

APRIL MARA BARTON

(Maiden Name: April Mara Major)

PRESENT POSITION

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY THOMAS R. KLINE SCHOOL OF LAW
DEAN AND PROFESSOR OF LAW

July 2019 - present

Reappointed and serving second term through 2027

Responsibilities: Principal academic, financial, and administrative leader of Law School providing strategic direction to 70+ faculty and staff, 500+ students, and 9000+ alumni; Oversee all operations of the Law School including ~10M budget.

Experience: U.S. News ranking increased 40 spots, largest increase of any law school in the nation in 2022-23 and we continue to secure top 100 status; improved JD admissions credentials (LSAT 152 to 156, GPA 3.4 to 3.57); total enrollment increased 17%+ and increased student diversity from traditionally underrepresented groups; application volume increased 96%, consistently outpacing national and regional volume trends; employment outcomes and bar passage outpaced national and state averages every year; annual margin has increased by 29%; successful ABA Self-Study and Site Visit (2021-22); served while President secured 50M dollar commitment to the School of Law, the largest gift in University history, by alumnus Thomas R. Kline, accordingly supported historic renaming of School of Law; significant physical renovations to Law School building, including limestone and glass front entrance, archival conference room, and complete renovation of student lounge and food court.

Curricular Innovation: Leadership Development; Technology and AI; Innovation and IP; International Law (including faculty exchange with University of Sorbonne, Paris); Business and Financial Literacy (including mini-MBA and joint JD/MBA degree program); Flexible Evening Division Program.

National Leadership: Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Deans' Steering Committee (2021-2024); AALS 2024 Conference Planning Committee, Defending Democracy; AALS Leadership Section, Chair (2022-2023); Chair-Elect (2021-2022); Executive Committee (2020-2021, 2024-present).

Courses: AI Law and Policy (introduced new course in 2024-2025)
Law and Leadership

PRIOR POSITIONS

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

2015 - 2019

Responsibilities: Responsible for leading and managing all areas of academic affairs including curriculum planning, class scheduling, teaching assignments, administration of exams, academic rules and policies, academic discipline, student leaves, course evaluations, ABA accreditation and compliance, character and fitness, and hiring and supervising of adjunct faculty; Director of JD/MBA Joint Degree Program (2015-2017); Director of JD/MPA Joint Degree Program (2015-2019); Chair ABA Self-Study and Site Visit; Supervise Office of the Registrar, Director of Academic Success and Bar Support Programs, Director of Experiential Learning, Director of Student Affairs, and Associate Director of Academic Affairs.

Courses: **Leadership and Management Skills for Lawyers:** The purpose of the course is to prepare graduates for leadership positions as lawyers in a variety of contexts. The course examines organizational dynamics, forms of influence, the art of delegation, conflict management, decision-making, ethical responsibilities, diversity, and crisis management.

Administrative Agencies and the Rulemaking Process: The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with regulatory procedures and to introduce the role of the policy attorney in the administrative rulemaking scheme. Students study regulatory procedures found in the Administrative Procedure Act (and other statutes) and participate in the notice and comment rulemaking process.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW
Director of Academic Compliance and Distance Learning

2013-2015

Responsibilities: Responsible for ABA Compliance; Led all initiatives for Annual Questionnaire including General School Information, Admissions Information/Enrollment, Library, Scholarships, Faculty, Fiscal, IT, and Study Abroad; Oversaw compliance with comprehensive Law School Policy with key control activities to ensure data accuracy and verifiability; Law School and Bar Admissions Character and Fitness oversight; Led launching of online Graduate Tax LL.M. and M.T. Program and other online initiatives.

Courses: **Administrative Agencies and the Rulemaking Process**

Administrative Rulemaking Clinic Pilot: Team of clinic students participated in policy work and the rulemaking process by working with a consortium of environmental advocacy groups to research and write a Comment submitted to EPA addressing effect of Chlorpyrifos on children.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW
Assistant Dean and Director of Academic Computing

2001-2013

Overview: Led Academic Computing Department that served the educational technology needs of faculty and students; Department consisted of Media Services, Web Services, and Information and Administrative Computing. Oversaw and maintained classroom and courtroom AV technology, educational software applications, case management software, website and related content management system, database creation and management, online payment systems, electronic exams, learning management system, master schedule, digital signage, rich media video capture and streaming, touchscreen directory, and faculty scholarship databases; Building Committee Steering Committee.

Courses: **Administrative Agencies and the Rulemaking Process**

UNITED STATES FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Staff Attorney

2000-2001

Bureau of Consumer Protection, Division of Marketing Practices, Washington, D.C.

