



## Research Centers Newsletter, February 2020



### Program Spotlight: Compliance Initiative

The brainchild of **Professor John Ohnesorge**, the **Compliance Initiative** is based on the idea that legal education will be improved if we make a conscious effort to look at law and legal institutions through a compliance lens, in addition to the traditional ways through which we have approached the legal system. A compliance lens may mean many different things, but at the very least it means looking at law from the point of view of the regulated in addition to the regulator, and taking into account that it is often institutions rather than individuals that are being required

to comply. Students benefit from exposure to compliance in that many of them will soon be involved in compliance work, whether with law firms, government agencies, or in corporate legal departments. Scholars can also benefit from systematic exposure to compliance, as a compliance lens can help inform existing scholarly debates in administrative law, criminal law, corporate law, tax law, and many specialized regulatory fields. Clients with compliance issues will also benefit if they can hire lawyers who understand what it means to look at law through a compliance lens, even if those lawyers still need to learn the clients' specific regulatory fields.



The Compliance Initiative was built from the bottom up, with a series of speakers funded by the George Young Bascom Chair in Business Law, held by Professor Ohnesorge, and the Institute for

Legal Studies, directed by **Associate Dean Susannah Tahk**. The first event under the Initiative was held in April 2017. The Compliance Initiative has hosted a wide array of speakers, including Professor Susan Yackee (La Follette School of Public Affairs), Ray Taffora (UW-Madison Legal Affairs), Eric Wilson (Godfrey & Kahn SC), Senator Ron Johnson (US Senate), and Cathy Trueba, Amanda Reese, and Lauren Hasselbacher (UW-Madison Office of Compliance).

The Compliance Initiative will be hosting three events this semester and is currently planning events for Fall 2020. Upcoming events include:

- **Wednesday, February 19th:** "Compliance Challenges for Healthcare In-House Counsel: EMTALA and the FCA." Mary Link and Leah McNeely, UW Health. 12:00pm - 1:00pm in Lubar Commons.
- **Thursday, March 12th:** Timothy Caprez, Vice President and Chief Compliance Counsel at Exact Sciences. 12:00pm - 1:00pm in Room 2260. Title TBA.
- **Wednesday, April 15th:** "NCAA Compliance in a Changing Landscape," UW Athletics Compliance Officers. 12:00pm - 1:00pm in Lubar Commons.

For more information about the Compliance Initiative, visit their **Facebook page** or the **Compliance Initiative page** on the Law School website.

## Midwest Law & Society Retreat, November 13th - 14th



The **10th Biennial Midwest Law & Society Retreat** will be held on **Friday, November 13th - Saturday, November 14th** at the Pyle Center.

The Institute for Legal Studies hosted the inaugural session of the Retreat in Fall 2002, bringing together faculty and graduate students from the Midwest's diverse law and society programs for a weekend of intellectual exchange and community building. The Retreat has become a well-attended biennial event. It offers participants an opportunity to

share research, discuss professional issues, receive feedback on works-in-progress, and develop future projects with regional colleagues.

**[Register for the 2020 Law & Society Retreat](#) (registration deadline: June 1, 2020)**

## Event Spotlight: GLS Speaker Michael Stier

**Michael Stier, MD**, Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (UWSMPH), will be speaking at the Law School on Monday, February 10th at 12:00pm in Lubar Commons. Dr. Stier's talk, "**Death Investigation in Wisconsin and the United States**," will detail the history of forensic science in Wisconsin.

Dr. Stier earned his medical degree from UWSMPH (formerly UW Medical School). He completed a residency at UW Hospital and Clinics and fellowships at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office and the University of Virginia Hospital and Clinics. His research interests include seizure fatalities, childhood deaths, and forensic education.

This talk is sponsored by the Global Legal Studies Center and is hosted by **Professor Mitra Sharafi**.



