

Pre-Law Day at Calvin College

Monday, October 10, 2016

All sessions are at Prince Conference Center, unless otherwise noted*

- 8:15 – 8:45 Registration and Continental Breakfast
Hickory Room
- 8:45 – 10:00 *Why Become an Attorney?*
White Pine/Maple Room
Panel of local attorneys
- 10:00 – 10:15 Break
Hickory Room
- 10:00 – 10:30 *Chapel with Jim Gash, Pepperdine University School of Law [optional]
Calvin College Chapel
- 10:15 – 11:00 Law School Recruiting Fair
Fireside Room
- 11:00 – 12:00 *How Law Schools Read Applications*
White Pine/Maple Room
Jacob Baska, Notre Dame Law School
- 12:00 – 1:00 *Law School Admission by the Numbers: LSAT Scores, GPA & Other Factors*
White Pine/Maple Room
Jim Gash, Pepperdine University School of Law
- 1:00 – 1:30 Lunch
Oak Room
- 1:30 – 2:15 *An Attorney's Role in Global Justice*
Oak Room
Jim Gash, Pepperdine University School of Law
- 2:15 – 2:45 Law School Recruiting Fair
Fireside Room
- 2:45 – 3:45 *What Makes a Good Personal Statement?*
White Pine/Maple Room
Charles Roboski, Michigan State University Law School
- 3:45 – 4:00 Break
Fireside Room
- 4:00 – 5:00 *Mock Law School Class*
White Pine/Maple Room
Tracey Brame, Western Michigan University/Cooley Law School
- 5:00 – 6:00 Networking Reception with Alumni Attorneys
*Gezon Lower Lobby in Spoelhof Center
- 6:00 – 7:30 Showing of [*Remand*](#), a documentary about Pepperdine Law's Global Justice Program in Uganda
*Gezon Auditorium in Spoelhof Center

A film about the power of an idea: a simple suggestion made by two Pepperdine law students led to deep and systemic changes in the Ugandan criminal justice system and benefited thousands of people, including several prisoners desperate for justice whose powerful stories are told in this film. Viewers look deep into the faces of despair through the eyes of twelve law students as they meet these prisoners in their darkest hours. Watch as the story unfolds and leads to dramatic change in the criminal justice system of an entire country.

Why Become an Attorney?

Charles N. Ash Jr. (Warner Norcross and Judd)

Charles is a litigator with extensive experience representing businesses in complex contract and tort litigation in state and federal courts throughout the country. He has successfully represented global manufacturers, handled several cases with over \$100 million at stake and represented two creditors in the city of Detroit's historic bankruptcy case.

Practices: Mining; Oil & Gas; Minority Business Law; Emergency Manager Law; Litigation and Dispute Resolution; Insurance Litigation; Intellectual Property; Intellectual Property Enforcement and Litigation; Resources, Energy and Environment; Energy; Resources

Education: Stanford University J.D. 1998; Calvin College B.A. 1995

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan
- State Bar of California



Laura Bakker (Michigan Court of Appeals)

Laura has been an attorney for 30 years, and readily admits that only God was capable of orchestrating the varied opportunities and positions that composed a law career perfect for her. She has practiced as a research attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals, as a staff attorney concentrating in insurance and consumer protection law for the UAW-GM Legal Services, had the opportunity to practice part-time with a local law firm while her children were young and, in the last twelve years of her career, returned full circle back to the Michigan Court of Appeals as a contract research attorney.

She is trained as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect, serves on the Judicial Code Committee of the Christian Reformed Church, and keeps her faith strong and growing by leading a Bible Study Fellowship group.

Practices: Research Law

Education: Thomas M. Cooley J.D. 1985; Calvin College B.A. 1980

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan



Ana Raquel (Stutler) Devereaux (Michigan Immigrant Rights Center)

Ana is a staff attorney at the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center's Kalamazoo office. She was a Justice Americorps Member Attorney at the same office. Her work focuses on the representation of unaccompanied immigrant children in removal proceedings and seeking available forms of relief for them, as well as developing pro bono attorneys to assist in this work. Ana grew up in the Dominican Republic as a child of missionaries and has a heart for working with vulnerable populations. She received her Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from Calvin College, doing her Honor's Thesis on 'How Should Christians Understand U.S. Immigration Policy and Institutional Framework in Light of the Biblical Perspective on Justice and the State.' She has had a variety of internships, including with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants in D.C., the Wayne State Asylum and Immigration Clinic, and has coordinated pro bono efforts to provide legal services through MACC Legal in Detroit. At her current position, Ana represents unaccompanied children in removal proceedings before the immigration court, meets with clients and seeks viable forms of relief under immigration law, and comes before administrative agencies and state courts as necessary to seek the interest of clients.



