



Brooklyn Law Notes

THE MAGAZINE OF BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL | FALL 2015

Starry Night

A dazzling celebration on Ellis Island honors
the icons who helped build Brooklyn Law School's
legacy as a gateway to opportunity

Brooklyn Law Notes

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Brooklyn Law Notes is published semiannually by Brooklyn Law School for alumni, students, faculty, and friends.

Dean's Message

The Secret to Law School Success



When *The New York Times* recently invited me to address an important question—"Is the Bar Too Low to Get into Law School?" (Room for Debate, Sept. 24, 2015)—I did not hesitate. As I said in my response: "It is time for the A.B.A., courts and law schools to take back control of the future of the profession (which they know better than a testing organization) and overhaul the way we evaluate the readiness of graduates to serve in the private and public roles of practicing lawyers."

Since the historic nationwide drop in passage rate for the July 2014 bar exam, we have been inundated with the media's hand-wringing over the supposed low quality of law school graduates and candidates for admission to law schools. We have been told again and again by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE) that there is a meaningful correlation between scores on the LSAT and results on the bar exam, and that recent test-takers are "less able." Yet the evidence does not support this idea. The NCBE is singing a tune just as ridiculous as the one belted out by Maureen Stapleton, Paul Lynde, and Dick Van Dyke. "What's the Matter with Kids Today?" in the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*. But there is too much at stake to laugh.

In fact, the factors that reliably predict a student's success in law school are much more complex and, in some cases, surprising. Consider the results of a study published in July: "What Makes a Law Student Succeed or Fail? A Longitudinal Study Correlating Law Student Applicant Data and Law School Outcomes" (Alexia Brunet Marks and Scott A. Moss, University of Colorado Law School), which found that GPAs were a better predictor of law school success (as measured by course grades) than the LSAT. Interestingly, the study also found a correlation between law school success and undergraduate majors in the STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) or economics, accounting, and finance. Other "positive predictors" cited were a post-college career or previous experience teaching. The study confirms the evidence I see every day

at Brooklyn Law School: The students we carefully choose for admission and who succeed are smart, well rounded, and goal oriented, and often bring with them years of experience in diverse careers and endeavors.

For example, 68 percent of our incoming class in August had work experience or advanced degrees prior to law school. What and how they did in those experiences is much more informative—and predictive of success in law school—than the LSAT, as is their undergraduate GPA. If we listened to the NCBE and *US News* rankings and put all our eggs in the LSAT basket, we would be less judicious in our admissions decisions, and frankly, we would not get the remarkable group of students we are proud to call members of the Brooklyn Law School community.

They are not here by accident—or by a simple calculation of test scores. We pride ourselves at the Law School on taking the full measure of prospective students to evaluate who will be a good fit for the unique academic and professional training opportunities we offer. We have ample evidence that we have chosen wisely. We know from years of data that our students who achieve grades within the top 80 percent of their class will almost always pass the bar. The performance of our graduates on the bar exam is consistently among the highest in New York and the United States. On the career front, our graduates are always in demand and highly employable even during tough economic times.

“We pride ourselves on taking the full measure of prospective students to evaluate who will be a good fit for the unique academic and professional training opportunities we offer.”

You will meet seven of our extraordinary students in this issue of *Brooklyn Law Notes* (see page 26): a New York City police sergeant who during his first semester took classes in the evening and then patrolled Bedford-Stuyvesant from midnight to 8 a.m., an aide for U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, a community liaison for the Office of the New York City Mayor, a specialist in the critical field of import and export control, a U.S. marshal and expert in East African affairs, a musician and chef who is preparing for a career in entertainment law, and a former U.S. Army intelligence analyst. I know you will be impressed with these smart, thoughtful, and accomplished men and women. They are diverse in backgrounds and career aspirations but united in their belief in the power of law to change the world.

We want to attract more individuals like the seven profiled here to join an already strong cadre of superb students at the Law School. In fact, our nation needs more motivated and able law students like these who will take on emerging legal

challenges that no one has seen before across all fields of law. After years of shrinking law school enrollment, we face a growing need for a new generation of lawyers who can respond to the rapid and fundamental changes in technology and business (see page 22) and our increasingly global society. More than ever, we need more good lawyers for the public sector and for new businesses, especially those who can help meet the needs of the underserved. Just because hiring in “big law” has decreased in recent years does not mean the demand is down in other sectors.

That is why we are working hard to dismantle the barriers to legal education and meaningful careers in the profession. We are attacking the issue of law school affordability on multiple fronts with a comprehensive package of student-centric financial and career preparation initiatives. Our historic 15 percent tuition reduction went into effect with our most recent incoming class. This summer, we launched the new Bridge to Success program (see page 5), which builds on our nationally recognized job placement success and further enhances the many ways in which we support graduates as they begin their careers. These programs include Alumni Committed to Employing Students (ACES), in which the Law School partners with alumni who dedicate their time and efforts to the career success of both current students and fellow alumni through mentorship, networking, teaching, and hiring. This is a tremendous program that enables our graduates and students to build strong connections that benefit both.

With all these initiatives, we are listening to our students and what they need to attain their dreams of attending law school and succeed in their career. We are doing nothing less than honoring and advancing our enduring legacy of opportunity and access, innovation, and dedication to excellence that we celebrated at our gala on Ellis Island in June (see page 16). Brooklyn Law School is one of a kind.

Never content with the status quo, we are eager to bring about needed change and we are bold in our efforts to do so. Therefore, while we take steps to address the barriers to legal education—including the cost of law school as well as the onerous, lengthy, and expensive bar exam and licensing process—we also must keep in mind that the legal establishment is slow to change and evolve. The force of inertia and reliance on past practice are powerful. However, I am determined that we will seize every opportunity to make law school more affordable, offer a curriculum relevant to constantly changing legal practice, and prepare our students for a new marketplace for lawyers. In doing so, we honor our proud 115-year-old history while staking our claim as a leader in legal education for the 21st century.



Nick Allard
Joseph Crea Dean and President

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“ For me, having a law degree will provide a powerful tool to help others in ways I couldn't have before.”

—Liren Chen '16

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CONVOCATION 2015

Dean Allard Welcomes 421 New Students With a Song

ON AUGUST 18, at the convocation ceremony, held in the ceremonial courtroom of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, **Dean Nick Allard** surprised the Brooklyn Law School entering class with a song. He regaled the 400 J.D. and 21 LL.M. students with his own version of “Experiment,” by Cole Porter:

*You all have learned reliance
On the teachings of legal science,
So I hope, through life, you never
will decline
In spite of philistine
Defiance
To do what all great lawyers do.
Experiment.
Make it your motto day and night.
Experiment.
And it will lead you to the light.*

Although no recording studios are likely to sign the dean, he certainly left the students with an indelible impression. The ceremony featured alumni, students, and faculty who each offered some sage advice to the entering class: **General Counsel John L. Rudikoff ’06** of the MASS Design Group; **Myra Din ’16** and **Jonathan Soto ’16** (see page 26); and the **Hon. Claire R. Kelly ’93**, a U.S. Court of International Trade judge. **Vice Dean William Araiza** (see page 37) served as master of ceremonies and highlighted the remarkable diversity and accomplishments of this year’s incoming class (see “By the Numbers”).

“Your differences are what make this room and this upcoming journey so special,” said Din. “I already know that the room I am looking at has future leaders: people who will one day make great contributions in public service, people who will become bold prosecutors and defenders, professors, partners of law firms, and even some future judges.”

Soto echoed her sentiments: “This law school goes to great lengths to create a dynamic, talented, diverse, and inclusive student body. I urge you to begin forging



relationships with your peers today; they will be with you to assure you in moments of self-doubt and they will be with you to celebrate your moments of success. There is no shortage of opportunities for you to define and amplify your voice in the world’s greatest city.”

Dean Allard concluded the program with inspiring remarks. “Every single one of you new students,” he said, “has chosen to become a lawyer at a pivotal, critically important moment in history. Whether peace or war, safety or violence, freedom or constraint, liberty or domination, right or wrong, faith or despair, plenty or want, love or hate become the exception or the rule are outcomes which will significantly be in your hands, individually and collectively, striving as champions empowered with the tools and weapons honed by your legal education to make the world a better place. That is a career worth the time, money, and effort you will invest in obtaining your degree. So dream big, experiment, engage with purpose, and make us as proud of you tomorrow as we are today.” ■

WATCH THE VIDEO

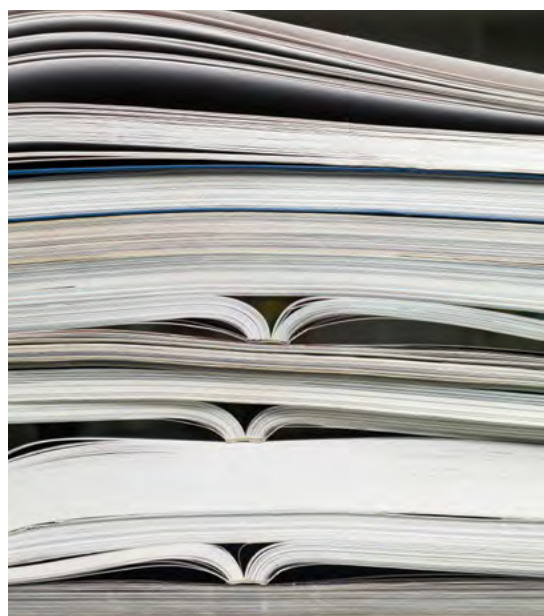
brooklaw.edu/convocation-video

New Students
by the Numbers

- 28** enrolled in the two-year J.D. program
- 329** in the three-year J.D. program
- 43** in the four-year J.D. program
- 21** in the LL.M. program for foreign-trained lawyers
- 7** transfer students
- 34** born in countries outside the U.S., spanning five continents
- 39** languages and dialects other than English spoken
- 45** who speak at least three languages
- 189** colleges and universities attended
- 35** advanced degrees received

SCHOLARLY IMPACT

Brooklyn Faculty Ranks 33rd on Leiter Scale



BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL'S FACULTY has been named to the prestigious Leiter Top 40, ranking 33rd on the Leiter scale in scholarly impact as measured by citations. Among the Law School's most-cited tenured faculty members were Professors William Araiza, Miriam Baer, Anita Bernstein, Dana Brakman Reiser, I. Bennett Capers, Marsha Garrison, Edward Janger, Roberta Karmel, Elizabeth Schneider, Lawrence Solan, Nelson Tebbe, and Aaron Twerski.

"This prestigious ranking is more evidence of the powerful collective impact of the scholarly work being done by our world-class faculty," said Dean Nick Allard. "The depth and breadth of our faculty scholarship is simply astounding and firmly places us among the finest law schools in the nation."

Each law school faculty's "scholarly impact core" is calculated from the mean and the median of total law journal citations over the last five years to the work of tenured members of that law faculty. The system was developed by Brian Leiter, professor at the University of Chicago Law School.

According to Leiter: "Citations to faculty scholarship is, of course, only one metric of scholarly distinction. Some schools that experts would reasonably assess as top 20... underperform by this measure. Still, the metric is a useful check on uninformed opinions, and tracks rather well the actual scholarly output of different schools." ■

Innovative Bridge to Success Program Launches

IN JULY, BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL announced an initiative called "Bridge to Success," which immediately received extensive national media coverage, including in *The New York Times*, where it was featured as an innovative way to address the issue of law school affordability. Under the program, graduates who have not found full-time professional employment nine months after graduation are eligible to receive a lump-sum payment of 15 percent of their total out-of-pocket tuition costs while attending the Law School. Bridge to Success takes effect beginning with this year's entering class.

It is likely that few graduates will need to take advantage of the program, which is the first of its kind among U.S. law schools, said Dean Nick Allard, since 90 percent of the Law School's graduates from the class of 2014, for example, found meaningful jobs in private practice, corporations, startups, government agencies, judicial clerkships, and nonprofits.

Occasionally, however, graduates face short-term difficulty early in their careers, even with high-quality credentials. "The Bridge to Success program provides a safety net to all these graduates to continue to pursue employment and find the jobs that are right for them," Dean Allard said. "It is a further incentive for students to work with their career counselor throughout their time in law school to maximize their professional success."

"We tell our students that they will continue to receive strong support from our office even after they graduate. Bridge to Success is another important step in that commitment as they pursue their career aspirations," said Karen Eisen, assistant dean for career and professional development.

Bridge to Success is the latest in a comprehensive package of initiatives created by the Law School to make legal education more affordable and accessible. Other developments include the 15 percent tuition reduction plan that took effect this academic year, and a broadening of need-based aid. ■

“Shelley Friedman, who recently started a two-year program at Brooklyn Law School, is not too concerned about how she will fare in the job market after she earns her degree. She is confident about her prospects. But she also knows that—just in case—the school is prepared to provide her with a safety net.”

—*The New York Times*

FACES ON CAMPUS

New Dean of Admissions and Director of Development



Eulas G. Boyd Jr.

Eulas G. Boyd Jr. joined the Law School in June as dean of admissions, succeeding Henry W. Haverstick III, who retired after 42 years at the Law School (see page 8).

Boyd, who has been praised as one of the country's most innovative recruitment leaders, brings to the position years of experience in talent acquisition and law school admissions at the highest level. In addition, he holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School and a B.A. from Cornell University.

"We had a stellar group of candidates in the national search," Dean Nick Allard said. "However, Eulas was the clear choice for the position. Given his experience, expertise, intelligence, and talent, I am confident he will be an outstanding admissions dean and will further raise Brooklyn Law School's profile and reputation at the national and global levels."

Allard further noted that this is an exciting time to be working in law school admissions, and in particular at Brooklyn Law School. "The Law School is leading the way to prepare students for the rapidly changing legal profession by offering innovative programs and a range of flexible options to earn their degrees," he said. "Eulas will be at the forefront of recruiting talented students who are looking for that 'Brooklyn edge' in legal education."

"I joined Brooklyn Law School," Boyd said, "because I believe in its long-held



Ursula Vesala

commitment to innovation and value. With more than 100 years of excellence in curricular and extracurricular offerings to build on, I look forward to bringing today's best and brightest students—from around the country and the world—to our classrooms."

Prior to joining Brooklyn Law School, Boyd served as the director of talent acquisition and workforce planning for the global nonprofit CFA Institute. There, he successfully managed CFA's strategic workforce expansion, assisting in its growth from approximately 350 employees to nearly 600 employees and helping staff new locations in India and China.

Before his work at CFA, he was the director of admissions at Columbia Law School, where he contributed to the recruitment of several incoming classes, was responsible for technology enhancements, and helped raise the school's statistical profiles. In addition, Boyd worked at Goldman Sachs as a vice president in the human capital management division and held a number of critical talent acquisition roles, including co-leading diversity recruiting initiatives across the Americas. Following graduation from Harvard Law School, Boyd spent nine years as a litigator with Cravath, Loeb & Loeb; and Hahn & Hessen. He also taught legal research and writing as an adjunct professor at Cardozo School of Law.

Ursula Vesala, a highly accomplished fundraiser and relationship manager, joined Brooklyn Law School in July as the director of development. Most recently, she worked at Yale Law School, where she was the associate director of philanthropic engagement.

Vesala's fundraising career includes notable success at major universities and organizations. She served as the director of major gifts and assistant dean for development and alumni relations at Columbia University, external affairs officer at Tulane University, and director of development for the International School of Louisiana. Vesala did philanthropic work as the director of institutional giving for the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, and she also taught American history as an adjunct faculty member at Tulane University.

"Ursula is a tremendous addition to an exceptionally strong and forward-looking leadership team that is performing at a remarkably high level," Dean Allard said. "In addition to her impressive track record as a senior development officer, Ursula has the intellect, personality, creativity, global perspective, and drive to advance the Law School's mission, as directed by our Board of Trustees and faculty. By generating the resources needed to support world-class scholarship and the best, most affordable legal education possible, we enable our graduates to make a positive difference in the new world of law."

"I'm thrilled to be joining Brooklyn Law School," Vesala said. "Under Dean Allard's visionary leadership, I look forward to working with the Law School's extraordinary alumni and friends to help further secure and expand the school's resources."

Vesala received a bachelor's degree from the University of Helsinki in Finland and a master's degree from the University of Mississippi. She has completed work toward a doctorate in U.S. and Latin American history at Tulane University. ■

Moot Court Honor Society Continues Winning Streak

WITH MORE THAN 38 VICTORIES—including two championships, 12 individual awards, and 24 team awards—during the 2014–15 academic year, the Brooklyn Law School Moot Court Honor Society again proved itself to be one of the most successful programs in the United States. The students won a variety of trial and appellate competitions across the country and around the globe, from Illinois and North Carolina to England and the Netherlands.

“Not only did our students earn trophies and awards,” said Rebecca Naeder ’15, the 2014–15 president of the Moot Court Honor Society, “but they also enhanced their oral advocacy skills, made professional connections, helped them to secure internships and jobs, and found lifelong colleagues and friends.”

The past year’s Moot Court Honor Society wins included the Florida State University College of Law National Mock Trial Competition, which Brooklyn Law School has won twice in the last three years. Anthony Beneduce ’16, Ryan Levy ’15, Jessica Soricelli ’16, and Adam Yefet ’16 were named champions. Ryan Levy ’15 was named Best Overall Advocate. They were coached by John Garcia ’15.

Another team from the Law School consisting of Arielle Kobetz ’15 and Glenn Radecki ’17 took first place in the Robert F. Wagner National Labor and Employment Law Moot Court Competition, a premier national competition. Their coaches were Jessica Apter ’15, Elizabeth Conroy ’15, and Evan Esswein ’15.

At the Monroe E. Price Media Law Moot Court Competition, hosted by Oxford University and featuring teams from law schools around the world, Brooklyn Law School students advanced to the international round in Oxford, England, for the second year in a row. The team won Second-Best Memorial, Taylor Dougherty ’16 was named Best Overall Advocate, and Zach Kaufman ’16 was named Third-Best Overall Advocate.

For the second consecutive year, the International Criminal Court (ICC) team advanced to the international round, held at The Hague in the Netherlands, where the team finished 11th in the world. This year’s team—Bradford Bray ’16, Caitrin Coccoma ’16, and Lillian Smith ’16—was coached by Ian Dooley ’15 and Amanda Shapiro ’15. Bray was awarded Best Prosecution Brief in the regional round.

“The Moot Court Honor Society had a tremendous year,” said faculty advisor Professor Cynthia Godsoe. “I was truly amazed by the students’ dedication, hard work, fluent writing, and incredible oral advocacy.” ■

MORE ABOUT THE MOOT COURT HONOR SOCIETY
brooklaw.edu/mootcourt

The Prince Turns 30

In March, the Moot Court Honor Society hosted the 30th annual Dean Jerome Prince Memorial Evidence Competition, one of the nation’s most prominent moot court events. Thirty-six teams from around the country participated, and a distinguished group of jurists—Judge Richard Clifton of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, Judge Edward Korman ’66 of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, and Judge Margo Brodie of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York and adjunct professor of law at the Law School—presided over the competition’s final round.

