

Charles J. Johnson
Isenberg School of Management | UMass Amherst

Overview

Following a thirty-two-year career as a business lawyer in Boston where he represented over 200 startup and emerging companies as well as venture capital and private equity firms, Charlie joined the full-time faculty at the Isenberg School of Management - UMass Amherst in September 2015 where he teaches courses on entrepreneurship and business ethics. He also manages and is a member of the investment committee of the Maroon Ventures Funds that have raised \$8.1 million to invest in early-stage companies linked to UMass Amherst.

Employment

Isenberg School of Management - UMass Amherst
Amherst, MA
Clinical Professor – Management
September 2025-present
Clinical Associate Professor – Management
September 2015 – August 2025

Courses Taught:

Facing Dilemmas – Studies in Decision-Making SCHMGT 697 (MBA)
New Ventures MGMT 341
New Venture Financing MGMT 342
New Venture Organization and Growth MGMT 343
Survival Boot Camp (Freshman First Year Seminar)
Privacy in the Age of Surveillance (Honors College Discovery Seminar)
Battlegrounds of Free Speech (Honors College Discovery Seminar) (beginning Fall 2026)

Recognition:

Recipient, Isenberg Outstanding Teaching Award, 2018-19
Finalist, UMass Amherst Distinguished Teaching Award, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23, 2024-25, 2025-26

Service:

Managing Director and Member of Investment Committee of Maroon Venture Partners Funds I and II, LP, January 2017 – present
Isenberg Outstanding Teaching Award selection committee, January 2024-present
Chancellor's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Steering Committee, 2017-present
Planning Committee for 2026 Entrepreneurship Summit

Organizer and moderator, Isenberg Managing Dilemmas speaker series 2022
Graduation speaker for Isenberg Masters programs, 2023
Associate Director, Berthiaume Center for Entrepreneurship, September 2015-
January 2017
Frequent speaker on new ventures and financing for faculty, PhDs, and post-docs
at Institute for Applied Life Sciences
Organizer and panelist, Isenberg Diversity & Inclusion Summit, October 2019,
2021
Frequent guest speaker for Isenberg Smart Women Securities and Isenberg
Women in Business
Mentor and advisor to numerous UMass Amherst startup companies

Choate, Hall & Stewart, Boston, MA
Partner, Chair of Business and Technology Practice, and Member of Executive
Committee
January 2003 – September 2015

Hill & Barlow, Boston, MA
Partner
May 2001 – January 2003

Finnegan, Hickey, Dinsmoor & Johnson, Boston, MA
Partner, January 1989 – May 2001
Associate, February 1986 – January 1989

Herrick & Smith, Boston, MA
Associate, January 1983 – February 1986

Current and prior service on boards of directors includes Special Olympics of Massachusetts,
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress, Massachusetts Medical Device Industry Council,
Chester Theatre Company (chair) as well as numerous public and private for-profit companies;
Recognized in Best Lawyers in America, Legal 500, Massachusetts Super Lawyers, and Boston
Magazine leading lawyers editions.

Education

University of Virginia School of Law, J.D.
Trinity College, Hartford, CT, B.A. (History)