



Alumni Story: CMLAA Alumni of the Year Recipient: Judge John J. Russo '92

CMLAA Alumni of the Year recipient Judge John J. Russo '92 comes from a large, close knit family where he was one of nine children. Having learned the importance of hard work, giving back and family from their parents, those nine siblings all went on to unique career paths, with John choosing a career in law. After 12 years in private practice as a civil and criminal litigator, he was elected to the Court of Common Pleas Bench in 2005. Since 2013, he has been Administrative and Presiding Judge of the Court, having been unanimously elected by his colleagues each year to serve in that capacity.

When it came to choosing a career, Judge Russo was interested in three options - lawyer, teacher or priest. He fondly recalls one of those options being eliminated when he met his wife Karen and fell in love. Judge Russo ultimately chose the law and feels it has allowed him the opportunity to experience the best of all three of those avenues.

"After a good career as an attorney, I still felt a spiritual calling to serve people, and being a judge was a way I could do that," explained Judge Russo about his decision to pursue the judiciary. Now, as a lawyer and judge, I have the opportunity to also teach in the classroom. You could say I have the best of all three worlds."

Judge Russo will be recognized with his CMLAA Alumni of the Year award at the [CMLAA Annual Luncheon](#) on May 23.

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Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart '88 to Deliver 2019 Commencement Address

Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart '88 will deliver the commencement address at the graduation ceremony for the class of 2019. The ceremony will take place Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Wolstein Center.

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C|M|LAW Named One of the Top Law Schools in the Midwest for Black Students

Lawyers of Color has just published the third edition of the *Black Student's Guide to Law Schools & Firms*, which ranks the best law schools for black students and included C|M|LAW as one of the best regional schools. Cleveland-Marshall was named **one of the four top law schools for the Midwest region.**

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NY Gov. Cuomo Appoints Dean Fisher to Panel

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo has appointed C|M|LAW Dean Lee Fisher to a panel of experts who will judge a competition to explore alternatives to the Buffalo Skyway Corridor. The panel will include experts in the fields of architecture, design, urban planning, transportation and community growth, as well as public officials.

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Dean Fisher and Director DiFranco Offered Employment Advice

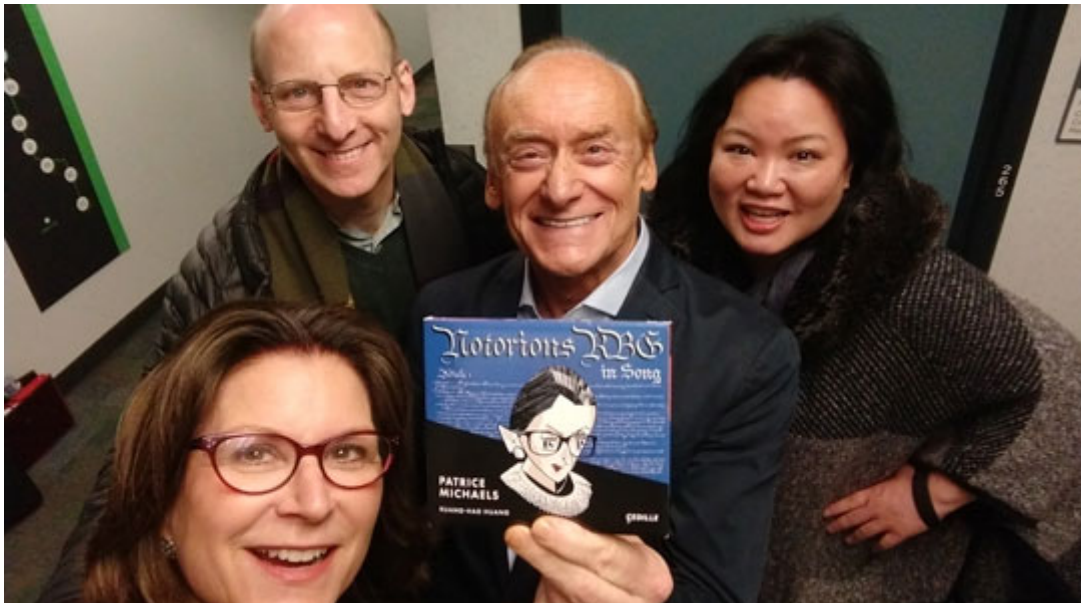
On the heels of C|M|LAW's record [95.5% employment rate](#), **Dean Lee Fisher** and **Director of the Office of Career Strategy Employment Heather DiFranco** shared tips for law students applying to jobs in a *Cleveland Jewish News* article.

