received the Valedictorian Award and served as student speaker.

A first-generation law student, Hatem has a rich cultural background with family in Syria, Lebanon, Nigeria, and England. She served as vice president and executive fundraising chair for the International Law Association, was a class representative for the Student Bar Association, and participated in the Middle Eastern and North African Law Student Association and Law Review.

Hussien Kazwini received the Dean's Award, which honors the graduate who has made the most significant contribution to the college while maintaining high academic performance.

Kazwini was involved in many organizations, including the Inns of Court, Law Review, and the Toledo Bar Association.

"As a first-generation law student, I did not have connections in the legal community, so I made a goal for my 1L summer — meet one new lawyer a week. I achieved that goal and experienced just how welcoming and kind the Toledo Legal community is," Kazwini said.

The graduating students selected Professor **Bryan Lammon** as the recipient of the Outstanding Professor Award for Dedication to Legal Education. Professor **Geoff Rapp** received the Beth Eisler First Year Teaching Award, which is chosen by the first-year class.





THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout fall 2022 and summer 2023, Toledo Law hosted events for students and faculty to engage through networking, building culture, and scholarly enrichment.



Students participated in the Fornoff Competition, which resumed in-person in October 2022.



Professor Brandon Hasbrouck from Washington and Lee School of Law presented "Prisons as Laboratories of Antidemocracy" as part of the Cannon Lecture Series.



Law students and members of the legal community enjoyed a "Battle of the I-75" tailgate party before the Toledo vs. BGSU football game.



MENALSA, LLSA, and BLSA held an Around the World event to celebrate the many nationalities, cultures, and ethnicities that make up the Toledo Law community.



Panelists discussed "Election Law Issues in the Past, Present, Posterity" during the Law Review Symposium.



Students listened during the Spring Stranahan Lecture by The Honorable James C. Ho, "Fair-Weather Originalism: Judges, Umpires, and the Fear of Being Boomed."



WLSA collaborated with The Toledo Women's Bar Association and Toledo Women Lawyers History Project to put on the annual Women's Alliance Spring Reception.



Professor Joe Slater and students Wesley Henkel and Clif Porter performed during the Chili Goof-Off, hosted by the Environmental Law Society.



Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed Middle Eastern and Latino foods and music during "Yalla, Fiesta!", hosted by LLSA and MENALSA.



Attorney Joshua Miller engaged with students on his experience working as an assistant prosecutor in Michigan and navigating the legal profession as an out member of the LGBTQ community during OUTLaw's "Practicing While Out" event.



Over 100 members of the community joined in-person and virtually for the 2023 Dr. Morton Goldberg Lecture presented by Howard Friedman. This event was made possible by the Greater Toledo Community Foundation.



BUILDING LEGAL SKILLS AND HELPING IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Students in the Immigrant Justice Clinic at Toledo Law demonstrate an unparalleled combination of empathy, creative problem-solving, and genuine care as they advocate for their clients while gaining insight into how U.S. legal systems and policy decisions affect immigrants, families, and communities.

While most people understand that immigrating to the United States is a complex process, the students in the Immigrant Justice Clinic are learning firsthand just how unique and intricate these scenarios are for different individuals and families trying to navigate the U.S. immigration system.



The Immigrant Justice Clinic opened at the College of Law in August 2022, launched by Clinical Professor Eugenio Mollo. Created with the goal of providing real-life lawyering experience to students, the clinic provides representation for clients in various family-based and humanitarian-based immigration areas, such as naturalization, citizenship, adjustment of status, refugee adjustment of status, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), temporary protected status, asylum, and relief specifically for immigrant survivors of domestic violence, persecution, torture, and human trafficking.

With a Customs and Border Protection office in Port Clinton, OH, an immigration detention center in Tiffin, OH, and an immigration court in Cleveland and Detroit, Toledo proved to be an ideal location to house a clinic to assist immigrants. Justifying the need for legal support of immigrants throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, Mollo began to develop the structure of, and partnerships for, a successful clinic for Toledo Law students and individuals in need of legal aid and support.

Mollo's background in teaching, lawyering, and community service provided the perfect foundation to launch this new clinic. As a child of immigrant parents growing up with neighbors from around the world, Mollo has always felt a special interest and connection with immigrant communities. "While my upbringing in a diverse immigrant neighborhood helped to spur my interest and passion in immigration, I didn't know at the time where it would lead me," Mollo shared. "In college and law school, I worked with immigrants in various settings. These personal and professional experiences have contributed to my identity as an immigrant justice teacher and attorney."

Toledo Law students who participate in the clinic gain real-world practical skills and an opportunity to hone their lawyering skills. "These are real cases with real clients," said Mollo. "While developing close professional relationships with clients throughout the semester, students learn how to interview and counsel clients, listen attentively, speak and write succinctly, research and analyze relevant law, and assume the role of an advocate. Law students working under the direct supervision of an attorney are allowed to prepare and file immigration applications, and Immigrant Justice Clinic students take full



advantage of this rule. It's a proud moment in a law student's life to sign off on a cover letter and application for relief; it's evidence that they possess the necessary skill set to practice law and make a meaningful difference in someone's life at the same time."

