

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



LATEST NEWS

FEB. 2024



Note from Associate Dean Greer Donley

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you and highlight some of the amazing accomplishments of our faculty! My name is Greer Donley. I'm relatively new to Pitt Law—I started in the fall of 2018. I teach the 1L course, Legislation and Regulation, along with a handful of classes in health law, which is my area of scholarly expertise.

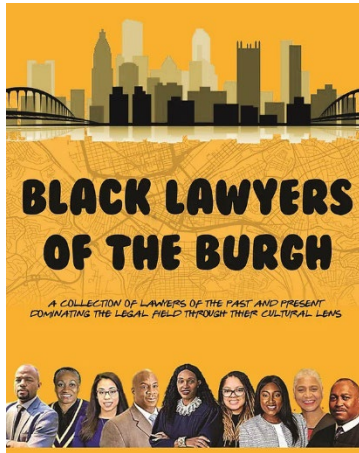
At the end of last summer, I officially started as the Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development. I have the best administrative role: I get to support the scholarship and research vision of our talented faculty. Though our student-focused activities are often the most visible, for many of faculty members, our research is what drives us. We work extremely hard to write about how the law can be improved to ensure justice, equity, and fairness. To sample some of our accomplishments, check out the Faculty News section of the e-newsletter.



A Pitt Law Love Story

Lori McMaster (JD '86) and Dave McMaster (JD '85) are one of many married couples and partners who owe their romance, and their families, to Pitt Law. Lori and Dave met in law school, have been married for 35 years, and have 29-year-old triplets. Lori is fond of saying that "there are three human beings who owe their entire existence to Pitt Law."

[Read more](#)



14 Pitt Law Alumni Featured in New Children's Book

The Allegheny County Bar Association's Homer S. Brown Division launched their first-ever children's book, "Black Lawyers of the Burgh." The book introduces children to careers in the law through the journeys of Pittsburgh-based lawyers including many notable Pitt Law faculty and alumni, like Tony Thompson (JD '06), president of the University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni Association.

[Read more](#)



Vice Dean Jerry Dickinson Receives ACBA Homer S. Brown Division Drum Major for Justice Award

The award highlights Martin Luther King Jr.'s sermon The Drum Major Instinct, initially given at a Baptist church in Atlanta. Many see Dickinson as an embodiment of that legacy — a beacon of justice, equality, and hope that Dr. King himself would be proud of.

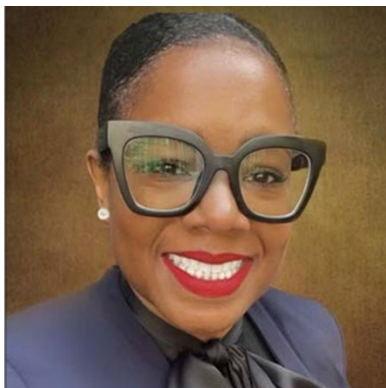
[Read more](#)



Help Pitt Law "Three-peat" at the 8th Annual Pitt Day of Giving on 2.27.24

Mark your calendar – Pitt Day of Giving returns on Tuesday, February 27, 2024! Help us reach our goal of 300 donors! Gifts made between now and February 27 count. By making a gift on Pitt Day of Giving, you help to ensure a brighter future for Pitt Law students for years to come.

[Learn more](#)



Kezia Taylor (JD '06) Appointed U.S. Magistrate Judge

The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania appointed Kezia Taylor as a U.S. Magistrate Judge for its Pittsburgh division to fill the vacancy resulting from the recent retirement of Judge Lisa Pupo Lenihan (JD '83). Taylor was sworn in on Dec. 22, 2023. Most recently, she served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania and as a faculty member at the Department of Justice's National Advocacy Center.

[Read more](#) (page 9)



Hon. Dan Anders (JD '98) Named Administrative Judge for the Philadelphia Trial Division

Gov. Edward Rendell appointed Judge Anders (JD '98) to the bench in 2007. He held assignments in the family court, criminal trial, and civil trial divisions before being named supervising civil division judge in 2020. Before his judicial appointment, Judge Anders worked as an attorney at Pepper Hamilton (now Troutman Pepper).

[Read more](#)



Pitt Law Partners with Neighborhood Legal Services on Pro Bono Intersession Project

For the second year, we have partnered with Neighborhood Legal Services to host the Rural Legal Clinic in New Castle, PA for the Pro Bono Intersession Project. Current Pitt Law students and NLS attorneys (including Adam DiBuo (JD '19) and Logan Lewis (JD '19)) are helping low-income clients with family law and

housing eviction issues.

