

# Casual Conversations

et al.: Casual Conversations

## Greatest accomplishment?

Developing one of the first AIDS Legal Clinics in the country and taking on cutting-edge cases with my students for clients who had been fired from their jobs or denied medical treatment or health insurance because of their condition. Also, advocating with a coalition of public health experts and medical providers with the Maryland Legislature for a sane response to the epidemic, including informed consent for HIV testing, standby guardianship to assist parents living with HIV, and needle exchange to prevent further spread of HIV.

## Favorite Supreme Court case of all time?

*Brown v. Board of Education*—a brilliant and sustained effort by courageous people from all over the country that successfully challenged racial injustice by focusing on the effect of segregation on the well being of children. Unfortunately, much work remains to be done! And *Lawrence v. Texas*, which laid the groundwork for full recognition that there is no legal basis for treating people differently because of their sexual orientation.



## Deborah Weimer

Carole & Hanan Sibel  
Research Law School  
Professor

BA, State University of New York at Old Westbury  
JD, New York University  
LLM, Temple University

## Hometown:

Carle Place, New York

## Favorite place on campus?

Peace and a Cup of Joe and the green space in front of School of Nursing.

## Currently reading?

*The Writing Life* by Annie Dillard and *Lincoln Steffens: A Biography* by Justin Kaplan

## Best memory of teaching at Maryland Carey Law?

Working with students as they see the injustice faced by so many of their low income clients, and they realize they have the power to make a difference with their developing legal skills.

## faculty

## Donavan Ham

Second-Year Student

BA, University of South Carolina

## Hometown:

Florence, South Carolina

## Currently reading?

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline



## Student Organizations and Activities:

General Body Member, Trial Team  
Vice President, Black Law Students Association  
General Body Member, Criminal Law Association  
Judicial Intern, The Honorable Robert B. Kershaw

## Favorite Supreme Court Justice or case of all time?

Thurgood Marshall. As an African-American male, Justice Marshall is a true inspiration. His tenure on the bench and his well-noted activism and success as an attorney are something I strive for every day.

## Favorite TV show?

“Game of Thrones.” I loved how the early seasons were about the mystery and political machinations of a group of people in a world different from our own.

## Fun Fact:

I chase waterfalls. If you have any questions follow my Instagram page: @ham.donavan

## Favorite meal?

I’m a simple guy. I’ll take BBQ chicken and corn on the cob right off of the charcoal grill.

## student

## Ranjit (Ron) Dhindsa '95

Partner, Hollingsworth LLP  
(Washington, D.C.)  
Member, Maryland Carey Law Alumni Board

BS, University of Maryland  
BA, University of Maryland  
JD, Univ. of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

## Hometown:

Rockville, Maryland

## Greatest Accomplishment?

Making sustainable a life-changing nonprofit youth leadership training organization that motivates, empowers, and inspires students from across Maryland to realize their leadership, educational, and human potential.



## Currently reading?

*Warrior of the Light* by Paulo Coelho.

## Favorite TV show?

Stephen Colbert—the man is witty, intelligent, socially conscious, and engaging.

## Best memory of Maryland Carey Law?

The excellent professors who challenged us to think, mentored us, and guided us to career paths aligned with our passions and interests.

## Advice for recent law school graduates?

Network, follow your passions, and be open. The path to reaching your objectives may not be as you envisioned. Indeed, your objectives themselves may change along your journey.

## Favorite Supreme Court case of all time?

*Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993). *Daubert* and its progeny minimize the risk of junk science being admitted into evidence.

## Favorite part of the day?

Every moment of the day is my favorite part. Life is short, so I try to live every moment.

## Favorite meal?

Guacamole, chicken and steak fajitas, and broccoli.

## alumnus

## Fun Fact:

I have a fraternal twin sister. My twin and I are totally opposite when it comes to our personalities. I am shy and quiet, and my twin sister is not. My twin sister is two minutes older than I am, and she lives 25 minutes away from me.

## Best part of working for Maryland Carey Law?

Interacting with the staff, faculty, and students. I enjoy helping the students and working with my co-workers. As of October of 2016, I have been working at the law school for 25 years. Also, I met my husband, a 1994 graduate, while working at Maryland Carey Law. We have been married for almost 17 years and we have two children.

## Favorite TV show?

I do not have a particular favorite TV show but I love to watch shows on HGTV. I love to watch the different house shows where they fix up horrible looking homes and make them look beautiful and fabulous.



## LaShea Blake

Data and Resource Coordinator, Career Development Office

AAS, Fayetteville Technical Community College  
BS, University of Maryland University College

## Hometown:

Spring Lake, North Carolina

## Greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment is when I received my BS in 2014. I had been trying for years to accomplish this goal.

## Favorite meal?

My favorite meal would be anything Italian, such as spaghetti, lasagna and baked ziti.

## Dream job as a kid?

As a kid, my dream job was to become an elementary school teacher. When I was young, my twin sister and I used to play school together and took turns being the teacher.

## staff