**Michael Stier**

## Selected Upcoming Events

- **February 10, 2020:** GLS Speaker Michael Stier (GLS)
- **February 19, 2020:** Compliance Initiative Speakers Leah McNeely and Mary Link (ILS)
- **March 4, 2020:** Faculty Exchange Speaker Brian Larson (Dean's Office)
- **March 12, 2020:** GLS Speaker Maggie Gardner (GLS)
- **March 25, 2020:** Ideas & Innovations Speaker Paul Butler (Dean's Office)
- **April 2-3, 2020:** Wisconsin International Law Scholars Conference (WILSC) (GLS/HRP)
- **April 16, 2020:** Mildred Fish Harnack Lecture by David Kaye (HRP/GLS)

For a complete list of upcoming events, visit: <http://law.wisc.edu/researchcenters/events.html>

## Faculty Spotlight: Nina Varsava

### Nina Varsava

**Nina Varsava** is an Assistant Professor of Law and our newest faculty member. Her research focuses on ethics, interpretation, and procedure, and she uses both philosophical and empirical methods to study these fields.

She has written a series of articles on methods of interpreting precedent, a topic that, unlike its statutory counterpart, has received surprisingly little attention. She is currently completing an article—“**Beyond Substance and Procedure: Precedent, Interpretation, and the Limits of Erie**”—which presents a novel theory of interpretation and conflicts of law, and challenges conventional understandings of the Erie doctrine, the Supremacy Clause, and federalism, as well as choice of law and the principle of comity.

Professor Varsava also does empirical research on judicial decisions. She contributed a **chapter on computational textual analysis and judicial opinions** to the forthcoming volume *Computational Legal Studies: The Promise and Challenge of Data-Driven Research*. And she is currently conducting a study of the relationship between gender and judicial opinion writing on the U.S. federal courts of appeals. The project uses judicial decision data and computational methods of analysis to shed light on the gender roles and biases of judges.

Professor Varsava’s newest project addresses the duties of biomedical researchers towards human participants in the context of less-than-consensual research. This is a topic that is not adequately addressed in the regulations governing human subjects research, and that bioethicists have largely glossed over. Earlier this month, she published **a commentary in The American Journal of Bioethics** on researchers’ duties to return individual findings to participants when participation was non-consensual.



**Nina Varsava**

## Student Spotlight

### Jared Dakovich

**Jared Dakovich**, a 3L, studied abroad at FGV Law School in São Paulo, Brazil during the Fall of 2019. He enjoyed his classes and the opportunity to learn about how the law can lead to corruption in society. After initially experiencing culture shock over Brazil's closed economy, he fell in love with the country. He particularly enjoyed the booming art scene in São Paulo. The city is large and full of creativity. The picture to the right features Jared in Batman Alley which is located in the Pinheiros neighborhood of São Paulo. It is covered with beautiful graffiti and surrounded by art galleries and other unique stores. In addition to taking classes and exploring São Paulo, Jared appreciated the opportunity to master his Portuguese.



**Jared Dakovich**

## News and Announcements

- **Save the Date:** The **Wisconsin International Law Journal** will host the **2020 Wisconsin International Law Scholars Conference (WILSC)** on the theme "**Climate Change and Human Rights**" on **April 2-3, 2020** at the UW Law School. The Keynote Speaker will be **Ambassador Dr. Dessima Williams**.
- **Save the Date:** The **Mildred Fish Harnack Lecture**, featuring **Professor David Kaye (UCI Law)** will take place on **Thursday, April 16th** at the Pyle Center.
- **Save the Date:** The **2020 ILS Midwest Law & Society Retreat** will take place **11/13 - 11/14** at the Pyle Center.
- **Study abroad applications** for the 2020-2021 school year and **applications for internships in South Asia** for Summer 2020 are now open! The application deadline for both is **Monday, February 24**.
- The deadline for **EALSC summer internship in East Asia applications** is **February 1st**.
- Check out episode 6 of **UW Law's Wisconsin Law in Action Podcast** featuring **Professor Keith Findley**.



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