The competition is named in honor of the late Jerome Prince, renowned evidence scholar, teacher, and author of *Prince on Evidence*, who served as dean of Brooklyn Law School from 1953 to 1971. The competition provides law students an opportunity to write an appellate brief that addresses evidentiary issues in a contemporary context. This year’s competition was particularly poignant, given that its longtime faculty champion Professor Robert Pitler, a highly regarded evidence scholar, passed away just a few weeks before the event took place.

The winning team came from the University of California–Hastings College of Law, and the finalists were from the Duquesne University School of Law. The award for Best Brief went to William & Mary Law School. ■



L–R: Justin Druke ’15, Timothy Cochrane, Jr. ’15, Dean Nick Allard, Imre Ilyes ’15, Ryan Murphy ’15, Kathleen Reilly ’15, the Honorable Margo Brodie, Sara Friedman ’15, the Honorable Edward Korman, Rebecca Naeder ’15, and the Honorable Richard Clifton

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEXT COMPETITION

✉ prince.competition@brooklaw.edu

Longtime Admissions Leaders Retire



Henry (“Hank”) W. Haverstick III, who served as dean of admissions and financial aid, retired in June after more than 40 years of service to the Law School. As admissions dean from 1979 to 2015, he welcomed more than 16,000 J.D. and LL.M. students and shaped the modern-day admissions process at the Law School. Haverstick led a strong professional team and instituted novel initiatives to help draw the best students from around the country. Working closely with a series of deans during his tenure (I. Leo Glasser, the late David G. Trager, Joan G. Wexler, and Nicholas W. Allard), he was a driving force behind increasing student housing, ultimately leading to the building of Feil Hall and guaranteed housing for all first-year students; enhancing affordability through a generous scholarship program based on need and merit; developing joint-degree partnerships with New York City universities and colleges; and creating an effective alumni admissions board. In addition, Haverstick helped to lead major technological advancements for the admissions office, including becoming paperless more than five years ago—one of the first law schools in the nation to do so. He also spearheaded the development of the admissions website and its mobile site “Brooklyn Edge.”

“Hank has had an indelible, positive impact on the Law School and the profession,” said Dean Nick Allard. “In the current climate of admissions challenges, Hank, like Rocky Balboa, learned how to punch and move in the ring in new ways and helped successfully overhaul our approach to admissions and student aid. It is no exaggeration, when you consider the size and quality of our most recent classes, to say that Hank has defied gravity.”

In 2006, Haverstick was awarded the Law School’s Wilbur A. Levin Distinguished Service Medal for his outstanding service. In June, he was one of eight individuals honored at the Salute to Brooklyn Law School Icons Gala on Ellis Island (see page 16).

During his career at the Law School, Haverstick also served as assistant dean for admissions, assistant dean for student services, assistant dean for placement and student services, and director of placement and career planning.

“If I made a mark at Brooklyn Law School, it was playing a role in selecting 36 years’ worth of students who went on to make me proud in so many ways,” said Haverstick when he

“My steadfast commitment was to help students improve their lives, and toward that end I viewed admissions work as the splendid enterprise of making dreams come true.” — **Hank Haverstick**

was honored at Ellis Island. “My steadfast commitment was to help students improve their lives, and toward that end I viewed admissions work as the splendid enterprise of making dreams come true. As our students became alumni, nothing made me feel as good as hearing of their happiness with the careers they turned from dreams to reality.”

Myron Chaitovsky, the Law School’s longtime director of admissions, also retired in June; he served as acting dean of admissions during the past academic year.

Before joining Brooklyn Law School in 1988, Chaitovsky, who graduated from Fordham Law School, had served as the director of undergraduate admissions at Touro College, as the director for undergraduate admissions at Yeshiva University, and as the director of continuing education at Yeshiva University. He estimates that over his three-decade career at BLS, he has read more than 95,000 application files and personal statements.

“I joked that I was the director of denial because I read far more deniable applications than admissible ones, which is the name of the game at a school at our level,” he said. Chaitovsky said he did devote a significant amount of time to looking for reasons not to say no. “I’d look for someone who might be pushing for the applicant—sometimes it was a faculty member or member of our community—and I’d let them know that the applicant needs to take the LSAT again or spend some time in graduate school obtaining better grades,” he said.

Although Chaitovsky enjoyed the details of each and every application, he credits Haverstick with having a “mind like a steel trap.” “Hank remembered applicants in shocking detail,” he said. “I remember we were at a school dinner at the Water Club. There was a huge fish tank, and as a graduate walked by, Hank said to her, ‘You would love this fish tank.’ The woman said, ‘How did you remember that I had an interest in marine biology?’ This woman had mentioned it on her personal statement over three years ago and he not only remembered the story, he knew exactly who it was.”

In retirement, Chaitovsky is spending time with his three grandchildren, and he hopes to publish a collection of comments on the Passover Haggadah.

“For the role they have played in building so many strong Brooklyn Law School classes, in changing the lives of so many applicants by jump-starting their legal careers, and in enabling the Law School to grow in strength and stature, we are all very indebted and grateful to Hank and Myron,” said Professor Michael Gerber. ■

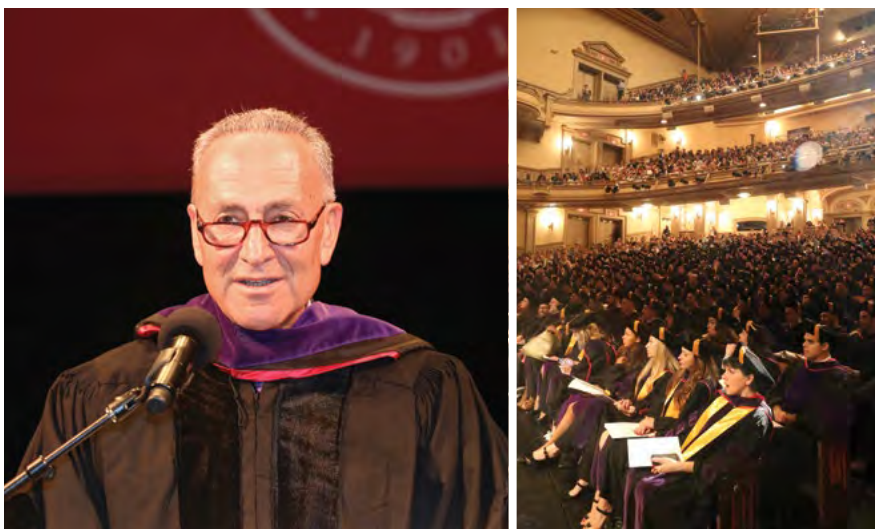
U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer Addresses Graduates at 114th Commencement

THE LAW SCHOOL CONFERRED degrees to 337 J.D. and 21 LL.M. graduates at the 114th commencement ceremony held at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on May 28. **U.S. Senator Charles “Chuck” Schumer** addressed the graduates and received an honorary degree from the Law School. As the state’s senior senator and chairman of the Senate Rules Committee, serving in the Senate for more than 16 years, Schumer’s accomplishments include sponsoring such notable legislation as the Brady Bill, the Violence against Women Act, and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Schumer has delivered more than \$20 billion in aid to NYC since 9/11, and shepherded the \$63 billion Superstorm Sandy Relief Bill through Congress. He is also a tireless advocate of educational opportunity for all students, and strongly supported passage of legislation on college tuition tax deductibility and reduced costs on student loans.

A native of Brooklyn, Schumer acknowledged the Law School’s critical role in advancing diversity in legal education. “From its first days, Brooklyn Law School opened its door to minorities, women, immigrants, children of immigrants, African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Latinos, and others from diverse backgrounds. It offered night classes for those with full-time jobs,” he said. “Today, the same spirit of diversity exists—the same openness to students from every walk of life and economic background. And just as Brooklyn Law School accepts applicants with open arms, it sends them back out into the world armed with one of the best legal educations you could ask for.”

Schumer concluded with a piece of advice for the graduates: “Take a risk and don’t let the fear of failure deter you. Go for it!”

The valedictorian, **Lena E. Smith ’15**, and the student-elected speaker, **Robert D. Argen ’15**, also addressed the graduates. “I will continue to sing the praises of our amazing faculty,” said Smith in a heartfelt speech, “who I honestly believe would stop at nothing to see each and every one of us succeed in any way we could dream.” Argen took a more humorous approach,



Commencement ceremony at Brooklyn Academy of Music

using “tweet-like” soundbites and a poem to illustrate his conviction that “the state of Brooklyn Law School is strong.”

Dean Nick Allard recognized Professors Michael Cahill and Dana Brakman Reiser, who both stepped down as vice deans to return to the faculty full time. He also acknowledged the retirements of Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Hank Haverstick III and Acting Dean of Admissions Myron Chaitovsky (see page 8). Between them, they had a combined 70 years of service

to the Law School. Dean Allard also gave special thanks to Professor Ursula Bentele, who retired this past academic year after 34 years of teaching at the Law School (see page 34). And in closing, he urged graduates to make the most of their legal education. “Your knowledge is the light of the world,” Dean Allard said. “Do not hide it under a basket. Put it up on the hilltop to show the way.” ■

WATCH THE VIDEO

brooklaw.edu/commencement-video

Doing Good

Ensuring equal access to justice, defending the rights of those who are unable to defend themselves, and working for the greater good are the core responsibilities, and privileges, of every attorney. At Brooklyn Law School, students take this noble commitment seriously. In close connection with the distinguished faculty and accomplished Public Service Office, our students are deeply involved in giving back to the city of New York—working on a range of pro bono projects, community initiatives, and public service work.



Race Judicata Supports Local High School

In April, the Student Bar Association hosted the 5K Race Judicata in Prospect Park. Open to the public and held in memory of Professor Barry L. Zaretsky, the event raised nearly \$10,000 for the Urban Assembly School for Law and Justice, a public high school for low-income students wishing to study law. This year, among the 250 racers, Brooklyn Law School students topped both the men’s and women’s field—Sean Hynes ’17 and Victoria Pontecorvo ’17 each received a trophy along with a one-year membership to Citi Bike.

BLSPI Auction Raises More Than \$40,000



Students bidding in the live auction to support public interest initiatives and fellowships

BROOKLYN LAW STUDENTS FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST (BLSPI) raised more than \$40,000 at the group’s annual auction in March. While eating, drinking, and socializing, guests bid in both a live and a silent auction on items such as sports tickets and memorabilia, artwork, gift certificates to local restaurants, multiple opportunities to mingle with professors over food and drinks, and even the chance to share a meal with Brooklyn Law School graduates, including a dinner with “the three G’s”: **Geraldo Rivera ’69**, **Gerald Lefcourt ’67**, and **Gerald Shargel ’69**.

“We’re so grateful to our supportive community of faculty, students, administrators, and alumni for their participation in the auction,” said co-chair **Jillian Rudge ’16**. “As we begin the new school year, planning is already underway to deliver an even bigger, improved auction next spring for the event’s 25th anniversary, which will also serve as an alumni and BLSPI fellowship celebration.”

The money raised in the auction is used to fund BLSPI’s numerous public interest initiatives, which are designed to improve the lives of people in need, and it raises funds for summer fellowships awarded to approximately 20 students. The fellowships allow students to work in public interest legal positions that would otherwise be unpaid. In 2015, the fellows worked with the Legal Aid Society, Bronx Defenders, Brooklyn Defenders, MFY Legal Services, and migrant worker legal services in China. ■

Students Complete More Than 70,000 Hours of Public Service

THE PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICE ANNUALLY HONORS the graduating class for its dedication to pro bono work with an awards ceremony. This year's event featured **Rabia Chaudry**, an attorney and national security fellow at the New America Foundation, who is best known for her recent involvement in the NPR "Serial" podcast. Chaudry spoke about her five guiding principles: the importance of using your time well, having confidence in yourself, being focused and persistent, remaining idealistic, and committing to your work. "Cram all the life you can into the time you have," Chaudry said. "No matter your profession, the integrity with which you execute your duties is a reflection of your character and will be part of the legacy you leave behind. Think hard about who and what is impacted by your work."

Chaudry's work focuses on national security. She has significant experience in immigration law, civil liberties, interfaith relations, nonprofit and program management, and grassroots advocacy. She is the president and founder of the Safe Nation Collaborative, a training program for law enforcement and American-Muslim communities that aims to foster cooperative relationships in order to combat violent extremism. She is also a board member of the ACLU of Maryland. She graduated from George Mason School of Law in 2000.

"We were thrilled to recognize the students' important work with this ceremony featuring Rabia Chaudry, who was such an inspiring keynote speaker," said Danielle Sorken, director of the Public Service Office. "We're so proud of the tremendous efforts of the class of 2015 to serve their community and the wider world. From Brooklyn Law School's own clinics and pro bono projects to South Brooklyn Legal Services to the NYC Housing Development Corporation to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, our students provided critically needed services in virtually all areas of public service." ■

“We're so proud of the tremendous efforts of the class of 2015 to serve their community and the wider world.”

—**Danielle Sorken**

Director of the Public Service Office

Sparer Forum Explores “War on Poverty” 50 Years Later



THE SPRING OF 2015 marked 50 years since President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a “War on Poverty” in the United States. But national efforts continue to be needed to address homelessness and hunger—particularly among minority populations, women, and children. To brainstorm policies that might better provide people with access to safety-net resources, the Law School's **Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law**

Fellowship Program hosted its annual forum in March on this topic. The event drew experts in the field, including Wayne Ho, chief program and policy officer of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies; Sondra Youdelman, executive director of Community Voices Heard; and Professor Ann Cammett of CUNY Law School.

Together with keynote speaker **Steven Banks**, commissioner of the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) and former attorney-in-chief of the Legal Aid Society, the panelists discussed how to improve both social services and legal strategies to alleviate poverty. Banks noted that lawyers who work for government agencies like his have a responsibility to ensure that programs are functioning well and help design new initiatives. With \$50 million in its baseline budget, the HRA is seen by Mayor Bill de Blasio as a vital component to fulfilling a major goal of the administration: overcoming income inequality.

“Sometimes I know we think of lawyers as the naysayers,” Banks said, “but the lawyers now at HRA are playing a major frontline role in helping roll out the kinds of reforms that we're involved with.”

The Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Program was established in 1986 to honor the late Edward Sparer '59, one of the nation's leading poverty lawyers, and to encourage law students and lawyers to carry on his legacy. “The large turnout and lively discussion at the forum showed that the issues of income inequality that animated Ed Sparer's work are alive and well and need the energy, creativity, and commitment of a new generation of poverty lawyers,” said Professor Elizabeth Schneider, director of the Sparer Fellowship Program. ■

MORE INFORMATION
brooklaw.edu/sparer

WATCH THE VIDEO
[▶ brooklaw.edu/sparer-poverty](http://brooklaw.edu/sparer-poverty)

Students Win Annual CUBE Competition With Leading-Edge Apps

The second annual **Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE)** Innovators Competition in April awarded seven students from the Law School fellowship prizes and future support in implementing their innovative proposals—all new apps that address legal issues and entrepreneurial ventures.

The first prize of \$2,000 went to the team of **Benjamin Brash '16**, **Jonny Suser '16**, and **Sam Tarasowsky '16** for Legal Capture, an app that empowers citizens to snap a photo of a document such as a parking ticket and quickly determine legal or procedural flaws that may serve as grounds to fight it. The app also enables users to access procedures for paying fines and connect with attorneys.

"The CUBE competition was a tremendous learning experience in putting together a business plan, and having to present and defend that plan to a panel of highly accomplished individuals," said Brash. "We plan on using the prize money to hire a developer to make a proof of concept for our idea."

Paula Collins '17 won second place with a \$1,500 prize for her FLIC (Film Legal Information Center) app, which delivers a virtual law practice, direct client services, and business/entrepreneurial services to a community of independent filmmakers in Brooklyn and surrounding areas. The team of **Lili Rogowsky '16**, **Philip Schultze '16**, and **Edward Kim '16** won the third prize of \$1,000 for Law Star, an app that creates an efficient online community through which law students in New York City can offer and access course materials, reviews and evaluations, news, and ideas, as well as buy and sell textbooks, exchange outlines, and publish articles on law-related current events.

"The Innovators Competition once again demonstrated the 'ready for *Shark Tank*' creativity and ingenuity of BLS students that's showcased by the many sides of CUBE," said Paul Gangsei, executive director of CUBE. "The presenters, judges, faculty mentors, and Phil Weiss '12, director of the competition, all deserve credit for this successful event."

Fellowship prizes were made possible through the Nancy and Stanley M. Grossman '67 CUBE Fellowship Fund. ■



Paul Gangsei, executive director of CUBE (CENTER), and the panel of distinguished judges (L–R): Raphaella M. Giampiccolo '87, associate general counsel, Sanofi-Aventis U.S.; Richard McCarthy '99, vice president and general counsel, MakerBot; Evan Azriliant '92, partner, S&E Azriliant; and Andrew Finkelstein '91, managing partner, Jacoby & Meyers, LLP (also Finkelstein & Partners; Finkelstein, Blankinship, Frei-Pearson & Garber, LLP; and Fine, Olin, and Anderman)



DISCUSSION: How Startups Can Profit Socially and Financially

The day following CUBE's annual competition, the center explored funding options for social enterprises during an event titled "Innovations in Financing Social Good." The keynote speaker, **Michael Schlein**, chairman of the New York City Economic Development Corporation and president and CEO of Accion, discussed how the success of microfinance programs has changed how we look at those living in poverty and how we should address the issue of poverty going forward. "We need to harness the capital markets," he said, "and create institutions that deliver both social and financial returns." Following Schlein's presentation, experts in this emerging field explored leading-edge financial tools that are revolutionizing the practice of social enterprise.

Professor Dana Brakman Reiser led the first panel about various funding strategies that for-profit entities can use to create business models and methods that achieve social good. The panel featured Rashid Galadanci, senior associate, the Social Enterprise Fund; Arrun Kapoor, managing director, SJF Ventures; and Jonathan Ng, global legal director, Ashoka.

Peter F. Olberg, a partner at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips LLP, then led a discussion with David Gorleku, of the Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group, on the role of social impact bonds, a new technique for funding social enterprises. ■

Longtime BAM President Addresses Innovation and the Arts

IN FEBRUARY, Karen Brooks Hopkins, the former president of the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) and the co-author of *Successful Fundraising for Arts and Cultural Organizations*, spoke at a networking event sponsored by the **Center for Urban Business and Entrepreneurship (CUBE)**, “How BAM Became BAM! Innovation in the Cultural World.”

