

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



LATEST NEWS

FEB. 2023



## **Professor Haider Ala Hamoudi Appointed Interim Dean of the School of Law**

Provost Anne Cudd has appointed Vice Dean and Professor of Law, Haider Ala Hamoudi, to Interim Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. Haider came to Pitt as an Assistant Professor of Law in 2007. From 2013 to 2017, he served as Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development and subsequently served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from July 2017 to July 2018. He was

promoted to Vice Dean on July 1, 2018. Provost Cudd also acknowledged former dean Amy Wildermuth's leadership and meaningful work on behalf of Pitt Law. [Read more](#)



## **Justice Debra Todd (JD '82) Installed as First Female Chief Justice PA**

Surrounded by family, friends, and colleagues, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Debra Todd (JD '82) made history as she was formally sworn in as Pennsylvania's 58th Chief Justice. She became the first woman installed as chief in the Court's 300-year history. "Today, my heart is full of joy and gratitude,"

said Chief Justice Debra Todd. "Joy in arriving at this moment and gratitude for all the strong and determined women who paved the way and for those who supported me throughout my journey."

UPLAA President Judge Mary Jane Bowes (JD '79) gave welcoming remarks at the installment ceremony held at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh on Jan. 20. [Watch here](#)



### **Dawne Hickton (JD '83) Named to the National Space Council's Users Advisory Group**

As Chair of the National Space Council, Vice President Kamala Harris announced that Dawne Hickton (JD '83) had been selected to serve on the National Space Council's Users Advisory Group (UAG). Hickton is Chair and CEO of Cumberland Additive in Pittsburgh, a 3-D printing company serving the space, defense, and aerospace markets, and was formerly President of the Critical Mission Solutions business at Jacobs. The UAG will provide the National Space Council with advice and recommendations on space policy and strategy. [Read more](#)



### **Help Pitt Law "Three-peat" at the 7th Annual Pitt Day of Giving on 2.21.23**

Mark your calendar – Pitt Day of Giving returns on Tuesday, February 21, 2023! Last year, for the second consecutive year, Pitt Law won the Raise the Bar challenge with a 75.69% increase over last year's 181 donors. We also placed 6th in the top 10 highest-ranked participants. Help us three-peat with the shared goal of giving today to transform

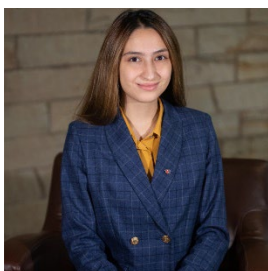
tomorrow. By making a gift on Pitt Day of Giving, you help to ensure a brighter future for Pitt Law students for years to come. [Learn more](#)



### **Inaugural Intersession Pro Bono Project**

Pitt Law launched a new week-long Intersession Pro Bono Project this year with the help of several alumni. Neighborhood Legal Services attorneys Adam DiBuo (JD '19), Cynthia Gilkey (JD '03), and Logan Lewis (JD '19) trained and supervised ten Pitt Law students' residential housing eviction and family law/custody procedures in New Castle. Together, they assisted over a dozen clients. Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas Judge Craig Cox (JD '80)

attended the Networking Event held during the weeklong project.



### **Shakhzoda Tuychieva (SJD '26) Receives fellowship from ABA**

Pitt Law student, Shakhzoda Tuychieva, was named to the 2023 class of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Dispute Resolution fellows. The fellowship promotes careers and leadership in dispute resolution — a term that encompasses a variety of strategies to provide an alternative for resolving conflicts and claims outside of court, which

can be costly and limit the participation of involved parties. Tuychieva will serve on the Women

in Dispute Resolution committee, which serves as a professional development and networking resource for women in the field. [Read more](#)



### **Dentons Cohen & Grigsby and Pitt Law Establish Diversity Fellowship**

The Dentons Cohen & Grigsby Diversity Fellowship Fund will provide tuition support for a first-year law student from an underrepresented group, renewable for up to two years based on academic merit — it also provides recipients with a paid summer associate position at Dentons Cohen & Grigsby in the student’s first summer of law school with an opportunity to return for a second summer. “We are proud to support Pitt Law’s efforts to develop the next generation of talented and diverse lawyers. We hope the Dentons Cohen & Grigsby Diversity Fellowship Fund will help these impressive students achieve their goals and reach their highest potential,” said Christopher B. Carson (JD ’85), President and CEO of Dentons Cohen & Grigsby. [Read more](#)

### **Pitt Law Establishes Professional Lending Closet in Honor of William Theisen (JD ’19)**

We are very excited to announce the new Pitt Law Professional Lending Closet, dedicated to William Theisen (JD ’19) who tragically passed away on November 20, 2021. When Will’s wife donated his suits to the law school, an idea was born. With your help, we hope to add professional clothing donated by Law School alumni, faculty, and staff. The clothing is intended for job interviews, career fairs, networking events, and the workplace. It will be free for anyone in our Pitt Law community to loan out for these purposes. If you have items you would like to donate, please contact [Lori McMaster](#).

