



KMK Law Hosts Sixth Annual Diversity Case Competition

On January 12 & 13, KMK Law, in partnership with the University of Cincinnati College of Law, hosted the sixth annual Diversity Case Competition for first-year law students from diverse backgrounds. This year, the competition was comprised of 14 teams from 5 law schools in Ohio and Kentucky: Salmon P. Chase College of Law, Northern Kentucky University; The Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law; University of Cincinnati College of Law; University of Dayton School of Law; and University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law.

“The Diversity Case Competition is more than a legal challenge; it is a transformative experience for first-year law students,” said Bethany P. Recht, KMK Partner and Co-Chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. “Beyond the competition itself, students have the chance to interact with seasoned attorneys and outside corporate counsel, serving as mentors and judges. The result is not just a chance to win the competition, but an opportunity for skill development, professional networking, and exposure to diverse perspectives that will undoubtedly shape their future success in the legal industry.”



The competition simulates the real-world associate experience, complete with the assignment, evaluation and feedback processes used in law firms. Using the case model, students displayed analytical, problem solving, and communication skills – all skills that are keys to success in the legal industry. The competition also exposed students to attorneys in private practice, public interest, and outside corporate counsel, who served as assigning partners, coaches, and judges.

“Thank you to the volunteer judges from our legal community, law students, and the University of Cincinnati College of Law, all of whom have been instrumental in bringing this program to life year after year,” said Alan Fershtman, Managing Partner. “Their commitment has been integral to the success of the Diversity Case Competition. At KMK Law, we are thrilled to host the nation’s first and only diversity case competition, and we extend our thanks to everyone involved.”



The top teams of the competition included:

First Place: University of Cincinnati College of Law
Amilcar Torres-Enriquez
Dominic Roschival

Second Place: The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
Elizabeth Agranovsky
Zachary Paganini

Third Place: University of Cincinnati College of Law
Joelle Newman
Megan Hasson



UC LGBTQ+ Center Safe Zone Training

On October 23, the Diversity & Inclusion Committee hosted the University of Cincinnati's LGBTQ+ Center to put on a Safe Zone Training. The program focused on terminology, active allyship practices, and effective rules for respectful engagement.

Girls in Law

KMK Law was proud to host the Cincinnati Public School's "Girls in Law" program kick-off luncheon. Girls in Law was launched in 2023 by Ohio First District Judge Marilyn Zayas, CPS Student Engagement Specialist Shelly Conrad, and Withrow High School senior Sanaa May to educate girls interested in pursuing a career as a lawyer or judge.



KMK is Proud to Support the Human Rights Campaign

KMK Law was proud to sponsor the Human Rights Campaign Annual Greater Cincinnati Dinner on March 16. The Greater Cincinnati Chapter is part of the National Human Rights Campaign and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, which together serve as America's largest civil rights organization working to achieve LGBTQ equality. By inspiring and engaging individuals and communities, The Greater Cincinnati HRC chapter strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ people locally and realize a world that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

KMK Law Diversity Fellowship Recipient

KMK Law is pleased to announce that Katherine Perez is the 2024 recipient of the KMK Law Diversity Fellowship.

Katherine Perez is a 2022 graduate of the Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and is currently a first-year law student at the University of Cincinnati College of Law. Katherine participated in the 2024 KMK Law 1L Diversity Case Competition. Katherine is currently the 1L Cohort Representative for UC Law's Student Bar Association.

"As part of our ongoing commitment to diversity, we are proud to sponsor the KMK Law Diversity Fellowship Program," said Bethany P. Recht, KMK Partner and Co-Chairperson of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee. "We congratulate and welcome Katherine to KMK Law as a first-year summer associate."



KUDOS & CONGRATULATIONS!



Chris Brinkman:
***African American Chamber of
Commerce Entrepreneurial Legal
Clinic Series***

In April, Chris Brinkman was invited by the African American Chamber of Commerce for Legal Clinic Series 1 where he joined other panelists to discuss the essentials of contracts, agreements, and legal considerations crucial for the success of small businesses.



Vince Jabour: C-Change

The Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber has selected Vincent Jabour to participate in Class 19 of C-Change. C-Change is the premier leadership development program for advancing mid-career leaders in the Cincinnati region. The curriculum combines leadership development with community engagement for holistic growth, enhancing participants' skills for current leadership roles and preparing them for future ones.



Mark Chumley:
***Cincinnati Chamber Diversity
Leadership Symposium***

Mark Chumley was invited to join the keynote panel for the Cincinnati Chamber Diversity Leadership Symposium "Main Stage Panel – DEI Dynamics: Charging a New Course Amidst a New Landscape". The panel included corporate and university leaders who lent their expertise to examine campus and workplace cultures exploring the impact of *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard* on creating impactful, defensible, and thriving DEI programs.



Sophia Holley:
***Eminent Domain and Land
Valuation Litigation Conference***

In February, Sophia Holley was selected to join the program faculty at one of the nation's leading eminent domain conferences, the 41st Eminent Domain and Land Valuation Litigation Conference, in New Orleans. Sophia joined speakers from the private and public bar, non-profit law firms, law professors, and eminent domain specialists from around the country.



