Villanova University’s Charles Widger School of Law Receives $15 million gift from The John F. Scarpa Foundation to Launch New Phase of Entrepreneurship Initiatives and Scholarship

Villanova University President, the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, OSA, PhD, announced a $15 million gift from the John F. Scarpa Foundation to further elevate the Charles Widger School of Law as a leader in entrepreneurship and law, in addition to strengthening entrepreneurial expertise, innovative thinking and collaboration across the University. In recognition of Scarpa’s lifetime giving of more than $20 million to Villanova, the Law School building will be named John F. Scarpa Hall.

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Interdisciplinary Initiative on Poverty and Inequality

Villanova University has announced an interdisciplinary initiative aimed at examining the issues of poverty and inequality. This initiative was spurred by a gift from Paul A. Tufano, Esq., '83 VSB, '86 CWSL and Christine Tufano '84 CLAS, '86 MA. As a result of this gift, Villanova created a fellowship position and named Stephanie Sena, long-time adjunct professor and founder and executive director of the Student-Run Emergency Housing Unit of Philadelphia, as the inaugural fellow. Housed within the Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, this interdisciplinary initiative will support programmatic efforts to generate concrete ideas and policy solutions to address the systemic issues of inequality, which in many cases intersect with, exacerbate or lead to poverty.

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Looking at the Pandemic Through a Legal Lens

When the COVID-19 Pandemic hit the United States in February, Professor Todd Aagaard had planned to teach a climate change course during the fall semester. As cases surged around the country, he pivoted his approach and decided instead to focus on creating a new course on the legal aspects of the evolving crisis.

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Villanova Law Alumni Association Updates

The Villanova Law Alumni Association has provided support for students and alumni through various outlets this fall.

- Supporting Students: This Fall the VLAA held monthly Office Hours, giving Villanova Law students the opportunity to meet with alumni to connect, ask questions and network. Additionally, VLAA members spoke with Villanova undergrads interested in pursuing law about the opportunities within the legal field and at Villanova Law.
- Supporting Alumni: In response to the heightened stress and anxiety that many alumni are facing, the VLAA hosted the program, “Coping with Stress in 2020 – A Conversation with Experts.”
Support Villanova Law with a gift before December 31

As we approach the final weeks of the year, we hope you will consider including the Fund for Villanova Law in your year-end giving plans. Every gift, no matter the size, supports the excellence that defines a Villanova Law education, and every dollar makes an impact on today’s students.

Gifts made by December 31, 2020 will be eligible for a 2020 tax deduction. The University encourages you to give online or by calling 1-800-486-5244 to ensure that your gift is processed promptly. If you wish to mail a check, please do so by December 15 to ensure arrival by December 31. Read additional information about ways to give.

Villanova Law Women’s Network Announces Inaugural Board of Advisers

The Villanova Law Women's Network (VLWN) is an organization that supports Villanova Law alumnae by encouraging their professional and personal development. Diane E. Ambler ’78, President and Marie Bussey-Garza ’17, Vice President, have been announced as the inaugural officers for the VLWN. Additionally, the Board of Directors have been announced, which consists of: Kristine Calalang ’04, Sandhya Feltes ’90, Judith R. Forman ’75, Krystin Kopen ’11, Hayley Lenahan ’15, Stephanie Marcozzi ’17, Jane North ’91, Amy Kline Stovall ’99 and Michelle Warner ’95.

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A Legal Career Hooked on Advocacy

61st Annual Reimel Moot Court Competition Winners

Pivoting During a Pandemic to Find New Opportunities
For Kirstin Mohammed ’22, the most essential aspect of a legal career is advocacy. As a lawyer, she hopes to use her degree as a tool to empower others and to help disenfranchised communities who cannot advocate for themselves. This past summer, she had the opportunity to put her passion for advocacy into practice when worked as an intern at the Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP).

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After weeks of preparation and preliminary trials, the final round of the 61st Annual Theodore L. Reimel ’24 CLAS Moot Court Competition concluded on Thursday, November 5, 2020. In the first virtual competition, Tasha Stoltzfus Nankerville ’22 and Annalise Hodges ’22, who argued on behalf of the respondents, were victorious.

Read more

This past year has been unconventional in many ways as law students navigate their education and professional opportunities during a global pandemic. John Reid ’22 experienced this first-hand when his original summer externship plans were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Faculty Highlights

Brett Frischmann, the Charles Widger Endowed University Professor in Law, Business and Economics at Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, along with co-principal investigators from University of Pittsburgh School of Law and New York University School of Law, have been awarded a three-year, $350,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to develop the Governing Knowledge Commons research coordination network.

Read more

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States this past March, millions of Americans shifted to remote work almost overnight. Faced with this new reality, the ensuing economic downturn and the pressure to continue to run teams efficiently, many employers turned to digital monitoring surveillance software to track their employees’
work productivity from home. Associate Professor J.S. Nelson is researching workplace surveillance as the pandemic continues to change where and how people work.

Read more

More faculty highlights

Upcoming Events & CLE Opportunities

- December 9: An Orderly Estate Administration: Preparing Your Executor or Leaving Your Executor a Mess
- January 2021: The Villanova Law Institute to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation Virtual CLE Series (registration coming soon)

Class Notes

Arthur J. Furia '74 CLAS, '80 CWSL was appointed Honorary Consul of the Republic of Malta with jurisdiction for the State of Florida.

Lawrence F. Flick II '84 was elected to the Secured Finance Network (SFNet) Executive Committee for 2021.

Lisa R. Jacobs '86 received the ninth annual Pennsylvania Bar Association (PBA) W. Edward Sell Business Lawyer Award virtually at the 2020 Business Law Institute.

Diana Cortes '06 was named an AL DÍA 40 Under 40 Honoree.

Calli Padilla '11 was named a Philadelphia Business Journal 2020 Women of Distinction Rising Star honoree.

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In Memoriam

Richard A. DeMichele '54 CLAS, '57 CWSL
Albert Yarashus '59
Frank E. Gilbert '57 CLAS, '60 CWSL
Update Your Information

Has your contact information or employment information changed? Update your information to receive the latest news from Villanova University.

www.law.villanova.edu

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