

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER



LATEST NEWS

SEPT. 2022



Save the Date for Homecoming 2022

Pitt Law and the Pitt Law Alumni Association look forward to welcoming you to the 2022 Homecoming Celebration on Fri., Oct. 7 and Sat., Oct. 8, 2022.

We have a lot to celebrate this year! We are back on campus with a full schedule of events to entertain all members of our alumni family, including the annual

Law Alumni Reception, the pregame tailgate, and - of course - fireworks at the Cathedral.

[Register Here](#)



Inaugural Aldisert Distinguished Jurist Awards

You are invited to the inaugural Aldisert Distinguished Jurist Awards on Weds., Sept. 21, 2022, at 4:30 p.m., followed by a reception and dinner. We will honor the life and legacy of Judge Aldisert and recognize the inaugural recipients,

Judge Anthony J. Scirica and Justice Debra Todd (JD '82).



Calling All Alumni from the Classes of 1970, 1971, and 1972

Honor Pitt Law Alumni by celebrating 50+ years since graduation at the 2022 Golden Gavel celebration on Mon., Oct. 10, from 11 a.m-1 p.m. This year's event, held at the Hotel Indigo on Technology Drive in Pittsburgh, will feature remarks by Dean Wildermuth. Registration is

complimentary for honorees and a guest and includes brunch. Contact [Ben Ginsberg](#) to learn more.



Judge Lenihan Receives Federal Magistrate Judges Association's Founders Award

The Hon. Lisa Pupo Lenihan (JD '83) has been named a recipient of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association's (FMJA) 2022 Founders Award. The Founders Award is the most prestigious honor the FMJA bestows and is presented to a person who has made valuable and lasting contributions to the Magistrate Judges system of the United States courts. Past recipients include Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice William H. Rehnquist.

[Read More](#)



Judge Ward presented with 2022 Amram Award

The Hon. Christine Ward (JD '82), Administrative Judge of the Civil Division of the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas, was honored with the Philip Werner Amram Award at the 2022 ACBA Bench-Bar Conference. The award was established in 1990 in memory of Philip Werner Amram, a long-time friend of the Bench-Bar Conference. The Amram Award recognizes individuals who personify professional excellence and who have demonstrated a substantial commitment to the ideals of the ACBA as well as the betterment of the general community, and Judge Ward certainly fits this description. [Read more](#)



Pittsburgh Immigration Lawyer Finds Herself Uniquely Suited to Help Ukrainians

Ellen Freeman (JD '99) left Ukraine in 1993. She never dreamed that nearly 30 years later, she'd help others do the same. An immigration attorney who started her own firm after working for some of Pittsburgh's largest law firms, her work specializes in navigating the immigration system for corporations hiring international employees. Now she's helping all people navigate immigration issues related to the war in Ukraine, from the families of her elementary school classmates to Russian artists. [Read more](#)



Class of 1980 Grad Named Pennsylvania Bar Association President

Jay N. Silberblatt (JD '80) of the law firm of Silberblatt Mermelstein PC was sworn in as President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA). Silberblatt holds memberships in several PBA sections and additional PBA committees and most recently served on the PBA COVID-19 Task Force, which provided timely information to assist lawyers in their practices during the pandemic.

To recognize his achievement, Dean Amy J. Wildermuth and Pitt Law Alumni Association President Judge Mary Jane Bowes (JD '79) hosted an August reception in Harrisburg which honored Silberblatt's selection as President. [Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Diversity and Inclusion in the Profession: Past, Present, and the Future

The Pitt Law Black Alumni Committee hosts "Diversity and Inclusion in the Profession: Past, Present, and the Future" on Thurs., Sept. 15, from 5:30-7 p.m. in Eckert Seamans Grant Street office. Panelists will explore the importance of promoting and increasing racial diversity and inclusion in the profession and offer ways in which Black and African American attorneys may overcome the barriers that limit their growth and their full participation in the practice of law. Speakers:

- Justice Cynthia Ackron Baldwin
- Martha Richards Conley (JD '71)
- Derek Illar-Antonucci (JD '09)
- Aubrey Jones (JD '07)
- Tony Thompson (JD '06)

This program has been approved by PACLE for 1.0 ethics hours of CLE credit. Eckert Seamans will report CLE credits earned to the Pennsylvania CLE Board. Attorneys may be eligible to receive CLE credit through reciprocity or attorney self-submission in other states; a Uniform Certificate of Attendance will be provided for convenience.

