

**CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**CJMLAW**  
 Cleveland-Marshall College of Law



### Welcome Message to the Class of 2023 from Dean Lee Fisher

You are entering law school at a defining moment in history.

How you face the uncertainty that has been thrust on you by the virus of COVID-19 and the virus of racism, bigotry, and hate that divides our country will test you in ways that past first year students have never been tested.

Your attitude will determine your altitude.

Believe in yourself. You earned this.

Show up every day. Give your best.

Change the way you look at uncertainty. Lean into it and embrace it.

Remember your why. Why you chose this path. Your why is what drove you to this place.

You chose CSU Cleveland-Marshall because you wanted to be on the front lines. You didn't just want to make a point; you wanted to make a difference.

Remember that you are pursuing your dream of being a guardian of justice by living a few years of your life like most people won't, so you can spend the rest of your life like most people can't.



Lee



### CSU CJMLAW Welcomed Class of 2023 During Orientation Week

This August, the incoming CSU CJMLAW Class of 2023 got their first taste of law school during Orientation Week, organized by a team led by Associate Dean and Professor Carolyn Broering-Jacobs.

The physical distancing and remote operations necessitated by COVID-19 made this year's Orientation different, but no less impactful. We connected with each student individually, introduced them to the resources and people who will support them in their journey, and gave them a taste of both in-class learning and legal practice.

**Highlights from Orientation Week included:**

- **Welcome Remarks** where every member of the class was introduced by a fellow classmate, a special opportunity for every member of the class to get to know something about each other.
- **JumpStart**, a seven-part series designed to introduce students to the skills needed to succeed in law school.
- A two-part **Implicit Bias Training** in which the students engaged in robust discussions of race, racism, prejudice and privilege.
- Viewing an oral argument with **Ohio's Eighth District Court of Appeals** and speaking with the panel of three CSU CJMLAW alumni judges: Judge Patricia Blackmon '75, Judge Mary J. Boyle '89, and Judge Sean Gallagher '89.
- The first-ever virtual **Student Organization Fair**, which introduced new students to our many student organizations.




### CSU CJMLAW Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

CSU CJMLAW welcomes a pair of new faculty members, **Assistant Professor of Law Christa Laser** and **Legal Writing Professor Brandon Stump**. Laser was most recently a Senior Associate at WilmerHale and Stump was most recently a Visiting Professor at WVU College of Law.

[View Prof. Laser's Bio](#) >

[View Prof. Stump's Bio](#) >

## NO ROOM for SILENCE | Live Justice.

### CSU CJMLAW Creates Racial Justice Work Groups

Stemming from a [Call to Action](#) by Dean Lee Fisher earlier this year to spend the upcoming academic year deepening our collective understanding of social and racial justice issues, CSU CJMLAW is pleased to announce the creation of four Racial Justice Work Groups designed to identify possible solutions, take effective action, and expand and enhance our resources dedicated toward racial and social justice issues.

Each Work Group is co-chaired by a student, staff member, and faculty member who will lead group members to explore and implement plans and programming for the collective enhancement of the CSU CJMLAW and the greater communities.

**The Work Groups and charges include:**

- **Training and Education Work Group:** To develop training and education around bias, cultural competence, and anti-racism for students, faculty, and staff.
- **School Climate Work Group:** To create a more inclusive and supportive environment at CSU CJMLAW.
- **Community Conversations Work Group:** To develop programming to provide regular learning and conversation opportunities.
- **Public Action Work Group:** To support and advocate for legislation, resolutions, and community actions that advance the cause of racial justice.

### CSU CJMLAW Connection Led to Ohio Supreme Court Justice Melody Stewart Officiating Student's Wedding



Ohio Supreme Court Justice **Melody Stewart '88** offered some words of advice to Cleveland State University Cleveland-Marshall College of Law student **Hailey Hillsman** and her soon-to-be husband **Derek Kuhlman**.

"Be aware that the path you're going down might not be the path that you're supposed to go down and be open to redirection."

Thankfully the couple can say confidently that they are open to redirection and have a willingness to adapt in an undesired situation. Otherwise the pair would not have been standing in downtown Cleveland on a sunny May afternoon as Justice Stewart pronounced them husband and wife.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of their original wedding plans. Hailey and Derek were willing to get married at the courthouse with a small ceremony but learned that due to the pandemic their local courthouse was only issuing marriage licenses and not performing ceremonies.

Hailey began looking for an officiant to marry the couple and turned to her law school for help. She remembered that CSU CJMLAW Dean Lee Fisher had reached out and welcomed students to contact him with any issues or concerns they were facing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Joking now that she took his offer a bit too literally, Hailey reached out to Dean Fisher and CSU CJMLAW's associate deans to see if they could use their contacts to help her find a judge that would officiate the ceremony. Her only requirement was that the judge would be a Cleveland-Marshall graduate, as she wanted the law school she already felt so connected with to be part of her wedding day.