From choosing which clients to take on, to interviewing them and taking detailed notes on their situation, history, and goals, students are making a substantial positive impact on the lives of many people and their family members. Students who enroll in the clinic have a pre-requisite or co-requisite of Immigration Law. Because they have this substantive immigration law knowledge, students are better able to focus on developing the legal skills in the clinic that will transfer to any practice area after graduation. With the addition of the Immigrant Justice Clinic, it's no surprise that this growing area of practice really comes to life. Clients have come from across the world to Northwest Ohio and our clinic, including from Afghanistan, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Haiti, Iraq, Iran, Malaysia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of the Congo, Syria, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

In a weekly seminar, students present updates on the clients they are working with and the progress of their cases. They present their cases to the class in an organization of problems, goals, strategies, next steps, and lessons learned. Following each update, they collaborate to discuss and support each other on their cases.

The clinic provided me with an irreplaceable experience. It was one of the most rewarding parts of my law school career by far. I learned how much simple compassion allows me to connect with someone who has seen a life vastly different than my own. Sitting across from a client and listening to their story lets you truly recognize your privilege in life — and through the clinic, you are able to be a part of that story."

SARAA EL ASSIR '23



In some cases, students also learn how to work through an interpreter to communicate with their clients and experts to satisfy legal standards. They regularly weigh what immigration options might have the most realistic positive outcome for their clients. While navigating all of this, the students are up against deadlines with the government to ensure their clients' cases aren't delayed or put on hold, as some are already looking at more than twenty years to wait for the process to be complete.

One client, Ranesh, shared his experience working with the clinic to receive his green card. "The law students reassured us and made sure that we were prepared for any possible scenario," he said. "We had so many questions, and they answered them all so we could understand what was going on and what our approach would be. It was so successful; we expected to wait 18 months, and I ended up being approved in six months without even having to interview because the clinic prepared the filing so thoroughly."

Ranesh's wife and petitioner-sponsor, Isabel, continued, "They were transparent with us throughout the whole process. We are grateful for the clinic and the students' guidance and diligence. The care and attention we received from the students was amazing."

The clinic has been my favorite experience of my law school journey. Since there is such an emphasis on rankings and our GPAs in law school, it's easy to feel like you are pinned against your classmates. I enjoyed the comradery that existed amongst the eight of us in the clinic. Everyone boosted each other and I felt that everyone was willing to give each other a helping hand.”

MARIA AGUADO, 4L





A client shared this story about the clinic's impact on her life: "I was in a new country not knowing the language or customs, and I was suffering abuse at the hands of my husband. The two law students assigned to my immigration case helped me immensely, and I will be forever grateful. Not only did they provide me with legal counseling and representation, but they also helped me rediscover my strength during the most difficult period of my life, and I am 62 years old. Thank you to the University of Toledo College of Law Immigrant Justice Clinic."

In its first full academic year of running, the clinic enrolled 12 students and assisted over 70 clients in their cases. The clinic received recognition at the annual Access to Justice Awards, with Mollo accepting the 2023 Public Interest Law Award for his leadership in the successful launch and work of the Immigrant Justice Clinic. The award was presented by Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE), Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc. (LAWO), and the Toledo Bar Association.

Already expanding the clinic to offer an Advanced Clinic option for students, the popularity and success of the Immigrant Justice Clinic as it continues through its second year is astounding. "Being an immigration attorney can be emotionally demanding with such high stakes at risk for our clients, but it can also be personally and professionally fulfilling, and it has certainly broadened my perspective for the better," Mollo said. "At the same time, my favorite part of my job is watching students develop and grow their practical legal skills and confidence over the course of the semester. It's such an honor to be alongside my students for their "firsts" — their first client meeting, first filed application, first hearing, and for many, their first realization that they're capable of practicing law with everything they learned at Toledo Law."

MAKING STRIDES IN COMPETITION: **TRIAL ADVOCACY TEAM**



Many students look forward to activities that come along with being an upper-level student such as Law Review, Moot Court, and Trial Advocacy, formerly known as Mock Trial. Recently, the Toledo Law Trial Advocacy team has been making strides in competition and in expanding their reach to more students at Toledo Law.

While a faculty advisor always oversees the team, Trial Advocacy is run by the team's student leaders and members. From organizing tryouts to creating fact patterns and rounds, the students are fully responsible for staying on top of their activities and always being prepared to compete and recruit the next cohort.

Following months of preparation, twelve students on the team traveled to Columbus, Ohio in November 2022 to compete in the Ohio Attorney General (OAG) Mock Trial Competition. Student teams were judged on the various steps of the trial, including pre-trial matters/motions, opening statements and closing arguments, witness performance, and direct and cross-examinations.

There were seven schools present at the competition with ten teams total, two teams from Toledo Law. Both teams returned to Toledo with awards, including first and third place in the overall competition, as well as a few individual awards.

- **First-place team:** Hannah Dennis, Cameron Ervin, Wesley Henkel, Briana Palmer, Joey Stefanko, and Natalie Sullivan (Captain)
- **Third-place team:** Brianna Barnett, Kayte Geist, Kaci McGee, David Odle, Liz Quinn, and Will Robinson (Captain)
- **Individual Awards:** Hannah Dennis and Wesley Henkel received "Best Attorney" awards. Cameron Ervin and Liz Quinn received "Best Witness" awards.
- **Coaches included** Tim Effler '08, Jeanna Jacobus, Will Robinson, Natalie Sullivan, and Holly Welch '07.
- **Faculty Advisor:** Professor Bryan Lammon

The OAG competition is a great experience for many reasons. One is that we get to learn about the different technology available in courtrooms. Like classroom settings, some courtrooms are more updated than others, and to get to practice with the variety of technology and tools available in different settings is great experience.”