“We spent the last 40 years creating a cultural district in the neighborhoods surrounding BAM,” said Brooks Hopkins, who retired from her role as president in June. “Initially, it was a real struggle getting people over the bridge and into the audience. Now, everything’s changed. People are coming from around the corner, surrounding neighborhoods, everywhere.”



Brooks Hopkins discussed her unique fundraising approach, BAM’s emergence as a major cultural institution and the significant role it has played in the “Brooklyn renaissance” of the last several years. She also shared some of her favorite memories over the course of her 36-year tenure,

including the time she met Robert Redford when he came to BAM. Despite BAM’s success, she said, challenges still lie ahead.

“The potential bad news is that real estate developers now eye Brooklyn neighborhoods as the logical destination to make a quick buck,” she said. “They don’t always look at the long-term value of the neighborhood. They’d rather opt to bring in any old chain store or chain restaurant that will bring in the largest earnings right then and there.”

Brooks Hopkins told the packed audience that she believes BAM will continue to serve as a catalyst, both as a steward of the arts and as an economic engine for the borough. She is currently the senior fellow in residence at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. ■

A Look at the Psychology Behind Police Crime and Justice

VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS between the police and citizens have made headline news during the last few years. Most of the stories have been about police officers committing violent acts against citizens, but in some instances the roles were reversed. Serious concerns have been raised about the ability of the legal system to “do justice” when emotions are inflamed (particularly when race is involved) and when public officials are the ones accused of wrongdoing.

To address these questions from both legal and psychological perspectives, Brooklyn Law School’s **Center for the Study of Law, Language, and Cognition** held two programs in the

spring that brought together academics and practitioners. Samuel R. Sommers, a psychology professor from Tufts University, presented “Racial Disparities in Legal Outcomes: On Policing, Charging Decisions, and Criminal Trial Proceedings.” Tom Tyler, Macklin Fleming Professor of Law and Professor of Psychology at Yale Law School, presented “Can the Legal System Do Justice When It Tries?” Professor Lawrence Solan, director of the center, moderated both programs.

The speakers discussed what the legal system does poorly—but also what it does well. They examined biases that the system tries to overcome, and considered ways the system can improve if there is the will to do so.

“The problem runs deeper than identifying a few bad apples,” said Solan. “With so much focus in the news on apparent failures in criminal justice, this is a crucial time to discuss what causes people to behave in ways that create serious problems for the system, and what can be done about it.”

The Center for the Study of Law, Language, and Cognition will continue to hold a series of programs that aim to spotlight attention on ethical issues and address them from legal and psychological perspectives. After a successful discussion in early October about ethical alternatives to deceptive police tactics, the center will follow up with an event in November that examines courtroom lies and deceit. ■



L-R: Professor Lawrence Solan engages with Tom Tyler, Macklin Fleming Professor of Law and Professor of Psychology at Yale Law School

Finance and Legal Experts Discuss Bankruptcy and Bank Resolution

The **Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation**, together with the *Brooklyn Journal of Corporate, Financial & Commercial Law*, held its annual symposium in February: “The Treatment of Financial Contracts in Bankruptcy and Bank Resolution.” The well-attended event featured both academics and practitioners discussing current issues related to legal and policy questions in this area.

After the 2008 financial crisis and the collapse of Lehman Brothers, regulations related to bankruptcy and bank resolution regimes tried to address the “too big to fail” risk—and the most significant legislative response to Lehman’s failure took the form of Title II of the Dodd–Frank bill. Now a number of “safe harbors” and “immunities” are incorporated into the bankruptcy code and international instruments such as the UNCITRAL Legislative Guide. The concern that motivated the safe harbors was clearance or intermediary risk.



Professor Riz Mokal, University College London, addressing attendees

Symposium participants explored the relationship between systemic risk in the banking system and in enterprise bankruptcy, and domestic and international approaches to harmonizing the various regimes. Edward Janger, the David M. Barse Professor of Law at Brooklyn Law School and faculty advisor to the journal, orchestrated the event to bring some of the world’s preeminent insolvency experts together. Panels on the development of international approaches to financial contracts included experts from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; Georgetown University Law Center; University College London; Davis, Polk & Wardwell; Harvard Law School; the World Bank; and Morrison & Foerster.

“It was fascinating to see some of the brightest minds in bankruptcy debate the theoretical and practical consequences of the collapse of large financial institutions and the aftermath of their financial contracts,” said Ned Schultheis ’16, the journal’s editor-in-chief. “This level of intellectual discourse is exactly the type of academic discussion the journal strives for. We look forward to publishing the papers in this fall’s volume.” ■

New Disabilities Clinic Commemorates 25th Anniversary of the ADA

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the **Advocates for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) Clinic** and the **Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy** hosted an event in February that explored current disability law and policy. It was the first program that the new AAIDD clinic had held since it was launched in January with a \$1 million grant from the Taft Foundation through the efforts of **Howard Rothman ’71**.

Panelists explored such questions as: What impact does law have on the lived reality of persons with disabilities? How does law shape equal access and opportunities? Can law alter attitudes and behaviors toward people with disabilities? How does law function to promote the dignity and independence of people with disabilities and in what ways does it fail to do so?

Professor Karen Porter, the center’s director, moderated a panel of experts, including Professor Sheryl Dicker from CUNY, who focuses on children’s rights; Professor Kevin M. Barry from Quinnipiac, who focuses on intellectual disabilities; and Jennifer Monthie, director of PAAD, PAAT, and PATBI programs, Disability Rights of New York.

“What’s so wonderful about this panel,” said Professor Natalie Chin, faculty director of AAIDD, in her introductory remarks, “is the depth of knowledge coming together at the table. These experts are all working on different aspects of disabilities rights and now is an important time for all of us to look back and ask if the ADA has fully met its goal of being person-focused legislation, changing the lives of people with disabilities.” ■



Jennifer Monthie, Disability Rights of New York

SEC Commissioner Calls for Better International Collaboration in Financial Regulation



The **Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law** hosted a breakfast roundtable in March with **Kara M. Stein**, commissioner of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Professor Roberta Karmel, a former SEC commissioner herself, praised the event and said, "For many years, the Center for the Study of International Business Law has provided students and alumni with the opportunity to hear presentations by financial regulators. In addition to the

excitement of learning firsthand from an important government official about current issues, talks by an SEC commissioner give students and practitioners a context for understanding the development of securities regulation."

In her remarks about international cooperation in today's data-driven world, Stein called for an end to the long-running debate over whether the United States should switch to global accounting standards, saying alternatives should be

explored that incorporate only the best of the U.S. rules. Whether the SEC should phase out generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) in favor of international financial reporting standards (IFRS) was less important than simply "moving on" from the current stalemate, she said. "We can adopt the best of what we have here in U.S. GAAP, [the best] in IFRS, and the best of the new thinking out there."

Stein also remarked on the need for better international collaboration in financial regulation, especially collaboration designed to establish minimum standards for swaps margins. "While the concept of swaps reporting is simple, the execution to date has not been," she said. "Five years into global reform of the swaps market ... regulators in the U.S. and around the world have encountered significant obstacles to obtaining usable data for themselves, let alone trying to aggregate that data across borders."

"This roundtable provided a different perspective on many of the issues that I was encountering in both my securities regulation class at the Law School and my work as an intern at the SEC," said International Business Law Fellow Mary Ellen Stanley '16. "It was enlightening to hear about real-life issues affecting the financial industry." ■

“The event provided a different perspective on many of the issues that I was encountering in both my securities regulation class at the Law School and my work as an intern at the Securities and Exchange Commission.”

—**Mary Ellen Stanley '16**
International Business Law Fellow

MORE INFORMATION ON BLS CENTERS

Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE)

brooklaw.edu/CUBE

Center for the Study of Law, Language, and Cognition

brooklaw.edu/CSLLC

Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law

brooklaw.edu/CSIBL

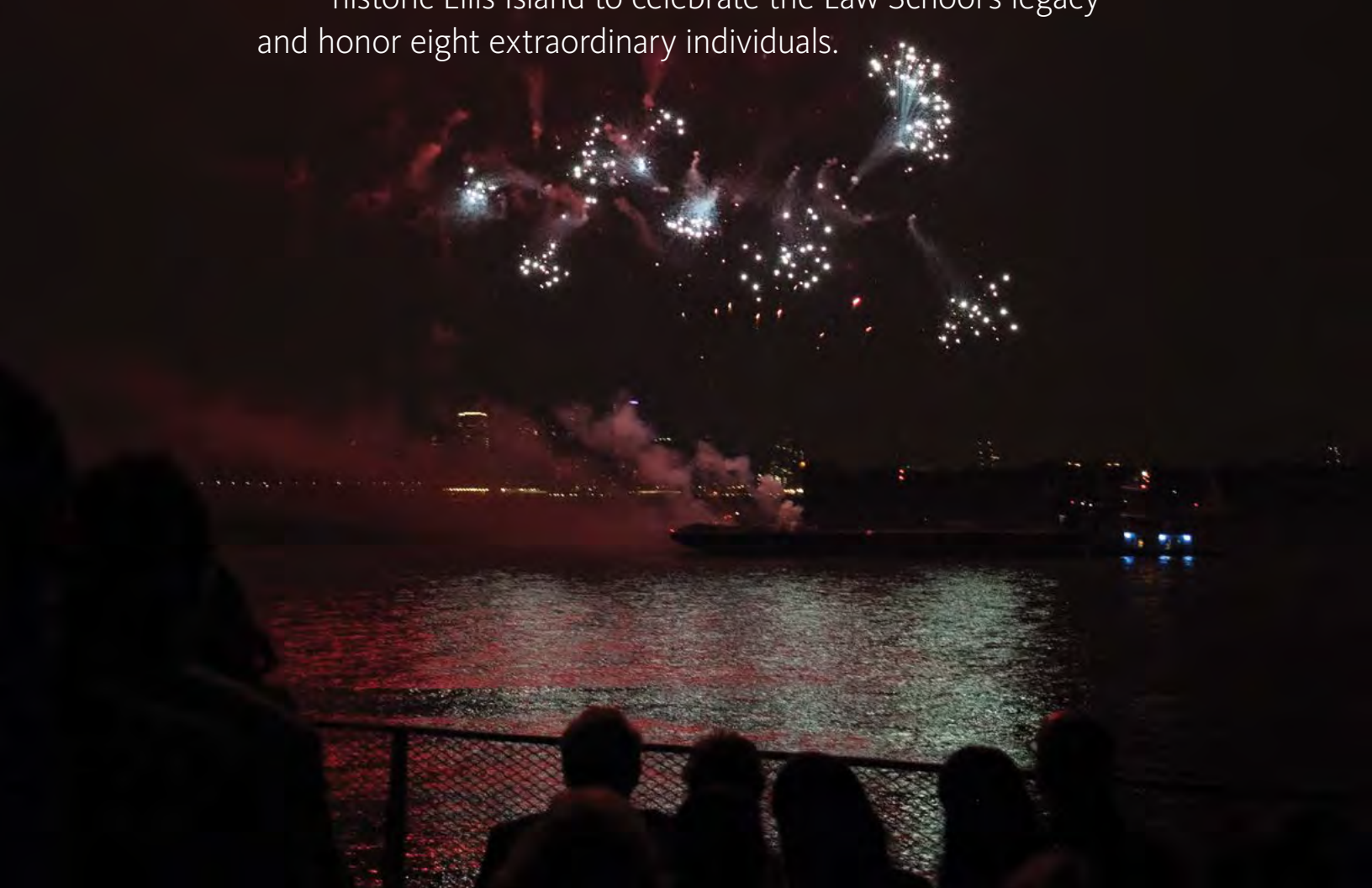
Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation

brooklaw.edu/CSBLR



An Evening to Remember

Hundreds of alumni, faculty, staff, and friends gathered on historic Ellis Island to celebrate the Law School's legacy and honor eight extraordinary individuals.



The background of the lower half of the page shows a night view of a city skyline across a body of water. In the foreground, the silhouettes of several people are visible, looking out over the water and the city lights. A large boat is also visible on the water in the middle ground.

At a gala on June 11, more than 530 people came together to celebrate the contributions of iconic graduates, faculty, and staff members who have had a lasting impact on Brooklyn Law School and on their respective fields. It was a grand night.

Judge I. Leo Glasser '48, who served as Brooklyn Law School's fifth dean, gave the "Salute to Brooklyn Law School Icons" gala a rave review. "The event was, by any measure, a stunning success," said Glasser, who has served on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York since 1982. "The feeling was almost palpable that our immigrant ancestors were looking down on the glorious gathering, smiling and thinking that their dream of achieving a better life was not only a dream after all."

The Great Hall on historic Ellis Island was filled to capacity as eight women and men who have helped shape the Law School's national and international reputation were recognized for their contributions: Professor Emeritus **Joseph Crea '47**; former New York City Mayor **David Dinkins '56**; Professor Emeritus **Richard Farrell '64**; Director of the Academic Success Program and Associate Professor **Linda Feldman '83**; former Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid

Henry W. Haverstick III (see page 8); Centennial Professor of Law **Susan Herman**; Centennial Professor of Law **Roberta Karmel**; and **Aaron Twerski**, the Irwin and Jill Cohen Professor of Law.

CNBC Anchor Brian Sullivan '03 was master of ceremonies for the evening. During the dinner program, each honoree was presented with the Brooklyn Law School Icon Award before addressing the audience that included alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the Law School. "These women and men represent a legacy and share a spotlight with many Brooklyn Law School greats," Sullivan said.

Professor Crea, who turned 100 years old in April, received special recognition from Chairman of the Board of Trustees Stuart Subotnick '68 and Dean Nick Allard, who read a letter of congratulations from President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama. Guests then held up illuminated flashlights and sang "Happy Birthday" as Dean Allard presented Professor Crea with a cake.

"The bright light that shines from each of tonight's honorees," Dean Allard said at the close of the evening's program, "shines not upon a single individual, but upon the great institution of Brooklyn Law School and all who our school touches today and will touch in the future."

As guests left the island by ferry or lingered to enjoy the magnificent nighttime views of the Statue of Liberty and Manhattan, they were treated to a spectacular fireworks display in New York Harbor that was sponsored by Cushman and Wakefield. ■

“The bright light that shines from each of tonight’s honorees shines not upon a single individual, but upon the great institution of Brooklyn Law School and all who our school touches today and will touch in the future.” —Dean Nick Allard



LEFT: CNBC Anchor Brian Sullivan '03, serving as the event's master of ceremonies; RIGHT: guests enjoying dinner and the honorees' speeches in the Great Hall on Ellis Island

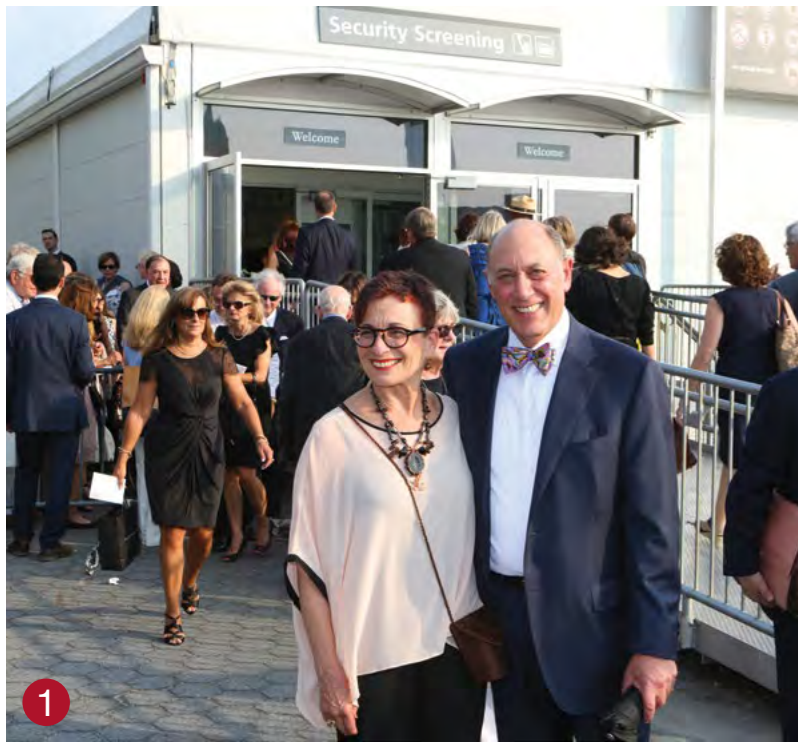


“All four of my grandparents came from Russia through Ellis Island and, I suppose, through this very room on the way to their American dream. I think it’s fair to say that Brooklyn Law School has played a huge part in my family’s American dream.”

—Professor Linda Feldman '83



1. Rebecca Naeder '15, a student ambassador for the gala, Judge I. Leo Glasser '48, and Harriet Newman Cohen '74
2. Professor Linda Feldman '83 with her son Matthew Wright '12 (LEFT) and her husband Jack Wright '81
3. Valerie Fitch '88, president of the Alumni Association, and Edward Flanders '89
4. Cori Rosen '08 and Nicholas Reiter '08
5. Stuart Subotnick '68, chairman of the Board of Trustees
6. The night's honorees with Dean Nick Allard (NOT PICTURED: Professors Roberta Karmel and Aaron Twerksi)
7. Elinor Barse, Trustee David Barse '87, and Lisa Barse



1. Jan Cohen and Trustee Frederick Cohen '57, about to board at Battery Park
2. Judge William Thompson '54 and former New York City Mayor David Dinkins '56
3. Professor Emeritus Joseph Crea '47 and his niece Antonia Shelzi
4. Erica Carter '15 and Desiree Gustafson '15, student ambassadors for the gala



“ In 1953, Brooklyn was one of the few schools that would admit you if you had to work. And it had the best record of any school in the nation of its graduates passing the bar the first time. I will forever be grateful for what Brooklyn Law School did for me.”

— Former NYC Mayor David Dinkins '56



“ Thanks to my colleagues at BLS for their participation and support; to the alumni for their continued friendship; to the student body, who made my tenure enjoyable; and to my family and extended family for their love and support. Thanks to everyone who guided me through my 100 years.” — Professor Emeritus Joseph Crea '47





“What comes to mind tonight is some advice that Thomas More gave a character who wanted to become a teacher. Who will know me, the character asked. Your pupils will know you, More responded, your friends will know you, and God will know you. Not a bad audience, I'd say.”

—Professor Emeritus Richard Farrell '64



“I am honored every day when I come to Brooklyn Law School. The fact is that I enjoy teaching enormously and, if I have some success, it's because of that.”

