



# The Samuel & Ronnie Heyman Center on Corporate Governance

## 2024–2025 Annual Report



CARDOZO

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

# Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	3
EVENTS.....	4
CURRICULUM .....	9
HEYMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM .....	13
LEADERSHIP & FACULTY .....	14

# INTRODUCTION

For decades, the Samuel & Ronnie Heyman Center on Corporate Governance has been the heart and driver of Cardozo's business and corporate law programming, serving as a hub for research on innovation in the field and bringing together leading scholars, business leaders, practitioners, and students.

The Center comprises the central pillar of a robust curriculum of dozens of courses on subjects ranging from Bankruptcy Law to International Trade to Venture Capital. Classes are taught by Cardozo's faculty, by visiting international faculty and scholars, and by highly accomplished adjuncts who bring the realities of practice into the classroom. Our renowned faculty members have expertise in many areas including technology, antitrust, securities regulation, corporate compliance, and the ongoing ESG debate. Our faculty equips students to become ethical business attorneys and leaders in corporate practice, including as transactional lawyers or litigators.

In addition to rigorous classroom learning, our students gain real-world practical experience through clinics, internships, and externships at some of the most prestigious global companies. Students have participated in externships at JP Morgan Chase, Chanel, Morgan Stanley, Sony Music, Viacom, and more. Through our in-house clinics, including the Securities Arbitration Clinic, the Entrepreneurship and Community Business Clinic (ECBC), and the Filmmakers Legal Clinic (FLC), our students solve complex legal challenges for clients.

The Center regularly hosts a variety of events each semester with leading scholars and practitioners addressing the greatest challenges facing the global economy, such as artificial intelligence, capital markets, blockchain, corporate innovation, cryptocurrency, and sustainability.

Over the years, the Center's high caliber programming has attracted hundreds of students to Cardozo. Students flock to the Center's events, enroll in business law courses, and are mentored by the faculty and professionals in the our network. Students know that the Center offers not only theory and doctrine, analytical skills, and problem solving; they know, too, that the path to a promising career in corporate governance, finance, compliance, and regulation will have a strong start at the Center because of the program's legacy sitting squarely at the intersection of law and business.

We would like to thank Ronnie & Samuel Heyman for their immense support, generosity, and leadership toward the Heyman Center and Cardozo throughout the years. The following report summarizes the accomplishments of the Center over the 2024-2025 academic year. We appreciate your interest in our mission and work.

## EVENTS

Each year, the Heyman Center hosts public and Cardozo-only events ranging on a variety of topics. Below are descriptions of Heyman Center events from the 2024–2025 academic year.

### Events for Students

#### 1. Heyman Scholars **Welcome Lunch** – September 2024

At our first event of the academic year, we got together with the new cohort of Heyman Scholars in the Dean's Conference Room. Fabian Eichentopf, the new Executive Director, introduced himself and previewed this year's plans. Dean Melanie Leslie and Vice Dean Felix Wu also joined us, along with Faculty Co-Directors Professor Sam Weinstein and Professor Matthew Wansley. Other faculty members stopped by to welcome the new Heyman Scholars.

#### 2. Heyman Center Lunch: **In-House/M&A Practice** – October 2024

We welcomed Alissa Makower '92 to discuss her highly successful career path from practicing in entertainment law to mergers and acquisitions to handling corporate transactions and securities law matters as Vice President, Senior Counsel for Corporate Transactions and Securities at ViacomCBS/CBS Corporation.

#### 3. Heyman Center Lunch: **Small Law** – November 2024

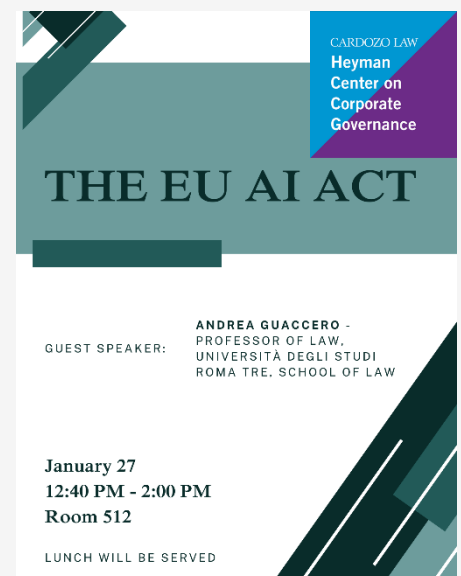
Pamela Grutman '14, the owner and founder of the Law Office of Pamela L. Grutman, PLLC, spoke about her life and career as a solo attorney practicing art law, nonprofit law, and trusts & estates.

