



Akron Law Review Symposium Volume 58

# AKRON LAW REVIEW SYMPOSIUM PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

Friday April 4, 2025

150 University Ave Akron, OH 44325

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM



## AMANDA BRIDENSTINE

Amanda Bridenstine is the CEO of GRAIMED, a medical device startup company developing AI decision-support software for radiologists and oncologists diagnosing and treating brain tumors. She also serves as the Director of Development for Major Gifts & Planned Giving at Malone University, in which she uses the skills and experience she developed while in private practice as an estate planning & elder law attorney with Cleaver & Sokolowski LLC in Canton, Ohio. Amanda is passionate about helping other would-be entrepreneurs in the Akron-Canton area find their way to startup success, as well as supporting the growth of the region's tech innovation sector. In support of this mission, Amanda has worked to develop the Canton AI Tech Innovation Summit held annually at Malone University in partnership with the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce. Amanda is a 2011 graduate of the University of Mount Union and a 2015 graduate of the University of Akron School of Law. We are Purple Raiders! Go Zips!



## JESSICA SUBLETT

Jessica Sublett, JD, LLM, is a dynamic leader in technology innovation and commercialization, serving as President & CEO of Bounce Innovation Hub since January 2023. With a strong focus on fostering entrepreneurial ecosystems, Jessica drives Bounce's strategic vision, ensures financial sustainability, and cultivates partnerships to support Northeast Ohio's most innovative startups. Her expertise stems from a robust career in technology transfer and economic development, where she's crafted programs that amplify economic impact and inclusivity. Previously, Jessica excelled as Bounce's Chief Operating Officer (2018-2022), launching entrepreneurial programs and overseeing daily operations, including financial management, community impact reporting, and strategic planning. Under her guidance, Bounce secured over \$8M in grant funds and implemented its first three-year strategic plan, enhancing its programming and operational structure. A licensed attorney in Ohio, Jessica's academic credentials include a J.D. and LLM. in Intellectual Property from the University of Akron School of Law, alongside a B.S. in Business Management from the University of Findlay. She is recognized for her contributions to regional economic development, earning accolades such as Crain's Cleveland Business Forty Under 40 and Greater Akron Chamber's 30 For the Future. Jessica's leadership exemplifies a commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and entrepreneurial growth.



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## DANIEL THOMSON

Dan is a U.S. Patent attorney who obtained his Juris Doctorate from the Ohio State University College of Law in 1998. His practice includes U.S. and foreign prosecution of patents, trademarks, and copyrights, and litigation research pertaining to all areas of intellectual property law. Dan's educational background also includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry from Florida State University in 1993. Dan is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Akron School of Law, where he teaches the Trademark Clinic. He is a member of the State Bar of Ohio, the Akron Bar Association, the American Intellectual Property Law Association, The Federalist Society, Christian Legal Society, and the American Chemical Society, and is registered to practice before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Supreme Court of Ohio, the Northern District of Ohio, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.



## KATE HICKNER

Kate is a Member of Brennan Manna & Diamond, LLC and is based in the law firm's Cleveland office. She is a healthcare attorney with a national practice who focuses on transactional matters and compliance with federal and state healthcare regulations. She is licensed in Ohio, Michigan and New York. Kate helps her clients achieve their business objectives in a manner that complies with state and federal healthcare regulations, including federal Stark and state self-referral laws, federal and state anti-kickback laws and HIPAA and state privacy laws. Kate's practice has an increasingly strong focus on digital health companies, friendly physician or captive PC models designed to address the corporate practice of medicine, aesthetic and other cash-based physician practices, ambulatory surgical centers, health care start-ups and fundraising, private equity transactions, HIPAA and other data privacy laws and cybersecurity breaches. Kate's clients have included digital health companies, physician groups, ambulatory surgical centers, private equity funds, laboratories, hospitals, large health systems, retail and compounding pharmacies, accountable care organizations (ACOs), home health agencies, hospices, nursing homes, ambulatory surgery centers, medical device companies and businesses that provide practice management and related services to healthcare providers.



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## DUANE MANCINI

Duane is the Chief Executive Officer and Founder at Project Medtech. He has more than 15 years of experience in go-to-market strategy including regulatory & reimbursement, biocompatibility, pre-clinical efficacy testing, and clinical trial design & execution. With all the complexities of running a Medtech company and taking a product to the market, Duane partners with start-ups to develop strategies and milestones. He evaluates how their early decisions in various aspects of the company may impact other aspects in the future. He supports in creating the blueprint to build and grow companies. He obtained his Master of Science in Medicinal Chemistry degree and enjoys the innovative science that goes into every company. He is proud to be a “nerd” of the Medtech industry. This is demonstrated by hosting the podcast called “Project Medtech.”