Responsibilities: Strategic development and implementation of FTC Internet-related policy initiatives; Internet Coordinating Committee; Civil prosecution of Internet-related and high-tech unfair and deceptive practices; Administrative rulemaking; Steered policy initiatives related to electronic signatures and “clickwrap” licensing.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW

Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

1998-2000

Faculty Director, Global Democracy Project(GDP)

Courses: **Computer Law**
Digital Law
First Amendment and Regulation in Cyberspace
Information Law Clinic

Global Democracy Project: Grant-funded program dedicated to advancing the development of civil societies and promoting the rule of law through Internet technology.

Responsibilities: Wrote grants and briefed key government officials including Ministers of Justice, Foreign Diplomats, State Department members, and members of foreign governments. Through United States Institute for Peace (USIP) grant, led teams of law students on trips to Bosnia-Herzegovina to continue efforts to promote rule of law in war-torn Bosnia by facilitating the free-flow of law and information.

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY CHARLES WIDGER SCHOOL OF LAW

Teaching Fellow

1996-1998

Director of Operations, The Center for Information Law and Policy

1997-1998

Director of Technology, The Center for Information Law and Policy

1996-1997

Overview: A non-profit research institute dedicated to exploring issues at the intersection of law and technology. An active participant in the

development of a global domain name policy and other public policy issues regarding Internet governance.

Courses: **Computer Law (co-instructed)**
Information Law Clinic (co-instructed)

EDUCATION

YALE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT New Haven, CT
Executive Education: Women's Leadership Program 2019

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW Villanova, PA
Degree: Juris Doctor 1996
Honors & Awards: Herman Mitchell Schwartz Award (awarded annually to the person in the graduating class who, in the opinion of the faculty, has contributed the most to the achievement of equality of opportunity and treatment for women, either within the Law School, in the legal profession, or in society at large) (1996)
Managing Publications Editor, THE INFO. L. CHRON. (1994-1996)
Quarterfinalist, Reimel Moot Court Competition (1996)
President, Intellectual Property Society (1995-1996)
Internet Server Advisory Group (1993-1996)
Project Manager, Center for Information Law and Policy (1994-1995)
Research Fellow, Center for Information Law and Policy (1993-1994)

MORAVIAN COLLEGE Bethlehem, PA
Degree: Bachelor of Science 1993
Major: Physics, *cum laude*
Honors: Young Alumni Achievement Award, 2003 Recipient
Sigma Pi Sigma (National Physics Honor Society)
Vice-President, National Society of Physics Students, Moravian College Chapter (1991-93)
Independent Study, Quantum Mechanics, 4.0
Dean's List

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

National Judicial College and Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education, Artificial Intelligence for all Judges and Lawyers, *Introduction to AI Policy*, Opening keynote session (December 2024).
Duquesne University Thomas R. Kline School of Law, Homecoming CLE Program: *AI & Law* (October 2024).
Thomas R. Kline Center for Judicial Education, *AI & The Future of Democracy: Ethics, Law & Policy* (April 2024).
AALS Annual Conference, *Defending Democracy through Effective Leadership Education*, Washington D.C. (January 2024).
Grefenstette Center for Ethics in Science, Technology, and Law, *How Can We Create an Ethical World with Generative AI? Closing Plenary, Generative AI and the Future of Policy* (November 2023).
Baylor Law Review, Power of Speech Symposium, *The State of Civil Discourse in America and the Legal Profession* (September 2023).
Eckert Seamans 2023 Update: Legal Primer, *Ethical Leadership in the Legal Profession*, Pittsburgh (August 2023).
AALS Annual Conference, *How Teaching Leadership Can Make a Difference*, San Diego (January 2023).

Washington County Bench Bar Keynote, *Leadership and Professional Responsibility*, Wheeling WV (August 2022).

AALS Annual Conference, *Leadership Education as a Component of Anti-Racist Education in Law Schools* (January 2022).

Seattle University School of Law in partnership with Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, *Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership*, Villanova (October 2021).

Santa Clara Law Review, *Lawyers, Leadership, & Change: Addressing Challenges and Opportunities in Unprecedented Times*, *Leadership Issues in Higher Education* (February 2021).

AALS Annual Conference, *Post COVID-19 Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy; Best Practices and Standards Development* (January 2021).

Baylor Law Review, 2020: Vision for Leadership Conference, *Law School Deans Panel: Leadership Programming in Law Schools* (September 2020).

SEALS Annual Conference, *Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy and Standard Development in Post-COVID World* (July 2020).