#### 4. Heyman Center Lunch: **The EU AI Act** – January 2025

We welcomed Andrea Guaccero, a Professor of Law at the School of Law of the Università degli Studi Roma Tre, Rome, Italy, who discussed the European Union Artificial Intelligence Act. Professor Guaccero is the author and co-editor of several books and has published many articles in the areas of corporate and financial law. So many Cardozo students were interested in this special event that even all standing spots in the back of the room were taken.

#### 5. Heyman Center Lunch: **Securities Practice** – February 2025

Lawrence Rosenbloom '97, a partner at Ellenoff Grossman & Schole LLP, spoke about his career path since graduating from Cardozo and his current practice as a securities, corporate, and broker-dealer attorney. Lawrence was excited to return to Cardozo as a guest speaker and connected with several students after the event.





#### 6. Heyman Center Lunch: **Life as In-House Counsel** – March 2025

We welcomed Kerry Acocella '05 to discuss her highly successful career path from Cardozo to becoming General Counsel at Datadog, operator of a global SaaS-based data analytics platform. Our Heyman Scholars were able to not only get a first-hand account of a high-profile legal practitioner but also ask detailed questions in a conversation-style setting.

#### 7. Heyman Center Lunch: **Witness to a Prosecution** – April 2025

Richard Sandler, Executive Vice President of the Milken Family Foundation, presented his book, *Witness to a Prosecution*, in which he details his observations on the trial of Michael Milken. As Sandler said, his “book is an attempt to set the record straight” about the famous American financier known for his leading role in the high-yield bond market.



#### 8. Career Panel: **Introduction to Financial Restructuring** – April 2025

We welcomed a panel of attorneys from Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP to discuss their financial restructuring practice. Attorneys Jason Rubin, Sara Brauner, Joseph Szydlo, and Amelia Danovitch discussed firm life and answered questions from students. Heyman Scholar Daniel Janel, an Akin summer associate, also shared his perspective.

## Public Events

### 1. Who Decides—Judges or Experts? *Loper Bright*, the End of *Chevron*, and Its Impact on Corporate Governance – October 2024

Together with the Floersheimer Center for Constitutional Democracy, we welcomed a panel of professors and private-practice attorneys to discuss the implications of last summer’s U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, 603 U.S. 369 (2024).

In *Loper Bright*, the Supreme Court overruled the doctrine of *Chevron* deference, which had previously required courts to defer to reasonable agency guidance instead of reviewing rules and regulations *de novo*. Now that *Chevron* deference is no more, numerous regulations, rules, and opinions produced by federal agencies could be in jeopardy as they have become subject to judicial review. In the corporate context, this could interfere with the implementation of ESG (environmental, social, and governance) principles, potentially leading to a re-tightening of shareholder primacy. Ultimately, the issues in *Loper Bright* deal with a fundamental issue of constitutional law: Who decides—judges or experts?

Our panelists (from left to right) included Professor Michael Herz (Cardozo), Varu Chilakamarri (K&L Gates LLP), Professor Haiyun Damon-Feng (Cardozo), and Rishi Zutshi (Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP).



## 2. Antitrust Compliance for the Modern Age – November 2024

In November, we hosted a joint event with the American Bar Association (ABA) and the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) to learn about the latest developments in compliance guidelines, best practices for corporate compliance programs, and effective litigation in the context of compliance issues.

After a brief introduction by Executive Director Fabian Eichentopf, the event featured two panels: First, Professor Samuel Weinstein held a fireside chat with Manish Kumar, the Deputy Assistant Attorney General at the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Second, Jeffrey Martino, a partner at Baker McKenzie, moderated a panel consisting of Jillian Charles, General Counsel at Honeywell; Deirdre McEvoy-Cappock, Principal U.S. Antitrust & Senior Regulatory Counsel at Siemens; and Sean Farrell, the New York Office Chief of the D.O.J. Antitrust Division.