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Serial's Koenig Speaks to C|M|LAW Students

Sarah Koenig, host and executive producer of the podcast *Serial*, held a Skype chat with students in **Professor Jonathan Witmer-Rich's** *Serial*-based law course.



Cast photo from the April 18 performance of "The Notorious RBG" at Cleveland State University. Pictured: **Patrice Michaels** (daughter-in-law of RBG), **James Ginsburg** (RBG's son), **C|M|LAW Professor Angelin Chang** and **C|M|LAW Dean Lee Fisher**.

May 30 & 31, 2019
Keynote Speaker:
 FTC Commissioner
 Rebecca Kelly Slaughter
12 hours CLE pending

CYBERSECURITY & PRIVACY PROTECTION CONFERENCE
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Prof. Oh Interviewed by Elite Daily

Professor Reginald Oh was quoted extensively by *Elite Daily* in an article on President Donald Trump's use of problematic language regarding minorities.

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Prof. Sundahl Publishes Space Law Article in Oxford Encyclopedia

Professor Mark Sundahl recently published an article, "Business, Legal, and Policy Issues in Relation to Increased Private Space Activity," in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Planetary Science* on how critical changes in law and policy over time fueled the rise of the private space industry.

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Prof. O'Neill Quoted in ABA Journal

Professor Kevin O'Neill was quoted in the *ABA Journal* on a First Amendment law question: To what extent does the Speech Clause restrict efforts by elected



officials to block critics from their social media accounts?

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Prof. Sagers Quoted by Bloomberg Law

Professor Chris Sagers was quoted in a *Bloomberg Law* article on Justice Department nominee Jeffrey Rosen.

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Prof. Robertson Appeared on News Channel 5 to Discuss Cleveland Water

Professor Heidi Gorovitz Robertson appeared in a News 5 Cleveland story to discuss Cleveland EPA water violations..

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Prof. Witmer-Rich Quoted in Daytona Beach News Journal

Professor Jonathan Witmer-Rich was quoted in the *Daytona Beach News Journal* on the police's use of sneak-and-peek cameras in the high-profile sex trafficking case at Orchids of Asia Day Spa in Jupiter, Fla.

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Prof. Weinstein Presented



at American Planning Association Conference

Professor Alan Weinstein presented at a pair of sessions at the American Planning Association National Conference in San Francisco. He discussed how recent Supreme Court First Amendment rulings have affected regulation of panhandling and presented an overview of the interplay between state and local regulation of marijuana businesses.



Prof. Emerita Hoke Quoted in The Guardian

Professor Emerita Candice Hoke was quoted in The Guardian in a feature story about the companies that run the United States' election systems.

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C|M|LAW Center to Co-Sponsor Event on Ohio's New Cybersecurity Law

C|M|LAW's Center for Cybersecurity and Privacy Protection is co-sponsoring an event, "Ohio's New Cybersecurity Law: What Will It Mean for Business and for Data Protection?," at the Ohio State University Moritz College of Law on May 10.

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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.

LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
NEWS & EVENTS

C|M|LAW
Cleveland-Marshall
Law Alumni Association



THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 | 12:00 P.M.

Annual Recognition Luncheon

The Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association is proud to honor a pair of 1992 C|M|LAW graduates -- McDonald Hopkins LLC Member [Teresa Metcalf Beasley](#) and Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court Administrative and Presiding [Judge John J. Russo](#) -- as its 2019 Alumni of the Year. The pair of honorees will be recognized at the **2019 CMLAA Annual Recognition Luncheon**.

Doors Open at 11:30 a.m.
 Program Begins promptly at Noon

Renaissance Cleveland Hotel
 Grand Ballroom
 24 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio

[Register Here](#)

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If you have news or a story you would like included in this newsletter, please send an email to [Lee Fisher](#), C|M|LAW Dean.



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