—Professor Aaron Twerski

1. Lawrence Chiarelli '93, Linda Chiarelli '88, Professor Joel Gora, Executive Director of CUBE Paul Gangsei, and Professor Ursula Bentele
2. Professor Minna Kotkin, Professor Nelson Tebbe, Professor Steven Dean, Rosalyn Schaff, and Professor Michael Cahill
3. Professor Emeritus Richard Farrell '64
4. Trustee Frank Aquila '83, Brian Sullivan '03, Julie Sullivan, and Catherine Aquila
5. Professor Joy Kanwar and Sateesh Nori
6. Professor Aaron Twerski



“I was very happy that Brooklyn Law School afforded me the opportunity in 1986 to realize my ambition to teach and write. At that time, we had the largest number of female professors of any law school in the United States.” —Professor Roberta Karmel



1. Professor Roberta Karmel
2. Professor Jodi Balsam, Jim Wiggins, and Christine Fleming Wiggins
3. Jenna Yost, A.J. Rotblat '12, Julie Adler '12, Alex Sher '12, and Danielle Levine '13
4. Michelle Kim '12 and Peter Chang '12
5. Jonathan D. Hall '13, Robert A. Levine '13, Professor Christopher Beauchamp, and Anisha Dasgupta
6. Professor Susan Herman



“As I look around at this extraordinary group of people, I see my colleagues, and every one of you is an icon.” —Professor Susan Herman





BENDING **THE RULES**

The director of BLIP and the innovation catalyst for CUBE says **lawyers need to think more creatively to succeed in the digital age.**

PROFESSOR JONATHAN ASKIN cites four periods in U.S. history when young lawyers helped set the new world order: after the American Revolution in the 1780s, during the development of the New Deal in the 1930s, during the civil rights movement in the 1960s, and now in the digital age. Askin believes lawyers have a rare opportunity today to frame the legal and policy structures for a completely new social, political, and cultural landscape.

Askin speaks from experience. For nearly 20 years, he's been a leading practitioner at the intersection of law and technology. After the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, he worked with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to advance the newest and most transformational innovation of the time: the Internet. His task was to design rules that would open markets to competition and enable the growth of the Internet. "We worked hard," Askin said. "We stayed late every night and worked on weekends, and thought we were doing something revolutionary."

by Jen Swetzo

His hard work paid off. Soon after Askin became a senior attorney at the FCC, the Association for Local Telecommunications Services hired him first as its general counsel and then as its president. After a few years there, advocating for the first generation of competitive telecom startups, he branched out beyond policy advocacy and started representing startups such as Vonage, Free World Dialup, and Skype that were exploring the new world of Internet communications. He found himself working less in Washington, D.C., and spending more time with clients in New York City and other global centers of commerce and industry. Askin also kept his hand in the political arena, serving as the chair of the Internet Governance Working Group for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.

Askin began teaching telecommunications at Brooklyn Law School as an adjunct professor in 2006 and became a full-time faculty member in 2008. That same year, he founded what is now one of the most sought-after clinics on campus: the Brooklyn Law Incubator and Policy Clinic (BLIP). Initially conceived as an intellectual property clinic, BLIP held bigger potential in Askin's mind. He envisioned it as a comprehensive, student-run law firm that could handle the full spectrum of a startup's legal needs. "IP means intellectual property as a component," Askin said. "But it also means information policy, Internet protocol, and innovative practice." Last semester, BLIP students provided free legal services to more than 100 clients.

At the Law School, Askin serves as the "innovation catalyst" for the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE). He is also a visiting professor at the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London; a fellow at the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information; an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School; and a founder and advisor to iLINC, a network of legal support clinics for the European startup community. In the spring of 2016, Askin will also be a visiting professor at MIT with plans to further bridge the scientists and technologists of MIT and the law students of Brooklyn.

Askin challenges students to follow his lead, stretching the way they think about the law and using it to help businesses in the digital age succeed on a global scale. He recently spoke with *Brooklyn Law Notes* about his love for Brooklyn, people who don't say no, and hackers.

What led you to academia?

The seed for teaching was planted long ago by my dad, who is also a law professor and a clinician. I remember him coming home from work and saying, "I can't believe they pay me to do this." So I knew from a young age that this sounded like a pretty great gig. I suppose, in hindsight, the 5-year-old in me knew what was right for the 40-year-old in me. It just took me a while to realize it.

During my career, I've been a government lawyer, a trade association lawyer, a consumer advocate, a private industry lawyer, and even a civil rights attorney briefly.

“ We need fewer ‘yeah, but’ lawyers and more ‘why not’ lawyers in this ‘why not’ world, meaning people who can think creatively and find ways to navigate the law rather than put an anchor down and halt progress.”

I've always wanted to dabble in everything and know everything. Being part of the faculty here at Brooklyn Law School lets me do that. I really believe that no place holds a candle to Brooklyn right now—it's the melting pot of creativity and innovation.

What's so special about Brooklyn?

Innovative ideas are coming out of Brooklyn because we have the most diverse community in the world—a range of cultures, backgrounds, training, and skills—and we're all living on top of each other. We're all sort of bouncing ideas off one another. When everyone is bouncing ideas off one another, there's a lot of noise, but you find some good music.

Why is this environment beneficial for lawyers?

Lawyers have to cross every t and dot every i, but the digital world will not stop changing, and lawyers have to change with it. I strive to imbue in my students some of the hacker ethos you see in the tech world—the conception that if you hit a roadblock, you need to pivot. Move. And do something novel and virtuous. We need to hear and to say “no” less often. We need fewer “yeah, but” lawyers and more “why not” lawyers in this “why not” world, meaning people who can think creatively and find ways to navigate the law rather than put an anchor down and halt progress.

The BLIP clinic is extremely popular with students. How did it evolve?

We created BLIP as a full-service law firm for startups so that students could understand the entire spectrum of legal needs in the tech world. The bulk of our work is transactional, but we have to be prepared for anything, including potential litigation, which means understanding policy and politics and the general business needs of our clients.

Between 24 and 30 students are selected to participate in the clinic each semester. Those students form teams based on their interest area (be it government, art, media, or science, for example), and then each team selects their clients from our pool of more than 200 small businesses.

This year, one team will be devoted to patent work because we were recently admitted to a pilot program for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. That means we can now file a patent for our clients over the course of one semester (something that typically takes well more than a year).

No matter their interest area, the students in BLIP must find a way to use technology to improve the law—or a way to use the law to improve the trajectory of a tech venture. That’s the core of what I want to teach students: how the law and technology can work together to ease, expedite, and ensure progress and innovation. That’s also the mantra of CUBE.

What has been the impact of CUBE at the Law School?

Over the past few years, CUBE has really evolved—thanks to a team effort across campus. The center adds a great deal of support and infrastructure and funding to our innovative programs; it enables us to have a more expansive presence in the school, Brooklyn, and the city. For example, we frequently host events through CUBE that introduce our students to a wide variety of lawyers and businesspeople who might run a startup or established high-tech firm. Two years ago, we introduced the CUBE Innovators Competition (see page 12), which has become a launching pad for entrepreneurial students. It’s essentially a legal hackathon that occurs over the course of a year as opposed to 48 hours. CUBE has been a game-changer for us and a practical way for students to see meaningful disruptions at the intersection of law and technology.



Professor Askin speaking at a CUBE event

What is a legal hackathon?

It’s the idea behind Legal Hackers which is something that BLIP students created. Over time, they’ve built a truly global movement of lawyers, policymakers, technologists, and academics who find creative solutions to some of the most pressing issues at the intersection of law and technology. They try to spot issues and opportunities where technology can improve the practice of law, and where the law can adapt to rapidly changing technology.

This network grew out of something I did when I first started teaching: I’d take students to tech hackathons, which were usually weekend-long events where coders

“The core of what I want to teach is how the law and technology can work together to ease innovation. That’s also the mantra of CUBE.”

got together to collaborate and problem solve. We’d attend as lawyers and when we saw the demos, we’d usually say, “that’s good, but it’s against the law,” or “you didn’t protect this right or this interest,” or “that violates this regulation.” We were the naysayers at the revolution. It was infuriating to me.

So we changed our outlook. Let’s make this happen, we’d say, regardless of what the law says. More important, we began to host our own hackathons, where we could frame the debate and serve as project managers. Project management is a perfect component of legal training because its main function is to find how all the constituent pieces fit together.

When the students who participated graduated, they ran with the idea—creating local chapters of Legal Hackers in U.S. cities like D.C., New York, and Seattle as well as overseas in Amsterdam, London, and Stockholm. Now we’ve even done virtual global hackathons, thanks to a partnership with the MIT Media Lab, where an idea starts in Tel Aviv, then goes to Berlin, London, New York, and San Francisco.

Why are these hackathons important?

Most of our hacks have been designed with an eye toward improving legal or business processes, although I am always proud when the students and hackers tackle broader social justice issues. A few years ago, for example, during one of our hackathons, three BLIP students decided they

wanted to create a platform to combat revenge porn, which means posting naked photos of someone else on a website, typically after a breakup, without their permission. It seemed like the First Amendment would allow people to post these images—unless the subject of a pornographic photo could claim copyright. So we had to figure out how they could do that.

Through the hackathon, we realized that the Digital Millennium Copyright Act has a process by which you can take down photos. The BLIP students then created a free and easy online platform called Take My Photo Down, through which someone can say: I'm the subject of this photo, it's a selfie, take it down. And this platform provides a letter they can send the offending website, and if that site doesn't remove the photo, there's a cause of action to sue. The same concept could be applied to "doxing," which is when defamatory or private information (such as Social Security numbers or bank account numbers) is posted online. We also hope to roll out the revenge porn concept and platform for people who want to remove their mugshot from a website, for streamlined expungement of juvenile criminal records, and for Freedom of Information Act requests.

What legal issues interest you right now?

I'm closely following the battles brewing in patent law and policy—over just how free and open inventions and ideas should be in the world. You want to encourage innovation by making sure people can derive value from it, but you also want to encourage innovation by letting the ideas get out there into the world as quickly as possible. For me, it comes down to a matter of balancing those two interests: making sure that the creator of the idea can derive legitimate value, while also making sure the ideas can flow as freely as possible.

On a related note, BLIP students also recently launched FirstToDisclose.org, a site that aims to allow inventors to claim ideas as their own while still sharing the ideas freely with the world. The America Invents Act said the first person to file a patent at the patent office gets the patent, rather than the person who was first to invent it. So, along with MIT, we're building a site that allows people to immediately disclose their idea to the world. After that, the inventor has arguably a year before he or she has to file a patent. But more important, he or she is telling the world "this idea already exists and it's mine," thereby precluding others from claiming a patent on the invention.

I'm also enamored by almost every new area in which technology is disrupting society, be it crypto-currency, digital manufacturing, equity crowdfunding, or so-called sharing economy services, to name just a few. These are all areas my students and I continue to explore as we try to figure out new legal frameworks and business models.

Given the global nature of your work, how do you handle international questions that arise?

iLINC is a European network of law incubators that we developed two years ago, which grew out of my concern that most of our NYC-based clients aren't strictly local companies; they want to do business everywhere—that's the nature of most Internet-based startups. But how could we find them legal resources in Europe? Ideally, we wanted a clinic like mine in Amsterdam, in Berlin, and in Hong Kong that we could ask for help. So that's what we created. Now, through iLINC, we have a group of 28 law schools throughout Europe that are building clinics like BLIP. We frequently collaborate with them, and we're trying to expand throughout the United States as well. Conversely, because we have built this network in Europe, we are their go-to counsel and U.S. landing strip when the startups of Europe have questions about U.S. law or want to enter U.S. markets.



Professor Askin with BLIP students at the WeWork Lab, a coworking space and incubator in Dumbo, Brooklyn

What's next for you?

I'd like to continue bridging our European network with an emerging U.S. network to create this "network of networks" of tech lawyers and startup entrepreneurs, where we can all learn from one another. It's really all about global domination, or at least global collaboration.

During my upcoming sabbatical, I plan to focus on using the law to better society and promote technological ventures. After that, I'm looking forward to getting back to teaching and running BLIP. The students' passion is contagious and I think my passion is contagious, and it becomes this virtuous cycle, where we're all committed to changing the world and doing something amazing. Every time a student or a young businessperson comes up with a cool idea and we get to help that person realize it by offering legal counsel and guidance, it's rewarding. Nothing is more rewarding for me than that. ■

LIFE, WORK, AND THE PURSUIT OF LAW SCHOOL

Seven students reflect
on how their jobs have
enriched their legal
education, and how
their degrees will
enrich their career.

by Jen Swetzoff



As the senior community liaison for New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, Jonathan Soto '16 has a big job. In a place that's home to more than 8 million people, he's responsible for organizing interfaith clergy groups to help advance critical social justice initiatives. He's also a husband, a father, a committed volunteer—and a fourth-year, part-time law student set to graduate in May.

“In the 21st century,” Soto said, “we must be innovative in our approach to career opportunities.” He has clearly followed his own advice, taking advantage of a J.D. program at Brooklyn Law School that has allowed him to continue working while pursuing his dream of getting a law degree.

Soto is among an impressive number of students at the Law School—two-thirds—who bring significant professional experience to their legal educations. They have held positions in areas as varied as politics, finance, business, arts and entertainment, sports, law enforcement, international trade, and humanitarian aid. Meanwhile, flexible degree program options enable almost a quarter of students at the Law School to attend part time, like Soto, while continuing to advance in their fields.

Meet Soto and six fellow students who enrich the Law School with a remarkable breadth of talent and expertise. Diverse in their backgrounds and aspirations, they are united in their belief that the power of law will advance the impact of their work and help them change the world.

LEFT TO RIGHT:
Jonathan Soto '16
Jenna Jones '19
Liren Chen '16
David Amar '16
Zareen Iqbal '16
Samuel Carrion '17
Caitlin Bassett '18



Jonathan Soto '16

Senior Community Liaison
at the Mayor's Office of
New York City

Jonathan Soto '16 has long been interested in social justice issues. When he was a child, his parents worked as evangelical ministers, and the family moved frequently between Puerto Rico and New York City, finally settling in New York when he was 16 years old. Soto learned to adapt quickly to new situations and new people, a talent that has served him well in the political world. While an undergraduate at Fordham University, where he received his bachelor's degree in business, he volunteered for Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign as a grassroots-level organizer in the Bronx. But it was a tragic event a few years later—the death of an unarmed Bronx teenager—that motivated Soto to get involved in public service and pursue his legal education.

During the tense times that followed the incident, Soto organized community-based activities with the goal of increasing access to healthcare services within underserved neighborhoods. At a meeting with an interfaith group of clergy, the conversation turned from healthcare to police-community relations. Soto volunteered to help coordinate the group's capacity-building efforts by applying for a grant through the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City. His efforts paid off. The program received its funding and started a mentoring group for young people that was praised by criminal justice organizations throughout the city. Soto had found his passion. He soon began expanding his network to get involved with the fight for living wages, relief efforts after Superstorm Sandy, and other citywide issues.

"I was swept into the desire to give back to my community," Soto said, "and that's how this all started. I remember Dean Allard, when I first met with him, talked about innovative ways that students could engage the city, and I decided to chart my own unique path. I think you have to have a reckless sense of optimism to succeed in this work."

In 2014, Soto served as field director to the congressional campaign of Reverend Michael Walrond, a pastor at the First Corinthian Baptist Church in Harlem, whose work focused on the connection between spirituality and social justice. This experience sparked Soto's interest in the government's capacity to serve the public good, leading to his appointment by Mayor de Blasio as senior community liaison.

Today, Soto works closely with Mayor de Blasio's Clergy Advisory Council, as well as with the city's broader faith community, to strengthen the ties between City Hall and New Yorkers who attend houses of worship.

"In a city as diverse as New York, faith-based groups are usually one of the most effective ways of reaching out to people, particularly recent immigrants and underserved families," Soto

said. "My role is to spur collaboration between our communities and create a more inclusive and accessible path to the [de Blasio] administration for them."

After Soto spends his days at City Hall or in local communities, he heads to Brooklyn Law School for classes or home to study. Although he found his first year challenging, he said it's important for him to keep close to his family, especially on the weekends, and that he has found each year since the first to be more manageable.

"I came to law school," Soto said, "with a clear goal of organizing folks around issues that were important to me instead of doing traditional internships. I did things that were driven by my passion, and I think it's worked out well for me."



Zareen Iqbal '16

U.S. Marshal and East
Africa Expert

"When I was young, people often said I'd make a good attorney—probably because I argued a lot," said Zareen Iqbal '16. "The truth is it was always an idea in the back of my mind. Whether I was working in federal law enforcement or global human rights, there were underlying legal issues and I knew that I needed more expertise to ultimately succeed."

Iqbal has had a fascinating career that many would already call successful. But she's just getting started. As a child, Iqbal wanted to be an FBI agent when she grew up. Inspired by books written by John Douglas, founder of the FBI's behavioral science unit, she hoped to study forensic psychology.

During her last year as an undergraduate at John Jay College, from which she holds bachelor's and master's degrees, she was accepted for a competitive externship with the U.S. Marshals Service Cooperative Education program, and worked full time in her last semester. She was then offered a full-time deputy position and attended the training academy in Georgia following graduation. She was based in San Jose, California, for her first job as a federal marshal, which involved conducting fugitive investigations, essentially hunting down suspects wanted by the government, and protecting judges.

Many would consider the SWAT team-like arrests she was making to be the epitome of excitement; Iqbal, however, was looking for more intellectually stimulating work to sustain her over the long term. She started studying history and foreign affairs at San Jose State University, taking classes at night. After three years in California, she resigned from her job as a federal marshal and moved to New York to pursue a master's degree in international relations at the City College of New York. She then relocated to Kenya and began working with the U.N. Food

and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Although she was based in Nairobi, the majority of her time was spent in Somalia, conducting food security assessments and managing the urban food security analysis program. She collected information on agricultural production, markets, market prices, livestock trade, and labor and employment in order to determine whether people were suffering from food insecurity or famine.

“As a result of our work,” she said, “FAO ended up getting \$4 million in funding to initiate employment programs within cities in Somalia, to encourage employment.”

Now hooked on working overseas, Iqbal took another job in Africa working as a government contractor in support of the U.S. State and Defense Departments, the Ugandan government, the United Nations, and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). In this position, she lived on a military base as part of a counterterrorism mission.

“A lot of my work at that point dealt with information management—the collection and dissemination of information,” she said. “We trained the AMISOM and Somali forces in de-mining and removing IEDs, for example, and I mentored officers in the area of intelligence.”

As the chief monitoring reporting officer, which she described as a command-and-control role, Iqbal worked seven days a week. She helped coordinate several capacity-building programs, including medical programs, counter-IED operations, intelligence, and logistics.

Although Iqbal believed positive changes were being made in Somalia, such as reducing IED attacks and stabilizing food security, she saw that most of the major problems stemmed from corruption and poorly structured legal systems. The only way she could truly help to transform these countries, she felt, was with a law degree. “I wanted to work toward eradicating corruption and helping to improve access to justice generally,” she said.

“Whether I was working in federal law enforcement or global human rights, there were underlying legal issues and I knew that I needed more expertise to ultimately succeed.”

