

Deborah A. DeMott, David F. Cavers Professor of Law,
Duke University School of Law,
Named 2025 Frankel Fiduciary Prize honoree

Professor DeMott is praised for her scholarship, leadership, student-centric teaching ...and as, “One of the leading fiduciary law scholars in the world”

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The Frankel Fiduciary Prize Selection Committee has named Duke Law professor Deborah A. Demott, the 2025 Frankel Fiduciary honoree. For the Selection Committee, Knut Rostad said, “Professor DeMott embodies what it means to be a student-centric, legal scholar and leader in the 21st century.”

The award will be officially presented to professor DeMott in New York on March 13 at a luncheon.

Professor DeMott focuses her scholarship and teaching on the law of agency, business organizations, fiduciary obligation, and art law. Along with many articles, DeMott is the author of the treatise, *Shareholder Derivative Actions*, initially published in 1987 and updated annually and a casebook, *Fiduciary Obligation, Agency and Partnership*, published in 1991. She is the editor, with Danny Busch, of [*The Liability of Asset Managers*](#) (Oxford Univ. Press, 2012).

Arthur B. Laby, Professor, Rutgers Law School and the 2022 Frankel Fiduciary honoree, wrote of Professor DeMott:

“I know of no academic, lawyer, or government official more deserving of the Frankel Fiduciary Prize than Professor Deborah DeMott. Professor DeMott is one of the leading fiduciary law scholars in the world. She is the author of countless law review articles and book chapters on the topic and she served as the sole Reporter – effectively the key author – of the American Law Institute’s Restatement (Third) of Agency.

The Restatement of Agency is the most recognized authority on the law of agency relationships, which is one of the key fiduciary relationships in the common law. In addition, Professor DeMott is a recognized expert in the law of investment management, the law of business organizations, and art law. Perhaps more importantly, Professor DeMott is a wonderful teacher, mentor, and friend. Her students rave about her, and she mentored and helped colleagues around the world who have benefitted from her generous comments on their work and her warm friendship. I wish her a hearty congratulations on receiving this Prize, which she richly deserves.”

Professor DeMott's students concur with professor Laby. Here, four former students comment.

"Professor DeMott played a key role in my development from the very beginning. Her passion for teaching and care for each of us as people were invaluable during that pivotal first semester and beyond. She has been cheering me on since. I love that I can cheer her on now as she's recognized for some of her many important contributions."

Chelsea Werner

"Professor DeMott's excitement for the law, for her students, and for her life is obvious. As her student, I felt encouraged to pursue the things I enjoyed, and she always welcomed me in for conversation. Her authenticity has earned her the trust of many (and) for that, she is most deserving of this honor."

Lucas Lynn

"Professor DeMott is one of the wisest, kindest, and most approachable mentors I have ever had. She has unending patience and enthusiasm. I have had few professors that feel more dedicated to making sure I understand the subject matter. Her mentorship has had a profound effect on my legal career."

Jimmy Scoville

"Professor DeMott once described agency law as an area of the law that often escapes notice, but does a lot of work in the background. One could characterize art law the same way—the art itself is visible but the complex legal arrangements that make art possible are generally not. Her ability to identify and highlight these kinds of hidden details is part of what made her classes the ones I most looked forward to every week."

George Werner

Knut Rostad, notes, "The Selection Committee is delighted to see these students' agree with how extraordinary talents of professor DeMott. They are vivid reminders *why* professor DeMott so richly deserves the Frankel Fiduciary honor."

The Frankel Fiduciary Prize

The Frankel Fiduciary Prize was established in 2013 by the Institute for the Fiduciary Standard to acknowledge individuals who have made significant contributions to the preservation and advancement of fiduciary principles in public life. The prize is named for Tamar Frankel, Professor of Law Emerita, Boston University School of Law. The Frankel Fiduciary Prize Selection Committee:

Clark Blackman II, Founder, Managing Member and CEO, Alpha Wealth Strategies

Michael B. Koffler, Partner, Eversheds Sutherland (US)

Professor Benjamin P. Edwards, William S. Boyd School of Law

Knut A. Rostad, President, Institute for the Fiduciary Standard