

FEDERAL COURT AND MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCE THE FALL 2026 “COURTS AND THE COMMUNITY” LECTURE SERIES

The United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania continues its partnership with Marywood University this fall with the presentation of the Fall 2026 “Courts and the Community” program. All community members – students, faculty, staff, and residents of Scranton and the surrounding communities – are invited to attend the five sessions and engage directly with federal judges and lawyers in interactive conversations about the rule of law, the court system, and modern constitutional issues. The series is free and open to the public. The programs run on Tuesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and aim to encourage and grow civic understanding and education. The sessions will take place in the Swartz Center, Marywood University, 1400 University Avenue, Scranton. The schedule of the sessions, including topics and speakers, are as follows:

- **September 22nd**

- Introduction to Federal Courts and the Rule of Law*

- Presented by Judges Karoline Mehalchick and Jennifer Wilson of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, this session will provide an overview of the basic structure of the federal courts, what the rule of law means historically and today, and some of the major issues facing federal courts today.

- **October 6th**

- Modern Constitutional Issues*

- Presented by Magistrate Judge Martin Carlson (Ret.), Assistant United States Attorneys Carl Marchioli and Christian Haugsby, and former Assistant Federal Public Defender Fritz Ulrich, this session will include discussion of how the Constitution applies to everyday issues and recent interpretation and application of the Constitution by our courts.

- **October 20th**

- Immigration Law*

- Presented by Professors Jill Family and Shoba Sivaprasad Wadhia, together with Attorney Tracey Hubbard, this session will focus on the current status of immigration laws in the United States and the interplay of the roles of the immigration proceedings and the federal courts.

- **November 3rd**

- Election Law*

- Presented by Attorneys Donna Walsh and Nicole Boland, together with Professor Adam Shprintzen, this very timely session will discuss the modern constitutional issues pertinent to election and voting law in the United States.

- **November 17th**

- Advocacy and Judicial Decision Making*

- Presented by Judge Thomas Vanaskie (Ret.), Assistant United States Attorney Jenny Roberts, and Attorney Christopher Opiel, along with Judges Karoline Mehalchick and Jennifer Wilson, the final session will explore how cases move through the federal court system, the issues attorneys face in advocating for their clients, and how judges ultimately reach their decisions.