

Harlan M. Sands, J.D., M.B.A.

- **Professor of Law, Cleveland State University College of Law**
- **Former President, Cleveland State University**
- **CFO/COO, The Wharton School of Business, University of Pennsylvania**
- **CFO/COO, University of Louisville**
- **Faculty, Department of Criminal Justice, Florida International University**
- **Assistant Public Defender, 11th Judicial Circuit, Miami-Dade County, FL**
- **10+ years U.S. Navy, Surface Warfare/Intelligence Officer**

A national thought leader on transformational change in higher education for the past 25+ years, Harlan Sands now brings his passion, energy and experience to the faculty at Cleveland State University College of Law, where he teaches Professional Responsibility and Legal Ethics. President of Cleveland State University from June 2018 through June 2022, Mr. Sands' extensive background in higher education finance, student success, change management, and innovative partnerships helped CSU expand and enhance its hallmark *Engaged Learning* approach to focused student engagement and progression. His vision and action plan for the university's future are embodied in the *CSU 2.0 Plan*, an aggressive, growth-oriented set of goals designed to attract more students and faculty, advance student success, develop new programs and build new partnerships for Cleveland's only public research institution. One of his transformational programs, the CSU "2 for 1" Tuition Promise – which guaranteed all incoming freshmen free tuition in their second semester provided they maintain a 3.0 GPA with a minimum of 12 credit hours – helped CSU increase student recruitment and retention during the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when many universities experienced significant enrollment declines.

Prior to joining CSU, Mr. Sands served as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer for the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. At Wharton, he oversaw eight administrative and finance divisions and helped lead design two major building projects: the new Wharton Academic Research Building, a \$70 million project to expand research and student collaboration, and the Venture Lab, a new interactive facility to advance entrepreneurship and innovation.

Before joining the University of Pennsylvania, Mr. Sands served as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer for the University of Louisville, and Vice Provost for Administration and Quality Improvement for the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he oversaw university investments in academic, student and research operations.

Mr. Sands began his academic career at Florida International University, serving first as a member of the faculty in the Department of Criminal Justice and then later as an Associate Dean and Research Center Director. As a faculty member at FIU, Mr. Sands taught a wide variety of courses for both undergraduate and graduate students including criminal law, criminal procedure, judicial policy making, constitutional law, and the juvenile court system.

His legal career began as an Assistant Public Defender in the 11th Judicial Circuit in Miami, Florida, where he served four years as lead counsel for over 400 felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases.

Mr. Sands earned his undergraduate degree in economics from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, where he attended through an ROTC scholarship. While on full-time duty with the U.S. Navy, he earned an MBA in finance from George Washington University and a Juris Doctor from George Mason University by attending night classes. His decade of active service with the Navy included serving as a Surface Warfare Officer on the USS Guam and several tours of duty as a Naval Intelligence Officer. He received two Naval Commendation Medals during Operation Desert Storm.

Mr. Sands a native of Wantagh, New York. He and his wife Lynn have two sons, Samson (24) and AJ (22).