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# CSU|LAW Launches David H. Braff Animal Law Center and Clinic

Cleveland State University College of Law recently launched the **David H. Braff Animal Law Center and Clinic**. The Center is the first of its kind at an Ohio law school. In addition to a dedicated Animal Law Clinic starting in January, the Center will offer academic courses, public programming, externship opportunities and scholarships.

“We plan to build an animal law program that will be among the finest in the country, providing students with excellent learning opportunities, and providing justice for animals,” said **CSU|LAW Dean Lee Fisher**.

[Learn how to make a donation to support the Animal Law Clinic](#)

The Center was spearheaded by **David Braff**, a graduate of Cleveland State University’s Criminal Justice Program and The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. He serves as Of Counsel with Sullivan and Cromwell in New York City, where he has practiced for nearly four decades. Braff joined the Animal Legal Defense Fund board in 2021. He has always been particularly interested in animal welfare, stemming from his family’s love for dogs and horses and time spent on their 30-acre farm in Pennsylvania.

“The unjust treatment of animals—whether domestic animals, farmed animals raised for food, or wildlife—has proliferated and has been exacerbated by the climate crisis,” explained Braff. Having practiced law for 40 years, I know first hand the power of the law and our legal system to bring about justice and lasting change. And through my involvement with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, I have seen time and time again how the legal system can bring about lasting justice for animals.”

The work of the Animal Law Clinic, which will serve as a tentpole of the Center, will be wide-ranging, with a focus on justice for animals, including the prosecution of domestic animal abuse cases; curbing puppy mills, dog fighting and roadside circus abuses; and fighting against wildlife, exotic and farmed animal abuses.

“Students will receive practical, hands-on training on being effective advocates for the humane and ethical treatment of animals,” explained **Senior Clinical Professor of Law Carole O. Heyward**, who will serve as the Center’s Faculty Director. “They will learn about

and engage in a variety of advocacy efforts including litigation, legislative and regulatory initiatives, and community education and outreach.”

**Taylor Waters** recently joined CSU|LAW to serve as the Supervising Attorney and Director of the Animal Law Clinic and Center. Waters has promoted animal law as an animal litigator and recently through the Animal Legal Defense Fund’s Pro Bono program. Over her career, she litigated against puppy mill brokers using the Ohio Consumer Sales Protection Act and fought tirelessly for companion animals injured due to veterinary malpractice. Waters completed her LL.M. in Animal Law from Lewis & Clark Law School’s Center for Animal Law Studies.

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## Holiday Greetings from CSU|LAW



# Upcoming Public Lectures & CLE Events

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## Journal of Law & Health Symposium: Racial Disparities & Health Outcomes

Friday, February 9 | 9:00 a.m.

Virtual

This Symposium will focus on racial disparities and health outcomes. Panelists will examine the implications of discrimination, racism, and marginalization of communities within maternal and infant health, geriatric health, Medicaid and Medicare services, and healthcare accessibility as it relates to health outcomes in a post-pandemic and post-Dobbs society.

This year's keynote features renowned attorney, anthropologist, and professor at Berkeley Law, **Khiara Bridges**. The Symposium conference will be held virtually with a watch party in person hosted at the law school.

*5.25 hours pending*

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## CSU|LAW Professors Publish in *Cleveland State Law Review*

Three CSU|LAW professors published articles in the most recent issue of the *Cleveland State Law Review* (Volume 72, Issue 1):

**Professor Karin Mika:** The United States and the Need for an Improved Global Citizenship in the Twenty-First Century: How History Shaped Our Identity as a Nation

**Professor Reginald Oh:** The Anti-Constitutionality of the Deeply Rooted Test in *Dobbs v. Jackson*

**Professor Brandon Stump:** Can Superman Save the Supreme Court after *Dobbs*? Using Analogical Reasoning to Teach the American People the Superpower of Stare Decisis

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## Prof. Sterio Developed Peace Negotiation and Mediation with Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Professor Milena Sterio** collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop a peace negotiation and mediation unit in her recent travels to Nairobi, Kenya. The Unit will be established within the Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and its main role will be to position Kenya as a peace negotiator and mediator within the African region.

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## Prof. Sterio Addressed Autonomous Weapons Systems at University of Modena in Italy

**Professor Milena Sterio** traveled to Modena, Italy, where she presented at the University of Modena and at the Modena-based Italian Military Academy on the topic of “Autonomous Weapons Systems under International Law.”

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**CSU|LAW**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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## 2024 Annual Recognition Luncheon

The CSU Law Alumni Association (CSULAA) Annual Recognition Luncheon (ARL) will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at Noon at the Grand Ballroom of the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel (soon to be called Hotel Cleveland), 24 Public Square, Cleveland! Doors open at 11:30 A.M.

Our honorees will be **Kemper Arnold, CSU|LAW 1980**, and **Awatef Assad, CSU|LAW 1995**.

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