JOEY STEFANKO, 3L



In spring 2023, the team hosted the first-ever Trial Advocacy Student Competition (TASC). The 2022-23 team co-captains, Will Robinson and Natalie Sullivan, had been working on creating an in-house competition for Toledo Law students who were 1Ls and interested in getting a taste of Trial Advocacy, and for upper-class students who weren't able to try out for the team due to other commitments such as Law Review.

Robinson and Sullivan's initiative and organization, combined with the motivation of newly elected 2023-24 captains Joey Stefanko and Camerin Ervin, was just what the project needed to launch.

Sullivan said, “During the fall 2022 semester, Will and I worked diligently to create a new approach to the Trial Advocacy program before competing in the Ohio Attorney General's competition. With the help of Cam and Joey, we were able to translate and adjust that groundwork into this new program.”

Stefanko added, “The annual Fornoff competition is such a big deal for Moot Court; we wanted to create something that could have a similar effect for Trial Advocacy.” Since Fornoff takes place in the fall, they decided to move forward with the creation of a spring competition.

Law students from all three classes who wanted to participate in TASC formed teams and began dissecting a fictional case file in January. Students then faced off in a simulated first-degree murder trial. Each team was guided by their student coaches, who all participated in the fall OAG Mock Trial Competition.

Toledo Law alumni and regional legal professionals were invited to participate in the competition as round judges. With overwhelming support from Toledo Law and the community, the event was successful in its launch and served as a networking opportunity for many students as well.

- First-place team: Sydney Voss, Owen Balas, Collin Mischak, Julie Lorincz, and coach Will Robinson
- Second-place team: Stacey Alphonse, Brandon Delia, Juliana Fierro, Lynn Hancsak, Breanna Norman, Camryn Patton, Ryan Scherer, and coach Brianna Barnett
- Third-place team: Joshua Yeager, Jacob Porcarelli, Lauren Mattson, and coaches Briana Palmer and Elizabeth Quinn

Robinson explained the vision for TASC as it continues in the future: “We have emphasized from the beginning of last year's season that the critical aspects of our Trial Advocacy team include engaging with the performative aspects of the practice of law, developing teamwork, collaboration, and camaraderie. As long as these objectives continue to take center stage at TASC, we know the future of the event will be bright.”

“I think the thing that makes this organization cool is that beyond being almost entirely student-run, the OAG coaches are often Toledo Law alumni who give their own time to guide us, even in early or odd hours,” said Stefanko. “It definitely opens doors for students and puts us on par with other organizations. The exposure, networking, and bonding with classmates makes it the best experience.”

FACULTY NOTES



Zsea Bowmani, assistant professor of law, joined the Toledo Law faculty in the fall of 2022, and taught Constitutional Law and a new Environmental Justice seminar, and will also teach Property I and II this year. He presented his work-in-progress on love, compassion, and the law at several conferences, including the 2022 SALT Teaching Conference at Loyola Chicago Law School, 2022 ClassCrits XIII Conference at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and the 2023 African American Intellectual History Society conference at University of North Carolina-Charlotte. Bowmani also spoke on the Post-Roe Legal Landscape of Reproductive Justice event sponsored by the UToledo Department of Women's and Gender Studies, was a panelist at the Climate Justice conference at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany, and a discussant on Critical Race Theory and Education Law and on Inclusive Pedagogy in Law Schools at 2023 Southeastern Association of Law Schools. His publications include a co-authored chapter on community-engaged research for environmental justice by University of California Press — *Luminos*, and his previous research on environmental compliance of an animal rendering plant in a low income San Francisco Bay Area community. Bowmani also served

as the law school's delegate at the 2023 American Association of Law Schools annual meeting in San Diego, the advisor to the Environmental Law Society, and the Environmental Law certificate of concentration.



Lesa Byrnes, legal writing professor, completed her first year as director of legal writing. As director, she oversees the college's legal writing program, including coordinating panels of legal practitioners addressing first-year Lawyering Skills students on objective legal writing and appellate advocacy and the annual Sixth District Court of Appeals of Ohio oral arguments at the college.



Shelley Cavalieri, professor of law, continues teaching Property, Trusts and Estates. She is delighted to be teaching Women and the Law to groups of excited students. She was recently named the chairperson of the Institutional Review Board for the

Social, Behavioral, and Educational Sciences, which ensures that all human research subjects are protected to the fullest extent under federal regulations.



Maara Fink, clinical professor of law, serves as director of the College of Law Externship Programs through which students gain practical experience in corporate counsel, public interest, and mediation placements throughout Northwest Ohio and beyond. Students may take advantage of educational partnerships with placements such as Owens Corning, United States Patent and Trademark Office, and Toledo Legal Aid Society. Students in the mediation externship provide mediation services to students in grades 9-12 in partnership with Rogers High School. Fink was appointed president of the Ottawa Hills Local Schools Board of Education and continues to support state-wide dispute resolution initiatives through her service on the Ohio Mediation Association board and her appointment to the Supreme Court of Ohio Dispute Resolution Commission. She recently provided updates to Chapter 6, Alternative Forms of Dispute Resolution, Baldwin's Ohio Practice — Domestic Relations Law.



