COLLEGE OF LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
Futures Forum
"Leadership in Flux—
Navigating Talent, Technology, and Culture in BigLaw"

FACULTY

Apryl Mathes

Apryl Mathes serves as President of Growth, Operations & Impact at Diversity Lab, where she leads the development of new pilots and oversees the organization's infrastructure and data strategy. Prior to joining Diversity Lab, Apryl spent nearly two decades in law firms—first as a practicing attorney, then in strategic leadership roles spanning Practice Management and Talent. Most recently, she served as Director of Associate Development at an AmLaw 100 firm, where she led firmwide initiatives to strengthen talent development, accelerate partnership readiness, and support lawyer well-being. Apryl holds a J.D. from Duke University School of Law and a business degree from Kansas State University.

Gina Passerella

Gina Passerella is senior vice president of content at ALM, overseeing all brands and content produced by the legal division. She is responsible for the content strategy of all Law.com publications, including The American Lawyer, Law.com International, Corporate Counsel, Legaltech News, The National Law Journal and all of the company's regional offerings. Gina has a heavy focus on audience engagement, meeting with leadership and other members of each segment of the legal ecosystem. Having served for 7 years as editor-in-chief of The American Lawyer, she has a strong focus on the business of law globally, including law firm financial performance, strategy, innovation, talent management, client relationships and the overall evolution of legal services delivery. Gina also places an emphasis on the study and coverage of mental health in the profession. She frequently speaks at conferences and to law firm partnerships and leadership teams on these subjects.

Kathleen Pearson

Kathleen Pearson is the Global Chief Human Resources Officer at McDermott, a global law firm with over 3000 partners and employees. She provides strategic leadership for all people-related functions, from talent acquisition and management to compensation and benefits. With more than 20 years of experience in human capital management, Kathleen has a passion for building strong, resilient, and diverse teams that can navigate change and uncertainty. Her commitment is to bring human-based solutions to human-created issues, and to empower people and teams for the future.

Jeff Ward

Jeff Ward teaches Contracts as well as courses at the intersection of law, emerging tech, and ethics such as *Frontier A.I. & Robotics: Law & Ethics* and *Future of Contracts* at Duke Law. In his role as Director of the Duke Center on Law & Tech, he oversees programs that include the Duke Law Tech Lab, a pre-accelerator program for early-stage legal tech companies; *Duke Law By Design*, which uses design methodologies to help ensure that new technologies ultimately empower and ennoble all people and expand access to quality legal services; and RAILS, a network dedicated to Responsible AI in Legal Services. He is a Faculty Affiliate at both the Initiative for Science & Society and the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke, where he teaches *Legal, Ethical, and Societal Implications of Artificial Intelligence* and other courses. He is currently on leave and serving as a scholar-in-residence at an international law firm, focusing on practical implications of AI in legal practice and the development of legal expertise.

MODERATOR

Marcie Borgal Shunk

Marcie Borgal Shunk is the President and Founder of The Tilt Institute, widely renowned for her expertise in navigating law firms of all sizes through the intricate landscape of talent, culture, and leadership dynamics. With a commitment to leveraging the forefront of scientific research and innovative strategies, she empowers law firms to navigate change and embrace the future of the legal profession. Marcie holds two prestigious fellowships, four certifications in culture and coaching, and several board advisory positions. She is a frequent contributor to The American Lawyer, Thomson Reuters and Bloomberg Law, where she shares insights on leadership, culture and emerging legal trends. Marcie is a graduate of Harvard with a degree in sociology. Marcie believes leadership efficacy is at the core of improving engagement, wellbeing and results. She is the creator of the seminal program, Leadership Foundations – a high-impact, virtual interactive development program designed to offer essential leadership skills and practical solutions firms can implement immediately.