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## Student Profile: Incoming SBA President Jalela Jallaq

Cleveland State University College of Law 3L Student and incoming Student Bar Association President **Jalela Jallaq** knew that she wanted to become an attorney when she was 12 years old. She credits this to growing up in a single parent household where she held extra responsibilities as a child and was exposed to many injustices in the world. This stayed with her, and she knew she wanted to work in a profession where she could help people and give back to the community.

As an undergraduate at the University of Cincinnati studying criminal justice, Jalela interned at the DC Corrections Information Council. There she worked with incarcerated people and provided tools and resources for re-entry into society. The experience only confirmed for Jalela that she was heading down the correct path.

“As I answered our clients' phone calls and letters, I felt I was their voice outside of the penitentiaries. Being a lawyer, to me, means being a voice to those whose voices aren't

always heard,” Jalela explained.

Jalela also discovered at a young age that she wanted to practice law as a personal injury attorney. When she was 16 years old, Jalela was involved in a horrific car accident that left passengers critically injured and Jalela traumatized to this day. She was able to recover physically and received a settlement with monetary damages from the crash. That settlement check ultimately helped her pay for college.

“Being in a car accident is traumatizing, so to have some recovery made it easier to move along in life and, as a lawyer, I hope to do this for others.”

[Read More](#)



## New Leadership and Law Certificate

CSU|LAW has added one of the nation’s first **Leadership Certificates** for J.D. students to our offerings, commencing Fall 2023. The certificate is the latest component of the [P. Kelly Tomkins Leadership and Law Program](#) that was created in 2018 by **Dean Lee Fisher** and CSU Board of Trustee member **Kelly Tompkins ’81** through a generous donation by Kelly Tompkins.

“This Leadership Certificate gives every student the opportunity to take a concentrated set of courses focused on taking their leadership skills to another level. Increasingly, employers value leadership skills such as collaboration, persuasive communication, negotiation, mediation, and problem-solving, just as much as they value knowledge of the law. We are committed to educating a new generation of resilient lawyer-leaders who succeed in a volatile, uncertain, and complex world,” Dean Fisher said.

The Certificate requires a minimum of 15 credits total, including a foundational leadership course taught by Dean Fisher with assistance from Kelly Tompkins and **Leader-in-Residence Sharon Sobol Jordan**.

[Learn More](#)



## Living Justice Podcast

In the latest Living Justice Living Leadership Podcast, **Dean Lee Fisher** interviews **2023 CSU|LAW Hall of Fame Inductee Judge Clifton Newman '76** who presided over the Alex Murdaugh double murder trials.

[Listen](#)

[Video Podcast](#)

Dean Fisher's popular biweekly podcasts provide our listeners with inspiration and insight into the lives and careers of leaders and advocates for justice. He interviews guests from current and former U.S. Senators, Governors, Attorneys General, Ohio Supreme Court Justices, CEOs, judges, and lawyers, to disrupters, changemakers, and innovators.



## 2023 HALL OF FAME CELEBRATION

Friday, Nov. 3, 2023 • 5:30 pm  
CSU College of Law



## Featured Hall of Fame Honorees

Our [6th Annual CSU|LAW Hall of Fame Celebration](#) honoring our [2023 Hall of Fame Honorees](#) is on the evening of **Friday, November 3, 2023, 5:30- 8:00 p.m.** at the law school.

This special celebration gives us the opportunity not only to honor the new class of inductees but also is our single best opportunity to raise funds for much-needed student scholarships. The Hall of Fame celebration is the only annual fundraising event sponsored by the law school.

Please consider [purchasing one or more tickets, becoming a sponsor, and/or placing an ad in the program book](#) to help celebrate one or more of our 2023 inductees.

Each of our Honorees will be featured in an issue of the CSU|LAW newsletter. Meet three of the honorees below.