Llewellyn Joseph Gibbons, Distinguished University Professor, worked full-time as University Research Integrity Officer (RIO) the last academic year. He enjoyed returning to the classroom this year. He and his co-author have revised Mastering Trademark Law and Intellectual Property Management, Valuation, and Licensing book manuscript is almost finished. He is also completing two articles on trademark law. Finally, he gave several virtual lectures in China.



Gregory M. Gilchrist, professor of law, taught Criminal Law and White-Collar Crime at Toledo Law and the University of Houston Law Center. Gilchrist serves on the Board of Commissioners of the Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. He also serves as a member of the CJA Panel for the Northern District of Ohio. This year he tried one case to verdict before a jury

and secured the dismissal of another case on a successful motion to suppress. Gilchrist continues to bring judges, prosecutors, private counsel, and other court personnel into his classroom.



Rick Goheen, assistant dean for the LaValley Law Library and associate professor of law, served on the ABA site visit team for Mercer Law School's reaccreditation inspection. Along with Assistant Director Christie Lowry, he is working on audiovisual renovations to the McQuade Law Auditorium, the Cubbon Courtroom, and several classrooms. Within the library, their focus is on building the collection to support our students' academic success and the upcoming NextGen bar exam.



Jessica Knouse, professor of law, presented "Domestic Partnership after Obergefell" at the 2022 Law and Society Association Meeting as part of the Feminist Legal Theory CRN's programming. She was invited to speak at Adrian College on the separation of church and state as part of the Romney Institute Debate Series. Knouse gave a CLE for the New York State Department of Health on "Reproductive Technology after Dobbs." She participated in various panels at The University of Toledo, including the Feminist Faculty Series and the Supreme Court Preview. She advises the Family Law Moot Court Team and the Law Review. Knouse also received The University of Toledo's Outstanding Teacher Award.

FACULTY NOTES



Bryan Lammon, professor of law, continued his research on federal appellate jurisdiction. He published or accepted offers to publish multiple papers on the topic and has several more in the works. He also wrote about appellate-jurisdiction issues on his blog, Final Decisions. He co-authored two amicus briefs urging the Tenth Circuit to apply the newly amended Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 3(c) to a pending appeal.



Eugenio Mollo, Jr., clinical assistant professor of law, launched and now directs the law school's newest clinic, the Immigrant Justice Clinic. Students participating in the clinic represent clients on various immigration matters, including VAWA (Violence Against Women Act), U-Visa, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), asylum, adjustment of status, naturalization, derivative citizenship, and temporary protected status. To advance client community goals more broadly, the clinic is also collaborating with the City of Toledo to develop U-Visa policies and trainings, specifically for immigrant victims of domestic violence. Mollo regularly presents on immigration topics, including to the Lucas County Bar Association and the 2023 Education Program at Lakeside Chautauqua. Mollo sits on the Advisory Committee of Welcome Toledo-Lucas County, the region's immigrant-friendly initiative, and serves as co-chair of the Legal Services Workgroup. He was a storyteller for this year's Immigrant Heritage Month, a nationwide celebration of immigration held each June.



Katherine Raup O'Connell, legal writing professor, served as interim assistant dean for student affairs for fall 2022 semester and returned to teaching Lawyering Skills to first year law students in the spring. After seven years as director of legal writing, she has also been ensuring a smooth transition of the legal writing directorship position to Lesa Byrnes. She continues as College of Law representative on UToledo's Student Legal Services Board, presently serving on its Finance and Bylaws Committees.



Marilyn Preston, legal writing professor, will continue her work with the Law and Leadership Institute (LLI), which aims to interest students from diverse backgrounds to consider the legal profession.



Geoffrey C. Rapp, Harold A. Anderson Professor of Law and Values and senior associate of academic affairs, chaired the ABA site team for the re-accreditation visit for the Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law. He accepted an offer to publish an article in the Baylor University Law Review and served as a member of the Law School Admissions Council's Assessments Committee. He coached the law school's Gaming Law Moot Court Team, which finished in the top three of 28 participating teams in this year's competition in Las Vegas, one of the best results for a Toledo Moot Court team in the last decade.



Rob Salem, clinical professor of law, was recently appointed to serve a four-year term on the Ohio Advisory Committee for the United States Commission on Civil Rights. He was also appointed to serve on the Ohio State Bar Association's Board of Governors. Salem served as co-chair for the Justice for All Campaign, benefiting pro bono services in the region. He was also co-chair of the

Access to Justice Awards Dinner. Salem served on a Toledo Public Schools task force to study compliance with state legislation on curricula. He provided cultural competency training to faculty and staff at Sylvania Northview High School and serves on several boards and committees, including Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio, Toledo School for the Arts, and Toledo Victory Center.



Joseph Slater, Distinguished University Professor and Balk Professor of Law and Values, continues to write in the field of public-sector labor law, teach Torts, Evidence, and Labor and Employment law classes. He has been working as a member of the Federal Service Impasses Panel (part of the Federal Labor Relations Authority), which resolves bargaining impasses for federal sector unions and employers. He served on the faculty appointments and is a leader of the law faculty union. He continues to contribute to the website JOTWELL. He coached the Labor & Employment Law Moot Court team. Slater enjoyed playing music with students at the Environmental Law Society Chili Goof-Off. He has been happy with the return to (relative) normality at the school, with more speakers and student events. He is adjusting to his son being off to college at his alma mater of Oberlin.