ABA CLE *Reducing Stress and Avoiding Mistakes in the Post-COVID Era* (June 2020).

AALS Annual Conference, *Online & Hybrid Learning Pedagogy; Best Practices and Standards Development* (January 2020).

Leadership for Lawyers: *Defining Leadership & Core Values, Navigating Conflict and Crisis*, CLE Program, (February 2020).

Allegheny County Bar Association, Women in the Law Division, *Opening Remarks, Leadership in Law* (February 2020).

Seattle University School of Law in partnership with Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law, *Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership*, Villanova (August 2019).

Distance Learning in Legal Education Working Group, Harvard Law School, Cambridge (May 2013).

[Gruter Institute](#), Conference, Innovation, Economic Growth, and Human Behavior, Olympic Valley, *Innovations in Law School Teaching* (May 2012).

Distance Learning in Legal Education Working Group, University of Dayton Law School, *Classrooms of the Future*, Dayton (April 2012).

Bricks, Bytes, and Continuous Renovation, *Best Practices for Building a High-Tech Law School*, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego (March 2012).

Distance Learning in Legal Education, An invitation-only workshop for leaders in law school distance learning, Harvard Law School, Cambridge (November 2011).

Social Media Summit, Harrisburg University, *3D Simulations in Education*, Harrisburg (September 2011)

Institute for Law Teaching and Learning, Engaging and Assessing Our Students, New York Law School, *Classrooms of the Future*, New York (June 2011).

The Delaware Valley and Pennsylvania Women Law Professors, Villanova University School of Law, *High-Tech Educational Spaces for the (Near) Future*, Villanova (February 2011).

Conference for Law School Computing: Reboot Legal Education, *Best Practices for Building a High-Tech Law School*, Camden (June 2010).

Bricks, Bytes, and Continuous Renovation: Law School Facilities Conference, *Advanced Teaching Spaces*, Philadelphia (March 2010).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Tech Law Forum, *Ethics and Client Confidentiality Issues Associated with Attorneys Using Online Storage and Backup Services*, Philadelphia (July 2007).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, E-discovery Program, *Professional Responsibility Issues that Arise When Lawyers use Embedded Information in Electronic Documents*, Philadelphia (November 2007).

Villanova University School of Law, 50th Anniversary Symposium, The Next 50 Years in the Law, *The Future of Law and Information Technology*, Villanova, PA (September 2003).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Internet Update, *Professional Responsibility and Attorney Ethics*, Philadelphia (April 2003).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Internet Update, *Social and Legal Ramifications of Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Technologies*, Philadelphia (April 2002).

Institute for the Study of Information Technology and Society, *Legal and Technological Change in E-commerce*, Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, Carnegie Mellon University (February 2002).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Legal Issues in Advertising, *Internet Advertising and FTC Regulations*, Philadelphia (March 2002).

American Society for Information Science and Technology, *UCITA and the Information Professional*, Washington, D.C. (November 2001).

National Association for College and University Attorneys, Universities, *UCITA and Information Access and Control*, Washington, D.C. (November 2001).

Federal Trade Commission, *ESIGN Public Workshop*, moderator, Washington, D.C. (April 2001).

Federal Trade Commission, *Warranty Protection for High-Tech Products and Services*, moderator, Washington, D.C. (October 2000).

Practicing Law Institute, E-Commerce: Strategies for Success in the Digital Economy, *Advertising on the Internet, Local and Global Issues*, New York City, Boston (September 2000).

Federal Trade Commission, Internet Investigations Training, *Internet Overview, Jurisdiction, Privacy-Related Legal Issues, Spam, Web Site Cramming, International Modem Dialing*, Washington, D.C. (June 2000), Austin (August 2000), Rockville (March 2001), Harrisburg (May 2001), Tallahassee (May 2001), Boston (June 2001).

Association for Telecommunications Professionals in Higher Education (ACUTA), *Cramming and the FTC's Pay-Per-Call Rule*, Washington, D.C. (July 2000).

Congressional Commission on Online Child Protection, Children's Online Protection Act (COPA) Testimony, *The Creation of a New Top-Level Domain for Adult Content*, Washington, D.C. (June 2000).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Internet Update, *Domain Names and Cybersquatting*, Philadelphia (April 2000).

The Global Democracy Project, *Cyberterrorism: The World Held Hostage in the Digital Age*, opening remarks, Villanova (March 2000).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Technology Institute, *Domain Names and Cybersquatting*, Philadelphia (February 2000).

The Delaware Valley and Pennsylvania Women Law Professors, *Social Norm Theory and Internet Regulation*, Temple University (February 2000).

