

Graduate Program in Corporate Law & Finance - Faculty

E. Christopher Johnson, Jr.

Associate Professor

Director of the master of laws program in corporate law and finance

B.S., United States Military Academy 1973

J.D., cum laude, New York Law School 1981

E. Christopher Johnson, Jr. joined the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in January 2009 as the director of the school's new corporate law and finance master of laws (LL.M.) program and has been appointed to serve as a member of Cooley's nationally recognized Professionalism Department.

Before joining Cooley, Professor Johnson served as the General Motors North America vice president and general counsel beginning in 2001 where, he was responsible for managing the delivery of all legal services that impacted the GM North America Region. He also served on the GM North America Strategy Board. Additionally, Professor Johnson was the chair of GM's African Ancestry Affinity Group.

A former attorney search consultant (1985-1988) and an associate attorney (1981-1985) with the New York firm of Mudge Rose Guthrie Alexander & Ferdon, Professor Johnson graduated with honors from New York Law School in 1981. He received an American Jurisprudence Award for constitutional law and served as president of the New York Law School student body.

Professor Johnson is co-chair of the Legacy Campaign for Detroit's Legal Aid and Defender Association, co-chair of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Foundation and a member the advisory board of the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO). He is involved in numerous American Bar Association activities including the House of Delegates, Standards Review Committee of the Section of Legal Education, vice chair the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and past chair of the Africa Law Council.

He has been recognized by numerous organizations for his community and professional contributions including the American Bar Association, D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, Detroit Legal Aid Society, Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, National Bar Association, National Black Law Students Association, Oakland County Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, Street Law and Urban Wheels.

Professor Johnson's scholarship accomplishments include frequent speeches in the areas of diversity, professional responsibility and law school accreditation.

James L. Carey

Associate Professor

B.A. University of Michigan, 1991

J.D. University of Michigan, 1998

James Carey is an Associate Professor who joined the faculty of the law school in 2005. Professor Carey teaches Business Organizations, Wills, Trusts and Estates, and Securities Regulation. He will also teach a business transactions class in the Corporate and Finance LLM program.

Prior to joining the Cooley faculty, Professor Carey worked as Of Counsel in the Business Transactions Group of Dickinson Wright P.L.L.C. and as an Associate with the Corporate and the Insurance Services groups of Sidley Austin Brown & Wood L.L.P. His major areas of practice included counseling operating companies, insurance companies and banks on corporate governance, mergers and acquisitions, lending/borrowing, corporate finance, securities offerings, and regulatory matters. Professor Carey was also a stock broker at Dean Witter Reynolds (now part of Morgan Stanley); a district manager at Financial Services, of America, and the executive director of the charitable DeMolay Foundation of Michigan. He also owned and operated his own business, C JL Computer Services.

Professor Carey focuses on business law courses and issues. He is the official reporter for the Michigan State Bar Business Corporation Act Legislative Drafting Committee and the official reporter for the Michigan State Bar Limited Liability Company Act Legislative Drafting Committee.

Michael Molitor

Associate Professor

B.A., with honors, University of Michigan 1991

J.D., cum laude, Wayne State University Law School 1994

Prior to Cooley, Michael Molitor was an attorney with the Grand Rapids, Mich., law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP from 1994 to 2004. While in private practice, he focused on business and securities law, counseling a variety of clients including publicly traded corporations, closely held corporations, and controlling shareholders. As a law student, he served as a legal intern in the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's Office and as a student attorney in The Free Legal Aid Clinic., Inc., of Detroit.

In law school, he was a member of the Order of the Coif; served as Assistant Editor, then Editor-in-Chief, of The Wayne Law Review; won American Jurisprudence Awards in Constitutional Law II, Conflicts of Law, and Civil Procedure; and was the recipient of the Bronze Key Award. Mr. Molitor has been published in The Fordham Journal of Corporate and Financial Law, The Indiana Law Review, The Wayne Law Review, and The Michigan Business Law Journal. He also co-authored a chapter in the book Michigan Contract Law, published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Mr. Molitor is an Associate Professor at Cooley's Grand Rapids Campus. Mr. Molitor graduated with a B.A. honors degree from University of Michigan and received his Juris Doctor (JD) cum laude from Wayne State University Law School. At Cooley, he teaches Securities Regulation, Business Organizations and Wills, Estates and Trusts.

ADJUNCTS

Byron C. Babbish

Adjunct Professor

Byron C. Babbish retired in 2010 from Chrysler Group LLC where he was Assistant Secretary and Senior Staff Counsel. He started his legal career on the legal staff of Chrysler Financial in 1982 upon graduation from law school. During most of his career, Mr. Babbish specialized in corporate and finance law. In these capacities he provided legal representation on the many reorganizations, mergers and sales involving Chrysler and its subsidiaries, as well as on the funding activities and transactions of Chrysler and/or Chrysler Financial involving bank credit lines, public and private debt securities and asset-backed securitizations in the United States, Canada and Europe. In addition, Mr. Babbish was responsible for the corporate governance and compliance matters of Chrysler and its subsidiaries. Mr. Babbish earned his Juris Doctorate from the University of Detroit in 1982. He also holds a Masters of Science and a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Detroit that he earned in 1978 and 1976, respectively. Mr. Babbish joined Cooley's graduate Corporate Law and Finance LL.M. Program as an adjunct professor teaching Corporate Governance and Finance at the inception of the program in September 2009 and since then has taught additional business-related classes at the LL.M. and Juris Doctor levels at Cooley.