—Zareen Iqbal '16

In May 2014, Iqbal began her legal studies in the Law School's new two-year accelerated J.D. program with a focus on international law. She has already completed internships at the Global Justice Center, the Manhattan DA's office, and the Public Corruption Unit at the Nassau County DA's office.

“The ADAs who I worked with this past summer were incredible mentors,” Iqbal said. She helped prepare motions, conducted legal research, and interviewed witnesses. “They gave me significant training and responsibility, because the expectation as an intern is that you're going to apply for a full-time position.”

There's no doubt that Iqbal would be a top applicant given her background, but she still plans—once she's gained additional legal experience—to return overseas. She wants to continue supporting post-conflict governments' stabilization efforts, perhaps working to professionalize a police force, train a local judiciary, or even draft a constitution. She remains committed to improving access to justice and human rights, civil rights, and democratization around the world.

“Sometimes I'm surprised by how much passion I have for my work,” Iqbal said. “It makes me happy to feel that I'm contributing something to the world.”



David Amar '16
Musician and Chef

How does a punk-rock foodie end up at law school? “I guess I follow the beat of my own drum,” said David Amar '16. Growing up in Vancouver, British Columbia, Amar played every instrument he could get his hands on: drums, trumpet, flugelhorn, piano, bass, saxophone, and guitar. After he and his band Goodbye Enemy Airship recorded an orchestral punk-rock album and gave away all 500 copies to fans, he started working in restaurants to make money—first a chicken-wing joint, then a high-end pizzeria. He finally landed a job as the chef de cuisine at the upscale Smith Restaurant in Toronto after graduating from the University of Toronto's Victoria College. He ran the kitchen for more than a year before deciding the long hours, low pay, and unreliable staff weren't enough to fulfill him.

“The music world and the food world were always my two primary loves,” Amar said. “You see the results of what you're doing quite immediately and that's gratifying, to make people happy. But the hours are draining, and it's hard to find a life outside work.”

One of Amar's favorite classes in college focused on art and intellectual property, which planted the seed for a future legal career. While working as a chef, he took an introductory law course on torts and contracts at the University of Toronto and found his passion. But before he enrolled at Brooklyn Law School, he volunteered for a few months in the Peruvian Amazon with Operation Groundswell, helping villagers build a shop where they could sell their local handicrafts to tourists. He then landed in New York ready for law school but was soon sidelined with a case of Dengue fever. After overcoming that during the first two weeks of his first year, the rest of law school has seemed comparatively easy, he said.

Still nurturing his creative side, Amar decided to live in the Bushwick area of Brooklyn to take advantage of the art and

culture there. He continues to write music, and plays with a few bands, most recently working on a project called Blu Dream with Janette King in Vancouver. In his spare time, he volunteers with the local food co-op, serving as its legal chairperson.

Amar brings his art sensibility to his law-related activities and cites his art law class with Professor Beryl Jones-Woodin as an inspiration for his career aspirations. He is currently a notes and comments editor for the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, and his article on the differences between the Canadian and U.S. copyright regimes, particularly the rules affecting music, will be published in the spring 2016 volume. He is also conducting independent research this semester with his entertainment law professor, Ralph De Palma, on the transformative nature of fair use.

In the summer of 2015, Amar won a coveted internship in the law offices of Wenner Media, which publishes *Rolling Stone*, among other popular magazines. The previous summer, he interned in the legal department of the Starworks Group, a global communications agency. And during the spring 2015 semester, he interned for the Webman Group, a music publisher. Currently, he's working with Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts, where he's the first point of contact for artists who need legal assistance related to their work. After graduation, he plans to continue focusing on how the law intersects with music, the media, and the arts, ideally landing a job at a small firm or working in-house for a record label.

"Seeing gratification for the work that you do, and finding that work meaningful, is really important. I want to take a job that I believe in and that matters to me," he said. "It has to be something in an IP field, or an organization I can get behind that leaves me enough time to be creative in my spare time."



Liren Chen '16
U.S. Import and Export
Compliance Specialist

When Liren Chen '16 was 12 years old, she left the only home she had ever known, in the Hunan province of China, and traveled alone to reunite with her mother in the United States. Chen's mother had moved to Indiana six years earlier for a job as a medical researcher and the hope of a better life for herself and her daughter. Back in China, Chen lived with aunts and uncles and grandparents.

Adjusting to life in the U.S., particularly in middle school, wasn't easy, according to Chen. "I would come home every day and look up every word in the dictionary to translate my homework assignment, then do the homework and translate it back. It was an all-night process and very frustrating."

After a year, Chen and her mother moved to Rochester, N.Y., where she completed high school and then won a full scholarship (for classical guitar) to the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. Despite graduating from this competitive program in four years—with a dual degree in music and economics—Chen couldn't find a job. She had hoped to work in equity research, but jobs were scarce in 2007 because of the slowing economy.

“Location was a big reason I choose Brooklyn Law School—along with its diverse student body, incredible faculty, and extremely reputable program in international trade.”

—Liren Chen '16

Instead, Chen taught English in Argentina and traveled to Brazil, Turkey, and several European countries. She realized that she wanted her career to involve international business.

In 2008, Chen returned home and started contacting local sourcing companies, touting her business and Chinese language skills as assets. Soon, she landed an informal internship with Myland USA, a small international trading and consulting firm that assists companies with their sourcing, operations development, and market development activities in China. Chen connected U.S. clients with Chinese manufacturers—reviewing product specs, getting samples, processing approvals, and facilitating quality control.

Next, Chen found a job with a high-tech firm called Pictometry, which specializes in oblique aerial imaging. The company's low-flying airplanes were the first to fly in the New York City area after 9/11, to assess the damage from the terrorist attack; it also works with the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations to provide mapping images after natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Chen's interest in compliance and regulatory work was piqued when she worked on a technology licensing agreement with a leading geospatial company in China that involved close collaboration with the general counsel on contract, IP, and export control law. "I recognized export control as an emerging field that wasn't yet oversaturated and thought that might be something I could do," she said.

Chen started taking online courses and soon became a Certified U.S. Export Compliance Officer. With her new credential and her past expertise in international trade, she was hired as an export compliance manager by Digi-Key, one of the country's largest electronic component distributors, and moved to company headquarters in Minnesota.

"The volume was mind-boggling," Chen said. "The company had more than 1 million active SKUs and between 15,000 and

18,000 transactions a day—half of which were overseas. My job was to make sure that all of the transactions were legitimate, and that the components were not being used contrary to our national interest, especially post-9/11.”

Chen worked extensively in export control product classification and helped automate transaction screening processes to ensure that buyers weren’t individuals or organizations sanctioned by the various U.S. government agencies, such as the Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, or Department of Justice.

After a year with Digi-Key, Chen was recruited by Archer Daniels Midland Co. (ADM), one of the world’s largest food processors, as a senior compliance specialist, to work on import compliance, even though her background was on the export side. The company relocated her to its headquarters in Illinois and helped train her to become a licensed customs broker, certified by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), part of the Department of Homeland Security. Notably, Chen was one of only 12 people—out of a group of 3,800 test takers—who passed the certification exam the year she took it.

“We monitored import transactions for ADM on a global scale—looking at daily shipments coming into the United States by rail, road, sea, and air, as well as imports into ADM facilities in other countries,” Chen said. “Because the company is very innovative, they regularly moved new products and built their own machines and processing facilities all around the world. I was dealing with soybeans and ethanol one day, cocoa on the next day, and engines and steel structures after that.

Chen had a long-standing desire to live in New York City, and her manager at ADM, the director of global trade, encouraged her to consider law school as her next step.

“Location was a big reason I choose Brooklyn Law School—along with its diverse student body, incredible faculty, and extremely reputable program in international trade,” said Chen. “Also, my scholarship helped solidify my decision.”

During her first summer as a law student, she worked as a financial forensic intern at Deloitte FAS LLP and assisted U.S. companies on the implementation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. In the summer of 2015, she interned at Grunfeld, Desiderio, Lebowitz, Silverman & Klestadt LLP (GDLSK), one of the largest U.S. law firms devoted to international trade and customs matters, focusing on regulations related to imports. She advised companies on how to structure their international transactions and worked on a few cases that required litigation at the Court of International Trade. “I’ve really enjoyed working on the law firm side and having access to some of the best people in the field,” she said.

This fall, in addition to her law studies, Chen is working part-time at GDLSK and continuing to push herself. She’s training for the New York City marathon and volunteering as a rape crisis advocate with the Crime Victims Treatment Center on the Upper West Side. At least twice a month, she’s on call overnight at the emergency room at St. Luke’s–Roosevelt Hospital, where she listens to and speaks with the survivors of rape and domestic violence.

“Sometimes it’s hard to see what difference a law makes until you’re there with a survivor,” she said. “To stand up for that person, and to make sure they’re able to exercise their rights, makes a big difference.”

Chen would like to continue her career path in international trade after law school and find other avenues to advocate for underrepresented groups. “Going to law school has opened up a myriad of opportunities for me, in terms of both professional development and personal fulfillment,” she said. “For me, having a law degree will provide a powerful tool to help others in ways I couldn’t have before.”



Samuel Carrion '17
New York Police
Department Sergeant

Brooklyn born and raised, Samuel Carrion '17 is a prime example of the borough’s best. He came into the world at Long Island Community Hospital just a short distance from the Law School, grew up in Sunset Park, and played baseball as a high school student at Brooklyn Tech. The only time he lived away from Brooklyn was when he was an undergraduate student at Dartmouth College, where he majored in Spanish literature and spent a semester studying in Madrid. Carrion considered pursuing a master’s program in criminal justice until a Dartmouth alumnus who was a lieutenant with the New York City Police Department encouraged him to take the police test before committing to an advanced degree.

He acted on that advice, and just a week after graduation, Carrion learned he had been hired by the New York Police Department and was expected to report for training at the Police Academy at 6 a.m. two days later. He took the New York offer on the spot, despite having a higher-paying opportunity with federal law enforcement in Washington, D.C.

For the next six years, he worked as a uniformed and plainclothes officer in the 79th Precinct (Bedford-Stuyvesant). “Our mandate was to try to get illegal guns off the street, which required a lot of intelligence work,” Carrion said. After patrolling the streets, getting to know local business leaders, and focusing on high-crime areas, he began cultivating confidential informants and dealing with district attorneys on court cases.

“While being on the witness stand myself, I realized I wanted to be the one asking the questions,” Carrion said. “That’s when I pivoted and decided to enroll at Brooklyn Law School.”

He started at the Law School two years ago after passing the NYPD sergeant exam. His first semester was grueling: He took evening classes and then patrolled Bed-Stuy from midnight to 8 a.m. five days a week.

“Being a police officer has had obvious challenges,” noted Carrion, “especially the long hours of work, classes, and studying, but sacrificing holidays and time with family and friends was particularly difficult.”

After several months, he sought a less intense work schedule. He moved to the special victims unit, focusing on sex crimes, and switched to a day shift, which was much more manageable with night classes. But the work itself was increasingly challenging: He liaised with the Department of Education and the Administration for Children’s Services, ensuring that any report of child abuse filed through the school system was expedited. “My job was to get a detective assigned to a case immediately, and to keep [the detective] accountable,” Carrion said, “because sometimes with large bureaucracies, things can get lost.”

Outside work, Carrion proved to be an accomplished boxer. He fought for the NYPD team, which gave him the opportunity to travel internationally for competitions and work with local youth through a program called Cops and Kids. In 2011 and 2012, he won both of his fights against boxers from the New York City Fire Department at Madison Square Garden. Although he no longer boxes, he truly loves to exercise and makes every effort to stay in good physical shape.

Law school is now front and center in Carrion’s life; he shifted from part-time to full-time status in the fall of 2015, leaving the police force to focus on finishing his legal education. In the summer of 2014, he was an intern in the litigation department

“What really attracted me was the ethos: People here graduate both educated and street smart. That’s why Brooklyn Law School has been such a good fit for me.” —Samuel Carrion ’17

at McGuireWoods LLP, and last summer, he interned with the Army JAG Corps in Washington, D.C., working with military attorneys and performing a variety of legal tasks in the U.S. Army’s criminal law appellate division. While Carrion has an extensive background in criminal law from his work as an NYPD officer, he cites courses in federal criminal investigations, constitutional law, and civil procedure as having given him a more in-depth understanding of broader legal issues.

Carrion is weighing whether to practice law or return to the police department after graduation. Whatever course he takes, he looks to the late [congressman] Herman Badillo ’54 as a model of public service and dedication to the law, which he hopes to emulate in his own career. “My grandfather would always talk about Badillo—as an inspiration for how you could embrace New York City, make it yours, and go big.”

Carrion came to Brooklyn Law School to make the same impact. “What really attracted me was the ethos: People here graduate both educated and street smart. That’s why Brooklyn Law School has been such a good fit for me.”



Caitlin Bassett '18
U.S. Army Intelligence Analyst

If Caitlin Bassett ’18 was granted a superpower, her wish would be the ability to read people’s minds, which isn’t surprising given her past seven years as an intelligence analyst for the U.S. Army. “I would want to be able to turn that ability on and off, though, because I don’t want to hear everybody’s thoughts all the time,” she said. In reality, she has already seen and heard quite a lot, having served two tours in Afghanistan before her 25th birthday.

On 9/11, Bassett’s mother was in Washington, D.C., scheduled to have a meeting in a government building. Her family was terrified when they got news of the Pentagon attack, wondering if she was OK. Thankfully, she was, but Bassett remembers the day clearly, sitting on the couch watching the Twin Towers fall, and hearing her father, who is also a military veteran, say he wished he could do something. That resonated with Bassett, and she signed up to join the military a week after she turned 18. She started basic training as soon as she graduated from high school.

Despite her dream of one day becoming an attorney, Bassett initially didn’t think law school was attainable. She had struggled to keep her grades up in high school and, when she graduated, didn’t have enough money for college, let alone law school. But opportunities presented themselves after several years in the Army. She discovered, for example, that she could get her college degree through less-expensive online courses at the University of Maryland University College and save her GI Bill allocation for law school. “As soon as I realized that law school was possible,” Bassett said, “I went for it. There are education centers on the military bases, and I was able to get my undergraduate degree in three years while working full time.”

In the Army, Bassett collected and synthesized data into readable packages for commanders. Her last deployment overseas was in Bagram, Afghanistan, where she lived and worked on a large, busy, and relatively established military base constructed mostly from shipping containers. Before that, she was stationed at a smaller military tent city called FOB Shank in the Logar province of Afghanistan, in a mountainous area. One of her most profound experiences as an intelligence analyst

came in 2011 during the aftermath of Extortion 17, when an enemy fighter with an RPG shot down a helicopter full of Navy SEALs in the Tangi Valley, killing more than 30 Americans. The helicopter had left from Bassett's base.

"I remember my boss was awakened in the middle of the night and pulled out of our tent. Then when I got to work that morning, I remember no one talked. Usually, the place was loud and high tempo. But that day, unless it was absolutely necessary to speak about what we were doing workwise, the entire base was silent. It was a devastating loss for all of us."

Today, Bassett is drawn to the complexity and importance of international law, and the opportunities to work across borders. "As the United States started its exit strategy from Afghanistan, the International Security Assistance Force had members of so many countries, and they had to find solutions that worked for everyone. I found that interesting."

Bassett has just begun law school, and her focus and professional aspirations may change; for now, however, she thinks that returning to the military as a JAG officer might be an option. "My favorite part of working with the Army is that the organization pulls people from everywhere, from all different backgrounds and upbringings. You never know who you're going to meet," she said. "To me, a law degree is a way to understand how to navigate the world around you and advocate for people."



Jenna Jones '19
Director of Scheduling
for New York Senator
Charles "Chuck" Schumer

"I'm sort of like the wizard behind the curtain—or BlackBerry," said Jenna Jones '19, when asked to describe her high-pressure role in the office of New York Senator Charles "Chuck" Schumer. "It's definitely a team effort to pull together the senator's calendar, but at the end of the day I'm responsible for getting him where he needs to go and keeping track of the details. It can be stressful trying to get two or three very important and very busy people into the same room at the same time for an hour."

Jones has gotten good at juggling the senator's many obligations and aspirations—and now she's starting to put those same skills to use in her own life as she balances her full-time job with law school. Considering her track record so far, the chances are good that she can keep multiple balls in the air at once.

During her first year of college at Northeastern University, where she intended to study journalism, Jones took an international affairs class and loved it so much that she changed her major. She studied abroad for a semester in northern Greece and

spent a month in South Africa the following summer, working with local students to fight against the rape crisis in Grahamstown's communities.

After graduating with her bachelor's degree and moving back home to Long Island, she decided to start confronting global issues at a local level. Jones soon landed a dream internship with the senior senator from New York. After just a few months of demonstrating her aptitude, commitment, and zeal in the internship, while waitressing on the side to make money, she was offered a full-time position as deputy state scheduler. Her responsibilities included organizing his meetings, corresponding with other elected officials' offices, and keeping track of event details. After two and a half years in that role, Jones was promoted again and today serves as the director of scheduling.

Jones said that her friends often look shocked when she takes a call from the senator at midnight on a Saturday or first thing in the morning any day of the week. "But that's just the job," she said. "There's no margin for error. No matter what else I'm doing, one piece of my brain is always on the senator's schedule. 'What's he doing now? What's he doing next? Does every involved party have the information they need to make sure everything runs seamlessly? Have I told him about X event yet and made sure he knows it's going on?' It's 24/7."

Jones recalled an example in the spring of 2015 when Schumer was scheduled to speak at Brooklyn Law School's commencement ceremony (see page 9). His calendar was packed, he was running late, and people were starting to worry about when he'd arrive. "I put so much work into every single detail," she said, explaining how she remained calm throughout the stressful day. "I knew everything would work out. My job isn't always glamorous, but I love the feeling when I've done good work despite the stress, and everything runs smoothly." Later that day, Jones took her first law class, having decided to start in the summer studying criminal law.

Law school had long been an ambition for Jones, but for years she was afraid she wouldn't be able to afford it or take time off from her career. She started out challenging herself by doing something else she wasn't sure she could do: training for and running a half marathon. When she accomplished that physical feat, she knew she could take on the mental challenge of studying for and taking the LSAT, then applying to schools. She knew that Brooklyn Law School was the right choice for her because of its flexible part-time degree program, which would allow her to continue her busy job with Senator Schumer and take classes in the evening.

"The senator has been completely supportive of my goals," Jones said, "and I know that what I learn in the classroom will benefit my career. I'm so grateful for my job, and it has already helped me see how law school will take me where I want to go. Every day, getting the senator where he needs to be means that he can be exposed to the thoughts and the plights of everyday New Yorkers. And their voices travel with him to Washington, where he can effect change. I like thinking that I might have even a small part in making people's lives better—and I just want to grow my part in doing more things like that." ■

Professor Ursula Bentele, Champion for Defendants and Revered Mentor, Retires

Professor Ursula Bentele, a member of the faculty for 34 years, retired from teaching this past spring. She was not only a beloved teacher, but also a well-respected scholar in her field, and a strong champion for the rights of indigent defendants.