University of Maryland School of Law, Legal Theory Workshop, *Norm Origin and Development in Cyberspace: Models of Cybernorm Evolution*, Baltimore (September 1999).

Villanova Sports and Entertainment Law Journal Annual Symposium, *Place Your Bets: Who Will Hold the Cards in Internet Gambling*, moderator and panelist, Villanova (Spring 1999).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, CLE, *Internet Law Update, Jurisdiction and Dispute Resolution*, Philadelphia (Spring 1999).

The Global Democracy Project and Villanova International Law & Policy Compendium, *NATO Troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Implications of a Sustained Involvement*, opening remarks, Villanova (Spring 1998).

National Association of Attorneys General and Appellate Chiefs, *The Future of the Internet and Other Important Trends in Technology*, Washington, D.C. (May 1998).

The Delaware Valley and Pennsylvania Women Law Teachers, *Information Technology as a Catalyst for Democratization*, Temple University (February 1998).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, CLE, *The Internet for PA Lawyers*, Philadelphia, Mechanicsburg, Pittsburgh, (February 1998).

United States Institute for Peace, *Strategic Plan to Rebuild Legal Information Infrastructure of Rwanda* (presentation to and discussion with the Rwandan Ministry of Justice and U.S. State Dept.) Washington, D.C. (December 1997).

Villanova University Professional Day, *Implications of the Communications Decency Act*, Villanova (November 1997).

European Commission for Democracy through Law, Venice Commission, *The Importance of Open Access to Court Opinions through the Internet, Central and Eastern European Legal Network*, Brussels (October 1997).

Delaware Council of 13, *Computer Law Issues for Corporate Attorneys*, Delaware (October 1997).

Berks County Bar Association, Bench Bar Conference, *Law and the Internet*, (September 1997).

Computer Aided Legal Instruction (CALI) 1997 Conference: *The Democratization of Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction*, plenary speaker, Chicago (June 1997).

United States Tax Court, *Integrated Systems for Legal Institutions*, Washington. D.C. (April 1997).

University of Buffalo Law Review Symposium: *Information Access Rights Based on International Human Rights Law*, Buffalo (March 1997).

Sarajevo Office of Management and Information Technologies Center, Soros Foundations – Open Society Fund Bosnia-Herzegovina, *Networked Systems for Legal Institutions*, Sarajevo (February 1997).

Pennsylvania Bar Institute, CLE, *The Internet for Attorneys, Technical Overview, Ethics and the Internet*, Philadelphia (May 1995, August 1996, April 1997, November 1998), Pittsburgh (August 1996).

Villanova University School of Law Alumni, *Law and the Internet*, Philadelphia, Delaware, New York (1995, 1996).

Benefit Program for Project Bosnia, *The Internet for Professionals*, Philadelphia (October 1996).

CEO Roundtable, *The Internet for CEOs*, Philadelphia (1996).

Philadelphia Bar Association CLE Presentation, *Intellectual Property and the Information Superhighway*, Philadelphia (October 1996).

State Presidents of American Association of University Women (AAUW), *Project Bosnia*, Washington, D.C. (September 1996).

Private Law Firm presentations, *Cyberspace and Attorneys with an Emphasis on Intellectual Property*, Philadelphia (August 1996).

Lancaster Bar Association, *Internet Applications for Lawyers* (February 1996).

The University of Sarajevo, ABA CEELI hosted presentation, *Technology Uses in Law Schools*, Villanova (January 1996).

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

[*Best Practices for Building a High-Tech Law School*](#), American Bar Association Publication, (June 2012).

ARTICLES

[*Teaching Lawyers to Think Like Leaders: The Next Big Shift in Legal Education*](#), 73 *Baylor Law Review*, 116 (2021).

[*Application of Cascade Theory to Online Systems: A Study of Email and Google Cascades*](#), 10 *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science and Technology*, 473 (2009).

[*Norm Origin and Development in Cyberspace: Models of CyberNorm Evolution*](#), 78 *WASH.U. L.Q.*, 59 (2000) (reprinted in part in *CyberEthics*, Halbert and Ingulli, 2002).

Copyright Law Tackles Yet Another Challenge; The Electronic Frontier of the World Wide Web, 24.1 *RUTGERS COMP. & TECH. L. J.*, 75 (1997).

Internet Red Light Districts? Domain Name Proposal for Regulatory Zoning of Obscene Content, 16.1 *JOHN MARSHALL J. COMP. & INFO. L.*, 21 (1997).