Our faculty, students, and staff were also excited to welcome guests from the wider attorney community who were able to receive Continued Legal Education credits for attending our program. Many guests stayed after the programming for a drink and hors d'oeuvres to network with our students.



### 3. Taxes vs Tariffs: Business Under the Second Trump Administration – March 2025

In the spring semester, the Heyman Center hosted a panel discussion of leading professors and attorneys in the fields of international trade and tax law. Our panelists included our very own Professor Luís Carlos Calderón Gómez, Scott Maberry (Partner, Sheppard Mullin), Professor Harlan Grant Cohen (Fordham Law School), Gregory Spak (Partner, White & Case), and Sean Lyons (Associate, White & Case).

After a brief welcome by Executive Director Fabian Eichentopf, the panel outlined current tariff measures for the audience. Professor Calderón Gómez explained likely consequences on the revenue side of the equation, including which tax proposals the tariffs might be intended to counterbalance, Value Added Tax issues, and progressivity concerns. Next, the panel discussed questions of legality, namely how these measures fare in the multilateral system, under U.S. law, or within World Trade Organization rules. After talking about the policy perspective and today's protectionist ideas, each panelist gave their perspective on how to advise clients in the current environment.

In an active Q&A session, students and guests were able to receive answers to their individual questions. As with each of our public events, all guests were invited to stay for drinks and hors d'oeuvres after the panel to network.



# CURRICULUM

## Heyman Business Law Colloquium

This spring, Professor Matthew Wansley, Faculty Co-Director of the Heyman Center, led the third Heyman Business Law Colloquium, a seminar for students focusing on new research in business law. The Colloquium welcomed the following speakers, each presenting a working paper for discussion with the students:

- **Matthew Jennejohn** (Brigham Young University), *Cheap Talk and Persistent Diversity Gaps in Corporate Litigation*
- **Jill Fisch** (University of Pennsylvania), *The Singular Role of Public Pension Funds in Corporate Governance*
- **Kathryn Judge** (Columbia University), *Emergency Lending by the Federal Reserve*
- **Renee Jones** (Boston University), *Untamed Unicorns*
- **James Park** (University of California, Los Angeles), *Crypto Associations*
- **Kathryn Spier** (Harvard University), *Benchmarking Against Settlement Offers*
- **Gad Weiss** (New York University), *Building Startups to Save Humanity*

## Courses

Cardozo offers an enormous range of courses in corporate and securities law and related areas, equipping students for careers as corporate attorneys in firms and at corporations, while helping them develop an understanding of the legal issues relevant to entrepreneurs, company executives, investment bankers, or funds managers. In addition, students can choose from a variety of clinical and international programs.

Courses offered in the 2024–2025 academic year included:

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| • Administrative Law   | • In-house Counsel Seminar                       |
| • Advanced Business Taxation   | • International Commercial Arbitration           |
| • Alternative Business Entities: LLCs, Partnerships, and Business Trusts | • International Tax                              |
| • Bankruptcy Law   | • International Trade                            |
| • Commercial Law   | • Labor Law                                      |
| • Consumer Bankruptcy  | • Mergers and Acquisitions                       |
| • Contract Drafting  | • Negotiation Theory and Skills                  |
| • Corporate Finance  | • Regulation of Capital Markets                  |
| • Corporate Fraud  | • Securities Arbitration Clinic                  |
| • Corporations   | • Securities Regulation                          |
| • Employment Law   | • Tax Policy                                     |
| • Ethics for Business Attorneys  | • Taxation of Business Entities                  |
| • Federal Income Taxation  | • Taxation of Real Estate                        |
| • Filmmakers Legal Clinic  | • Venture Capital                                |
| • Global Corporate Compliance  | • Entrepreneurship and Community Business Clinic |

## Clinics

In addition to the Heyman Center’s robust curriculum, students interested in business law can choose from a variety of clinics including the Filmmakers Legal Clinic, Securities Arbitration Clinic, and the [Entrepreneurship and Community Business Clinic](#).