Bentele joined the Law School faculty in 1981, after serving with the Legal Aid Society in its criminal defense division and civil appeals and law reform unit. She started as a legal writing instructor, and remained committed to the legal writing program throughout her time at the Law School, but before long—at the encouragement of the late Dean David Trager—she branched out and began teaching criminal law courses. She also founded the Criminal Appeals Clinic and the Capital Defender and Federal Habeas Clinic.

The seeds for Bentele’s passion to protect the rights of others began early in her life. She moved from Germany to the United States when she was 13 years old. To improve her English, she watched television. “I was addicted to Perry Mason, and I was moved by how he helped people who were wrongly accused,” she said. “I knew every person deserved the best possible defense, and working toward that end is what I wanted to do with my life.”

After graduating from Swarthmore College and the University of Chicago Law School, she joined the Legal Aid Society of New York, where she spent four years working in the trial bureau and another four in appeals. Married with two young children by then, Bentele wanted to work part time, so she left Legal Aid and started her own practice, handling appeals and pro bono capital cases from the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. “That work truly got me hooked on death penalty cases,” she said. However, she missed having colleagues, so she answered an ad for a teaching position at the Law School.

From the beginning, when she taught a seminar on capital punishment, in which students researched and wrote certiorari petitions to the U.S. Supreme



“Professor Bentele taught me what it means to be a good defense attorney: perseverance. She showed us how to tackle the insurmountable.”

—Will Page ’09

Court on behalf of death row inmates, her passion engaged her students. The seminar’s first petition, in 1983, on behalf of a death row inmate from Oklahoma, was a stunning victory. The Supreme Court not only granted cert, but unanimously reversed the case. The defendant was taken off death row and ultimately was released from prison altogether.

In 2001, her seminar became the Capital Defender and Federal Habeas

Clinic, as Bentele continued her work with students on nationwide death penalty appeals in addition to advocating for the repeal of the death penalty in New York. (The state’s death penalty statute was repealed in 2004, thanks in part to the clinic’s work.) Students in the clinic also argued federal habeas cases before the Second Circuit. “The training my students received was intense. It was highly unusual for a second- or third-year law student to be able to know that they wrote something that was presented to the Supreme Court, or to present oral argument before the Second Circuit.”

Former students praised her guidance and mentorship. “Professor Bentele taught me what it means to be a good defense attorney: perseverance. She showed us how to tackle the insurmountable,” said Will Page ’09, now an associate at Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP.

Diane Mirabile Rafal ’11, who has worked as an attorney with the New York City Administration for Children’s Services, said: “Professor Bentele’s mentorship, expert instruction, and unfailing encouragement enabled me, along with my fellow students in the clinic, to complete a habeas corpus appeal that seemed insurmountable to me at the beginning of the semester.”

Bentele estimates that she and her students wrote nearly 40 certiorari petitions for death row defendants in 10 states, and at least a dozen of the cases have been reversed. “Many of the issues students raised in their petitions went on to be used in subsequent post-conviction proceedings in state and federal court,” Bentele said, noting the impact of their work. “Some defendants ultimately got their convictions reversed based on the issues that we had briefed. It was quite gratifying.”

Bentele has been recognized with the New York City Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award, which is given to attorneys who have contributed time and expertise to represent people sentenced to death. She also participated in the Capital Jury Project funded by the National Science Foundation, in which she helped to analyze interviews of more than 1,000 jurors who had participated in cases where a death sentence was an option in sentencing.

Bentele is the co-author, with the late Professor Eve Cary, of the widely used

casebook *Appellate Advocacy: Principles and Practice*, and is the co-author, with Professor Emerita Mary Falk, of the casebook *State and Federal Post-Conviction Remedies: Last Hopes*.

Although Bentele has retired from teaching, she will continue to fight for indigent defendants at the Legal Aid Society Criminal Appeals Bureau, where she now supervises the pro bono work of private law firms and helps to expand the office's amicus practice. She also serves on the board of directors of Equal Justice USA, a national organization that works

to create a fairer and more effective criminal justice system and to end the death penalty.

Reflecting on more than three decades at the Law School, Bentele said, "What I will miss most is the interaction with students, so many of whom continue to be involved in criminal justice, whether working on behalf of death row inmates, as public defenders, as prosecutors, or doing pro bono work at law firms. It is very gratifying that my students are carrying on the tradition. That's really what I consider my legacy." ■

Faculty Notes

Richard Allan

SELECT MEDIA

- Authored blog posts for CENTER OF SECURITY AND COUNTER-TERRORISM: *Commentary: Where Have All the Europeans Gone*; *Commentary: The Face of Islam*; *Commentary: "Islam is the Religion of War" – Abu Bakar al-Baghdadi (ISIS)*

Nick Allard

PUBLICATIONS

- *A Dean Grows in Brooklyn*, 46 U. TOL. L. REV. 101 (2015)
- *A Letter to Tyler*, LAW FOR THE CURIOUS: WHY STUDY LAW (The Curious Academic Publishing, 2015)

SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted extensively in articles about new Bridge to Success program, including: THE NEW YORK TIMES (Jul. 13, 2015); THE HUFFINGTON POST (Jul. 13, 2015); USA TODAY (Jul. 15, 2015); and CNN MONEY (Jul. 13, 2015)
- Op-ed, *Too Much Power Rests with the National Conference of Bar Examiners*, NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL (Mar. 26, 2015)
- Interviewed for *Law Students Leave Torts Behind (for a Bit) and Tackle Accounting*, story about the Law School's Business Boot Camp, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Feb. 12, 2015)

William Araiza

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "The Roberts Court at 10," Southeastern Association of Law Schools Annual Conference, Boca Raton, FL

Julian Arato

PUBLICATIONS

- *The Margin of Appreciation in International Investment Law*, 54 VA. J. INT'L L. 545 (2014)
- *Accounting for Difference in Treaty Interpretation over Time*, in INTERPRETATION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, A. Bianchi, D.C. Peat, & M. Windsor, eds. (Oxford University Press, 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "The Logic of Contract in a World of Treaties: Might the Mega-Regionals Redress Current BIT-Inspired Imbalances?" International Society of Public Law (ICON•S), Annual Conference, NYU School of Law
- "Corporations as Lawmakers," Conference: Whither the West? Debates on Concepts in International Legal Theory in Europe and North America, American Society of International Law International Legal Theory Interest Group, Washington, D.C.

Jonathan Askin

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Discussant, Incorporating Technology, Business Development and Marketing in the Law School Curriculum, California Conference for Law School Computing
- Panelist, The Future of Technology Transfer, Price Waterhouse
- Panelist, The Startup of Whom?—Disrupting the Marketplace by Teaching Entrepreneurial Thinking in Law Schools, and Panelist, Plenary Session, Exploring New Possibilities through Technology: Preparing Students to Practice in the New Normal?, AALS Clinical Conference, Rancho Mirage, CA
- Organizer, ABA Legal appATHON, Chicago, IL, and virtual

OTHER PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Fellow, Columbia Institute for Tele-Information
- Founder/Advisor, iLINC Network of Europe Startup Law Clinics; Meetings in Berlin and the University of London
- Co-Chair, Federal Communications Bar Association–NY Chapter

SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted in and interviewed for dozens of online and print publications, radio and television on the sharing economy, patent trolls, Europe’s startup economy, Internet rule changes, Net neutrality, and social media monitoring. Among the placements: THEWEEK.COM (Aug. 30, 2015); CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (Jul. 13, 2015); BLOOMBERG BUSINESS (Jun. 12, 2015); ABA JOURNAL (Apr. 1, 2015) and (Mar. 1, 2015); and FRESH OUTLOOK (Feb. 7, 2015)

Miriam Baer

PUBLICATIONS

- *Unsophisticated Sentencing*, 61 WAYNE L. REV. 59 (2015) (invited symposium contribution)
- *Corporate Investigations*, in THE HANDBOOK OF FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC FRAUD, Arlen ed. (Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming 2015)
- Reviewer, TOO BIG TO JAIL by Brandon L. Garrett (2014), RUTGERS CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOOK REVIEWS ONLINE (June 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Moderator, CrimFest, Cardozo School of Law
- Invited Participant, National Academy of Sciences, Planning Meeting on Corporate Criminal Justice, Washington, D.C.
- Presenter, Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, Fordham Law School
- Presenter, Conference on Compliance and Risk Management, NYU School of Law
- Participant, Conference on Financial Fraud, NYU School of Law
- Featured Speaker, “Pricing the Fourth Amendment,” Hoffinger Colloquium, NYU School of Law

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed Adviser for the ALI’s Principles of the Law, Compliance, Enforcement and Risk Management for Corporations, Nonprofits and Other Organizations
- Appointed to New York City Mayor’s Committee on Marshals

Jodi Balsam

PUBLICATIONS

- *Law Blogging Engages Students in Writing That Connects Theory to Practice and Develops Professional Identity*, 23 PERSPECTIVES: TEACHING LEGAL RES. & WRITING 145 (2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “Students in Role as Lawyers and Lawyers in Role as Teachers: How Faculty Can Support Both to Develop Empathy and Professional Identity,” 8th Worldwide Global Alliance for Justice Conference, Eskisehir, Turkey

- Presenter, “Responding to the New Normal in Field Placement Clinics: Teaching Students to Work in and Manage the Small Firm,” AALS Clinical Conference, Rancho Mirage, CA
- Moderator, “Women in Sports,” New York Law School Sports Law Symposium
- Trainer, “Building Trial Skills,” National Institute for Trial Advocacy, New York, NY

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Named Co-Chair, Membership, Outreach, and Training Committee of the AALS Section on Clinical Legal Education
- Appointed to Attorney Selection Committee of the Center for the Protection of Athletes’ Rights

SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted on the Tom Brady scandal and NFL response to domestic violence in a variety of media, including USA TODAY (July 20, 2015); THE NEW YORK TIMES (May 7, 2015) and (May 26, 2015); and USA TODAY (July 29, 2015); appeared on FRESH OUTLOOK (May 9, 2015)

Christopher Beauchamp

PUBLICATIONS

- *The First Patent Litigation Explosion*, 125 YALE L. J. __ (forthcoming 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “The First Patent Litigation Explosion,” Yale/Harvard/Stanford Junior Faculty Forum and St. John’s University School of Law

Debra Bechtel

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Speaker, “Demystifying Housing 2015,” P.A.’L.A.N.T.E., Harlem, NY

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed to the New York City Bar Association’s Committee on Cooperatives and Condominiums

Anita Bernstein

PUBLICATIONS

- *Just Jobs*, 45 U. BALT. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016)
- *Common Law Fundamentals of the Right to Abortion*, 63 BUFFALO L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2015)
- *The Feminist Jurisprudence of Jack B. Weinstein*, 64 DE PAUL L. REV. 341 (2015)
- *Nine Easy Ways to Breach Your Duty to a Real Estate Client*, NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL Column (Aug. 11, 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Two Cases,” Conference on New Thinking in Law and Economics, SUNY Buffalo Law School
- “Just Jobs,” Eighth Annual Feminist Legal Conference: Applied Feminism and Work, University of Baltimore
- “The Diversity Rationale for Affirmative Action: A Conversation with Justice Anthony Kennedy,” McGeorge School of Law
- “A Common Law Defense of Abortion,” UC Davis School of Law

Professor William Araiza Appointed Vice Dean



IN JULY, PROFESSOR WILLIAM ARAIZA began a new appointment as vice dean at the Law School. In this role, he oversees the academic program, ensuring continued support for faculty development, teaching, and scholarship. In addition, Araiza advances curricular initiatives and a wide range of programs for students.

“Professor Araiza is the consummate teacher, scholar, and leader,” said Dean Nick Allard. “I am confident that as vice dean he will help to advance the reputation and goals of the Law School, ensuring that our students succeed and are well-prepared for their legal careers.”

“All the initiatives we’re taking—from our 2-year J.D. program to Bridge to Success to programs that capitalize on Brooklyn’s entrepreneurial energy—are emblematic of our interest in reforming legal education,” Araiza said. “Our goal is to continue making the Law School more responsive to what students want, as well as to what the market demands of them when they graduate.”

An outstanding administrative and constitutional law scholar, Araiza joined the faculty in 2009 after spending 13 years as an associate dean and professor at Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. Prior to that, he practiced as an associate with two large law firms in Los Angeles and clerked for Justice David Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge William Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Professor Araiza received his B.A. from Columbia

University, his M.S. in international affairs from Georgetown University, and his J.D. from Yale Law School.

Araiza has written several casebooks on the First Amendment (LexisNexis) and constitutional law (Carolina Academic Press). His newest book, *Enforcing the Equal Protection Clause*, will be published by NYU Press in 2016 and his recent articles have appeared in the *NYU Law Review*, *Constitutional Commentary*, *UC Davis Law Review*, and *Boston University Law Review*. Much of his latest scholarship has considered the intersection of congressional power and the Supreme Court’s evolving understanding of the Equal Protection Clause.

Araiza has served on the LexisNexis Law School Publishing Advisory Board. He was the 2013 Chair of the Administrative Law Section of the Association of American Law Schools, and holds several leadership positions in the Southeastern Association of Law Schools.

Araiza said that he’s excited about the opportunities ahead and fortunate to have a wonderful team of professionals working with him. While he admits that legal education faces challenges—including affordability and career readiness—he feels ready to tackle them.

“The most fulfilling part of this role at the macro level is when I’m able to walk out the door and say we did something good for the Law School today that makes it better for everyone,” he said. “Recently, for example, we’ve been working on adding a new class that focuses on the work of a general counsel. As we think about how to best prepare our students for the job market, a course like this would provide insights into a new way of thinking about career options. And at the micro level, what’s really gratifying is my ability to fix a student’s problem. As long as a student speaks up and we hear about an issue, we can very often solve it.” ■

Bradley Borden

PUBLICATIONS

- *Rethinking the Tax-Revenue Effect of REIT Taxation*, 17 FLA. TAX REV. 527 (2015)
- *Reforming REIT Taxation (or Not)*, 53 HOUS. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2015)
- *Section 1031 Exchanges: Death of a Related-Party Exchange—Did “Butler” Do it?*, 75 DAILY TAX REP. J-1 (Apr. 20, 2015) (with A. S. Lederman)
- *Real Estate Transactions by Tax-Exempt Entities*, TAX MANAGEMENT 591-3rd T.M. (2015)
- *Tax Aspects of Partnerships, LLCs and Alternative Forms of Business Organizations*, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON PARTNERSHIPS, LLCs

- AND ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS (R. W. Hillman & M. J. Lowenstein eds.) (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015)
- *Economic Justification for Flow-Through Tax Complexity*, in CONTROVERSIES IN TAX: A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE (Anthony C. Infanti ed.) (Ashgate Publishing, 2015)
- *Section 1031 Drop-and-Swaps Thirty Years After Bolker*, 18 J. PASSTHROUGH ENT. __ (forthcoming)
- *North Central and the Expansion of Code Sec. 1031(f) Related-Party Exchange Rules*, 18 J. PASSTHROUGH ENT. 19 (2015)
- *To Repeal or Retain Section 1031: A Tempest in a \$6 Billion Teapot*, 34 A.B.A. SEC. TAX’N NEWS Q. 1 (2015) (with J. B. Darby III, C. D. Luke & R. F. Mann)

Professor I. Bennett Capers Awarded Chair



PROFESSOR I. BENNETT CAPERS has been awarded the Stanley A. August Chair in recognition of his excellence in teaching and scholarship. This endowed professorship was made possible by Stanley August, M.D. '83, who attended the Law School while practicing medicine as a pediatrician.

He passed away in 2013 and made provisions as part of his estate to establish the chair.

"The Stanley A. August Chair is clear recognition of Professor Capers' outstanding scholarship and dedication to Brooklyn Law School students," said Dean Allard. "He exemplifies our extraordinary faculty, and is an outstanding teacher and role model."

Capers is a highly respected expert and prolific writer on criminal law and procedure, as well as evidence law. He has written extensively on the relationship between race, gender, and criminal law and his work has been published in top law reviews, including the *California Law Review*, *Fordham Law Review*, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*, *Indiana Law Journal*, *Michigan Law Review*, *U.C. Davis Law Review*, *UCLA Law Review*, and *Washington University Law Review*. A highly regarded teacher, in 2015, he was named by the student body as the academic year's "best professor."

"I am honored and privileged to be the recipient of this new chair," Capers said, "especially given Stanley A. August's commitment to teaching, scholarship, and giving back to the law school." Prior to joining Brooklyn Law School in 2012, Capers taught at Hofstra University School of Law, where he served as associate dean of faculty development, and where he received the 2006-07 Teacher of the Year Award and the 2009 Lawrence A. Stessin Prize for Outstanding Scholarly Publication. Prior to teaching, he spent nearly 10 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he tried several federal homicide cases and earned a nomination for the Department of Justice's Director's Award.

Professor Capers is a member of the American Law Institute, the AALS Committee on Professional Development, the New York State Judicial Screening Committee, and the NYC Civilian Complaint Review Board. ■

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Moderator, The Long and the Short of the Effects of Long on Long Term Capital Gains, American Bar Association, Section of Taxation, Sales, Exchanges & Basis Committee Meeting, Washington, D.C.