Technical Note, Electronic Publishing, Pennsylvania Bar Association Course Text (1995, 1996, 1997); *CTR. INFO. LAW & POLICY, Tech. Notes* (with Henry H. Perritt, Jr.) (1996).

What is the Internet? Pennsylvania Bar Association Course Text (1997); CTR. INFO. LAW & POLICY, Tech. Notes (with Henry H. Perritt, Jr.) (1997).

TESTIMONY

[*The Creation of a New Top-Level Domain for Adult Content*](#), Congressional Commission on Online Child Protection, Children's Online Protection Act (COPA), Washington, D.C. (June 2000).

European Commission for Democracy through Law, Venice Commission, *The Importance of Open Access to Court Opinions through the Internet, Central and Eastern European Legal Network*, Brussels (October 1997).

REPORTS TO CONGRESS

[*Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act: Report to Congress*](#), Joint report by the Federal Trade Commission, Bureau of Consumer Protection and the Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (multiple authors, June 2001).

MEDIA COMMENTARIES

EdUp, *The Legal Education Podcast*, (November 2021).

Women in Higher Education, Profiled by Lois Elfman, *Building the Next Generation of Leaders* (March 2021).

KDKA CBS Pittsburgh, Commented on Postponed Bar Exam and Potential of Diploma Privilege (July 2020).

ACBA Lawyers Journal, Commented on October Bar Exam for Pennsylvania Takers (July 2020).

[Campus Technology Magazine](#), Interviewed for June feature story highlighting Villanova Law's high-tech courtroom (June 2011).

Chicago Tribune, Commented on Internet privacy implications surrounding the Erin Andrews stalking case (October 2009).

WHYY, Commented on two cases pending before the Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit regarding students' free speech rights on the Internet (June 2009).

WHYY, Radio Times, Program on Cyberterrorism, studio guest (March 2000).

The Oregonian, Commented about the availability and implications of public records on the Internet (January 14, 2000).

ABCnews.com, Interview about the "Internet intoxication" defense used by the lawyer for Columbine death threat suspect (January 13, 2000).

KYW 1060, Interview regarding Serbian war on Kosovo (aired April 1999).

ABCnews.com, Commented in follow-up news story on verdict against website targeting abortion doctors known as the Christian Gallery Nuremberg Files (February 3, 1999).

ABCnews.com, Quoted in article exploring Internet regulation as it related to Christian Gallery website operators (November 2, 1998).

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Commented on Christian Gallery website verdict (February 3, 1999); Also appeared in online edition, Star-Telegram.Com.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Quoted in story about the regulation of unsolicited email (January 24, 1999); Also appeared in online edition, Star-Telegram.Com.

Fox TV, Interview with Bruce Gordon about regulating Internet content (aired on evening news February 16, 1998).

Paramount UPN 57 TV, Interview about Internet infrastructure and regulation, (aired several times during January 1998).

Wired Magazine, Interview about rebuilding the legal infrastructure of Bosnia-Herzegovina. (Spring 1997).

LAW SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND COMMITTEES

Search Committee, University General Counsel (2021)
Search Committee, Chief Diversity Officer and Senior Advisor to the President on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2021)
Chair, Self-Study Committee, ABA Accreditation Site Visit (2017-2018)
Academic Affairs Committee (ex officio) (2015-2019)
Academic Success Committee (ex officio) (2015-2019)
Experiential Learning Committee (ex officio) (2018-2019)
Co-Chair, Learning Outcomes Committee (2016-2017) (2017-2018)
Strategic Planning Committee (ex officio) (2015-2016)
Faculty Appointments (ex officio) (2015-2016)
Clinical Programs Task Force (ex officio) (2016-2016)
Inclusiveness Committee (2015-2016)
Chair, FERPA Task Force (2014-2015)
Distance Learning Task Force (2013-2014)
University Council of Graduate Program Directors (2014-2015)
Steering Team, Building Committee (2005-2009)
Co-Chair, Website Advisory Committee (2001-2010)
Information Technology Committee (1999-2007)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES

National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Three Rivers Chapter, Board Member (2024-present)
Pittsburgh Legal Diversity & Inclusion Coalition (PLDIC), Board Member (2019-present)
Distance Learning in Legal Education National Working Group (2013-2015)
American Bar Association's Global Jurisdiction Task Force, "Transnational Issues in Cyberspace: A Project on the Law Relating to Jurisdiction" (1998-2000)
Pennsylvania Bar Association Technology Task Force (1998-2000)
United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Model Computer Commerce Law Project, Consultant (1998-1999)
Pennsylvania Bar (1996 – present)
New Jersey Bar (inactive)
American Bar Association