



University of
Pittsburgh

School of Law

Alumni Newsletter



Latest News

APRIL 2024



Note from Associate Dean Ann Sinsheimer (JD '94)

Greetings from the Office of Equity and Inclusive Excellence at Pitt Law. We are wrapping up the year, my first as the Associate Dean for OEIE. As Dean, I actively work to make the law school community more inclusive. I have been at Pitt Law for almost 28 years as a Professor of Legal Writing, but this role has brought me many new challenges and rewards.

In March, we welcomed our third annual Achieving Excellence speaker, the Honorable Judge Cindy Chung from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She was joined by a panel of distinguished Pitt Law scholars. The event, which was approved for CLE credit, was well attended and open to the community. Keep an eye out for next year's program.

On April 12, we welcomed prospective students to our Student of Color Virtual Visitation Day. This event allows students interested in law school to learn more about law school generally and Pitt Law specifically. This will be our second such event this year. Our first Visitation Day was an in-person event in November. We welcomed about 30 undergraduate students of color attending various Pennsylvania universities. They had the opportunity to meet our current law students, participate in a sample law school class, and learn more about our admissions and financial aid process.

Moving forward, I have many plans, including ways to involve our alumni in programming and initiatives throughout the year. Stay tuned.



Chief Justice Debra Todd (JD '82) Named One of USA TODAY's Women of the Year

Chief Justice Todd is one of USA TODAY's Women of the Year, a recognition of women who have significantly impacted their communities and across the country. Todd, an Ellwood City native, was a first-generation college student whose parents insisted she pursue higher education. In 2023, Todd made history as the first woman to become chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in the court's 300-year history.

[Read more](#)



Portrait of PA Chief Justice Debra Todd Unveiled

"Chief Justice Todd's legacy extends beyond her glass-ceiling-shattering elevation to Chief Justice," Interim Dean Crossley said. "The portrait of Chief Justice Todd that we unveiled honors her accomplishments, but it will do more than that for many years to come." The portrait will be placed for students, visitors, and alumni to view in the Barco Law Building.

[Read more](#)



Jesse Exilus (JD '16) Receives ACBA Young Lawyers Division Outstanding Young Lawyer Award

Jesse Exilus was awarded the Outstanding Young Lawyer Award at the Allegheny County Bar Association's YLD annual meeting. "Being involved with the ACBA has lifted me to new heights with respect to my career and life goals," Exilus said.

[Read more](#)



Carrie Collins (JD '99), Stacey Fuller (JD '94), and Kathleen McKenzie (JD '89) Named 2024 Above & Beyond

City and State Pennsylvania's 2024 Above & Beyond list makes clear that women across the Commonwealth exert their influence through myriad forms. This year's edition features three

Pitt Law alumna: Carrie Collins, Stacey Fuller, and Kathleen McKenzie.

[Read more](#)



Pitt Law Celebrates Law Fellows Donors with Special Event

Law Fellows donors were treated to an incredible evening celebrating the spirit of giving and camaraderie at Pitt Law's Law Fellows event! We were honored to have Pitt Athletic Director Heather Lyke grace us as the keynote speaker with her inspiring words, sharing insights that resonated with everyone present. Seeing

alumni from various generations come together to reminisce, network, and forge new connections was heartwarming.

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Events

The University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni Association is hosting an informal happy hour on May 7 at Troegs Independent Brewing in Hershey, PA. [Register now](#)

Pitt Law, the University of Verona, and the University of Zagreb will host a Conference on Cross-Border Dispute Resolution in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from **May 8-10**. [Register now](#)

Save the Date! The Pitt Law Homecoming Reception will be held on Sept. 20. The Pitt Panthers Homecoming Football Game will take place at Acrisure Stadium on Sept. 21, against Youngstown State.

Faculty News

Professor Kevin Ashley was named a recipient of this semester's Pitt Cyber Accelerator Grants. Ashley's project, Mitigating Misinformation in LLM-Generated Legal Summaries, aims to address the issue of misinformation in the legal domain by utilizing model editing techniques and developing reward models capable of identifying misinformation.

Vice Dean Jerry Dickinson will have two articles published in 2024 in two of the nation's top law journals: "Judicial Laboratories" in the Penn Journal of Constitutional Law and "Takings Doctrinalization" in Washington and Lee Law Review.

Professor Greer Donley joined David Cohen and Rachel Rebouché to speak with [Law Dork](#) about mifepristone cases, the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, the IVF case out of Alabama, abortion shield laws, and votes on abortion ballot measures.

Professor Phil Hackney took U.S. Income Tax Law to Lyon, France, with an epic two-week course at Universite Jean Moulin Lyon III in March.

Professor David Harris published a paper titled "[Toward a Better Criminal Legal System: Improving Prisons, Prosecution, and Criminal Defense](#)," summarizing the approaches and ideas developed by the students in a semester-long course, Issues in Criminal Justice and Law.

Professor and CILE Executive Director Charles Kotuby, Jr. and Dr. Jason McCue co-authored an article for Tortoise Media titled "[Russian Assets: How and Why to Seize Them.](#)"

Visiting Assistant Professor Zhaoyi Li published a paper titled "[Artificial Fiduciaries](#)" that contends that the conventional fiduciary duty framework, with its human-centric orientation, is outdated in the face of advancing AI technologies.

Professors Andrele St. Val and **Ann Sinsheimer (JD '94)**, along with Dr. Omid Fotuhi, presented on the Fostering Resilience & Engagement Project at The Chronicle of Higher Education's pitch-a-thon during the SXSW EDU conference in Austin, Texas, on March 6.

Class Notes



Pitt Law welcomes news and updates and encourages you to inform us of your personal and professional accomplishments by submitting a [Class Note](#)!

Bryant Andrews (JD '17) joined Blank Rome LLP's Pittsburgh office as an associate in the Commercial Litigation practice group.

Corey Bauer (JD '17) was promoted from Senior Attorney to Director at Houston Harbaugh.

Victoria Becker (JD '15) was promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the Pittsburgh office.

Kathryn Coviello Cacciamani (JD '94) was named by Speaker of the Pennsylvania House Joanna McClinton to the newly created Pennsylvania Indigent Defense Advisory Committee on Feb. 1.

Kayleigh Dryden (JD '23) graduated from the Naval Officer Development School and received the Eadie Award, which recognizes the student with the highest in academic and military performance achievement.

Johnathan Foster (JD '16) was promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the firm's Chicago office.

Amanda Grant (JD '11) was named to the 2024 Class of VISTA Millennial Superstars for Chester County.

Ted Hages (JD '19) was named to the Pittsburgh Business Times 2024 class of 30 under 30 list.

David Hickton (JD '81), Pitt Cyber Founding Director, was appointed by President Biden to the Public Interest Declassification Board for a three-year term through Jan. 10, 2027.

Ian Michel (JD '13) joined the firm of Sherrard, German & Kelly, P.C.

Victoria Sanita (JD '99) was promoted to Managing Director of Trials at the Defender Association of Philadelphia.

James Segerdahl (JD '87) was named to the "Pittsburgh Power 100 2024: C-Suite" by the Pittsburgh Business Times.

Tammy Singleton-English (JD '90) was elected to chair of the South Hills Networking Committee for the Solo and Small Firm Section of the Allegheny County Bar Association.