## JON SNYDER

Jon J. Snyder is the Managing Director, Investor Relations for the Ohio Life Sciences Association, a non-profit trade association for the state. He holds over 30 years of global management experience in biomedical and healthcare sales, marketing, and operations with significant experience in bringing new products into the marketplace. His background covers company formation, business development, product development, intellectual property, market management, sales management, venture capital investment, and fundraising at start-up and Fortune 500 (Top 20) companies including Cyberonics (N/K/A LivaNova), Cardinal Health, Neuros Medical (founding CEO), Imalux, and STERIS, having raised \$40 million in venture capital and strategic partner investment. The Company's patented platform technology received FDA Premarket Approval for the treatment of chronic intractable phantom and residual limb post-amputation pain. Snyder sits on several non-profit and for-profit boards and is the recipient of two exclusive awards from Ohio University – the 2022 Medal of Merit and the 2024 Konneker Medal for Innovation and Commercialization. He is also the Co-Founder of the Papay Snyder Medical Impact Award to support research efforts at Ohio University which he co-led with Dr. Frank Papay from Cleveland Clinic. Snyder enjoys family activities, recreational sports, is an avid Cleveland sports fan and frequent speaker/class lecturer.



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## PROFESSOR LAURA HOFFMAN

Dr. Laura C. Hoffman is an Assistant Professor of Law at Cleveland State University College of Law (CSU Law) after previously serving as a Visiting Professor of Law. She also serves as Co-Director of the CSU Law Center for Health Law and Policy. Prior to her time with CSU Law, Dr. Hoffman served as a Senior Research Fellow with the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at Yale Law School where she contributed to the development of projects and events involving palliative care policy, Elder Law, brain injury, and Disability Law. Additionally, she worked as an Assistant Professor of Law/Faculty Researcher for Seton Hall University School of Law's Center for Health and Pharmaceutical Law and Policy where her work focused on research projects aimed at making policy changes to improve healthcare access for people with disabilities and children. Previously, Dr. Hoffman worked for Data Federal Corporation as a contract Attorney Advisor for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals in the Cleveland, Ohio field office. She drafted appellate decisions for Administrative Law Judges involving legal disputes over Medicare payments. Professor Hoffman earned her S.J.D. in Health Law and Policy from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Additionally, an LL.M. in Child and Family Law from Loyola, a second LL.M. in Law and Government from American University Washington College of Law with a concentration in Civil and Constitutional Rights, a J.D. from Ave Maria School of Law, and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Notre Dame (cum laude). Dr. Hoffman's legal scholarship has been published in numerous law reviews and journals including the Notre Dame Journal on Legislation, the Pittsburgh Journal of Environmental and Public Health Law, the Iowa Journal of Gender, Race, & Justice, Case Western University School of Law's Health Matrix: Journal of Law-Medicine, the American Journal of Law and Medicine, and the Journal of Law, Medicine, and Ethics. Her legal scholarship has been cited by the National Council on Disability and the RAND Corporation. She has co-authored a book chapter on telehealth and the law in COVID-19 and the Law: Disruption, Impact and Legacy(2023). Dr. Hoffman was an Inaugural Fellow for the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics (ASLME) 2022-23 Expanding Perspectives Fellowship Program. She also received the Perfect Presenter Award from the ASLME at its 2024 Health Law Professors Conference. Her public speaking engagements have included speaking at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) 2024 Health Equity Conference to offer legal expertise on telehealth accessibility for people with disabilities. Professor Hoffman was voted by CSU Law students as the 2023-24 Faculty Member of the Year and was awarded the CSU Law's Dean's Teacher Award (2024-26).





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## PROFESSOR GARY MARCHANT

Gary Marchant, Ph.D., J.D., M.P.P., is Regents' Professor and Faculty Director of the Center for Law, Science & Innovation at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Arizona State University. Professor Marchant's research interests include the governance of emerging technologies such as genomics, biotechnology, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, neuroscience, quantum technology, and blockchain. Prior to joining ASU in 1999, Professor Marchant was a partner at the Washington, D.C., office of Kirkland & Ellis. He has authored more than 200 articles, books and book chapters on governing emerging technologies. He has served on seven National Academies of Science consensus committees (chairing two), and has been elected as a lifetime member of the American Law Institute and a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also chairs the IEEE Working Group (P2863) to create a governance standard for entities that develop or use artificial intelligence.



## MEGAN FRANTZ OLDHAM

Megan J. Frantz Oldham is a Partner with Plakas Mannos Ltd with offices in Akron and Canton Ohio and has spent her career advocating for injured parties and their loved ones in the areas of personal injury, wrongful death, medical malpractice, nursing home negligence, trucking negligence, and legal malpractice. She was first certified as a Civil Trial Advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy in 2020 and is only one of five females in the State of Ohio with such certification. She has been recognized by The Best Lawyers in America in the field of Medical Malpractice Law – Plaintiffs since 2021, listed as Top 50 Women Ohio Super Lawyers (2023; 2025), and is AV Preeminent Peer Review Rated. She is a member of International Society of Barristers and American Board of Trial Advocates, former Trustee of the Ohio Association for Justice, former President of the Summit County Association for Justice, and former President of the Akron Law Alumni Association. She resides in Akron, Ohio with her husband Judge Jon Oldham and three children, Charlotte (14), Nora (12), and George (7).



