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Friday, May 5, 2023



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Commencement Speaker

ROB BEARD
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL
AND CORPORATE SECRETARY
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Rob Beard is senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary at Micron Technology.

Rob is responsible for Micron's global legal, intellectual property, and compliance and ethics functions, comprising a team of lawyers, paralegals and other professionals. He was appointed to this position in 2021.

Rob joined Micron in 2014 and has previously led the legal teams supporting Micron's corporate and global operations functions. Before joining Micron, he worked at international law firms Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and Shearman and Sterling LLP, where he led mergers and acquisitions and other strategic transactions in complex, cross-border capital markets. Rob also advised on public company disclosure and corporate governance matters.

Rob graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in political science and earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Illinois College of Law.

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Since August 2020 the class of 2023 had logged more than 2,592 hours of pro bono service. The College of Law's Pro Bono Recognition program has more stringent standards than the 50 hours required for NYS Bar Admission. To be recognized students must be in good academic standing and complete a minimum of 50 unpaid volunteer hours providing pro bono legal services directly to persons with limited means through work done at a nonprofit organization, a legal services organization, a government agency, or a private firm. The Outstanding Service Awards are for the top three J.D. graduating students and the top LL.M. graduating student with the most pro bono hours.

2023 OUTSTANDING PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS

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Hannah Gavin (381.25)
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For the past eight years, College of Law 3Ls have joined in the University's senior class giving campaign, Class Act!, which encourages all seniors to make symbolic philanthropic gifts to the University.

The College of Law acknowledges this year's donors with gratitude.

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Special thanks to the 2023 Class Act! Committee, led by J.D. Class President Ryan Ockenden, JDInteractive Class Act! campaign Co-Chairs Meghan Steenburgh and Jonathan "Dusty" Burgess, and LL.M. campaign Co-Chairs Ludmilla Evelin de Faria Sant'Ana Cardoso and Chiebuka "Christie" Okezie.

Finally, the College of Law recognizes Board of Advisors Member and Class Act! Liaison and campaign Co-Founder Alan M. Epstein L'74 for his vision and annual support of the campaign.

Gifts received as of April 6, 2023. Gifts made by the JDInteractive Class of 2023 were made in memory of classmate John Goerner, who passed away in March 2021.

Alma Mater

WHERE THE VALE OF ONONDAGA
MEETS THE EASTERN SKY.
PROUDLY STANDS OUR ALMA MATER
ON HER HILLTOP HIGH.
FLAG WE LOVE! ORANGE! FLOAT FOR AYE,
OLD SYRACUSE, O'ER THEE.
LOYAL BE THY SONS AND DAUGHTERS
TO THY MEMORY.

- Junius W. Stevens, Class of 1895

IN MEMORIAM



John P. Goerner

1979-2021

In April 2021, our classmate, John P. Goerner, who would have graduated on May 5, 2023, passed away after a brief, mighty, courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. To the end, John attended his classes from Mohnton, P.A. He did so with grace and characteristic vigor. He is, and will always be, an inspiration to our College of Law community.

John was I.T. Director of Metropolitan Management Group. He received his B.S. in Information Systems from Bellevue University in Bellevue, N.E., and his MBA from Alvernia University in Reading, P.A. An avid hockey and rugby player. John planned to use his J.D. degree to represent those less fortunate. He is survived by his wife, Kristin, and many friends, including many College of Law students.

“John was a fighter,” Senior Associate Dean of Online Education Kathleen O’Connor told The Daily Orange. “He was a wonderful student and an exemplary man.”

The memory of John lives on through the Class of 2023, who launched a Class Act! campaign to establish a scholarship in his name.

IN MEMORIAM



Deborah Kenn

1955-2023

PROFESSOR OF LAW

ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR CLINICAL
AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW

Our College of Law Community mourns the passing of Professor Deborah Kenn on April 20, 2023.

Professor Kenn served as the Associate Dean for Clinical and Experiential Education and the Director of the Community Development Law Clinic for many years. She will be remembered as a passionate educator and mentor to hundreds of students and a relentless advocate for our community.

 Syracuse University