Lee J. Strang, John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values, convened the first international symposium on common good constitutionalism at Harvard Law School. He published two papers and presented at numerous law schools and conferences. Strang was a visiting professor at Pazmany Peter University in Hungary, and he presented papers at Pazmany and Szegeed Universities. He continued to revise the manuscript of his forthcoming book "The History of American Catholic Legal Education." He was an expert witness in Columbus City Sch. Dist. v. Ohio, on the meaning of Art. VI, § 2 of the Ohio Constitution. Strang successfully shepherded the creation and funding of the Institute of American Constitutional Thought and Leadership at The University of Toledo and has been appointed its director by President Postel.

FACULTY NOTES



Kelly Tomlinson, assistant professor of legal writing and director of academic success and bar preparation, joined the faculty after finishing three years of service as assistant dean for student affairs. She began teaching Advanced Legal Analysis and 3L Extended Bar Preparation during the 2022-23 academic year. In fall 2023, she will also teach Lawyering Skills I. She now serves as the immediate past president of the Morrison R. Waite American Inn of Court after being a member of the executive committee, counselor, and president of the organization.



Rebecca Zietlow, interim dean, Distinguished University Professor, and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values, published “Kennedy’s Anti-Classification Doctrine: Not Judging Well,” in Justice Anthony M. Kennedy: The Rhetoric of Liberty (Penn State University Press 2023). She presented numerous lectures such as “The New Anti-Majoritarian Dilemma” at The Article III Judiciary: Democracy’s Last Line of Defense at Loyola New University Orleans School of Law, “Abortion, Citizenship and the Right to Travel” at the Dobbs and the Workplace Symposium at Chicago Kent School of Law, “The New Underground Railroad: Abortion Rights and Fugitives From Slavery” at the Annual Loyola University Colloquium on Constitutional Law, and “Not Judging Well: Justice Kennedy’s Anti-Classification Doctrine” at the 2022 Annual Conference of the Rhetorical Society of America.



Evan C. Zoldan, professor of law, researches and writes in legislation and statutory interpretation. He has accepted an offer to publish “Issues,” an article about the interpretation of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, in the William & Mary Law Review and “The Major Questions Doctrine in the States,” an article about state and federal administrative law, in the Washington University Law Review. He presented his work at the Legislation Roundtable held at Georgetown University Law Center, the National Constitutional Law Scholars Conference held at the University of Arizona, the Loyola University Chicago Constitutional Law Colloquium, and several faculty workshops.



Explore faculty profiles at
utoledo.edu/law/faculty.

New Faculty



Deborah Machalow

Assistant Professor of Law

Machalow is a legal scholar who focuses on reproductive rights and justice, and women and the law. Prior to joining Toledo Law, Machalow was a litigator. Most recently, she served as an associate at Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. in Madison, WI. Prior to that, she served as a law clerk in the Western District of Wisconsin to the Honorable William M. Conley and as an associate at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom, LLP in New York. Machalow is admitted to practice in New York and Wisconsin. Machalow teaches civil procedure.

Part-time Faculty

Toledo Law's curriculum is enhanced by the contributions of a talented and experienced team of part-time faculty members, who serve as lecturers in the college. Most of them are practicing attorneys who generously dedicate nights and/or weekends to our students.

Thank you to the individuals listed below who have taught in the college over the last several years.

- Mark S. Barnes, J.D.
- Laura Bartell, J.D.
- Krysten E. Beech, J.D. '15
- Christopher L. Bourell, J.D., LL.M.
- Cheri Budzynski, J.D. '07
- Claire R. Cahoon, J.D.
- Karin Coble, J.D. '04
- Shelby J. Cully, J.D. '05
- Benjamin G. Davis, J.D.
- Joshua Dressler, J.D.
- Hon. Myron C. Duhart II, J.D. '96
- Valerie Fatica, J.D. '08
- LaKeytria Felder, J.D.
- Zanita Fenton, J.D.
- Michael Freeman, J.D.
- Nathan Goetting, J.D.
- Donna M. Grill, J.D.
- David T. Harold, J.D. '00
- Jason Hill, J.D.
- Cindy M. Kirby, J.D. '92
- Rena S. Leizerman, J.D.
- John D. Mackewich, J.D. '05
- Megan K. Mattimoe, J.D. '07
- Thomas Moga, J.D.
- E. Kirk Ross, J.D.
- Reem M. Subei, J.D. '14
- George Thomas, J.D. '07
- Debra Vollweiler, J.D.
- Jacob M. Ward, J.D. '05
- Marilyn L. Widman, J.D. '97
- Delcianna Winders, J.D.
- Mechelle Zarou, J.D.
- Hon. Connie F. Zimmelman, J.D. '81

IN THE MEDIA

We are proud of our faculty, staff, alumni, and students who share their insight and expertise with media outlets on a regular basis. The following is a sampling of media appearances from June 2022 to July 2023.