SELECT MEDIA

- Blog Posts, *REITs—Benign, Benevolent Structures*, (June 24, 2015); and *The Art (and Law) of Tax-Free Exchanges of Art and Collectibles*, THE HUFFINGTON POST (June 10, 2015)

Dana Brakman Reiser

PUBLICATIONS

- *SE(c)(3): A Catalyst for Social Enterprise Crowdfunding*, 90 IND. L. J. 1091 (2015) (with S. Dean)
- Book reviews: LEVERAGE FOR GOOD: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW FRONTIERS OF PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT, Lester Salamon, ed., and NEW FRONTIERS OF PHILANTHROPY: A GUIDE TO THE NEW TOOLS AND ACTORS RESHAPING GLOBAL PHILANTHROPY AND SOCIAL INVESTING (2014), 44(4) NONPROFIT AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR Q. 854 (2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "U.S. Charity Enforcement by State Attorneys General and Self-Regulation," The University of Montreal Faculty of Law Annual Conference on Common Law, The Law of Charitable Trusts, Montreal, Canada
- Invited Senior Faculty Commentator, Stanford Junior Scholars Forum on Civil Society, the Nonprofit Sector, and Philanthropy, Palo Alto, CA
- Presenter, Symposium: Innovations in Financing Social Good, Center for Urban Business and Entrepreneurship, Brooklyn Law School
- "SE(c)(3): A Hybrid Tax Regime for Social Enterprise," Tulane Tax Roundtable (with S. Dean)
- "Preliminary Impressions on the Social Enterprise Zoo," Author's Conference, Georgia State University

Michael Cahill

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "The Meaning(s) of Punishment," Criminal Law Colloquium, SUNY Buffalo Law School
- Commentator, Conference, "Emerging Voices in Latin American & European Criminal Theory," SUNY Buffalo Law School

I. Bennett Capers

PUBLICATIONS

- *Unsexing the Fourth Amendment*, 48 U.C. DAVIS L. REV. 101 (2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Recent Criminal Procedure/Evidence Supreme Court Cases, Plenary Panel, NYS Appellate Division, First Department

- After Lafler and Frye: The Prosecutor's Turn, Symposium on Plea Bargaining Regulation: The Next Criminal Procedure Frontier, William & Mary Law School

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed by Governor Cuomo to serve on Second Department Judicial Screening Committee
- Appointed to Planning Committee for 2016 Conference of the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and Humanities
- Invited participant in "Deconstructing Ferguson" Working Group at the Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School and the ISPS Center for the Study of Inequality at Yale University

SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted on a variety of criminal law issues in AL JAZEERA AMERICA (Jun. 1, 2015); BUZZFEED NEWS (Apr. 3, 2015); CBS LOCAL/ ASSOCIATED PRESS (Feb. 27, 2015) and (Feb. 25, 2015)

Neil B. Cohen

PUBLICATIONS

- *Secured Transactions Law in Jamaica: A Report to the Organization of American States and the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce of the Government of Jamaica*
- SELECTIONS FOR CONTRACTS, (Foundation Press, 2015) (with Farnsworth, Sanger, Brooks, and Garvin)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Participant, annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), Vienna, Austria
- "Jamaica's Security Interests in Personal Property Act: Analysis, Implementation, Challenges, and the Agenda for the Future," Caribbean Capacity-Building Workshop on Secured Transactions and Asset-Based Lending, OAS Conference, Kingston, Jamaica
- "Recent Developments in the Law Governing UCC Filing Systems," ALI CLE
- Presenter, "Multiplicity of Obligors or Obligees under the UNIDROIT Principles," International Conference on the 2010 UNIDROIT Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, Joint program of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, ICC International Court of Arbitration, New York International Arbitration Center
- "Commercial Law Developments," New Jersey Appellate Judges Seminar

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed as member of United States Delegation to UNCITRAL Working Group on Secured Transactions
- Appointed to UNCITRAL Expert Group by Secretariat

Edward W. De Barbieri

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Business Law and Cooperatives," Eastern Conference for Workplace Democracy, Clark University
- Presenter, "Securing Your Commercial Space," in collaboration with Congresswoman Nydia M. Velazquez and the U.S. Small Business Administration, Brooklyn, NY

- Presenter, "Democracy at Work: Achieving Social Change through Worker Coops," Left Forum, New York, NY
- Presenter, "Community Benefits Agreements," and "Small Business Entrepreneur Brief Advice Clinic Design," Works-in-Progress Session, AALS Clinical Conference, Rancho Mirage, CA
- Presenter, "Community Benefits Agreements," Transactional Clinical Conference, Kauffman Foundation and UMKC School of Law; and Sharing Scholarship, Building Teachers: 2015 Scholarship and Teaching Development Workshop, Albany Law School
- Presenter, "Legal Tools for Worker Co-ops and Sharing Economy," Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship, Brooklyn Law School

SELECT MEDIA

- Blog Post, *Time for a Right to Counsel for New Yorkers Facing Eviction, Foreclosure*, THE HUFFINGTON POST (Apr. 3, 2015)

Steven Dean

PUBLICATIONS

- SE(c)(3): A Catalyst for Social Enterprise Crowdfunding, 90 IND. L. J. 1091 (2015) (with D. Brakman Reiser)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "SE(c)(3): A Hybrid Tax Regime for Social Enterprise," Tulane Tax Roundtable (with Dana Brakman Reiser)

Robin Efron

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Judicial Discretion and Party Preference," Emory Law School Faculty Workshop and Hofstra Law School Faculty Workshop

James Fanto

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Session moderator and presenter on Governance in ALI Project, "Achieving Safe and Responsible Enterprise: Principles of Effective Compliance and Emerging Enforcement Policy," Program on Corporate Compliance and Enforcement, NYU School of Law
- Invited participant, "Conference on Corporate Crime and Financial Misdealing," Program on Corporate Compliance and Enforcement, NYU School of Law
- Commenter, "Board Groupthink," 2015 Corporate Governance Symposium, Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance, Lerner College of Business & Economics, University of Delaware
- Invited participant, NYU/University of Pennsylvania conference on corporate and financial matters, NYU School of Law
- Commenter, "Symposium: The Treatment of Financial Contracts in Bankruptcy and Bank Resolution," Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation, Brooklyn Law School

Former CIA Analyst Joins Legal Writing Faculty



PROFESSOR HEIDI GILCHRIST joined the legal writing faculty this fall, teaching fundamentals of law practice. She brings to the Law School a broad range of experience in academia and publishing. She was a lecturer-in-law at Columbia Law School; the associate director of the academic careers and

government program at NYU School of Law; and the managing editor at Wordsworth Publishing, writing and editing legal publications including *American Jurisprudence*,

American Law Reports, and *American Law of Torts*. She also practiced law at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton in New York, where she focused on securities law and international law. In addition, following her law firm experience she was an analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency and liaison to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in New York City.

Gilchrist received her B.A. from Yale University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School, where she was a Kent Scholar and an articles/submissions editor at the *Journal of Transnational Law*. After graduating from Yale, she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study Arabic literature and Islamic law in Damascus, Syria. She is proficient in Arabic, Italian, and French. ■

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed to the Public Policy Council of the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards
- Advisory board member for planning the 2016 midyear meeting of the Association of Corporate Counsel

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Faculty member responsible for preparing and teaching compliance officers, FINRA staff members and others in the Certified Regulatory and Compliance Professional Program, FINRA Institute at Wharton, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (teaching the foundation, theory and practical application of the securities laws)

Maryellen Fullerton

PUBLICATIONS

- *Asylum Crisis Italian Style: The Dublin Regulation Collides with European Human Rights Law*, 29 HARV. HUM. RTS. L. J. __ (forthcoming)
- *Comparative Perspectives on Statelessness*, 63 KAN. L. REV 863 (2015)
- FORCED MIGRATION: LAW AND POLICY, 2015 UPDATE (West Academic Publishing, 2015) (with D. A. Martin, T. A. Aleinikoff, H. Motomura)
- IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP: PROCESS AND POLICY, 2015 UPDATE (West Academic Publishing, 2015) (with D. A. Martin, T. A. Aleinikoff, H. Motomura)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Developing Refugee Law Clinics Abroad," ABA Section on International Law, Washington, D.C.

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed to the International Human Rights Committee, New York City Bar Association

Marsha Garrison

PUBLICATIONS

- *Delegalizing Family Law*, in FAMILY LAW: UNIVERSALITIES AND SINGULARITIES, Margaret P. Brinig, ed. (ISFL, 2015)
- *Fostering Family-Law Norms through Educational Initiatives*, 27 CHILD AND FAM. L. Q. 3 (2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Plenary Speaker, "Marriage in the New Century: Patterns and Policies," AALS Mid-year Workshops on Shifting Foundations in Family Law and began the Workshop on Next Generation Issues of Sex, Gender, and the Law: Marriage and Inequality

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Fulbright Scholar, Yangon University, Yangon, Myanmar 2015–16

Cynthia Godsoe

PUBLICATIONS

- *Perfect Plaintiffs*, 125 YALE L. J. FORUM __ (2015)
- *Adopting the Gay Family*, 90 TUL. L. REV. __ (2015)
- *A rewrite of the Supreme Court opinion in Michael M. v. Sonoma Cty., 450 U.S. 464 (1981) (statutory rape) from a feminist perspective*, FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN OPINIONS OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, K. M. Stanchi, L. L. Berger and B. J. Crawford eds., (Cambridge Univ. Press, forthcoming 2016)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Vague Victims & Peer Statutory Rape," SEALS Junior Scholars Workshop, Boca Raton, FL; 2015 Crimfest, Cardozo School of Law; AALS Mid-year Meeting on Next Generation Issues in Sex, Gender and the Law; and Law and Society Association Annual Meeting

- “Victims and Offenders in Intimate Crimes,” SEALS New Scholars Colloquia, Boca Raton, FL; AALS Mid-year Meeting on Shifting Foundations in Family Law; and Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Florida A & M School of Law
- Chair and Discussant, Roundtable on Governance Feminism, Land Society Association Annual Meeting

SELECT MEDIA

- Panelist, *Setting The Record Straight on Marital Rape* (video), THE HUFFINGTON POST (Aug. 3, 2015)
- Author, *Why 20 States Treat Raping Your Wife as a Lesser Crime*, TALKING POINTS MEMO (July 30, 2015)

Joel Gora**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Buckley v. Valeo* essay, in AMERICAN GOVERNANCE ENCYCLOPEDIA (Macmillan Publishers, forthcoming 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Panelist/Presenter, Campaign Finance Law Symposium, New York City Bar Association

SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted in *Chris Christie Takes Heat for Hedge Fund Donations*, INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR (May 25, 2015) and in *First Amendment Likely to Protect Donald Trump on NYC Contracts*, INSIDE COUNSEL (July 8, 2015)

Eun Hee Han**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, “Pre-Programming for Success: Preparing International Students for U.S. Law Programs,” Tenth Annual Global Legal Skills Conference, Chicago, IL
- Prepared conference materials and supervised a research team for “Government Surveillance and Privacy: Have We Reached a Tipping Point?” New York County Lawyers Association

Susan Herman**PUBLICATIONS**

- *A New Path to Clemency*, STAND (Winter 2015)
- *End Discrimination Against Pregnant Workers*, STAND (Summer 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Freedom of the Press vs. Fighting Terror Effectively,” Jerusalem Press Club Conference
- Keynote Speaker, “Civil Liberties and the War on Terror,” College of Charleston, Department of Political Science Convocation Lecture
- Speaker, “Privacy in the Digital Age: Why Should I Care What the Government Knows About Me?” Berkeley Forum
- Panelist, “Countering the New Wave of Terrorism at Home and Abroad,” The German Marshall Fund’s Brussels Forum
- Panelist, “Digital Me: The Right to Privacy vs. the Public Good,” Milken Institute Global Conference

**Professor Brian Lee
Receives Tenure**

PROFESSOR BRIAN LEE, who focuses on the intersection of moral reasoning and economic analysis in property and intellectual property law, was recently granted tenure. His academic background in philosophy—a subject in which he earned his doctorate—gives him a unique perspective on legal issues

and ignites his passion for educating students.

“Philosophy really sharpened my thinking,” Lee said. “But at the end of the day, after years in school and some professional experience in marketing and finance, I knew that I wanted to be a law professor.”

Earlier this year, he received a significant honor when the American Law Institute selected him as an associate reporter for the Restatement (Fourth) of Property. At the Law School, he teaches property, international law, intellectual property, and remedies. His latest scholarship, *Emergency Takings*, will appear in a forthcoming issue of the *Michigan Law Review*. In addition, he recently published an article in the *Columbia Law Review* titled “Just Undercompensation: The Idiosyncratic Premium in Eminent Domain,” and contributed to an Oxford University Press collection by property theorists on the philosophical foundations of property law. At the Law School, he is affiliated with the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law.

“My colleagues set this school apart,” Lee said. “They’re so smart, intellectually engaged in each other’s scholarship, and genuinely nice people. And Brooklyn is an incredible place to live and work.”

Before joining the faculty in 2009, Lee served as law clerk to Judge Ralph K. Winter, Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School, where he was a book reviews and features editor for the *Yale Law Journal*. He also holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton University, a master’s degree from UCLA, and a bachelor’s degree from UC Berkeley. ■

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Speaker, “Why Should I Care? Race, Religion, and Rights in Post-9/11 America,” University of Chicago Law School
- Speaker, “The Year of Technology: Civil Liberties in the Information Age,” Grace Cathedral Forum
- Keynote Speaker, “The ACLU and Women’s Rights 1920-2020: We’ve Come a Long Way, Baby?” National Council of Jewish Women
- Panelist, “Connectedness: Unequaled Incubator for Innovation or the Death of Privacy and Civility?” World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, Drexel University
- Speaker, “The War on Women,” Columbia Law School
- Participant, Discussion on Education and Social Justice, The Atlantic Roundtable Breakfast
- Panelist, “Policing Urban America: Who, What, Where, Why, How?” UrbanScape Series, University of Rhode Island

SELECT MEDIA

- Interviewed for *The World This Week*, 124 NEWS (May 31, 2015)
- Interviewed for RIFUTURE.ORG, *ACLU president Susan Herman on civil liberties, South Carolina and Black Lives Matter* (Apr. 8, 2015)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Participated in White House Meeting on criminal justice reform legislation and Senate Democratic Caucus discussion on voting rights

Michael Higgins

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “Administrative Appeals in Subsidized Housing: Article 78 Proceedings,” NYS Access to Justice CLE Program
- Presenter, “Article 17A: Guardianship of a Mentally Retarded or Disabled Person,” Brooklyn Bar Association CLE program

Edward Janger

PUBLICATIONS

- *Financial Contracts in Bankruptcy and Bank Insolvency: Implementing Symmetric Treatment in Enterprise Bankruptcies*, 10 BROOK. J. CORP. FIN. & COM. L. __ (forthcoming 2015)
- *The Logic and Limits of Liens*, 2015 ILL. L. REV. 589 (2015)
- *Silos: Establishing the Distributional Baseline in Cross-Border Bankruptcies*, 9 BROOK. J. CORP. FIN. & COM. L. 180 (2014)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “Contorting Consumer Financial Protection,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA
- Presenter, “Ice Cube Bonds,” Annual Meeting of the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, San Francisco, CA
- Presenter, World Bank Insolvency and Creditors’ and Debtors’ Rights Regimes Task Force meeting on treatment of financial contracts in Bankruptcy, New York, NY
- Presenter, “Financial Contracts in Bank Insolvency and Enterprise Bankruptcy: Towards a Symmetric Approach,” ABA Section on International Law Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- Panel organizer, International Insolvency Institute Annual Meeting, Naples, Italy

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Recipient, Grant Gilmore Award from the American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers for *Ice Cube Bonds: Allocating the Price of Process in Chapter 11 Bankruptcies*, 123 YALE L. J. 862 (2014)

Roberta Karmel

PUBLICATIONS

- *Implications of ‘Omnicare,’* 47 SEC. REG. & L. REPT. (BNA) 995 (May 18, 2015)
- NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL columns: *State of Mind on False Statements and Application of ‘Omnicare’* (Aug. 20, 2015); *A Look Back at the Flash Crash and Regulatory Initiatives* (June 18, 2015); *Liability for Non-Disclosure of Line-Items in SEC Filings* (Apr. 16, 2015); *A Critical Look at SEC Insider Trading Policies* (Feb. 19, 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Commenter, SEC Speaks in 2015, Practising Law Institute, Washington, D.C.
- Speaker, Remembering a Great Veteran, John P. Wheeler III, SEC Tribute, Washington, D.C.
- Panelist, “Securities Act of 1933-Importing 10(b) Requirements Into Section 11 and Section 12,” Federal Bar Council, New York, NY

Adam Kolber

PUBLICATIONS

- *The Bumpiness of Criminal Law*, __ ALA. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016)
- *The Contours of First Amendment Freedom of Thought*, __ J. CONST. L. __ (forthcoming 2016)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Punishment and a Portfolio of Beliefs and The Contours of First Amendment Freedom of Thought,” XXVII World Congress of the International Association for the Philosophy of Law and Social Philosophy (IVR), Georgetown Law School
- “Free Will as a Matter of Law,” Crimfest! Conference, Cardozo School of Law
- “How to Smooth the Criminal Law,” Faculty Workshop, William & Mary Law School
- “Punishment and a Portfolio of Beliefs,” New York Criminal Law Theory Workshop, NYU School of Law

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Joined the Advisory Board of the Palgrave Book Series on Law & Neuroscience

Rebecca Kysar

PUBLICATIONS

- *Interpreting Tax Treaties*, 101 IOWA L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Discussant, Summer Tax Workshop, Columbia Law School
- Automatic Legislation, Annual Mid-Level Tax Conference, Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University
- Interpreting Tax Treaties, Faculty Workshop, University of Virginia School of Law; Seminar on Tax Law, Policy, and Practice, Harvard Law School; and Faculty Workshop, Rutgers-Camden School of Law

Gregg Macey

PUBLICATIONS

- *Boundary Work in Environmental Law*, 53 HOUS. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2015)
- *The Natech: Right-to-Know as Space-Time Puzzle*, in RISK ANALYSIS OF NATURAL HAZARDS (Springer Publishing, forthcoming 2016)
- *Finger in the Dike: Pennsylvania's Battle to Control TENORM Waste from Hydraulic Fracturing*, report completed for Earthjustice (2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Boundary Work in Environmental Law," Faculty Workshop, University of San Diego School of Law

SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted in *How to Fix the EPA's Broken Civil Rights Office*, CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY (Aug. 20, 2015)
-

Christina Mulligan

PUBLICATIONS

- *Personal Property Servitudes on the Internet of Things*, __ GA. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016)
- *Founding-Era Translations of the United States Constitution*, __ CONST. COMM. __ (forthcoming 2016) (with M. Douma, H. Lind, B. Quinn)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Killing Copyright," Intellectual Property Scholars Conference, DePaul College of Law
- "Founding-Era Translations of the Federal Constitution," Sixth Annual Hugh & Hazel Darling Foundation Originalism Works-in-Progress Conference, University of San Diego School of Law

SELECT MEDIA

- *The most scandalous part of 'Fifty Shades of Grey' isn't the sex and bondage*, POSTEVERYTHING, THE WASHINGTON POST (Feb. 11, 2015)
-

Samuel Murumba

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, "Human Rights from an Experiential Perspective," Global Humanitarian Summit, UN Headquarters, New York, NY

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Named Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Watch Africa Division
-

Minor Myers

PUBLICATIONS

- *Do the Merits Matter? Evidence from Options Backdating Litigation*, 164 U. PENN. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016) (with Q. Curtis)
- *Aggregation by Acquisition: Replacing Class Actions with a Market for Legal Claims*, 101 IOWA L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2015)
- *Appraisal Arbitrage and the Future of Public Company M&A*, 92 WASH. U. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2015) (with C. Korsmo)
- *The Deterrence Value of Stockholder Appraisal*, in RESEARCH HANDBOOK OF MERGERS & ACQUISITIONS, C. Hill & S. Davidoff Solomon, eds. (forthcoming 2016) (with C. Korsmo)

Professor Minor Myers Receives Tenure



PROFESSOR MINOR MYERS, who focuses on corporate law, mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, and property, was granted tenure in July.

