

UConn School of Law

The School of Law has begun to reopen the campus in Hartford incrementally, starting in November with a limited reopening of the Thomas J. Meskill Law Library and continuing in January with the start of a few small in-person classes. These are the first classes on campus since the law school moved online in March 2020. Clinics have continued operating with a mix of virtual and in-person activity.

The vast majority of classes continue to be held online during the spring semester, but the law school administration is now working with the university to develop plans for the fall. The university is also evaluating the options for holding commencement celebrations for the Classes of 2020 and 2021. .

“Due to our supportive law school community, we have successfully weathered what we hope has been the worst of the storm, and we look forward to brighter days ahead when more of us can return to our beloved campus,” Dean Eboni S. Nelson said.

In other news of the past year:

- Dean Nelson took office in July. Her appointment had been announced in March, after a nationwide search. She came to UConn from the University of South Carolina School of Law, where she has served as associate dean for academic affairs since 2018. She is a graduate of Wake Forest University and Harvard Law School.
- In August, the law school welcomed an incoming class of 169 JD students, 147 in the Day Division and 22 in the Evening Division, and 40 LLM students, all studying remotely. Twenty-eight percent of the incoming JD students identified as members of underrepresented minorities, a five-year high. The average age was 25 and 10 per cent held at least one advanced degree.
- In September, the law school announced that Michael Callahan '95 and his wife, Dr. Dana Weintraub had established the Mike Callahan '95 Family Scholarship for Veterans. It will help veterans and active-duty military personnel with law school costs.
- In October, the law school hosted an online panel discussion “Justice in America? Legal Accountability (or the Lack Thereof) Following Police Shootings in the Black Community,” with Dean Nelson moderating. The Connecticut Law Review's annual symposium, “Empires or Umpires? Political Questions, Separation of Powers and Judicial Legitimacy,” explored the political question doctrine.
- Also in October, the University of Connecticut Law School Alumni Association honored retired IBM executive Curtis Tearte '78, disabilities rights advocate Michelle Duprey '93, and Dean Emeritus Timothy Fisher in an online ceremony. Three recent graduates — Dan Brody '15, Aigné Goldsby '16 and Lisa Marie Rivas '11 — received the Graduates of the Last Decade Impact Award.
- In November, Dean Nelson announced the establishment of a new fund, named for the law school's first Black female graduate. The Constance Belton Green Diversity Fund will provide broad support for diversity and social justice initiatives at the law school.

- On January 1, 2021, Professor Richard Ashby Wilson, the Gladstein Distinguished Chair of Human Rights and a professor of law and anthropology, became associate dean for faculty development and intellectual life, succeeding Professor Leslie Levin.
- As the spring semester began, the law school opened two new classrooms in the law library with state-of-the-art technology, donated by the Welsh family, which has sent seven family members to UConn Law.
- Dean Emeritus Phillip I. Blumberg passed away at the age of 101 on Feb. 14, 2021, a year and a day after the death of his good friend and successor, Hugh Macgill. Blumberg served as dean from 1974 to 1984 and masterminded the move from West Hartford to the current campus, formerly the grounds of the Hartford Seminary. He was widely credited with elevating the law school's scholarly reputation and standing. He continued teaching until 1990 and writing for another 20 years after that.