In addition, in order to ensure we have a wide array of sizes and options, you can also help us by donating to Pitt Law for the lending closet [here](#).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**



The live CLE webinar, The Americans with Disabilities Act - Trends and Cases to Start 2023, will be presented by Bruce Adelson on Wed., March 15, via Zoom. As 2023 begins, the number of Americans with Disabilities Act court cases keeps climbing. The webinar will discuss ADA basics, new developments, US Department of Justice enforcement, and best practices to minimize ADA liability. The presentation will also include the continuing increase in ADA lawsuits against healthcare providers, the courts' response to serial ADA cases, and the lawyers who file them.

[Learn more and register](#)

The annual Mark A. Nordenberg Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Psychiatry will be presented by Samuel Bagenstos on Thurs., March 16, in the Barco Law Building. Bagenstos serves as the General Counsel to the US Department of Health and Human Services. His lecture, "Health Justice Over Time," will consider the broader timeframe over which social decisions contribute to health inequities and disparities. Bagenstos will highlight possible legal implications, with attention to the COVID pandemic and other acute and chronic health crises. [Learn more and register](#)

The University of Pittsburgh School of Law Center for International Legal Education presents: The Jurisprudence and Legacy of the Honorable Joseph F. Weis, Jr. Join us on Friday, March 17, for this full-day program in the Barco Law Building. This program features 4-panel presentations and is approved for 6 CLE credit hours. [Learn more and register](#)

**Save the Date!** Pitt Law will host the Race + IP 23 conference on April 13-15. The theme will be Imperial Scholarship Revisited, after Pitt Law Emeritus Richard Delgado's groundbreaking article. Look for continued updates at [raceipconference.org](http://raceipconference.org).

## FACULTY NEWS



**Professor Anjali Vats** was announced as a 2022 member of this year's Soros Equality Fellows. Vats will join a diverse group of professionals to advance racial justice, including voting rights, immigration, asylum practices, intellectual property law, and media accountability. [Read more](#)

**Professor Deborah Brake** coauthored and published a new edition of her casebook: Bartlett, Rhode, Grossman, Brake & Cooper, *Gender and Law: Theory, Doctrine, Commentary* (9th ed., Aspen Publishing, 2023). It is the leading casebook for law school courses on Gender and the Law. Read more: <https://www.aspenpublishing.com/bartlett-gender8>

**Professor Mary Crossley** has published her first book, *Embodied Injustice: Race, Disability and Health*. Her work is a deeply researched, passionate inquiry into healthcare disparities among marginalized groups, primarily African Americans, people with disabilities, and African Americans with disabilities. [Read more](#)

**Professor Greer Donley** was in the top 20 most downloaded SSRN law authors in the last 12 months and the second most downloaded female law professor in 2022. [Read more](#)

## CLASS NOTES



Pitt Law welcomes news and updates and encourages you to keep us informed of your personal and professional accomplishments by submitting a Class Note!

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

**Dr. Fatima Waziri-Azi (JD '11)** has been named the 2022 recipient of the Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award. The Sheth International Young Alumni Achievement Award acknowledges a University of Pittsburgh alumnus who entered Pitt on a student visa, earned a degree in the last fifteen years and contributed to the international community through professional achievement.

**Kathy Cerminara (JD '87)** has been selected as the recipient of the AALS Section of Law, Medicine, and Health Care Section's 2023 Distinguished Health Law Service Award. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions and community service activities of law teachers in service in health law.

**Dave Forti (JD/MBA '95)** has been named a Co-Chair by Dechert. Forti is currently Co-Chair of the firm's global finance and real estate practices, advising on some of the world's largest real estate financing transactions. In 2022, Mr. Forti was recognized for the second time as a Real Estate MVP by Law360 for advising on many of the largest commercial real estate loans originated in the past year, and he is recognized as a highly regarded banking lawyer by IFLR1000.