Rachael Rowe:
Scholarship for Inclusive Excellence

Rachael Rowe and her husband, Michael Cioffi, through a principal gift to the University of Cincinnati College of Law, honored former Dean and Cincinnati Civil Rights Leader by creating the Verna L. Williams and David Singleton Dean's Scholarship for Inclusive Excellence. The gift will provide significant funding to an incoming law student at the college. The scholarship is named for former dean Verna Williams, who served as interim dean of the college from 2017-2019 before being appointed dean in May of 2019. She was the first African American to lead the law school, which is the fourth-oldest continuously operating law school in the country. Williams focused on student success and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts during her time at UC and drove the creation of The Legal Access Clinic at UC Law.



Greg Hartmann:
Second Chance Symposium

Greg Hartmann organized the Second Chance Symposium held at the Queen City Club in January. KMK Law was proud to sponsor alongside Talbert House and Fifth Third Bank. During the event, Governor Mike DeWine highlighted the crucial role of offering employment opportunities to individuals with involvement in the justice system. The program featured insights from Cincinnati business leaders, including Rodney McMullen, Chairman and CEO of The Kroger Co., Marcus Sheanshang, CEO of JBM Packaging, and Eric Wellinghoff, President of Nehemiah Manufacturing, who shared success with second chance hiring as a key component to strengthening the workforce.

Women's Initiative

KMK Law Celebrates International Women's Day

KMK Law celebrated International Women's Day with guest speaker Zamira Saidi, J.D. Zamira, who was born and raised in Afghanistan, is an advocate for gender equality and the founder of Afghan Women Educational and Empowerment Services Organization (AWEESO). She came to the University of Cincinnati College of Law as a Fulbright Scholar where she earned both her J.D. and LL.M. She is currently an Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Program Analyst at Fifth Third Bank.



Women's Networking Event

On October 5, the KMK Law Women's Initiative hosted professional women from the Greater Cincinnati area at Ripple Wine Bar in O'Bryonville. The women enjoyed a wine and food tasting featuring female winemakers or owners.

KMKCares

Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio's Law Firm Attorney of the Year Award

Congratulations to Adam Centner for winning the Pro Bono Partnership of Ohio's Law Firm Attorney of the Year award. Adam received the award at the Volunteer & Donor Appreciation Reception on Tuesday, March 19 at the Fifth Third Bank Atrium. KMK Law congratulates Adam on receiving such a meaningful award and for the positive impact he made on PBPO's 375+ nonprofit clients!



Notes of Encouragement

In December, KMK teamed up with United Way to provide notes to local senior citizens, spreading cheer and holiday joy to those in our community who may want to feel more connected.

Cincinnati Scholar House

KMK organized a Supply Drive, contributing classroom supplies, cleaning essentials, paper goods, and monetary support to benefit the Cincinnati Scholar House. Operated by HER Cincinnati, the Scholar House provides safe, affordable housing and wrap-around support to low-income single mothers who are pursuing higher education, as well as their children. Scholar House seeks to empower single mothers to complete a post-secondary education or employment program, secure a family-sustaining job, and create a legacy of stability that continues from one generation to the next.



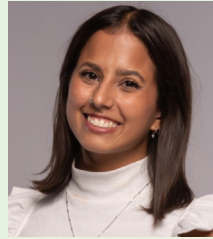
2024 KMK Law Summer Associates

KMK Law is pleased to welcome the KMK Law Class of 2024 Summer Associates

1L Class Class of 2026



Olivia Montgomery
University of Cincinnati
College of Law



Katherine Perez
University of Cincinnati
College of Law



Dominic Roschival
University of Cincinnati
College of Law



George Sdregas
The Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law

2L Class Class of 2025



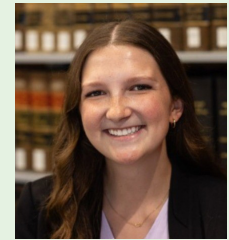
Jenna Culman
The Ohio State University
Moritz College of Law



Tanner Fisher
University of Kentucky J. David
Rosenberg College of Law



Christo Fosse
University of Cincinnati
College of Law



Beth Ann Powers
University of Cincinnati
College of Law

2024 Committee Members

KMK Law recognizes the current members of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee, Women's Initiative Committee, and KMK Cares Committee. Please reach out to any of these members with input or questions regarding diversity, inclusion, and community service initiatives.

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Bethany Recht (Co-Chairperson)
Joe Lehnert (Co-Chairperson)

Stephanie Bisselberg Vince Jabour Claire Parrish Adrienne Roach
Kate Christoff Shannon Lawson Bozana Lundberg Jason Stitt
Karin Goitman Allie Westfall

Women's Initiative Committee

Emily Schott (Co-Chairperson)
Allie Westfall (Co-Chairperson)

Kate Christoff Caroline Musekamp
Sarah Vonderbrink Geiger Antoinette Schindel
Sophia Holley Darcy Watt

KMK Cares Committee

Adam Centner (Chairperson)
Taylor Baumeister Emily Schott
Jodee Hebert T.G. Seward
James Kezele Taylor Trout
Kyle Miller Owen Walsh
Antoinette Schindel

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