

## **ROBERT J. TRIOZZI**

Clinical Professor of Law  
Co-Director Criminal Justice Center  
Cleveland State University College of Law  
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### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW**

2022-Present Clinical Professor of Law  
Co-Director, CSU College of Law Criminal Justice Center  
Director, Pretrial Justice Clinic  
Faculty, Externship Program  
Interim Director, Pardon, Clemency & Expungement Clinic (Fall 2022)

#### Teaching:

Pretrial Justice Clinic LAW 834 (Fall & Spring 2022 - Present)  
Externships (Public Interest/Judicial) LAW 817 (Fall, Spring, Summer 2022 -Present)  
Criminal Justice Reform Seminar LAW 706 (Spring 2024, Fall 2024)  
Criminal Pretrial Practice LAW 807 (Fall 2022, Fall 2023)  
Criminal Justice Decision Points LAW 575 (Spring 2023)  
Pardon, Clemency & Expungement Clinic LAW 838 (Fall 2022)  
Independent Legal Research LAW 860 (Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2025)  
Faculty Supervisor, ABA Police Practices Consortium Fellowship Program (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

#### Presentations:

Panelist, CSU Law Review Symposium, “Justice for Whom” (Fall 2024)  
Moderator, Criminal Justice Center, “Practicum Makes Perfect” (Sp.2024)  
Moderator, SPILO, “Public Defenders Panel” (Spring 2024)  
Organizer, Lead Ohio Foundation, “Pathways to the Bench” (Spring 2024)  
Moderator, CSU All Rise Film Festival, “26.2 to Life” (Fall 2023)  
Presenter, Citizens Police Commission Training Session (Spring 2023)  
Moderator, CSU All Rise Film Festival, “Finding Kendrick Jackson” (Fall 2022)

#### Media:

Crain’s Cleveland Business, Forum: “Community Leaders Say Community is Crucial in Combating Crime.” 9/23/2024  
CSU School of Communications, “Cleveland Conversations” 4/24/2024  
WKYC, “CSU Professor Discusses Trump Indictment” 4/4/2023

WCPO, Cincinnati, "Hamilton County Commissioners Refuse to Discuss Inmate Violence at Correctional Center," 1/31/2023  
Marshall Project, "Who's Really Cycling In and Out of Cleveland's Courts" 10/26/2022  
Cleveland Magazine, "Cleveland State University Raises the Bar" 11/1/2022

Professional Activities:

Board Member, Cleveland Mediation Center (Fall 2024-present)  
Member, Citizens for Efficient Courts. (Fall 2024 – present)  
Participant, Warrants, Fines & Fees Working Group, Towards Employment, (2023 –2024)  
Participant, Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Legal Academy Planning Group (Fall 2023 – present)  
Participant, CMBA Mock Trial Committee (Fall 2023 – present)  
Participant, Positive Education Program, Ideation Session (Fall 2023)  
Presiding Judge, Cleveland Municipal Court Mock Trial Competition (Spring 2023)  
Mentor, Ohio Supreme Court Lawyer to Lawyer Mentoring Program By request (2023)  
Member, Detroit-Shoreway Restorative Justice Committee (2022- present)

2018-2022 Adjunct Professor of Law  
Director, Pretrial Justice Clinic (2020-2022)

Teaching:

Pretrial Justice Clinic LAW 834 (Spring and Fall 2021-2022)  
Juvenile Law LAW 736 (2022)  
Criminal Justice Decision Points LAW 575 (2020, 2021)  
Independent Legal Research LAW 860 (2021-2022)  
Restorative Justice Practicum (2021)  
Mental Health Diversion Practicum (2020)  
Criminal Felony Sentencing LAW 626 (2018)

Presentations:

Moderator, National Lawyers Guild Symposium - Movement Lawyering (2022)

Professional Activities

Member, Cuyahoga County Justice Center Diversion Committee (2021)

2019-2020 Leader in Residence  
Dean's Leadership Fellows Program

Grants – Gund Foundation (Day 1 Initiative)  
City of Cleveland, (Day 1 Initiative)

**PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- 2019-2020 Of Counsel, *McDonald Hopkins, LLP*, Cleveland Ohio  
Public Law, Public Finance, Public-Private Partnerships
- 2015-2019 Director of Law, *Cuyahoga County, Ohio*  
Director of legal department responsible for providing legal service to the County Executive, County Council and Executive Departments of Cuyahoga County government with direct involvement in state and federal litigation, labor and employment, county contracts, legislation, state and federal government relations, and matters relating to criminal justice.
- 2011-2015 Senior Counsel, *Calfee, Halter & Griswold, LLP*  
Government Relations and Legislation, Public Law and Finance, Litigation, Public-Private Partnerships, White Collar Investigations.
- 2006-2011 Director of Law and Chief Prosecutor, *City of Cleveland*  
Director of 100 member (75 attorney) legal department responsible for providing legal services to the Mayor, the City Council and all departments, boards and commissions of the City of Cleveland.
- Civil Division – *State and Federal Litigation* including civil-rights claims and allegations of police misconduct; employment law, contractual and construction disputes; environmental protection; and public nuisance, consumer, foreclosure and sub-prime lending actions. *Code Enforcement* civil and criminal prosecutions, including consumer protection, MBE/FBE – Small Business code, and enforcement of building, fire, health, and zoning codes. *Labor and employment*, including collective bargaining negotiations. *Regulatory matters* concerning Division of Water, Cleveland Public Power, and Department of Port Control. *Legislation and Finance*, including prosecution of tax evasion cases. *Real Estate and Development* including real estate and development transactions and collection actions.
  - Criminal Division – Prosecution of all criminal misdemeanor cases in the city including domestic violence, assault, and OMVI. Review and filing of all felony charges and review of police use of deadly force cases. Special programs include the Domestic Violence Prosecution Unit and the Mediation dispute resolution program.
  - Notable Cases: *City of Cleveland v Ameritrust Securities Inc., et al.*, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio, Case No. 01-cv-139 (Lawsuit brought against 21 of the major Wall Street investment banks seeking recover for damages to the City of Cleveland as a result of subprime lending activities in the city); *City of Cleveland v. State of Ohio*, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Case No. CV 07 618492, Ohio Court of Appeals Case No. 09 092663, Ohio Supreme Court Case No. (Ohio

home-rule action challenging state legislation prohibiting municipalities from enforcing local gun ordinances that were not in conflict with state law);

- 1996-2005 Judge, *Cleveland Municipal Court*
- Presided over high volume civil and criminal case docket and trials.
  - Co-founder of the Mental Health Court Dedicated Docket, Domestic Violence Dedicated Docket and School Truancy Special Docket.
  - Faculty member and lecturer for the Ohio Judicial College and various state-wide bar associations on aspects of law, trial procedure, ethics and professionalism.
  - National presenter and lecturer on Domestic Violence (Anaheim, Reno, San Diego, Seattle, Chicago) and School Truancy (New Orleans).
  - Notable published opinions include *Discover Bank v. Owens* (2004), 129 Ohio Misc.2d 71 (Consumer Protection case holding lender responsible for improvident lending practices); *Cleveland v. Broyles* (1996), 83 Ohio Misc.2d 50 (Access to Firearms case holding adult accountable for recklessly leaving a weapon where a child could easily access).
- 1995 Of Counsel, *Goodman, Weiss, Miller*, Cleveland, Ohio.  
Business litigation involving employment discrimination and contracts.
- 1993-1994 District Director, Congressman Eric Fingerhut, (Ohio-19)  
*U.S. House of Representatives*, Washington, D.C.  
Senior counsel to Congressman Fingerhut and head of 15-member district staff responsible for case management and constituent services in Cuyahoga, Lake and Ashtabula Counties. Represented the Congressman at all district events, meetings, and forums with emphasis on health care reform.
- 1983-1993 Attorney at Law, *Gardner, McGinty & Stanton*, Cleveland, Ohio.  
Civil and criminal litigation including representation of indigent defendants in capital cases. Notable cases: State of Ohio v. Darrin Lawrence, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Case No. CR 219095, Aggravated Murder, Capital case; State of Ohio v. Rita Peak, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Case No. CR 236732, Aggravated Murder, Capital case.
- 1981-1982 Law Clerk, *United States Attorneys Office*, Criminal Division, Northern District of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio

## **PRIOR APPOINTED CIVIC OFFICES**

- 2008 Vice-Chair, City of Cleveland Charter Review Commission
- 2000-2001 Member, Cleveland Municipal School District Facilities Assessment Commission
- 1997-1999 Member, Cleveland Summit on Education Strategy Council
- 1992 Vice-president, City of Cleveland Civil Service Commission

## **PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Faculty, Ohio Judicial College, Supreme Court of Ohio  
Trial Skills 1998-2004  
Mental Illness in Civil Cases 2002  
Domestic Violence 2002  
Acting Judge: Domestic Violence 2001  
Law and Literature 1999  
Judicial Skills 1998

Faculty, National College of District Attorneys  
National Conferences on Domestic Violence  
Anaheim 2000  
Reno 2001  
Chicago 2002  
New Orleans 2003  
Anaheim 2004

