

2021-2023

# NEW FACULTY NEW ROLES



## at the University of Cincinnati College of Law

### Michael Whiteman, *Interim Dean*

Michael Whiteman has been appointed Interim Dean. Whiteman is an expert on legal research and technology's impact on the practice of law and law libraries. Dean Whiteman has authored numerous articles and treatises which have been published in law journals at UCLA, Northwestern, and Indiana, among others. His most recent articles include *Upskirting, BitCoin, and Crime, Oh*



*My: Judicial Resistance to Applying Old Laws to New Crimes – What is a Legislature to Do?*, 95 *Ind. L.J. Supp.* (2020); *Internet Citations in Appellate Court Opinions: Something's Still Rotting in the Commonwealth*, Ky. Bench & Bar (July/Aug. 2018); and *Appellate Jurisprudence in the Internet Age*, 14 *Nw. J. Tech. & Intell.*

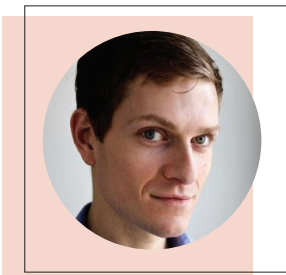
Prop. 255 (2017). Additionally, he has taught courses in Legal Research, Criminal Law, and Law Librarianship.

A member of the College of Law since 2019, Whiteman served as Associate Dean of Library Services, Director of the Robert S. Marx Law Library and Chief of Staff. Prior to joining the College of Law, he served as Interim Dean for two years at Northern Kentucky University's Salmon P. Chase College of Law, and for 15 years as the Associate Dean for Law Library Services and Information Technology. He also worked as Associate Director at the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law.

Dean Whiteman holds a MS (L.I.S.) (Simmons College), a JD (University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law), and a BA (Concordia University). "Supporting our students to be successful in their legal studies and beyond is my number one priority as Interim Dean," said Dean Whiteman.

### Ryan Thoreson, *Legal Scholar and Anthropologist*

Bringing a wealth of experience to his role as Assistant Professor of Law, Ryan Thoreson's scholarship focuses on contemporary social movements and spans constitutional law, criminal law, tort law, and comparative and international law. His research can be found in or is forthcoming in such scholarly journals as the *California Law Review*, *Harvard International Law Journal*, *Yale Law Journal*, and *Journal of Human Rights*.



Prior to joining the College of Law, Thoreson

taught as an Assistant Professor at the University of Hong Kong and was a Clinical Lecturer and prestigious Cover-Lowenstein Fellow at Yale Law School. Before entering academia, he was a researcher at Human Rights Watch and clerked on the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. A Rhodes scholar, Thoreson holds a D.Phil. in Anthropology (Oxford University); a JD (Yale Law School), where he was Executive Editor of the *Yale Law Journal* and Managing Editor of the *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*; and an AB in Government and Studies of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (Harvard University). "I'm excited to be a part of and contribute to the intellectual community at the College of Law," said Thoreson.

**Kristie Bluett**, *Assistant Professor of Clinical Law and Director, Domestic Violence and Civil Protection Order Clinic*

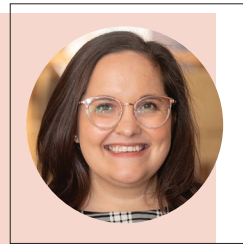
Kristie Bluett’s research and teaching interests span international human rights law, with a focus on women’s and children’s rights, immigration law and policy, family law, and lawyering skills. Her scholarship has been published by the Georgetown Journal of International Law, American University International Law Review, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the American Bar Association Center for Human Rights.



Previously, Bluett was a clinical teaching fellow and then Visiting Assistant Professor and Acting Director of Georgetown Law Center’s International Women’s Human Rights Clinic. She has also taught short courses with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative in Saudi Arabia and the Open Society Foundation in the Republic of Georgia. She holds a JD and L.L.M. in Advocacy (Georgetown University Law Center) and a BA in International Relations (George Washington University). Said Bluett, “I’m thrilled to join the College of Law... and I’m excited to work with and advise students as they gain the skills necessary to succeed in the profession.”