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## DR. AMY BURKETT

Dr. Amy Burkett is a clinical assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED) and the Vice Chair of South Region for Obstetrics and Gynecology Institute at the Cleveland Clinic. She has a long history of physician, women's health, and reproductive justice advocacy and was honored in 2024 to serve as the ACOG McCain Advocacy Fellow. After graduating from NEOMED, Dr. Burkett completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center where she began her involvement in ACOG and women's health advocacy. She returned to northeast Ohio after residency and worked as a private practice OBGYN before transitioning to an OBGYN hospitalist with the Cleveland Clinic. As an ACOG leader, Dr Burkett had the opportunity to serve on multiple state task forces, give legislative testimony, and sit on committees within the Department of Health and Medicaid. Dr. Burkett regularly speaks on the importance of healthcare advocacy to physicians, medical students, and the community. In 2023, Dr Burkett spent much of her spare time working with the Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights and a large coalition of physician and nonphysician reproductive justice advocates to pass the Ohio Reproductive Rights Amendment. Dr. Burkett currently serves ACOG as the District V Chair Elect and is also on the Board of Directors for Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights. In her spare time, she enjoys being with family and her horses which she considers a very expensive personal wellness project.



## PROFESSOR SAM HALABI

Sam Halabi is a Professor in Georgetown University's School of Health and directs the Center for Transformational Health Law at the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law. Prior to joining SOH, Prof. Halabi served as the senior associate vice-president for Health Policy and Ethics in Colorado State University's Office for the Vice-President of Research and as a professor at the Colorado School of Public Health. He is the former Manley O. Hudson Professor of Law and director of the Center for Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship at the University of Missouri, where he earned the Husch Blackwell Award for Distinguished Teaching. His research on the law of companies and corporations has been cited by both federal and state courts in the U.S. He holds a J.D. from Harvard, an M.Phil. from the University of Oxford, and undergraduate degrees from Kansas State University.



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## MARA WILBER

Mara is Associate General Counsel at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland, Ohio. Prior to joining MetroHealth in 2021, Mara practiced law in the Health Care & Life Sciences group of an international law firm and advised clients on a broad range of healthcare regulatory and transactional issues. She received her Juris Doctor from Columbia Law School, Master of Arts in Bioethics from Case Western University, and Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Economics from Denison University. Mara is passionate about public health and driving innovations that break down barriers and promote access to care. At MetroHealth, she regularly counsels on a variety of topics, including application of healthcare fraud and abuse laws, population health initiatives, innovative SDOH strategies, managed care contracting and value-based arrangements, navigating relationships with payers and PBMs, pharmacy, the 340B drug pricing program, healthcare transactions, and other professional services arrangements.



## PROFESSOR BARRY FURROW

Professor Furrow is a Professor of Law and Director of the Health Law Program at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University. Professor Furrow earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School before clerking with the Superior Court of Massachusetts and then handling civil litigation and health-law cases with the Boston firm, Palmer & Dodge. Professor Furrow is a pioneer in the field of health law, the lead author of eight editions of *Health Law—Cases, Materials and Problems*. Professor Furrow came to the law school from Widener University School of Law, where he founded the Health Law Institute and earned the Jay Healey Distinguished Health Law Teaching Award from the American Society of Law, Medicine and Ethics. He has also held full-time faculty posts at the University of Detroit School of Law, American University's Washington College of Law and at the George Mason University Anthony Scalia School of Law. His teaching experience also includes teaching stints in the University of Michigan Law School and School of Public Health and the University of North Carolina School of Law in Chapel Hill. Professor Furrow's expertise spans a wide array of health-related topics, including among others patient safety, mental health, telehealth, and private equity financing in health care. He has written extensively in such publications as the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, the *Duke Law Journal*, the *Harvard Civil Rights – Civil Liberties Law Review* and the *Drexel Law Review*; and has also published chapters in several Oxford and Cambridge Press Handbooks on Health.