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## Hon. John J. Donnelly

CLASS OF 1969

**Former Judge, Cuyahoga County Probate Court**

*"CSU|LAW has had such a major and positive impact upon my life! The school allowed people like me who worked during the day to pursue their dreams of becoming a lawyer and helping others achieve justice. It provided me with a career more satisfying than I could ever have imagined."*

[Read More](#)



## Arthur Elk

CLASS OF 1973

**Elk + Elk, Managing Partner**

*"Cleveland State University Law School allowed me to learn, exchange ideas with knowledgeable professors, and develop my skills in the legal profession. I was exposed to the endless possibilities of the incredible graduate program offered to obtain a Juris Doctorate. I was able to refine my skills, explore opportunities, and discover which area of law I was most passionate about. I can't imagine a law school doing more to prepare a student for a life of justice and passion."*

[Read More](#)

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## Professor Joel Jay Finer

### Former CSU|LAW Faculty Member (Deceased)

Professor Finer began his tenure with Cleveland State College of Law in 1980 and retired in 2008. He was well known for his love of learning and teaching; he often told his students, “Everything is open to question; challenge me, challenge the judges, challenge yourself, but remember to do what’s right and to love what you’re doing.” **The Cleveland State University College of Law Professor Joel J. Finer Award**, established by **Carter Strang '84** and Professor Finer’s wife **Joan**, is given annually to the law school’s top Criminal Procedure students.

[Read More](#)

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## Appellate Practice Clinic Traveled to U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

On June 14, the CSU Law Appellate Practice Clinic went to Cincinnati to conduct an oral argument before the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

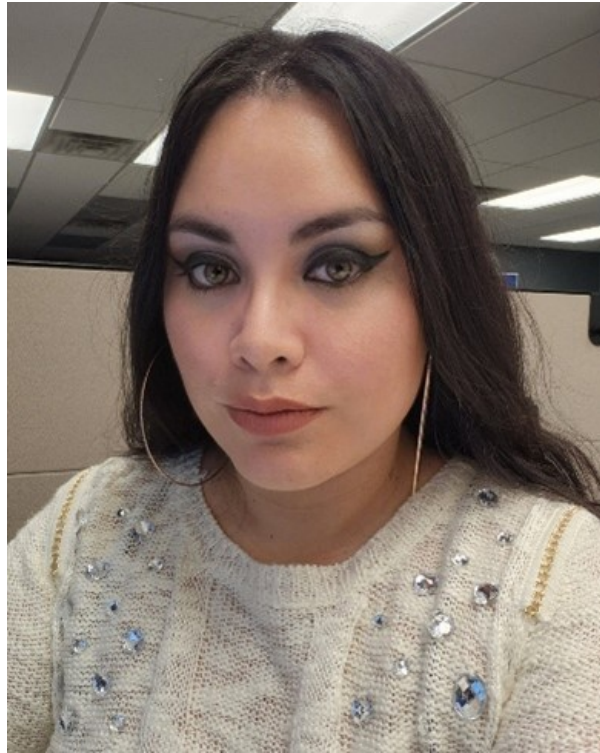
The Clinic's team included students **Philip Shipman '24** (left), **Mickey Isakoff '24** (center), and **Professor Doron Kalir** (right), who directs the Clinic and served as counsel of record.

Additional Clinic students involved in this case — from the opening brief, to reply brief, to oral argument preparation — included **Dalya Oprian**, **Tigan Woolson**, **Tony Zarrella**, **Abby McCoy**, **Dylan Brown**, and **Joe Stebelton**. **Professors Jonathan Witmer-Rich**, **Matthew Green**, and **Joe Mead** graciously assisted in the preparation for the oral argument.



[Read More](#)

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## Featured LL.M. Student: Miriam Kobella

**Miriam Kobella** is a current LL.M. student at CSU|LAW. She is originally from Mexico and is a naturalized American. In Mexico, Miriam was a lawyer who practiced in the areas of Real Estate, Family Law, and Contracts. She also studied Communication Science with a focus on organizational communication.

“For me, law is not just a career choice, it is my passion,” said Miriam.

Miriam came to Cleveland with her husband and now loves the area. She chose CSU|LAW because it offers flexible schedules and many alumni attorneys who she admires. CSU|LAW is giving Miriam an understanding of the U.S. legal system, which along with her previous experience, will help her to reach her goal of contributing to the legal field in the U.S. and advocating for justice. She intends to practice law in Litigation, Customs, and/or Family Law.