JUNE 2022

June 21 | Roll Call

GEOFFREY CHRISTOPHER RAPP
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Harold A. Anderson Professor of Law & Values

What to watch as Roger Goodell defends the NFL on Capitol Hill

JULY

July 2 | The Hill

EVAN ZOLDAN
Professor of Law and Director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes

The fragility of state regulation after West Virginia v. EP

AUGUST

August 27 | Yahoo! Finance

GREGORY M. GILCHRIST
Professor of Law

Donald Trump's business faces twin probes set for big next steps

NOVEMBER

November 16 | WTOL

ALLY ZENDA
Toledo Law Student

UToledo Law Students Are Giving Back This Holiday Season

DECEMBER

December 8 | Real Clear Investigations

JOSEPH E. SLATER
Distinguished University Professor and Eugene N. Balk Professor of Law and Values

Illinois is Pushing Back Against the Anti-Union Tide

JANUARY 2023

January 23 | WTOL

ROB SALEM AND
JOURDYN MCQUEERY
Clinical Professor of Law and Toledo Law Student

University of Toledo Law School Students Host Name-Change Clinic

FEBRUARY

February 16 | Jurist

REBECCA E. ZIETLOW
Interim Dean, Distinguished University Professor, and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values

Non-Compete Clauses and the 13th Amendment: Why the New FTC Rule Is Not Only Good Policy but Constitutionally Mandated

February 17 | Ohio Advisory Committee

ROBERT S. SALEM AND LEE J. STRANG
Clinical Professor of Law; John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values

Non-Compete Clauses and the 13th Amendment: Why the New FTC Rule Is Not Only Good Policy but Constitutionally Mandated

APRIL

April 16 | Dayton Daily News

LEE J. STRANG
John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values

Hearings set for this week on effort to amend Ohio Constitution ahead of abortion-rights vote

MAY

May 5 | Bloomberg Law

EVAN ZOLDAN

Professor of Law and Director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes

Disney's Retaliation Suit Could Fare Better Than Huawei's Claims

May 10 | Time

REBECCA E. ZIETLOW

Interim Dean, Distinguished University Professor, and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values

Could Joe Biden Use the 14th Amendment to Solve the Debt Ceiling?

May 23 | Law360

BRYAN LAMMON

Professor of Law

Overtime Fumble at Versace Mansion May Stoke More Snags

May 26 | PBS

EUGENIO MOLLO, JR.

Clinical Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Immigrant Justice Clinic

To the Point with Doni Miller: Coming to America (Special)

JUNE

June 3 | The Blade

KENNETH KILBERT

Professor of Law Emeritus

Controversial wetlands ruling draws debate on Ohio's environmental health

June 9 | The Blade

REBECCA E. ZIETLOW AND LEE J. STRANG

Interim Dean, Distinguished University Professor, and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values; John W. Stoepler Professor of Law and Values

Proposal advances for UT, OSU constitutional studies centers

June 19 | Jurist

REBECCA E. ZIETLOW

Interim Dean, Distinguished University Professor, and Charles W. Fornoff Professor of Law and Values

Juneteenth: A Bittersweet Celebration

JULY

July 7 | Roanoke Times

EVAN ZOLDAN

Professor of Law and Director of the Legal Institute of the Great Lakes

Law that fast-tracks Mountain Valley Pipeline challenged

July 14 | The Blade

VYJET' DERDEN

Toledo Law Student

Institute allows high schoolers to get first look at law careers



SEE THE FULL LISTING

Visit utoledo.edu/law/news to see the full listing of engagements with media.

ALUMNI AFFILIATE MESSAGE



Hello, Toledo Law Alumni!

This has been a year of transition for the College of Law as Dean Barros said farewell to Toledo Law for a new opportunity last summer. Rebecca Zietlow has been appointed interim dean for the 2023-24 academic year. Dean Zietlow has been with the College of Law since 1995. I was able to meet with her on the first day of classes, and I feel confident in saying we are in very capable hands.

Both the dean and I agree that linking students with members of the local legal community will be an important goal of the Law Alumni Affiliate. Law LaPalooza was well-attended by students and alumni in September. It is an annual opportunity for law students and alumni to network and socialize, and proceeds go to the John W. Stoepler Scholarship Fund. We will be planning other events throughout the coming year to promote connections between alumni and law students.

The board will carry on the tradition of supporting new law students with gifts at orientation. We strive for board support in Toledo Law events, like the recent Day of Giving and the PILA Fellowship Fundraiser. Finally, we look forward to donating funds for frames that will be gifted to students at graduation.

As president of the affiliate, I am maintaining a close relationship with Toledo Law's leadership, and finding new ways in which the board can aid with the education of aspiring lawyers. I would also like us to take any active role the university desires in helping find a permanent Dean for our school.

I appreciate all the support that is given by the Toledo Law Alums that reside throughout the country. I look forward to a successful year and to seeing many of you at upcoming events.

Lori L. Olender

Judge Lori L. Olender, '96

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

1980



Bryan Cermak joined Foster Swift law firm in Southfield, Mich.

1991



Melissa Peper Firestone was elected as judge of Henry County Common Pleas Court, Domestic Relations and Juvenile Divisions, in Napoleon, Ohio.

1996



Myron Duhart received the 2023 Distinguished Service Award as part of the Access to Justice Awards from Advocates for Basic Legal Equity, Inc. and Legal Aid of Western Ohio, Inc.

1982



Kevin Joyce was elected chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the Lucas Soil and Water Conservation District.

1992



Mary Chapin was elected the 2022 president of the Association of Corporate Counsel National Capital Region.

2001

Corey Minor Smith was appointed senior counsel for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

1986

Bradley Le Boeuf was honored by the Florida Bar as a 50-year member at their Senior Counselor Recognition Luncheon on June 11, 2021.

1995



Keith Hahn was named general counsel at Western Michigan University.