Practices: Immigration Law

Education: Wayne State University J.D. 2014; Calvin College B.A. 2011

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Tom Gezon (Smietanka, Buckleitner, Steffen & Gezon)

Thomas Gezon offers clients a comprehensive practice that includes state and federal litigation, representation of business and commercial clients, family law, representation before government agencies, in-house investigations, and representation in all phases of criminal matters. Having practiced law in Michigan since 1974, Tom has years of experience in the formation, dissolution, and operation of businesses in West Michigan. He works diligently with each client to develop creative solutions to legal issues, ranging from formation of single start-ups to complex business problems that may involve litigation. Tom also represents clients in a wide range of family law matters, including divorce, custody and parenting issues.



With more than 40 years of experience in the criminal justice system of Michigan in both federal and state courts, Tom has had a successful public-service career as an Assistant United States Attorney with the United States Attorney's Office for the western district of Michigan. In addition, he served as an Assistant Prosecutor with the Berrien County Prosecutor's Office in St Joseph, Mich.

Practices: Alternative Dispute Resolution; Business Planning; Civil Litigation; Criminal Defense; Family Law; Real Estate

Education: Valparaiso University J.D. 1974; Calvin College B.A. 1971

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Christopher Haven (Senior Counsel at Meijer)

Chris is Senior Counsel for Meijer, Inc., a regional retailer based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He joined Meijer in 2012 after having served as Staff Counsel at Universal Forest Products, Inc. for over seven years. His current responsibilities include transactional support and legal advisement to business partners in merchandising, procurement, manufacturing, supply chain, business-to-business, and construction. Chris is also a certified Lean Six Sigma Greenbelt and leads his department's contract management improvement efforts.



Practices: Corporate Law

Education: Reformed Theological Seminary M.A. 2011; University of Detroit Mercy J.D. 2001; Calvin College B.A. 1998

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Michigan

Perrin Rynders (Varnum Law)

Perrin Rynders has successfully prosecuted and defended a wide variety of business and commercial disputes, ERISA cases, employment cases, product liability and personal injury cases, health care fraud and tax matters. He has conducted more than three dozen jury and bench trials in federal and state courts around the country, as well as contested matters before administrative tribunals and arbitrators, and has resolved disputes as a facilitative mediator.



Practices: Litigation and Trial Services; Alternate Dispute Resolution; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Hidden Access Fee Recovery

Education: University of Michigan J.D. 1985; Calvin College B.A. 1982

Bar Associations:

- United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana
- United States Court of Federal Claims
- United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit
- State Bar of Michigan

Jeff Van Winkle (Clark Hill)

Jeff represents businesses and entrepreneurs actively seeking to create or provide exceptional services or products. In today's business and legal marketplace, he coordinates and leads exceptional attorneys and other professionals to provide the resources his clients require. Jeff directly provides general counsel services, securities law compliance counseling, legal guidance for multinational business activities and transactional legal services to clients throughout the Midwest.

Jeff actively represents many businesses based outside of the United States in their inbound business activities, their operation of the US subsidiary entities, and acquisition of additional facilities and businesses in the US. The pace of cross-border activity continues to grow, sometimes fueled by opportunities and, at times, by uncertainty. Jeff's experience across industries and his extensive knowledge of legal issues for midsize and small businesses is relied upon by many businesses based in Europe, the United Kingdom, Central and South America as well as parts of Asia.



Practices: Corporate Law; Automotive & Manufacturing; Banking; Health Care

Education: University of Michigan J.D. 1987; Calvin College B.A. 1982

Bar Associations:

- State Bar of Illinois
- State Bar of Michigan