[Read more](#)



Law Review Festschrift Honors Professor Rhonda Wasserman

Celebrating the incredible legacy of Professor Emerita Rhonda Wasserman, the Pitt *Law Review* published a must-read Festschrift issue. Featuring pieces from respected legal scholars and her works, this issue is a testament to her remarkable and trailblazing contributions to legal scholarship.

[Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Law Fellows donors (\$1,000+ or \$500+ for alumni who graduated within the past 10 years) are invited to a celebration on at the Hotel Monaco on **Thursday, February 22**. The event will begin at 5pm and Heather Lyke, Pitt Athletic Director, will be a special guest speaker. [Learn more and register here](#)

Save the Date! The University of Pittsburgh *Law Review*, in collaboration with its sponsors and the School of Law, is hosting a Federal Courts Symposium in Honor of Professor Emeritus Arthur

Hellman on **Friday, April 5, 2024**. To learn more about sponsoring the event, contact Daniel Tublin, Senior Articles Editor (DJT65@pitt.edu), and Peter Oh, W. Edward Sell Fellow and Professor of Law (poh@pitt.edu). Stay tuned for more information.

To celebrate Sunshine Week, the Pennsylvania Bar Association Bar/Press Committee and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law present, Open Records and Open Meetings on **Thursday, March 14**. This 2-hour CLE program will cover basics on Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know-Law, Act 22, and the Sunshine Act. [Register here](#)

The Honorable Cindy Chung of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit is our speaker for this year's Achieving Excellence speakers' series on **Thursday, March 28**. This series highlights those in our community who use their platform and expertise to make the world a more equitable and inclusive place. This program is approved for one hour of ethics PA CLE credit. [Register here](#)

Join us on **Tuesday, April 9**, for an alumni reception at [Firefly](#) in Washington, DC from 5-7 p.m. [Register here](#)

Join Law Schools from the University of Pittsburgh, University of Verona, and University of Zagreb for a Conference on Cross-Border Dispute Resolution in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The conference will be held from **May 8-10**, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. [Learn more and register here](#)

FACULTY NEWS

Professor William M. Carter Jr.'s article, "[The Second Founding and Self-Incrimination](#)" was published by the Northwestern Law Review. The article explores the self-incrimination doctrine through the lens of enslaved persons and argues for broader Fifth Amendment protections.

Vice Dean Jerry Dickinson's article, "[A Theory of Federalization Doctrine](#)," in the Dickinson Law Review sets forth a justificatory theory of federalization doctrine by arguing that the doctrine emanates from the founding generation's practices of consulting and borrowing the pre-Republic states' judicial opinions, constitutions, and statutes to draft and interpret the federal Constitution and its Bill of Rights.

Professors Ronald A. Brand and **Charles T. Kotuby** published an [op-ed in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) about the importance of international law. They discussed real situations in places like Ukraine and Gaza, where people wonder if international law works, especially when there is no powerful group to enforce it.

Professors John Linarelli and **Christian Powell Sundquist** were elected Fellows of the American Bar Foundation.

Associate Dean Ann Sinsheimer has been awarded a grant from Pitt's Year of Discourse & Dialogue. This grant will support "First Amendment Rights Teach-In," a program she

conceptualized and developed with Allie Linsemeyer, Vincent Johnson, and Pitt's Associate Provost and Dean of Students Carla Panzella.

Professor Greer Donley and her colleagues delve into an analytical exploration of the statutory schemes brought into play by the leading states of the "shield laws" movement: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York in their latest Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics article, "[Understanding Shield Laws](#)."

Professor Philip Hackney [testified](#) before the U.S. House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight at a hearing on the growth of the tax-exempt sector and its Impact on the American Political Landscape.

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!

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

Benjamin Baer (JD '07) recently launched his own personal injury law firm with offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

John Comiskey (JD '99) was promoted to partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP.

Brian Filler (JD '13) was elected principal at Miles & Stockbridge.

Julia Gitelman, Kerven Moon, and Connor Sease, all class of 2019 alumni, participated in the 42nd Annual National Trial Advocacy College at The University of Virginia School of Law.

Greg Graham (JD '13) was promoted to Shareholder at Marshall Dennehey.

Levi Logan (JD '07) was promoted to equity partner at Pittsburgh firm Meyer, Unkovic & Scott.

Vincent Longo (JD '97) has been welcomed as a National Academy of Arbitrators member.

Kenneth Ludlum (JD '15) was promoted to partner at Faegre Drinker.

Paul Supowitz (JD '89) was named Interim Secretary to the Board of Trustees at the University of Pittsburgh.

Hon. Andrew F. Szefi (JD '99) (ret.) has joined Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.'s Pittsburgh office.