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## PROFESSOR ASHLEY KEITH

A 2009 graduate from the University of Akron School of Law, Ashley L. Keith, Esq. joined the faculty as a full-time Visiting Assistant Professor of law in Fall 2023 and will transition to an Assistant Professor of law in Fall 2025. Previously in-house corporate counsel at a large health system in Northeast Ohio, she gained operational experience in healthcare as a practice manager at obstetrics and gynecology medical practice at a time the office needed legal guidance to transition from paper chart to an electronic health record system. Prior to receiving her Juris Doctor from Akron Law, she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and German from Illinois Wesleyan University. Although a native of Detroit and proud product of the Detroit Public School System, Ms. Keith has remained in Northeast Ohio since her time at Akron Law. She most enjoys encouraging her students to confidently approach the practice of law after their course completion. In addition to her involvement at her own institution, Ms. Keith stays involved with the health law community via conference attendance and presentation, law student mentorship, and professional development.



## MADISON CONNOR

Madison is responsible for monitoring state and federal legislative and regulatory developments that may impact employer sponsored health plans. She provides updates to employers and consultants on topics such as state pharmacy benefit legislation, ERISA preemption, federal transparency requirements and key litigation impacting health benefit plans. She obtained her bachelor's degree from The University of Toledo and her Juris Doctor from The University of Akron School of Law, where she also obtained a Health Law Certification. She currently serves on the board of directors for CommQuest Services, the Domestic Violence Project, Inc. and the Women's Board of Aultman Hospital.





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## JENNY MILLS

Jennifer Mills, Partner at BakerHostetler and co-leader of the Employee Benefits Team, holds a J.D. from The Ohio State University, an M.S. in Physics, and an L.L.M. in Taxation from Case Western Reserve University. As the healthcare landscape is evolving, Jennifer regularly works with large, self-funded employers in developing and implementing strategic and innovative health care plans, including direct contracting arrangements with healthcare providers and pharmacies. She advises clients of all sizes in the area of health and welfare benefits, including both for-profit and tax-exempt organizations and government entities. Jennifer has extensive experience in employee benefits, with a focus on health and welfare plan design and implementation. She has developed an extensive practice with regard to the requirements that apply to employer-sponsored plans and works with clients to develop business strategies that comply with complex regulatory frameworks. She also works with providers to advise them on strategies in working directly with employer-sponsored health plans. With an L.L.M. in taxation, Jennifer also understands the tax perspective of benefits and compensation plans and the tax-driven reforms established by the IRS.



## BRENDAN MOHAN

Brendan Mohan is a recent Honors Scholar graduate from the University of Akron School of Law, graduating magna cum laude with Honors. He currently serves as the Legal Fellow for The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company at their headquarters in Akron, Ohio. During law school, Brendan won two national legal writing competitions: the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel (ACEBC) writing competition and the New York State Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law writing competition, with both organizations subsequently publishing his work. Including these accolades, Brendan has authored a total of eight publications appearing in journals such as the New York State Bar Association's Labor and Employment Journal, Saint Louis Labor and Employment Journal, ConLawNOW, ACEBC, and the American Bar Association's Employee Benefits Newsletter. Brendan has also showcased his work on the national stage on numerous occasions, most recently last spring at George Washington Law after being selected to present as an aspiring scholar by the American Bar Association and Yale Journal of Regulation. In recognition of his contributions to legal writing, he recently became a member of Scribes—The American Society of Legal Writers, the oldest organization of its kind. A committed advocate for the federal judiciary, Brendan serves as a national leader for the Federal Bar Association (FBA). He acts as a Liaison to the Judiciary Division, regularly advocating on behalf of federal judges, and sits on the board of the FBA's Civics, Service, and Outreach Committee, where he works to advance civics education in middle and high schools across the country. Brendan remains dedicated to community service, volunteering with local food banks and the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. He considers the highlight of his career to be his recent engagement to his fiancé, Chloe Reip, whom he credits as his greatest source of support and inspiration.



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## MARVIN FERGUSON

Marvin Ferguson, RPh, MBA, LSSGB, PMSP, is the CEO of Marv Leads Consulting LLC, specializing in leadership tools for businesses, non-profits, and organizations. A Licensed Clinical Pharmacist with over 10 years in the PBM arena, Marvin holds a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Ohio Northern University and an MBA from Malone University. He is also an Intercultural Development Inventory Qualified Administrator and possesses certifications in Inclusion Workplace and Consultant Toolkit from Harvard. Marvin is a sought-after speaker and workshop facilitator, known for his TEDx talk, "Prescription Approved for Implicit Bias," which led him to bring TEDx to Northeast Ohio as the license holder of TEDx Balch Street. His insights are valued by organizations like NEOMED and the Ohio Pharmacist Association. In addition to his speaking engagements, Marvin hosts "Ask a Pharmacist" on the Radio Free Entertainment Network, promoting transparency in healthcare. He founded Let's Get Healthy Cleveland, Inc., a non-profit aimed at addressing healthcare inequalities, and serves as Assurance Committee Chair for the ADM BOARD of Summit County. Committed to social equity, he also established I.M.O.N.B LLC Properties to address housing disparities and launched Bruce's Jamaican Fusion Soul, a food truck honoring his late mother.



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