**Sarah Adkins**, *Assistant Professor of Clinical Law and Director, Legal Access Clinic*

Sarah Adkins is a public interest attorney who has focused her career on advocating for underrepresented populations. Prior to joining the College, she founded and directed the Neighbors Immigration Clinic, a nonprofit providing legal services to low-income immigrants. Prior to that, she served as an Assistant Attorney General under Andy Beshear in the Office of Civil and Environmental Law and handled civil litigation at every level of state and federal court. Adkins completed a judicial clerkship



with the Honorable Judge Van Tatenhove of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky. She began her legal career representing immigrants in a wide variety of cases at Maxwell Street Legal Clinic funded by a Public Service Venture Fund Fellowship from Harvard Law School. This was strengthened by her experience at Harvard Law School, where she participated in numerous clinics, including the Harvard Immigrant and Refugee Clinic and the Ghana Project Clinic.

Adkins holds a BS (Campbellsville University) and JD (Harvard Law School).

**Dr. Jenn Dye**, *Theodore M. Berry Director, Nathaniel R. Jones Center for Race, Gender, and Social Justice*

Community advocate, leader and scholar Jenn Dye brings years of experience blending theory with practice and impact.



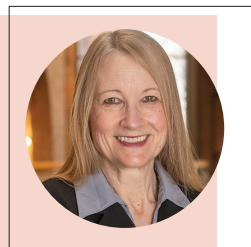
Most recently Dye served as research associate and Director of the Human Services Research & Innovation Center for the University of Cincinnati, where she was responsible for cultivating relationships to advance research

in ways that increased community impact. She has also worked for the United Nations

Development Program, Sudan, both in Kenya and Cincinnati. Her research interests focus on identity, international studies (human security and conflict) and human rights. She holds a PhD (University of Cincinnati), JD (University of Cincinnati College of Law), MA (University of Cincinnati), and BA (Wilmington College). As the Berry Director, Dye shares her thoughts on the impact of the Center. “The Jones Center changes the world, one student at a time – one semester, one class, one program really focusing on those issues and trying to cultivate the next generation of activists, leaders, and scholars.”

**Susan Stephan, Director, Master of Legal Studies Program**

Susan H. Stephan brings extensive experience to the role, including many years in online legal master's program administration with a background in law practice and two decades of teaching experience. In her previous role at Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad College of Law, she administered



the law school's online MS in Law and LL.M. programs, covering admissions, student advising, faculty development resource, curriculum, and budget for four fully online degree programs.

Stephan holds a LL.M. (University of Edinburgh Law School, expected 2021), an MA (New York University), a JD (Mitchell Hamline School of Law) and a BS (Northwestern University).

**Dr. Meghan Morris, Legal Scholar, Educator and Cultural Anthropologist**

With scholarship focusing on the areas of property, conflict, human rights and environmental justice, Meghan Morris' work examines the relationship between property and conflict, from the ways people use property in war and peacemaking to its role in disputes between neighbors. She has been published in *Cultural Anthropology* and the *Revista Colombiana de Antropología* (Colombian Journal of Anthropology).



Prior to joining the College, Morris was the ABF/NSF Postdoctoral Fellow in Law and Inequality at the American Bar Foundation. She was also affiliated as a senior researcher at the Bogotá-

based Center for Law, Justice and Society. Her teaching and research background are extensive, including fieldwork in Cuba, India, Colombia, and the United States. This work has focused on the process to grant land restitution and title to war victims in Colombia; property claims and environmental conflicts in informal urban settlements; intellectual property rights and plant genetic resources used in agriculture; and international human rights litigation aimed at corporate accountability. She holds a PhD (University of Chicago), a JD (Harvard Law School), an MA in Law and Diplomacy (The Fletcher School at Tufts University), and a BS in Policy Analysis and Management (Cornell University)

**Dr. Nate Ela, Legal Scholar and Sociologist**

A socially committed scholar with a longstanding interest in urban agriculture, Ela's scholarship spans property, local government, land use, and election law. He uses historical and ethnographic methods to understand how and why reformers have used property to address poverty and unemployment by reallocating rights to use idle resources. He has been published in the *Fordham Urban*



*Law Journal*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, and *Social Science History*. Previously, Ela was a Visiting Scholar at the American Bar Foundation. He has taught as an Instructor at Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and a Fellow at Harvard Law School. In addition, his professional experience includes work with the Chicago Food Policy Council, Amnesty International, and Grupo Semillas, (Bogotá, Colombia). He holds a PhD in sociology (University of Wisconsin-Madison), a JD (Harvard Law School), and a BA in political science (Columbia University).