Women Leadership & Equality Program
25th Anniversary Impact Report

Meeting the Moment

After twenty-five years of visionary leadership, innovative scholarship, and tireless advocacy, program founder Professor Paula Monopoli will be retiring. She will pass the faculty directorship to Professor Meredith Render in April 2027. As a result of Professor Monopoli's efforts, Maryland Carey Law has become a national leader in preparing law students to advance women's equality and expand opportunities in the legal profession.

In addition to becoming Faculty Director and leading the program into its next chapter, Professor Render will teach the Gender and Law seminar. Managing Director Lisa Mebane, who is going into her fourth year with the program, will teach the Rose Zetzer Fellows Workshop going forward. Under their leadership, the program will continue to inspire and equip students to address the challenges to women's equality we face today.

This transition is both a celebration of an extraordinary legacy and a reaffirmation of the program's mission. The pages that follow highlight its enduring impact on Maryland Carey Law and the broader legal community. In a time when gender equality is being eroded, we are proud of our legacy of educating lawyers committed to advancing women by dismantling structural barriers. Those lawyers will be well-equipped to restore women's place as full citizens in our constitutional democracy.

As the program moves into a new chapter, we invite you to learn more about the program's impact on Maryland Carey Law students, alumni, the legal academy, and the profession over the past twenty-five years.

25
Years
2002 — 2027

228
Rose Zetzer Fellows

55
Scholarly Papers

50,000
Global Downloads

$1 millon
Endowment

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
FRANCIS KING CAREY
SCHOOL OF LAW

Mission • Curriculum • Scholarship

Restoring, Protecting, and Advancing Women's Equality Through Law



Generating and Disseminating Knowledge

Professor Paula Monopoli on Feminist Legal History.



In Conversation with National Leaders in Law

The Honorable Nancy Abudu, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and Jurist in Residence, on the Role of the Judiciary in Our Democracy.



Convening Scholars from Across the Globe

Connecting with legal scholars through symposia and conferences to explore ideas around advancing women's equality.

Our Curriculum

Gender and Law

A research seminar focused on feminist legal theory and achieving women's equality through law.

Zetzer Fellows Workshop

A professional skills workshop in personal negotiation, communication, career planning, intersectionality, and allyship.

Zetzer Fellows Externship

An opportunity to work with state, local and national organizations dedicated to serving women's legal needs and shaping policy, including the House of Ruth, the Women's Law Center of Maryland, and the National Women's Law Center.

Our Scholarship

Over 20 symposia, panel discussions, and webinars, including:

- *"The 60th Anniversary of the Equal Pay Act"*
- *"Challenging Gender Bias in the Legal Profession"*
- *"Title IX: Women, Athletics and the Law"*
- *"The Sway of the Swing Vote: Justice Sandra Day O'Connor"*
- *"Women's Rights and the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights"*

The WLE Paper Series

More than 55 articles published on gender-related topics, downloaded globally > 50,000 times.

Women, Leadership & Equality | University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law

The Rose Zetzer Fellowship Program

228 Rose Zetzer Fellows since the 2004 inaugural class.

Fellows in Their Own Words

"My participation in the program has helped me be a better advocate and ally for women's equality... [and] I'm better attuned to the many issues and barriers women experience in the workplace and can be attentive to helping address and alleviate them."

"I still think of the lessons learned from [the Fellowship] day-to-day. Providing an open forum for discussion of ideas that aren't really addressed in other areas of law school - i.e., how to actually succeed in a job [and the] encouragement/positive support from faculty involved."

"[The Fellowship] has given me more confidence and more information regarding how to start and advance my career. It has also made me more comfortable with networking and approaching others for assistance when I need it."



The Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, meeting with the 2014-2015 Rose Zetzer Fellows.

"Being a fellow gave me the confidence and comfort level I need to talk about the challenges that women in the law face and to take affirmative steps to navigate them. I use the skills learned in the communications workshop on an almost daily basis."



2025–2026 Rose Zetzer Fellows

Grace Allen, Wren Barrouquere, Elise Blake, Lauren Eastmond, Allyson Edge, Eyerusalem Gebremeskel, Moonisha Huq, Aleah Jones, Ann Kelly, Natalie O'Connor, Alexandra Ozazewski, Emily Rudo, Madelyn Snider, Quiana Snowden, and Micah Yarbray.

"Fight for the things you care about but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."

— Justice Ginsburg

The Ruth Bader Ginsburg "When There Are Nine" Scholarship

Maryland Carey Law's annual Ruth Bader Ginsburg "When There Are Nine" Scholarship is jointly funded by the WLE Program and the Maryland Association for Justice Foundation's Women's Caucus to honor the legacy of the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Each year, support from this partnership provides bar awards to graduates of WLE's Rose Zetzer Fellowship Program.

Looking Forward

As the Program enters an exciting new chapter, we reflect on the extraordinary foundation built over 25 years — and look ahead with confidence and purpose.

Professor Paula Monopoli

Distinguished University Professor, Sol & Carlyn Hubert Professor of Law, and Founding Faculty Director of the Program. Her visionary leadership built a program that has shaped hundreds of young lawyers and generated scholarship read around the world.



Director Lisa Mebane

Managing Director of the Program. Director Mebane will teach the Rose Zetzer Fellows Workshop, continuing the tradition of professional development for the next generation of women leaders in law.



Professor Meredith Render

Nationally renowned gender and property scholar and incoming Faculty Director as of April 2027. Professor Render will teach the Gender and Law seminar and lead the Program into its next era of impact, scholarship, and advocacy.



Make a Gift Today

Support Professor Monopoli's legacy and empower Professor Render to lead the program into the future. Your contribution ensures this vital program continues to educate leaders in law for generations to come.

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The Women Leadership & Equality Program at Maryland Carey Law

Restore • Protect • Advance • Equality