**PRIOR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Co-Chair, Cuyahoga County Stepping Up Initiative 2015-2019  
Member, White House Data Driven Justice Initiative 2015-2016  
Member, Healthy Cleveland 2.0 Behavioral Health Committee 2014  
Member, Greater Cleveland Partnership, Government Affairs Council 2013-2015  
Member, Cleveland Bench-Bar Committee 2013-2016  
Member, Cleveland Bar Foundation, Board of Directors 2007-2013, 2014-2015  
Member, Northern Ohio Law Directors Association 2012-2019  
Member, Master of the Bench, William K. Thomas Inn of Court 2003-2011  
Member, Cleveland Bar Association, Board of Directors 1999-2002  
Member, Cuyahoga County Justice Management Reform Committee 2006-2011  
Chairperson, Ohio Judicial Conference New Judge Mentoring Committee 2003- 2006  
Member, Ohio Judicial Conference Public Confidence and Outreach Committee 2003-2006  
Member, Supreme Court of Ohio, Domestic Violence Advisory Committee 2002-2006  
Member, Mental Health Advocacy Coalition Committee 2003-2005  
Member, Federation for Community Planning, Mental Health Initiative Advisory Committee, 2001- 2003  
Federation for Community Planning, Comprehensive Strategy for Delinquency Prevention and Juvenile Justice Work Group Committee, 1999-2000  
Co-Chairperson, Eighth District Judicial Conference, Government Agencies Committee (2001)  
Co-Chairperson, Cleveland Bar Association Education Initiative 1998-2005  
Author and coordinator for the annual Cleveland Mock Trial Competition for senior high school students in the Cleveland Municipal School District 1996-2005.  
Coordinated proficiency test tutoring program to help students prepare for the citizenship portion of the exam 2000-2005. Pilot program-Martin Luther King, Jr. Law & Public Service H.S. 1997-1999.  
Chairperson, Cuyahoga County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, 2001-2006

Chairperson of the Cleveland Jurisdiction Team DVCC 1999-2000.

Coordinated anti-stalking/dating violence educational workshops for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students of the Cleveland Municipal School district 2000-2005.

Co-chair, Cleveland Municipal Court Mental Health Task Force

Engaged in the establishment of court monitored mentally disordered offender program for misdemeanor offenders 1998-2001

Member, Cuyahoga County Mental Health Court Committee 2002-2015

Member, Partnership for a Safer Cleveland Youth Safety Leadership Committee

Coordinated special truancy dockets for minor's curfew violators, 1996-99

Member Northern Ohio Municipal Judges Association 1996-2005

Member, The Justinian Forum 1996-present

Life Member, The Judicial Conference of the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District 1987-present

Panel Member, Cuyahoga Common Pleas Court Arbitration Commission 1986-1992

Panel Member, Criminal Justice Panel for the United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio 1986-1992

Member, Cuyahoga County Criminal Defense Lawyers Association 1983-1992

## **PRIOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Graduate, Leadership Cleveland, Class of 2003

Graduate, Leadership Ashtabula, Class of 1994

Member, City Club of Cleveland, Special Program Committee 2013-2014

Member, Literacy Cooperative of Greater Cleveland, Board of Directors 2008-2014

Member, Cleveland Woman's Foundation, Board of Directors 2006-2008

Board Member, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, Metro-Cleveland 2002

Board Member, Center for Mental Retardation 2002-2004

Board Member, Substance Abuse Initiative of Greater Cleveland 1998-2005

Board Member, Cleveland Baseball Federation 2002-2006

Board Member, St. Augustine Health Campus 1996-2002

Board Member, Commission on Catholic Community Action, Cleveland Diocese, 1995-1998

Member Executive Committee, Coalition to Save our Kids, 1991-1992

Member, Cornell Club of Northeastern Ohio Scholarship Selection Committee 1991-1992

President, Ward 11 Democratic Club 1990-1993

Action Team Leader, Collinwood Area Schools/General Electric Corp. Strategic Planning Team 1990

Board Member, The Covenant Early Childhood Programs of University Circle 1989-1993

Member, Nottingham House Advisory Committee (Group Home) 1989-1992

Board Member, Lakeshore Neighborhoods, Inc. 1989-1992

President, St. Jerome Church Social Concerns Committee 1989-1992

President, Bonniewood Street Association 1987-1993

Board Member, Little Italy Redevelopment Association 1983-1986

Board Member, Epilepsy Foundation of Northeast Ohio Advisory Board 1983-1987

## **PRIOR PRESENTATIONS:**

Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association Leadership Academy, "Leadership" 10/26/17

