

THE LEGAL LECTURE

The Pre-Law Professions Alumni Advisory Committee was formed in 1988 to support and encourage the interest and advancement of W&J students in the law. The committee's membership includes practitioners and jurists from diverse backgrounds and experiences who are committed to broadening the educational and professional opportunities for W&J students and alumni.

The annual Homecoming Pre-Law Lecture Series was officially named The W. Edward Sell '45 Law Lecture Series by the Pre-Law Professions Alumni Advisory Committee. The series, previously unnamed, was chaired and moderated by the late W. Edward Sell, Ph.D. '45, from 1990 to 2004. The lectures have highlighted relevant and timely legal issues that affect both the profession and its role in society. Over the years, this well-attended series has attracted distinguished alumni panelists and guests.

Sell, dean emeritus and distinguished service professor of law at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, shared his "encyclopedic knowledge" with students for 50 years. He was a teacher, legal scholar, and mentor to more than 200 W&J/Pitt law graduates. Many of his students have gone on to become distinguished attorneys, state and federal judges, and members of state legislatures and the United States Congress.

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Political Science

GEORGE WASHINGTON GREW IT: THE LEGAL PITFALLS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARIJUANA IN PENNSYLVANIA



W. EDWARD SELL '45 LEGAL LECTURE

Saturday, October 5, 2019
8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

PRESENTED BY THE PRE-LAW PROFESSIONS ALUMNI
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

7:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Presentation of the 2019 W. Edward Sell '45 Legal Achievement Award to: The Honorable William L. Thomas '91
8:45 a.m.	Panel Discussion

MODERATOR

Hon. William L. Thomas '91 is a circuit judge for Florida's Eleventh Judicial Circuit. After graduating from law school, Thomas began his career in 1994 as a State Public Defender in Florida's Miami-Dade County. In 1997, he became a Federal Public Defender in Florida's Southern District, where he represented indigent clients. He served in that capacity until he joined the circuit court in 2005. Prior to securing a seat on the bench, there were only four African-American judges serving Miami-Dade County. Thomas received his J.D. from Temple University School of Law.

PANELISTS

Frank C. Botta, Esq. '81 is chair of the Transportation Practice Group of The Lynch Law Group. For decades, Botta has been counseling local, regional, national, and international clients in logistics, supply chain, and transportation operations. In addition to transportation practice, Botta has experience in advising and assisting clients with labor and employment matters. He has litigated civil disputes in both state and federal systems and has represented companies before the Third and Fifth Circuit Courts of Appeals. In addition, he is certified as a Major League Baseball player agent and has represented baseball players for 13 years. Botta earned his J.D. from Temple University School of Law.

William T. Fritz, M.D., MBA '82 is the director of the Division of Anesthesia and Acute Pain Service at Conemaugh Memorial Medical Center in Johnstown, Pa. He currently serves as adjunct clinical assistant professor of surgery, anesthesiology, and pain management at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and clinical/didactic instructor at Excelsa Health School of Anesthesia in Latrobe, Pa. Dr. Fritz is a shareholder and/or investor in two Pittsburgh-based marijuana related enterprises: Solevo Wellness and Keystone Relief Centers. He holds a financial relationship with Terrapin Care Station, which is the first licensed medical marijuana grower and provider based in Boulder, Colo. Dr. Fritz received his MBA from the University of Pittsburgh and his M.D. from Hahnemann University.

Alexander Lindsay, Esq. '68 is managing partner of Lindsay Law Firm in Butler, Pa. Lindsay began his private practice in 1980 after over nine years of trial experience serving as federal prosecutor and assistant district attorney. He also served as president of the Western Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association. Much of Lindsay's experience as a private attorney has been in the field of criminal defense and litigation, in both Federal and State Courts. Lindsay earned his J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Lisa M. Pellegrini, Esq. '85 began serving as an assistant district attorney of the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office in 1997, and in 2001, she became the first female member of the Homicide Unit. Pellegrini specializes in high-profile murder cases, including the prosecution of Dr. Robert Ferrante, a University of Pittsburgh researcher who fatally poisoned his wife with cyanide, and Richard Poplawski, who was sentenced to death in 2009 for the murders of three Pittsburgh police officers. For her participation in the Poplawski case, she received the Amen Corner Law Enforcement Award for Special Exemplary Homicide Prosecution. Pellegrini earned her MBA from Pace University and her J.D. from Touro College Law Center.

Hon. Christine Ward '79 was elected to the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County in 2003 and currently serves as the Administrative Judge of the Civil Division. She is one of two judges sitting in the Court's Center for Commerce and Complex Litigation and is president of the American College of Business Court Judges. She is an adjunct law professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and a member of the Board of the University of Pittsburgh Law Alumni Association. She chairs the civil judge's section of the State Court Trial Judge's Conference. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Ward practiced law for 20 years in the area of commercial litigation. Ward received her J.D. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Larry W. Zukerman, Esq. '82 is the managing partner at Zukerman Lear & Murray Co., L.P.A. He focuses his practice primarily on criminal defense. From the firm's office in Cleveland, he provides representation to people throughout the greater metropolitan area who have been accused by the state or federal government of committing misdemeanor or felony offenses. The types of matters that Zukerman handles include drug possession and distribution, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, domestic violence, sex offenses, embezzlement and other financial crimes, weapons violations, and assault and other violent crimes. Zukerman received his law degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law.