*The LL.M. (Master of Laws) is a Postgraduate Law Degree for students with a J.D. or LL.B degree. At CSU|LAW, many of our LL.M. students are international students. Currently our LL.M. students come from nine different countries, speak several languages and add a wealth of diversity and uniqueness to the classroom experience. For some, they obtain the LL.M. to learn about the United States legal system so they can go back to their home countries and enrich their legal careers. For most, they obtain an LL.M. to sit for the Bar Exam and practice law in the United States. Most of our LL.M. students hope to take the Ohio Bar Exam and practice law in Cleveland.*

*Our LL.M. students are seeking full-time employment once they graduate. If you are interested in speaking to any of our LL.M. students, email [llm.program@law.csuohio.edu](mailto:llm.program@law.csuohio.edu).*



## CSU|LAW LL.M. Students Featured on CMBA Podcast

CSU|LAW international LL.M students **Miriam Kobella**, **Clayton Papefus**, and **Daysi A. Garcia Lisiewski** appeared with CSU|LAW Director of Graduate Studies and Professional Development **Julie DiBiasio** in a recent episode of the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's **My BarStory** podcast. The students discuss working to earn their LL.M. and their goals to practice in the U.S.

Listen

## Upcoming Public Lectures & CLE Events



## All Rise: A Festival of Film & Law

Five Films – Five Days - 5pm  
Monday, October 16 - Friday, October 20

All Rise: A Festival of Film & Law is back! Following last year's successful inaugural event, we're pleased to present another slate of documentary and narrative films at the intersection of law and film. Five films will be presented at 5 P.M. across five days. Panel discussions and a diverse selection of guest speakers at each event serve as a catalyst for compelling conversations surrounding cinema, law and justice.

The festival takes place at Playhouse Square with screenings at the Westfield Studio Theater, the CSU School of Film & Media Arts, and the CSU College of Law.

*All screenings are free and open to the public. SCHEDULE TBA*

[Learn More](#)



## Prof. Robertson Submitted Paper to the U.S. Department of Energy

At the invitation of a group of faculty members from the University of Michigan's Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, **Professor Heidi Gorovitz Robertson** participated in the submission of a "concept paper" response to a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) funding opportunity announcement.

[Read More](#)

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## Prof. Sterio Wrote on International Law Enforcement

**Professor Milena Sterio** contributed a blog post, co-authored with Professor Yvonne Dutton (Indiana University School of Law), on the topic of “The ICC’s 2022 Gender Persecution Policy in Context: An Important Next Step Forward” published on *Just Security*, one of the most prominent international law blogs.

[Read More](#)

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## In Memoriam

- [David J. Lombardo '56](#)
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## **CSU|LAW Alumni Association CLE On-Demand Webinars**

*The CSULAA's 2023 Annual Meeting will follow this All Day CLE*

### **2022 Ethics Seminar with Kegler Brown**

*2.5 Professional Conduct CLE Hours*

[Register](#)

### **The Hopes and Hold-Ups of Immigration Law: A New Administration and the Effects of a Pandemic**

*1.0 General Credit CLE Hour*

[Register](#)

## **Landlord Tenant Law**

*2.0 General Credit CLE Hours*

[Register](#)

## **The Home Construction Project**

*3.0 General Credit CLE Hours*

[Register](#)

## **Small Business Law Update: New Legal Landmines for Small Businesses to Avoid**

*2.0 General Credit CLE Hours*

[Register](#)

## **Record Sealing Update: An Overview of the Big Changes in Ohio's Expungement Law**

*1.0 General Credit CLE Hour*

[Register](#)

## **Revisiting the Calls for Equality in the Criminal Justice System and Ohio's Path Forward**

*2.0 Professional Conduct Credit CLE Hours*

[Register](#)

### **Modern Issues in Divorce; Custody, Support and Finances**

*2.0 General Credit CLE Hour*

[Register](#)

### **The Law After 9/11: Changes in Privacy, Prosecution and Procedure**

*1.0 General Credit CLE Hour*

[Register](#)

### **Lawyers on Nonprofit Boards**

*1.0 Professional Conduct Credit CLE Hour*

[Register](#)

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**LEARN LAW. LIVE JUSTICE.**





Have exciting news to share? Send us your news to include on our website, social media or in a future newsletter. Email [AlumniNews@law.csuohio.edu](mailto:AlumniNews@law.csuohio.edu).