New Faculty, Promotions, Appointments, Retirements, and Honors

The rise of outstanding scholars further strengthens programs and enhances the School of Law’s outstanding academic reputation.

NEW FACULTY

James Grimmelmann
Professor of Law
BA, Harvard University
JD, Yale Law School

Known for his work on virtual worlds, search engines, and Internet privacy, Professor Grimmelmann will head the Intellectual Property Law Program, the only one of its kind with an active clinic partnered with the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office.

Frank Pasquale
Professor of Law
BA, Harvard University, summa cum laude
MPhil, Oxford University
JD, Yale Law School

A noted blogger and scholar in technology and health care, Professor Pasquale brings a new perspective to UM Carey Law’s top-ranked Law & Health Care Program and to the emerging law of health information.

Maureen Sweeney
Law School Associate Professor
BA, Wesleyan University
JD, Yale Law School

Studying the consequences of criminal convictions for immigrants long before Padilla v. Kentucky, Professor Sweeney has been at the forefront of immigration reform in the state of Maryland. She continues her work in our nationally ranked Clinical Law Program, leading the Immigration Clinic.
Promoted to professor of law and tenured, David Gray teaches criminal law, criminal procedure, international criminal law, and jurisprudence. In addition to his own scholarship on transitional justice, criminal law, criminal procedure, and constitutional theory, Professor Gray works closely with students to develop and publish their work. Prior to joining the School of Law, Professor Gray practiced law at Williams & Connolly LLP, was a visiting assistant professor at Duke University School of Law, and served as a clerk in the chambers of The Honorable Chester J. Straub, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and The Honorable Charles S. Haight, Jr., U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He earned his BA degree from the University of Virginia, his JD degree from New York University, and his MA and PhD degrees from Northwestern University.

Promoted to associate professor of law, Deborah Thompson Eisenberg serves as director of the law school’s Center for Dispute Resolution (C-DRUM). Her scholarly interests include the areas of employment law, civil procedure, and alternative dispute resolution. She joined the law school in 2007 as a visiting professor and has taught civil procedure, employment discrimination, and other courses; she currently teaches the mediation clinic. Professor Eisenberg practiced civil litigation for more than 15 years, including as a staff attorney at the Public Justice Center in Baltimore and as a partner at Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP. She continues to serve as a mediator in civil and employment cases, and is a member of the Maryland Program for Mediator Excellence. She received her BA degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Maryland Baltimore County, and her JD degree from Yale Law School.
Promoted to associate professor of law, **Lee Kovarsky** focuses his teaching and scholarship on such areas as criminal procedure, federal jurisdiction, habeas corpus, civil procedure, constitutional law, and the death penalty. He co-wrote the case book, *Federal Habeas Corpus: Executive Detention and Post-Conviction Litigation* (Foundation Press, 2013) (with Brandon L. Garrett), and has published extensively on issues of executive detention and post-conviction review. Professor Kovarsky remains an active habeas and capital litigator, regularly representing capital prisoners during federal appellate and Supreme Court review of their sentences. Professor Kovarsky earned his BA degree from Yale University, and his JD degree from the University of Virginia.

**Maxwell Stearns**, professor of law and Marbury Research Professor, has been appointed to Associate Dean for Research and Faculty Development. He is an interdisciplinary scholar who applies novel methodologies to study a wide range of doctrines in public law, with a particular emphasis on judicial decision-making processes and structural constitutional law. His specific methodological expertise centers on public choice, social choice, game theory, and law and economics. Before joining the faculty, Professor Stearns was a faculty member at the George Mason University School of Law, and practiced law as a litigation associate with Palmer & Dodge in Boston and with Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz in Philadelphia. He received his BA degree from the University of Pennsylvania, and his JD degree from the University of Virginia.

**Barbara Gontrum**, Assistant Dean for Library and Technology, has been appointed to Associate Dean for Academic Programs. She has served as chair of the Academic Law Libraries Special Interest Section of the American Association of Law Libraries, and as chair of the Section of Law Libraries of the Association of American Law Schools. Dean Gontrum joined the faculty in 1979 as library director after serving in the positions of Associate Law Librarian and Reference/ Documents Librarian at the Duke University Law Library. She received her BA degree from Purdue University, her MS degree from the University of Illinois, and her JD degree from Duke University.
BRENDA BRATTON BLOM stepped down from the faculty in December 2012 after 16 years in the Clinical Law Program. She led the Clinical Law Program as Director from 2003 to 2010 and taught the Community Justice Clinic and the Economic Housing and Community Development Clinic. She has a deep and abiding commitment to using the law to support community building activities, the development of affordable housing, and urban policies that support the creation of healthy communities. But perhaps most important, Blom still believes that the core duty of those who choose, and are given the opportunity, to study and practice law is to be a good steward of the justice system. Creating opportunities for students and faculty to learn about the law while they are engaged in solving problems for clients is central to her work. Just before her retirement, she received the Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award from the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, which recognizes outstanding public interest attorneys who are regularly involved in providing, promoting, or managing the delivery of legal services.

SUSAN LEVITON ’72 stepped down from the faculty in May 2013 after 40 years in the Clinical Law Program. Leviton, one of the program's founding members, has written and participated extensively in representing children in special education proceedings and the juvenile court. She is past chair of the Maryland Human Relations Commission and founder of Advocates for Children and Youth, a statewide child advocacy group. Her advocacy work has won numerous awards from the ABA Young Lawyers Division, the National Association of Women Business Owners, The Women's Law Center, the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Maryland Bar Foundation, the Foster Care Review Board, the Maryland Coalition of Women for Responsive Government, and the Maryland Interdisciplinary Council for Children and Adolescents. Even though she has retired from her full-time faculty position, she will continue to supervise law students in the congressional externship program.
HONORS

1. **Mike Millemann**, Jacob A. France Professor of Public Interest Law and Director of the Leadership, Ethics & Democracy Institute, was elected to the American Law Institute (ALI).

2. **Michael Pinard**, professor of law and director of the Clinical Law Program, was elected to the American Law Institute (ALI).

3. **Dean Phoebe Haddon** was named one of the 25 most influential people in Legal Education by *The National Jurist*.

4. **Barbara Bezdek**, professor of law, was awarded the Dickens Warfield Fair Housing Award from Baltimore Neighbors Inc.

5. **Mark Graber**, Professor of Law and Government, received the 2013 Teaching and Mentoring Award from the Law and Courts section of the American Political Science Association.

6. **Larry Gibson**, professor of law, is the recipient of the 2012 Wiley Branton Award, given annually by the National Bar Association. Wiley Branton was a longtime leader in the fight for civil, social, and economic justice.

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Stepping Up at the NAACP

On November 19, 2012, Professor **Sherrilyn Ifill** was named President and Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. The nation’s premier civil rights organization, the LDF was founded by Justice Thurgood Marshall. Ifill began her legal career as an assistant counsel at the LDF, litigating voting rights cases. She is taking a leave of absence from the UM Carey Law faculty to fulfill her new role. “I am deeply grateful to Dean Haddon and the University for their support as I take up this new challenge,” said Ifill after the appointment was made public. “My loyalty, respect for, and commitment to the law school and its wonderful students is undiminished. Indeed it is my hope that we will find rich opportunities for collaboration during my tenure at LDF.” In 2013, Professor Ifill was also named an Influential Marylander by the *Daily Record*. 