[Read More](#) >



### Online Cybersecurity & Privacy Protection Virtual Conference

September 17-18, 2020  
 8 hrs CLE credit pending

[Learn More](#) >

### Racial Discrimination in Voting

A Racial Justice Community Conversation Program  
 September 24, 2020 | 12 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://csuohio.zoom.us/j/95064635250>  
 Meeting ID: 950 6463 5250  
 Dial in: (301) 715-8592

Moderated by CSU CJMLAW Dean Lee Fisher. Panelists include:

- Charesha Barrett, Founder and President, CHARP Education Consulting
- Brian Glassman, Professor of Law, CSU CJMLAW
- Kayla Griffin '14, Ohio Campaign State Director, All Voting is Local
- Allegra Lawrence-Hardy, Legal Counsel of Fair Fight Action

Co-sponsored by the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association's REAL Talk Series



### Prof. Oh Published Op-Ed in Newsweek

Professor **Reginald Oh** published an op-ed in *Newsweek* that examines U.S. Senator and Vice Presidential Candidate Kamala Harris's citizenship status.

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### Prof. O'Neill Participated in ABA Webinar on Protest Law

Professor **Kevin O'Neill** was a featured speaker on a nationwide webinar conducted by the American Bar Association titled, "The Future of Public Protest."

[Read More](#) >



### Prof. Sagers Published Article in Slate

Professor **Chris Sagers** published an article in the online news magazine *Slate*, reviewing the work of U.S. Justice Department antitrust chief Makan Delrahim.

[Read More](#) >



### Dean Fisher Wrote for Community Leader on Working Together

Dean **Lee Fisher** wrote an article for *Community Leader*, a publication of *Cleveland Magazine*, on addressing racial injustice and calling for the return of the Greater Cleveland Roundtable.

[Read More](#) >



### CSU CJMLAW Creates Antiracism & Social Justice Resources Guide

CSU CJMLAW has created an "Antiracism & Social Justice Resources Guide" and a "No Room for Silence" webpage as part of our commitment to an inclusive, welcoming environment and to actively working on antiracism and social justice.

[Visit](#) >

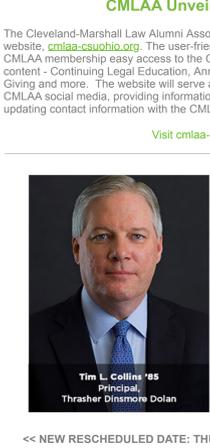
**LAW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS & EVENTS**




**CMLAA Unveils New Website**

The Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association (CMLAA) recently launched its new website, [cmlaa-csuohio.org](http://cmlaa-csuohio.org). The user-friendly website was designed to provide CMLAA membership easy access to the CMLAA's most requested content - Continuing Legal Education, Annual Recognition Luncheon, Scholarship & Giving and more. The website will serve as a touch point for connecting alumni with CMLAA social media, providing information on upcoming events and as a platform for updating contact information with the CMLAA and CSU CJMLAW.

[Visit cmlaa-csuohio.org](http://cmlaa-csuohio.org) >




**Tim L. Collins '85**  
 Principal,  
 Thrasher Dinsmore Dolan

**Justice Michael P. Donnelly '92**  
 Ohio Supreme Court  
 Justice

<< **NEW RESCHEDULED DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021 | 12:00 P.M.** >>

### ANNUAL RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

The CMLAA has rescheduled the 2020 Annual Recognition Luncheon (ARL) to **Thursday, May 27, 2021** at Noon at the Renaissance Downtown Cleveland Hotel. Doors open at 11:30 A.M.

The honorees are **Tim L. Collins '85** and **Justice Michael P. Donnelly '92**

Support the Cleveland-Marshall Law Alumni Association and its scholarship fund by securing your sponsorship, ad or ticket by registering at: [cmlaa-csuohio.org/annual-recognition-luncheon](http://cmlaa-csuohio.org/annual-recognition-luncheon)

Net proceeds benefit scholarship funds for Cleveland-Marshall Law students.

Please help us make the upcoming ARL as the most successful ever!  
 Please call 216-687-2368 or email [CmlaaArl@gmail.com](mailto:CmlaaArl@gmail.com) with any questions.

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).

**LEARN LAW. LIVE JUSTICE.**

[GIVE](#) [VOLUNTEER](#)

If you have news or a story you would like included in this newsletter, please send an email to [Lee.Fisher@law.csuohio.edu](mailto:Lee.Fisher@law.csuohio.edu).