### Filmmakers Legal Clinic

The Filmmakers Legal Clinic (FLC) provides free transactional, intellectual property, and First Amendment legal services to visual advocates, filmmakers, and video journalists working to move the social justice needle and diversify the stories that are told through media. The Clinic helps filmmakers navigate contractual, legal, and business issues so that their important films can be made and distributed. To empower creators, the FLC provides individual client representation, educational services, "know your rights" trainings for community partners, and pop-up legal clinics.

Clinic students represent clients pro bono on a range of issues critical to any film production, including the drafting and negotiation of entity formation documents and agreements; talent, crew and producer agreements; depiction releases; music, film clip and artwork licenses; legal opinion letters on fair use and First Amendment issues; and other advice depending on the context of the film and the needs of the client.

Client films have screened in leading U.S. and international film festivals including Cannes, Sundance, Berlinale, South by Southwest, Rotterdam, New Directors/New Films, the Tribeca Film Festival, the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam (IDFA), the Los Angeles Film Festival, Hot Docs, DOC NYC and more.

[Learn more about the Filmmakers Legal Clinic](#)

The Entrepreneurship and Community Business Clinic (ECBC) provides free legal assistance to small businesses, startups, and nonprofit organizations that serve underserved communities throughout New York City. Under the supervision of experienced faculty, Cardozo law students support clients with entity formation, governance, contracts, intellectual property protection, and other transactional legal needs.

ECBC’s mission is to promote equitable economic development by empowering local entrepreneurs and community-driven ventures to build sustainable, legally sound businesses. In addition to gaining hands-on legal experience, clinic students are exposed to the legal challenges and structural inequities that disproportionately affect BIPOC-owned businesses and under-resourced neighborhoods. ECBC builds on Cardozo’s broader commitment to public service and social justice, equipping future lawyers with the skills and values necessary to support community economic resilience.

## Securities Arbitration Clinic

Under faculty supervision, students serve as advocates for small retail customers in arbitrations before the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and the National Futures Association (NFA) as well as in reparations proceedings before the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), and before federal and state tribunals. The students conduct all phases of their cases, including case intake, case development, discovery, settlement negotiation, mediation, and representation of the claimants before the relevant tribunal. Students also often negotiate or mediate the Clinic cases to resolution.

Coursework includes the study of the fundamental principles of securities arbitration, evidence rules in arbitration and in the federal courts, an overview of the state and federal securities and other laws relevant to typical investor claims against broker-dealers, brokers, and clearing firms, and instruction on ethical issues and guidelines concerning all aspects of the clinic's practice.

In addition to their legal work, students advocate on behalf of the Clinic's client population, including actively working with regulators, providing public comments on proposed regulations, and making community presentations to help inform investors about investment risks and scams in their communities.

## Corporate Compliance Program

In recent years, many large corporations, particularly in the banking and financial services sector, have dramatically expanded their corporate compliance departments. This has created attractive career opportunities for recent law school graduates interested in corporate law and regulation.

To help students take advantage of these emerging opportunities, Cardozo recently created a specialized concentration in compliance and risk management. This program is designed to teach students the substantive laws, rules, and standards applicable to large business corporations, and particularly financial institutions, as well as the internal controls and governance structures by which potentially harmful conduct can be monitored and risks assessed and managed. The concentration provides in-depth instruction in such critical areas as Securities Regulation, Investor Protection, Business Ethics, Fiduciary Duties, Prevention of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, and other state and federal regulations applicable to financial institutions.

## Intensive Transactional Lawyering Program (ITRANS)

The Intensive Transactional Lawyering Program (ITRANS) is part of Cardozo’s practical skills curriculum for students planning to focus on transactional practice. In this two-week immersion course held each January, students gain essential skills needed for effective client representation in doing deals. Through a deal simulation, students learn contract drafting, client consultation, matter management and negotiation through interactive workshops, and guided practice sessions designed to give them opportunities to develop their skills.

The course ends with a final deal negotiation. Students are taught by Cardozo adjunct faculty, most recently Jillian Gautier, Fabian Eichentopf, and Sherry Jetter (pictured below), along with respected lawyers in transactional practice, who provide feedback throughout the program and critique the final negotiation.



## HEYMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Heyman Scholars Program is for select J.D. and LL.M. students at Cardozo. The program exposes them to special opportunities to learn about corporate and securities law issues and to interact with professional and academic leaders.