Ideastream, "Mental Health Jail Diversion Programs" 8/21/17  
WCPN, Sound of Ideas, "Bail Reform" 4/13/17  
Anti-Defamation League Cleveland, "Bail Reform" 5/22/16  
CMBA Fair Housing Forum, "Legislative Strategies in Combating Discrimination" 4/27/16  
Northeast Ohio Law Directors Association, "Cuyahoga County Government Update" 6/11/15  
Ohio State Bar Association, Litigation Section, Panel Discussion, 5/8/13  
City Club of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Candidate Debate 2/15/12  
Case Western Reserve School of Law, 1L Orientation Ceremony Keynote, 8/29/09  
International Municipal Lawyers Association, Washington, DC, "Subprime Litigation" 4/11/08  
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, "Wall Street Subprime Litigation" 7/26/08  
Anti-Defamation League, "Civil Rights and Civic Responsibility" 6/18/08  
Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, "Hot Topics in Litigation" 7/19/07  
Italian American Cultural Foundation, Teacher Appreciation Dinner, Keynote 11/1/06  
Cleveland Bar Association, "Consumer Alternatives to Bankruptcy" 10/23/06  
American Society for Public Administration, Cleveland State University, 4/26/06  
City Club of Cleveland, Mayoral Candidate Debate 9/27/05  
Ohio NAMI, "How to Start a Mental Health Court Docket" 6/14/04  
King County District Court, Seattle Washington, "Working With Your Judge on Domestic Violence Cases" 4/8/04  
Case Western Reserve School of Medicine Urban Health Center, "Gun Violence – A Courtroom Perspective" 12/3/03  
Case Western Reserve School of Medicine Urban Health Center, "Guns and the Law" 2/18/04  
Ohio Judicial Conference, "Public Confidence in the Courts" 2003  
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, "Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Stalking" 9/6/02  
Ohio State Bar Association, "A View from the Bench – Trial Objections" 8/11/02  
Ohio Common Pleas Judges Association, "Mental Health Courts" 6/26/02  
NAMI Cuyahoga "Mental Health Courts" 6/20/02  
Ohio State Bar Association, Family Violence Symposium "A View from the Bench" 4/11/02  
Martin Luther King, Jr. High School, Commencement Speaker, 5/31/01  
Gun Violence Coalition, First Monday, "Gun Violence – A Courtroom Perspective" 10/2/00  
American Petroleum Institute API Delta Chapter, "Truancy – One Court's Response" 4/26/2000  
Cleveland Bar Association, Peoples Law School, "Criminal Law" 9/19/99  
Cuyahoga County Bar Association, "Misdemeanor Sentencing" 4/24/99  
Cleveland Bar Association, Peoples Law School "Misdemeanor Law" 9/21/96  
Geneva Rotary, Geneva, Ohio, "Revitalizing the Manufacturing Economic Base" 8/2/94  
Lakeland Community College, Kirtland, Ohio, "Current Issues Facing Congress" 6/3/94  
Lake County Council of Governments, Willoughby, Ohio "Legislative Issues" 5/5/94  
Lake Erie College, Painesville, Ohio, "Health Care Reform" 9/22/93  
Painesville Chamber of Commerce, "The Budget Deficit – Impact on Small Business" 6/11/93  
Earth Day Coalition, Cleveland Zoo, Cleveland, Ohio, "Congress and the Ohio Plan" 4/25/93  
Mentor Chamber of Commerce "Legislative Initiatives of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Congress" 2/23/93

## **HONORS:**

*Inside Business Magazine*, 2009 Leading Lawyer (2009)  
Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Society of Benchers (2006)

National Association of Social Workers, Ohio Chapter, Public Citizen of the Year (2006)  
Safe, Disciplined & Drug Free Schools, "Service Award" (2004)  
Ashtabula Harbor High School Hall of Fame "Career Achievement Award" (2004)  
Cleveland Bar Association "Justice for All Award" (2003)  
Domestic Violence Center "Vision Award" (2003)  
A Cultural Exchange "Community Partnership Award" (2003)  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill – Cuyahoga County "Outstanding Community Leadership" (2002)  
Partnership for a Safer Cleveland, "Vision Award" (1998)  
Cleveland Bar Association "President's Award" (1998)  
Ward 11 Democratic Club "Community Service Award" (1993)  
City of Cleveland, 6<sup>th</sup> District "Community Service Award" (1991)  
Epilepsy Foundation of Northeast Ohio "Advocacy Award" (1986)

## **EDUCATION:**

1979 B.A. Cornell University, Ithaca, New York (History and Government)  
1982 J. D. Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland, Ohio

## **COURT ADMISSIONS**

1982 Supreme Court of Ohio  
1983 United States District Court, Northern District of Ohio  
2009 United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit  
2010 Supreme Court of the United States of America