Steven J. Cernak

General Motors

Steven J. Cernak is an attorney with the Communication, Sales and Marketing Section of the General Motors Company Legal Staff. He has practiced antitrust and trade regulation law for GM since 1989 and serves as lead competition law counsel for GM globally and lead counsel for GM's Service Operations in the United States. Mr. Cernak has managed GM's responses to lemon law and breach of warranty lawsuits across the U.S. since 1999. Mr. Cernak has written and lectured in the U.S. and Canada on various antitrust topics including premerger notification programs of the U.S. and other countries and other international pricing and competition law issues. He taught the Advanced Antitrust Law class at the University of Michigan Law School during the Winter 2009 term. He has also lectured on antitrust topics at the Cooley Law School. He is a member of the American Bar Association and has held various positions in its Antitrust Section. He currently serves as a Member of the 2009 Annual Developments Editorial Board. He is co-Chair of the Antitrust Council of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Chamber's International Competition Policy Working Group. He is a former member of the Council of the State Bar of Michigan Antitrust, Franchising and Trade Regulation Section. He is the Chair of the Access to Justice Committee of the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association and assisted in the founding of the Detroit Legal Services Clinic. He was awarded the 2001 John W. Cumiskey Award by the State Bar of Michigan as that state's pro bono lawyer of the year. He received the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association's 2008 Champion of Justice Award for his long-standing pro bono service. He received the GM Legal Staffs 2009 Elmer W. Johnson Award for demonstrating the highest goals of ethical conduct, visionary leadership and a commitment to social and civic projects that add value to the legal profession and society at large. He is a Fellow of both the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Foundation and the American Bar Foundation. He earned his J.D. in 1989 from the University of Michigan Law School. He also has an A.B. and M.A. in Economics from the University of Michigan. He is admitted to the State Bar of Michigan.

Marcia B. Goffney

Adjunct Professor

Marcia Goffney has held numerous senior level corporate legal positions. Most recently, she was vice president, secretary and general counsel of Yazaki North America, a multi-billion dollar subsidiary of a Japanese company. Prior to that, she was managing counsel at Dow Corning Corporation. Her primary practice areas are products liability, litigation, ethics and intellectual property. She graduated from Case Western Reserve University law school. After law school, she became the first African American female sworn in to practice law in Saginaw County, Michigan. Ms. Goffney has been nationally recognized for her commitment to inclusion of all people in corporations and the legal profession. She has been a guest speaker on the issue of diversity and inclusion for numerous organizations, including DuPont, the State Bars of Illinois and Michigan and Ernst and Young. She has been a frequent speaker at law firm meetings to increase understanding of inclusion. Ms. Goffney co-founded Charting Your Own Course Career Development Conference to increase understanding on issues of inclusion. She is a recipient of the Association of Corporate Counsel National Diversity Award, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Award and she was named one of Crain's Detroit's "100 most influential women." She has served on the State Bar of Michigan Open Access to Justice Commission, the American Bar Association Professional Responsibility Standing Committee, as a director for the Straker Bar Association and as chairperson of the ABA Minority In House Counsel Program Committee. She recently completed a two term appointment as a director for the 30,000 member Association of Corporate Counsel. She is a member of the Executive Leadership Council, a director for Habitat for Humanity, Western Wayne County and a member of Delta Sigma Theta, a public service sorority. Ms. Goffney currently co-teaches Corporate Professional Responsibility with Prof. Johnson in the Graduate Program in Corporate Law and Finance.

Jill Karana

Member

Howard & Howard Attorneys PLLC

Jill Karana is a corporate transactional attorney specializing in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, securities and general business and corporate matters. She has extensive experience in assisting companies in raising capital through private placements (with and without the use of sales agents/brokers), assisting companies in structuring and negotiating the sale of their business; assisting companies in structuring and negotiating acquisitions of other businesses; assisting entrepreneurs in organizing and structuring new business ventures; and assisting public companies in preparing and filing their periodic SEC reports and other securities compliance matters.

Ms. Karana previously served as an intern with the Division of Corporation Finance of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, as in-house counsel for the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians and as interim general counsel to a Tier 1 automotive supplier. She is a 1993 cum laude graduate of Michigan State University College of Law. Ms. Karana also has an LL.M. in Securities Regulation from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S in Finance from Central Michigan University. Ms. Karana joins the faculty an adjunct professor teaching Public Company Disclosure in January 2009.

Gregory L. Ulrich
Adjunct Professor

Member

Ulrich Law, PLC

A.B., magna cum laude, University of Detroit 1974

J. D. University of Detroit School of Law 1977

Greg Ulrich is a Member of Ulrich Law, plc. He serves businesses, local governments and individuals. Client representation includes corporate/business, real estate, personal and business planning and acquisition, public and private finance, governmental affairs/municipal law, judicial administration, utilities, professional liability, estates and trusts, labor & employment law, legislation, information technology, non-profits, litigation and dispute resolution.

He spent 18 years as Partner and Real Estate Practice group head with Cummings, McClorey, a Michigan-based multi-state law firm. He has counseled state and local government officials on inter-governmental relations and finance for over 33 years and mediated multi-million Dollar disputes. For 15 years, with the Michigan Supreme Court, he provided oversight and counsel to over 280 judges and 64 trial courts in Michigan, including as acting Associate State Court Administrator.

His professional leadership, includes numerous committee and task force work with the State Bar of Michigan, where he has been a member of its Board of Commissioners since 1986, sits on its Finance Committee, and served as Chairperson of the Representative Assembly in 1990. He is a member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates. He is current Chairperson of the SBM Master Lawyers Section and was Chairperson of the SBM Young Lawyers Section in 1986.

Mr. Ulrich received an A.B., magna cum laude, from the University of Detroit in 1974 and a J.D. in 1977 from the University of Detroit School of Law. He joined the Cooley LL.M. Corporate & Finance Program in 2011 as an adjunct professor.