This year, 54 students participated in the Heyman Scholars program, whose interests ranged from traditional corporate transactions to cryptocurrencies to art law. In the Heyman Scholars Program, students not only have priority access to all events, including exclusive networking opportunities with members of the Heyman Center Advisory Committee. They can also rely on Heyman Center leadership and alums for mentorship and career advice.

Heyman Scholars, selected on the basis of merit and demonstrated interest in a field of law related to the Heyman Center's work, have always been among the law school's most promising and highest achieving students. As alumni and alumnae, Heyman Scholars demonstrate the same focus and dedication to their careers that they brought to their studies in the law.

## LEADERSHIP

### Executive Director

Fabian Eichentopf, Executive Director & Adjunct Professor of Law



Fabian Eichentopf is the Executive Director of the Samuel & Ronnie Heyman Center on Corporate Governance.

Originally from Berlin, Germany, Fabian obtained his B.A. in political science from the Free University of Berlin and his J.D. from the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. In law school, he joined the Arizona Law Review and served as an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the Associated Students of the University of Arizona.

After graduation, Fabian began his legal career at a Colorado law firm practicing corporate and real estate law. Later, he focused on public finance, representing holders of municipal bonds. At Cardozo, Fabian is focusing on helping students achieve their goals by sparking interest in cutting-edge corporate law issues, creating networking opportunities, and fostering a sense of community.

## FACULTY

### Co-Director

#### Sam Weinstein, Professor of Law



Sam Weinstein is a Professor of Law. He joined Cardozo from the U.C. Berkeley School of Law, where from 2015–17 he was a fellow at the Berkeley Center for Law, Business, and the Economy. Before that, he was an attorney in the Legal Policy Section of the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and served as Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Division.

Professor Weinstein began his career as a litigator at Munger, Tolles & Olson in San Francisco, after serving as a law clerk to Judge Edward R. Becker of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Haverford College and received both his J.D. (Order of the Coif) and Ph.D. in U.S. History from U.C. Berkeley. His research interests include antitrust, competition policy, innovation policy, financial regulation, corporate law, and the history of the regulatory state.

### Co-Director

#### Matthew Wansley, Professor of Law



Matthew Wansley is a Professor of Law. Before joining the faculty at Cardozo, he was the General Counsel of nuTonomy Inc., an automated driving startup. Before that, he was a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. He clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit and the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Professor Wansley's research has been published or is forthcoming in the *Administrative Law Review*, the *Columbia Business Law Review*, the *Journal of Corporation Law*, the *Emory Law Journal*, the *Indiana Law Journal*, the *U.C. Davis Law Review*, and the *Vanderbilt Law Review*. His work has been covered in *Consumer Reports*, *CNBC*, *The New York Times*, *TechCrunch*, and *The Wall Street Journal*. His research interests include law and technology.

## Affiliated Faculty

In addition to our Executive Director and Faculty Co-Directors, the Center is supported by Cardozo faculty who teach and practice in Cardozo's business and corporate law programs and courses.

Faculty members who have taught courses or participated in Heyman Center events include:

- [Melanie Leslie](#), Dean and Dr. Samuel Belkin Professor of Law
- [Michael Burstein](#), Professor of Law
- [Luís Carlos Calderón Gómez](#), Assistant Professor of Law
- [David Carlson](#), Professor of Law
- [Haiyun Damon-Feng](#), Assistant Professor of Law
- [Elizabeth Goldman](#), Clinical Professor of Law and Director of Securities Arbitration Clinic
- [Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin](#), Clinical Professor of Law; Director of the Filmmakers Legal Clinic; and Director of the Center for Visual Advocacy
- [Michael Herz](#), Professor of Law
- [Young Ran \(Christine\) Kim](#), Professor of Law
- [Rachel Landy](#), Assistant Professor of Law
- [Jeanne Schroeder](#), Professor of Law
- [Saurabh Vishnubhakat](#), Professor of Law and Director of the Intellectual Property and Information Law Program
- [Mariana Acevedo Nuevo](#), Director of the Entrepreneurship and Community Business Clinic and Assistant Clinical Professor of Law
- [Charles Yablon](#), Professor of Law and Faculty Director of Cardozo Data Law Initiative (CDLI)
- [Edward Zelinsky](#), Professor of Law



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