2002



Gerald (Jerry) Trepkowski was appointed Chief Legal Officer and Secretary of Purdue Applied Research Institute, the nonprofit applied research arm of Purdue University.

1987



Ted Potter retired from law librarianship in June 2023 after over 40 years of service. He enjoyed working with all of the fine

faculty, staff, and students during his 15 years at UToledo.

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

2004



Jason Baas has been named partner in Southeast Michigan-based firm, Novara, Tesija, Catenacci, McDonald & Baas PLLC. He serves as co-chair of the firm's Insurance Defense Division.

2005

Rhonda Best was appointed to the Tiffin-Fostoria Municipal Court by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine.

2006



Kelly Golightley was selected as the New Mexico LOPD Contract Lawyer of the Year for 2023.

Sarah Stafford is a judicial attorney for Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart, following more than 8 years of service for Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor who retired in 2023.



Kelly Tomlinson joined the Toledo Law faculty as the director of academic success and bar preparation and assistant

professor of legal writing in August 2022.

2008



Kyle (Verrett) Kern joined South Central Power Company in Lancaster, Michigan as vice president of legal and risk management.

Candice Kline served as The University of Toledo College of Law's commencement speaker in May 2023.



Clinton Wasserman joined the Toledo office of Reminger. Clint focuses his practice on employment law, professional liability, commercial litigation and medical malpractice.

2010



Nicholas Huguelet has been promoted to partner at the Detroit-based management side labor and employment law

firm of Nemeth Bonnette Brouwer PC.

2012



Jacalyn Crecelius was named head of Veterans Services Unit at Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, in connection with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs.



Nicholas Linares has been named to the Ohio Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" list. He is a partner in the Toledo office of Shumaker.



Rebecca Melone announces Melone Hatley, P.C. is the largest solo female owned law firm in Virginia and was recently named one of the best places to work.



Jennifer Reed was commissioned as an officer in the United States Army and was recently sworn in as a judge advocate.

2013



Lidia Ebersole has been named shareholder at Roetzel & Andress, where she has been practicing in the areas of litigation, international and immigration law.

Allison Roach is a staff attorney at the Pro Bono Legal Center at the Center for Family Justice in Bridgeport, Conn.

2016



Lindsey (Cavese) Scherting is now working at Hims & Hers as their senior privacy counsel. Additionally, she and her husband,

Andy, had their third child, a girl, Magnolia "MJ."



Blanca Wheeler is a junior member and owner at Mockensturm, Ltd. specializing in resolving tax controversies,

business transactions, and bankruptcy.

2017



Nicholas Huckaby has been named to the Ohio Super Lawyers "Rising Stars" list. He is an associate in the Toledo office of Shumaker.

2018



Allison Gent joined Gallagher Sharp LLP as an associate attorney.

2021



Kacie Pohlman was hired as an associate attorney for Transitions Legal, a Bloomfield Hills-based family law firm.



SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTE

Share your latest news at utoledo.edu/law/alumni/class-note. Notes will be published in the next issue of Transcript and may be edited for consistency or clarity.

ALUMNI STORIES

The following alumni have been highlighted throughout 2022 and 2023 in the Alumni eNews. Each of them is making a difference in their field of legal practice and has shared their unique stories with us. View the full stories at utoledo.edu/law/alumni/stories.



Trials and Teaching: A Winning Combination

Jeffrey B. Bogart
'72



Advocating for a Fairer World

Katie Hunt
Thomas '09



Advocating for a Fairer World

Beverly McBride
'66



Climbing to the Top

Joshua (Josh)
Driskell '11



Networking Into a Career

Jamar King '13



Challenging the Status Quo

Jasmine (Jazzy)
Rippy '15



Optimizing the Versatility of a Legal Education

Ellen Grachek '02



Creating Success in a Second Career

Candice Kline '08



Blending Interests to Find the Perfect Field

Fred Roth '12



Finding Your Place in the Legal Profession

Genna Hilgenbrink
'19



Building Community and Improving Circumstances

Kurmmell (K.W.)
Knox '97



Empowering Others to Succeed

James (Jim)
Thomas '87



Not receiving the Alumni eNews? Sign up by contacting us at lawcommunications@utoledo.edu.

ALUMNI IN MEMORIAM

Toledo Law pays tribute to members of our community who passed away between July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