Constitution Day 2022: The Constitution America Could Have Had

Join Pitt Law on Fri., Sept. 16, at 12:30 p.m. in the Barco Law Building for a Constitution Day lecture, The Constitution America Could Have Had, presented by Richard Albert, Professor of World Constitutions at the University of Texas at Austin. In this lecture, Albert will dig into America's past to excavate the Constitution the country could have had.

Richard Albert has published over twenty books on democratic reform and constitutional law. He holds law and political science degrees from Yale, Oxford, and Harvard.

The Business of Humanity: Current Events and the ESG Obligations of Multinational Corporations

The Center for International Legal Education (CILE) and the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business welcome all to "[The Business of Humanity: Current Events and the ESG Obligations of Multinational Corporations](#)" on Thurs., Sept. 22, from 1-5 p.m. in the Teplitz Memorial Moot Courtroom. This conference will provide a forum for discussing these considerations, especially as they relate to the complex legal and operational issues raised by conflict situations.

This program has been approved by PACLE for 2.0 substantive hours of CLE credit. There will be a \$60 fee for processing CLE credit for this event. This presentation is free to Pitt faculty, staff, and students and those not seeking CLE credit.

FACULTY NEWS



[Greer Donley](#) co-wrote a New York Times article with Arkansas School of Law Professor Jill Wieber Lens. "[Why Do We Talk About Miscarriage Differently From Abortion?](#)" argues that the abortion rights movement should embrace subjective fetal value as a response to the anti-abortion concept of personhood-at-conception & to forge an alliance with the pregnancy loss community.

[Spearit](#), [Deborah Brake](#), [Jabeen Adwai](#) and [Anjali Vats](#) authored the top 4 papers listed on the latest [SSRN Discrimination, Law and Justice eJournal](#).

[Sheila Vélez Martínez](#) and the Immigration Law Clinic is [lending a hand to help Afghan refugees secure asylum](#) by hiring an Asylum Fellow to train and support pro bono attorneys who will work with local organizations in assisting refugees.

[Anthony Infanti](#) published an article with Bridget Crawford of Elisabeth Haub School of Law that was recently published in the *Australian Tax Review*. The title of the article is "[Critical Tax Theory: Insights From the US and Opportunities for All](#)," 51 *Australian Tax Review* 81 (2022).

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>

Pastor Earl Harris (JD '68) graduated from The Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Development Institute on July 31. Since 2008, the institute has provided “personal and professional development training for all leaders committed to serving their community.”

Harris practiced law while obtaining his Divinity degree from the Virginia Union School of Theology. Harris said he “has always been a strong voice for justice, using law and his position as pastor to make real change.”

Erica Laughlin (JD '04) was named the new President of the Allegheny County Bar Association. Laughlin is a Shareholder at Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky where she practices civil litigation in state and federal courts and has successfully represented individuals and businesses in commercial disputes and civil matters, including personal injury, professional malpractice, insurance defense, civil rights defense, construction, and municipal law claims.

Patrick Yingling (JD '11), a partner at Reed Smith, was recognized with the Chicago Bar Association's and Chicago Bar Foundation's Exceptional Young Lawyer Award for 2022. At 36 years old, Yingling has dedicated, on average, more than 750 hours each year to pro bono cases that advance justice, equity, and the rule of law. As recognized by the Foundation, his drive and dedication to improving access to justice make him a fitting recipient of the 2022 award.

Chris Carter (JD '14) was named the new Pitt Athletics beat reporter for [The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#). “...I had always been fascinated by sports and the work to cover its events in media. During my time in law school, I began writing for a Steelers blog as a means to make money off a side job,” said Carter. “After graduation, I continued to write about the Steelers and learned more about the craft as I gained more experience.”

Sophie Lee (JD '22) was named a recipient of the 2022 NAWL Outstanding Law Student Award. “I am beyond honored to receive the 2022 NAWL Outstanding Law Student Award. It is humbling and meaningful to have such an incredible organization made up of accomplished and empowered women recognize my commitment to ensuring women's advancement in society, particularly in the realm of reproductive justice.”