1950s

'52 **Charles Shaw Haughey Sr.**
4/26/2023

1960s

'61 **Robert F. Rywalski**
9/23/2022

'61 **Craig Simms Smith**
8/22/2022

'62 **Philip Marshall Rice**
1/16/2023

'62 **Judson Porter Spore Jr.**
8/4/2023

'62 **Robert Edward Witt**
7/22/2023

'63 **Thomas N. Tomczak**
11/11/2022

'68 **Douglas Jefferson Alspach**
12/5/2022

'68 **Thomas E. Butler**
11/2/2022

'68 **N. Stevens Newcomer**
3/16/2023

'69 **The Hon. Charles D. Abood**
10/22/2022

1970s

'71 **George Terrence Coriden**
4/25/2023

'71 **Paul Gerard Gorman Jr.**
9/16/2022

'72 **Gary Lee Brown**
6/3/2023

'72 **Daniel Michael Corveleyn**
10/4/2022

'72 **Clint M. McBee**
8/8/2023

'72 **William Elliot Ruse**
8/30/2022

'75 **Charles R. Aschemeier**
01/04/2023

'77 **Michael David Demchak**
8/1/2023

'77 **David D. Murray**
9/17/2022

'78 **Adrian P. Cimerman**
11/18/2022

'79 **Norman Adelbert Heineman**
12/21/2022

1980s

'80 **Chris W. Faine**
10/25/2022

'80 **James Mark Leibenguth**
10/27/2022

'81 **Mark Alan Conrad**
3/25/23

'81 **Tam Ellen Salsberry**
7/2/2022

'82 **Carl George Hiteman Sr.**
5/26/23

'83 **Jane Frances Bihn**
12/13/22

'84 **Daniel Paul Poignon**
10/9/2022

'85 **Spiros Peter Cocoves**
5/17/2023

'87 **Craig Marc Rappel**
1/18/2023

1990s

'90 **James Allen Adams**
5/10/2023

'91 **Kristen Florence Kenosh**
7/6/2022

'92 **Dr. Donald D. St. Clair**
4/22/2023

'94 **Nicholas George Mancy**
11/14/2022

'96 **Timothy L. Lanier**
3/31/2023

'99 **Jason David Welsh**
10/13/2022

FACULTY

Frank S. Merritt
Professor of Law Emeritus,
joined Toledo Law in 1977
12/8/2022

James E. Tierney
Professor of Law,
joined Toledo Law in 1988
2/6/2023

NEW FUNDS

Newly Endowed Fund

Cara Anne Roecker Memorial Scholarship

Provides scholarships for students in memory of Cara Anne Roecker ('05) whose distinguished academic performance paired with the respect she earned from faculty and fellow students propelled her into a career with Chicago law firm Katten Muchin Rosenman. All this she accomplished while facing severe chronic pain from an injury earlier in her life. Her experience compelled her to write about and advocate for the rights of people who suffer from chronic pain until her death in 2016.

Tempie Ruth McConnell Law Scholarship

Provides scholarships in memory of Tempie Ruth McConnell by her husband The Hon. C. Allen McConnell ('72) and family in honor of the love and support she provided throughout his legal education and their life together. Tempie deeply valued education and spent her entire professional life as a teacher, counselor, and administrator at various Toledo-area schools.

New Funds

Dean D. Benjamin Barros Law Scholarship

Provides scholarships in honor of immediate past Dean D. Benjamin Barros for his contributions to the mission and strength of the University of Toledo College of Law during his eight years of service.

Wilson & Johnson Private Foundation Scholarship

Provides renewable \$30,000 scholarships to cover tuition, fees, and additional expenses for academically high-achieving students who demonstrate leadership within the college.



Personal Hardship Inspires New Scholarship

George Wilson ('80) credits Toledo Law with changing his life. Financial struggles were a major part of Wilson's early life all the way through college and law school. To make ends meet, he started a driveway blacktop business that he worked in the summers. Even though this allowed him to attend law school and reduce the debt he needed to take on, it came at a heavy cost to his grades, social life, and professional network.

Educational costs will be the furthest thing from the minds of several high-achieving Toledo Law students over the next five years thanks to his philanthropic vision. As he considered how he could give back and reinvest in the college, he thought, "What if someone had paid my way through law school? That would have been unbelievable for me. It would have been a game-changer. I probably still would have worked some, but not as much. Whoever those lucky people are who are selected for the scholarship, I just want to change their lives."

The first two \$30,000 scholarships will be awarded from the Wilson & Johnson Private Foundation Scholarship Fund for the 2024-2025 academic year — enough to cover full tuition and fees at current levels with some left for books, living expenses, and other necessities.

Wilson is the founder and managing partner of Wilson & Johnson, a law firm in Naples, Florida, specializing in tax, estate planning, real estate, and business law for high-net-worth individuals. In 2018, he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of the College of Law.

TIME YOUR IMPACT: GIVE FROM YOUR IRA

An individual retirement account (IRA) is an effective way to save for retirement. Throughout your career you can make regular contributions to it and enjoy the tax savings. Eventually, the tax bill comes due — when taking annual distributions and again when you leave your IRA to heirs. If you want to avoid the tax bite and help College of Law students achieve their dreams, then consider a gift from your IRA.

Make Your Gift Today

If you're 70½ years of age or older, there are multiple ways you can use your IRA to make a tax-free gift to The University of Toledo Foundation. The most common option is a qualified charitable distribution allowing you to transfer up to \$100,000 to charity without paying income tax. For individuals currently taking a required minimum distribution, your gift can satisfy all or part of your obligation.

Magnify Your Impact After Your Lifetime

Regardless of your age, you can make a legacy gift from your IRA by designating The University of Toledo Foundation as a beneficiary of your account. This is a great option for extending support from your IRA beyond your lifetime. By doing this you could also greatly reduce the tax burden for your heirs.

For more information, contact Nick Kulik, Senior Director of Planned Giving, at 419.530.5410 or nicholas.kulik@utoledo.edu.



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THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

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EXPLORE EVENTS

We look forward to seeing you at Toledo Law alumni networking events, reunions, conferences, and other special occasions throughout the year. Visit our alumni events page for the latest schedule.

utoledo.edu/law/alumni/events

 utoledo.edu/law/alumni/magazine

   @UToledoLaw

SHARE YOUR STORIES

This issue of the Transcript shares stories of student and alumni success among the Toledo Law community. Email us at lawcommunications@utoledo.edu to share your student or alumni story.