Since his undergraduate studies at Connecticut College, Myers aspired to be a professor. He attended Yale Law School with that idea in mind, but first worked

in the corporate and litigation departments at Debevoise & Plimpton, and served as a law clerk for Judges Peter W. Hall and Ralph K. Winter of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

He joined the Law School in 2007 as part of its then visiting assistant professor program and in 2009 he became part of the tenure-track faculty. "Almost immediately, I felt that the school was an intellectual and collegial place to work," Myers said. "Above all else, everyone here is committed to helping students succeed."

Myers' work is garnering attention and he frequently is asked to present his research. A paper he co-authored with University of Virginia School of Law Associate Professor Quinn Curtis, "Do the Merits Matter? Evidence from Options Backdating Litigation" (forthcoming in the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*), was selected for the prestigious Yale/Stanford/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum, held at Harvard Law School in June. He recently presented at the NYU/Penn Conference on Law & Finance, the American Law & Economics Association, and the Conference on Empirical Legal Studies. His articles are forthcoming in the *Iowa Law Review* ("Aggregation by Acquisition: Replacing Class Actions with a Market for Legal Claims") and the *Washington University Law Review* ("Appraisal Arbitrage and the Future of Public Company M&A").

Next on his agenda is researching the relationship between corporations and stockholders. He plans to examine how people can or cannot effect change by suing, how that process functions or malfunctions in predictable ways, and how reforms could make it work better. He will also explore how public attention on issues such as executive compensation feed into the design of corporate law.

At the Law School, Myers is affiliated with the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law and the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation. ■

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Do the Merits Matter? Evidence from Options Backdating Litigation,” Harvard Yale Stanford Junior Faculty Forum, Harvard Law School
- “Aggregation by Acquisition: Replacing Class Actions with a Market for Legal Claims,” Columbia Law School; American Law & Economics Association Annual Meeting; and Vanderbilt Law School, Branstetter Workshop on Civil Litigation

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Selected for 2015 Harvard-Yale-Stanford Junior Faculty Forum

SELECT MEDIA

- *Shareholder Litigation That Works*, NEW YORK TIMES DEALBOOK, (Apr. 16, 2015) (with C. Korsmo)
- Quoted in *Hedge funds hot ‘appraisal’ strategy for deals may become a lot less appealing*, REUTERS, (Mar. 19, 2015); and in *M&A Price-Bump Lawsuit Backfires, Sounding Note of Caution*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (July 1, 2015)

Norman Poser

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “The Jurisprudence of Legal Change: from Mansfield to Vanderbilt,” NYU Law School Legal History Colloquium

SELECT MEDIA

- Interviewed on *The Case Against Slavery* (audio), EVERY CASE TELLS A STORY, BBC RADIO 4 (Mar. 2015)

K. Sabeel Rahman

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Inclusive Governance and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals,” co-convenor, Open Society Foundation, New York

SELECT MEDIA

- *How to Revive Progressive Era Economics for the New Gilded Age*, THE NATION, (July 21, 2015)
- *Curbing the New Corporate Power*, BOSTON REVIEW (May 4, 2015)
- *Democracy and the City: Looking at Urban Spaces in New Ways*, RHODES SCHOLAR (Spring 2015)

David Reiss

PUBLICATIONS

- *Goldilocks Underwriting and the Federal Housing Administration*, 24 A.B.A. J. AFFORDABLE HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEV. L. __ (forthcoming 2015)
- *Underwriting Sustainable Homeownership: The Federal Housing Administration and the Low Down Payment Loan*, 49 GA L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2015)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Moderator, Conceptualizing the Sharing Economy Panel, Scholarly Perspectives on the Sharing Economy Conference, Fordham Law School
- Lead Discussant, How Can ICTs Support Tenant Rights?, Technology Salon Brooklyn, Brooklyn Community Foundation
- Participant, NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development Small Buildings Initiative Roundtables

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- REFinBlog nominated as one of The Expert Institute’s Best Legal Blog for 2015 in the Education Category
- External Reviewer, GEOFORUM and ECONOMIC NOTES

SELECT MEDIA

- Interviewed in *The Dos and Don’ts of Mixed-Use Developments*, GEORGIA PUBLIC RADIO (May 28, 2015)
- Quoted in dozens of articles in MONEY, INSTITUTIONAL INVESTOR, NEWSDAY, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, BLOOMBERG, LAW360.COM, MAINSTREET, and many other outlets on a variety of real estate finance law and general real estate law issues.

Elizabeth Schneider

PUBLICATIONS

- *Procedure as Substance*, 64 DEPAUL L. REV. 669 (2015) (Clifford Symposium on Judge Jack Weinstein)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Plenary Panelist, “Violence Against Woman,” AALS Mid-Year Workshop on Next Generation Issues on Sex and Gender and the Law, Orlando, FL
- Speaker, “The Impact of Feminist Legal Theory on Criminal Law in the United States: Domestic Violence and Rape,” Conference on Feminist Jurisprudence in the United States and Asia: A Transpacific Dialogue (co-sponsored by Cornell Law School and Fudan University Law School), Shanghai, China
- Moderator, “50 Years of the War on Poverty,” Annual Sparer Public Interest Law Forum, Brooklyn Law School

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Appointed by Southern District of New York 225 Anniversary Committee to organize the CLE program, “The Life and Work of Judge Motley 1921-2005”

Jocelyn Simonson

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- When the “Community” Posts Bail, CrimFest! Conference, Cardozo School of Law

SELECT MEDIA

- Guest, The ‘Senseless’ Killing of Samuel DuBose (audio), THE BRIAN LEHRER SHOW, WNYC (July 31, 2015)
- Op-ed, *Let citizens film the police! It’s the only way we learned what really happened to Walter Scott*, SALON (Apr. 16, 2015)

Lisa C. Smith**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Panelist, “Bridging the Gap: Integrating Crime Victim Services Research and Practice,” Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime
- Presenter, “Building Bridges Between Clinic and Courtroom,” Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Abuse, University of Pennsylvania
- Presenter, “NYC Pro Bono Scholar Project,” AALS Clinical Conference
- Panelist, screening of “The Hunting Ground,” documentary about campus sexual assault, Westchester NOW

HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Anti-Violence Award, Women of Courage, Brooklyn Anti-Violence Coalition
- Chair, ABA 20/20 Vision Award Committee: Domestic Violence Trailblazers

SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted in several articles about rape statistics, the Etan Patz murder trial, and other high profile criminal trials in THE NEW YORK TIMES (June 5, 2015), NY1 (Apr. 13, 2015 and May 13, 2015), and CAPITAL NEW YORK (May 29, 2015)

Lawrence Solan**PUBLICATIONS**

- SPEAKING OF LANGUAGE AND LAW: CONVERSATIONS ON THE WORK OF PETER TIERSMA, with J. Ainsworth & R. Shuy, eds. (Oxford University Press, 2015)
- *Precedent in Statutory Interpretation*, __ N.C. L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016)
- *Identifying Where People Come from by How They Speak: A Methodological Gap Worth Bridging*, 21 INT’L J. SPEECH LANGUAGE L. 383 (2014)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “Communicating with Experts,” Law & Society Association, Seattle, WA
- “Legal Indeterminacy in the Spoken Word,” symposium on linguistic philosophy and legal interpretation, McGeorge School of Law; and Phonetics Institute, University of Cologne
- “Beyond Babel: The Interpretation of Multilingual Statutes in the EU,” Jean Moulin Lyon 3 University, France

SELECT MEDIA

- Guest, *How Technology Is Changing Criminal Linguistic Evidence In Court*, THE DIANE REHM SHOW, NPR (Apr. 1, 2015)
- Quoted in several articles about linguistics and forensic issues in THE NEW YORK TIMES (Mar. 12, 2015), THE WASHINGTON POST (Feb. 27, 2015), and the BOSTON GLOBE (Mar. 18, 2015)

Nelson Tebbe**PUBLICATIONS**

- RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN AN EGALITARIAN ERA (Harvard University Press, forthcoming 2016)
- *Is the Constitution Special?*, 101 CORNELL L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016) (with C. Serkin)
- *Religion and Social Coherentism*, 91 NOTRE DAME L. REV. __ (forthcoming 2016)
- *Religious Institutionalism—Why Now?*, in THE RISE OF CORPORATE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: HOBBY LOBBY AND THE NEW LAW OF RELIGION IN AMERICA, M. Schwartzman et al., eds. (forthcoming 2015) (with P. Horwitz)
- *When Do Religion Accommodations Harm Others?*, in edited volume from Harvard Law School’s Petrie-Flom Center Annual Conference, Glen Cohen, ed. (forthcoming 2016) (with R. Schragger and M. Schwartzman)

PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- “When Do Religion Accommodations Harm Others?,” Annual Law & Religion Roundtable, Georgetown University Law Center; and Petrie-Flom Center on Health Law Annual Conference, Harvard Law School
- “Religion and Social Coherentism,” Philip J. McElroy Lecture on Law and Religion, Detroit Mercy School of Law; Faculty Workshop, Washington University in Saint Louis School of Law and Law; and Philosophy Colloquium, University of Texas Law School

SELECT MEDIA

- Op-ed, *Obergefell and the End of Religious Reasons for Lawmaking*, RELIGION & POLITICS (June 29, 2015) (with R. Schragger and M. Schwartzman)
- Op-ed, *Indiana’s New Law Allows Discrimination. That Was The Point. and Utah “Compromise” to Protect LGBT Citizens From Discrimination Is No Model for the Nation*, SLATE (Mar. 30, 2015 and Mar. 18, 2015) (with R. Schragger and M. Schwartzman)
- Quoted in *Cake: The new favorite mode for American political debate?*, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Aug. 2, 2015)

Carrie W. Teitcher**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- 10 Techniques to Improve Your Drafting, Practicing Law Institute: Bridge the Gap II Program for Newly Admitted New York Attorneys
- Co-Presenter, An Integrated Approach to Teaching Legal Research and Writing to Foreign-Trained Lawyers, Global Legal Skills Conference, Chicago, IL

Aaron Twerski**PUBLICATIONS**

- PROBLEMS AND PROCESS (8th ed.), Aspen Publishers (with J. A. Henderson, Jr. and D. Kysar) (forthcoming 2016)
- *Drug Design Liability: Farwell to Comment K*, __ BAYLOR L. REV. __ (with J. A. Henderson, Jr.) (forthcoming 2016)

Alumni Reunite at New York Public Library



IN MAY, Brooklyn Law School celebrated the classes of 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2010. More than 300 alumni, friends, and faculty filled the New York Public Library's Astor Hall to reconnect. The historic setting made for a particularly memorable evening of conversation over drinks and delicious food. The festivities continued the following evening with a private sunset sail aboard the Clipper City tall ship. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while taking in views of New York City. ■



Members of the class of 1960 celebrating their 55th reunion (LEFT); members of the class of 2010—Kathleen Christatos '10, Jason Jendrewski '10, Nausheen Rokerya '10, Douglas Klein '10, and Erik Dykema '10—celebrating their 5th reunion (RIGHT)

ENDOWED SCHOLARS CELEBRATION

Students, Faculty, Alumni, and Friends Come Together

IN MARCH, THE LAW SCHOOL hosted the 34th Annual Endowed Scholarship Reception at the Forchelli Center, bringing together the benefactors of scholarships with the students who receive them.

In his opening remarks, Dean Nick Allard noted that the event is one of his favorites. “We have the opportunity to highlight the accomplishments of our students and the generosity of our alumni and friends who help to propel Brooklyn Law School forward,” he said.

Lena Smith ’15 and **McLean Crichton ’15** spoke on behalf of the scholarship recipients. “It is because of the generosity of donors like you,” Smith said, “that I have been able to seize the opportunity not only to pursue my legal education full time, but to participate in externships, to be involved in student organizations, and to work side by side with professors as a research assistant. This generosity will enable me and countless other students to become the leaders in the legal community.”

“These opportunities have made me forever indebted to the school,” said Crichton, “and the gratitude I feel today will continue in perpetuity.”

Attendees also heard from two benefactors. **Neil Brody ’74**, a founding partner of the New York boutique law firm Brody & Branch, talked about the impact his Brooklyn Law School education had upon his career and his motivation to create a scholarship in his father’s memory. He wanted to help future generations of students who attend law school while working to make ends meet, as he did as a student.

Warren Lazarow ’86, a partner in the Silicon Valley and New York offices of O’Melveny & Myers and chairman of the firm’s transactions department, also worked full time while attending the Law School. He expressed his strong belief that money should never be an obstacle to learning. He remarked on how impressed he was with the recipient of the scholarship named for him and said he looks forward to the day when the student comes back to the Law School to support a future generation of scholars. ■

If you’re interested in creating a scholarship, please contact Ursula Vesala, director of development, at 718-780-7516 or ursula.vesala@brooklaw.edu.



TOP: Professor Elizabeth Schneider, Stuart Seidman, Robin Bronzaft Howald, Amanda Shapiro ’15, Dr. Arline Bronzaft, and Janet Seidman representing the Bertram Bronzaft Scholarship; **BOTTOM:** Howard Rothman ’71 and Joan Rothman with their scholarship recipient, Max Borg ’15

NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Law School awarded five new scholarships in 2014–15:

- The Steven S. Elbaum and Bruce E. Fader Scholarship
- The Hyman Goodman Scholarship
- The Omer Foundation Scholarship
- The Howard and Joan Rothman Scholarship
- The Beverly C. and Charles B. Smith Scholarship

Q&A

A Conversation with William Levine '54



The real estate investor who made his mark on the billboard industry discusses his journey from Brooklyn Law School to the business world.

TALK TO ENOUGH ENTREPRENEURS and you will find they have something in common: They are risk-takers. William Levine '54 certainly falls into that category.

In 1959, Levine was working for an industrialist in New York who sent him to Phoenix to buy a piece of land. People were buying and selling a significant amount of property there at the time, and many of the deals were being done with leveraged money. When Levine arrived, he saw enormous potential in the local real estate market and wanted to take part in it. So, six months later, he left Brooklyn—where he was born and raised—and moved to Arizona.

Initially, he started out managing apartments because he had previous real estate experience in New York. He subsequently bought a coffee shop in Phoenix and then continued buying restaurants until he owned dozens of them. Along the way, he used billboards to advertise his restaurants. When he realized that one company had a monopoly on the area's billboard business, Levine started building his own. He soon had more billboards than he needed for advertising his restaurants, and so he began to sell advertising space.

In 1984, Levine formed a partnership with Arte Moreno. The men had originally met when Moreno, then working for a competitor, sold Levine ad space. Over the next 12 years, they developed an extremely successful business, originally called Outdoor Systems (now known as OUTFRONT Media), and launched an IPO in 1996. The stock price increased substantially in a short time, and the business grew into the largest billboard company in North America, with more than 250,000 display properties. The company was sold in 1999 to Infinity Broadcasting, a public radio company, for more than \$10 billion. Infinity Broadcasting was later acquired by Viacom,

which also owned CBS Broadcasting. Subsequently, Viacom spun off CBS, which held the billboards. Levine and Moreno became substantial stockholders of Viacom and CBS.

Today, Levine remains active both in his professional and leisure time. He continues to manage a large portfolio of his own real estate investments, in addition to developing new projects. He also generously supports the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. After being involved for more than a decade, Levine last year contributed \$25 million toward an endowment that will ensure the museum's educational mission. Despite his remarkable success and significant philanthropy, Levine remains exceptionally humble. He lives in Phoenix, exercises every day, and most enjoys spending time with his wife, Susan, the executive director of Hospice of the Valley, a nonprofit organization that runs one of the country's largest hospices.

During a recent conversation with Jen Swetsoff, managing editor at *Brooklyn Law Notes*, Levine shared his thoughts on law school, business, philanthropy, and luck.

What was your experience growing up in Brooklyn?

I attended the Yeshiva of Flatbush for grade school. I was 10 years old in 1942 and I can still remember the rabbis at the yeshiva telling us about the Holocaust that was taking place in Europe at the time. The teachers were extremely emotional when they talked about it. That part of my childhood stuck with me for all these years.

I went to Midwood High School and studied at the University of Pennsylvania for two years, after which I took classes at New York University for one year. I then completed my J.D. at Brooklyn Law School over two years and three summers.

What was your law school experience like?

My program was intensive, but I found law school very interesting and enjoyable. I particularly remember Professor Jerome Prince, who taught my evidence course and wrote a textbook on the subject. I've always felt that my law school education was extremely worthwhile and useful in my career.

What were your jobs after law school?

After graduating from law school, I took the bar exam and was shortly thereafter drafted into the U.S. Army. I served for 18 months in Texas, where I worked in the judge advocate's office. My duties consisted of counseling soldiers regarding problems they incurred with debts prior to joining the service and helping them with their taxes. After being discharged from the Army, I worked in a law office specializing in real estate syndication. At that time, my salary was \$35 per week.

Next, I was employed at a law firm that specialized in restaurants, bars, and bowling alleys. My work was relatively perfunctory, mostly requiring me to file forms with the city clerk, and I did not find the work particularly interesting. After that, I was fortunate to find a position with a wealthy industrialist in his real estate department. My law degree and experience were extremely helpful in that job. In late 1959, I was sent to Arizona to buy a particular property for that employer.

“I've always felt that my law school education was extremely worthwhile and useful in my career.”

What did you think of Arizona when you arrived?

I was interested in the great deal of real estate activity happening at the time. When I first moved there, I had a small business managing apartments. Then in the early 1960s, I became friendly with an entrepreneur who bought a resort in Jackson, Wyo., and moved there to run that property for him.

By then, I had three children and very little money. But back in Arizona, I was able to purchase a coffee shop with very little cash; the seller carried a mortgage on the business. Over the ensuing years, I was able to buy more restaurants until I ended up with almost 50 of them.

How did you transition from restaurants to the billboard business?

I advertised my restaurants primarily on billboards. At the time, one company owned all of the billboards in Phoenix and was

substantially increasing the price of advertising each year. As a result, I started building my own billboards for my own use. Soon, I developed more billboards than I needed and so I started selling the extra advertising space to others.

Arte Moreno, the salesman who had originally sold billboards to me, wanted to get into the billboard business on his own. We became partners, and I started selling my restaurants to focus 100 percent on the billboard business. Working together, Moreno and I started buying other billboard companies throughout the United States. Using debt, we were able to buy the billboard divisions of both Gannett and Minnesota Mining, which were the country's largest billboard companies at the time.

By 1996, we owned billboards in 100 different cities, including some displays in Times Square, and we successfully launched an IPO. Around that same time, things started to change. When we started out, more than 50 percent of advertising space on billboards went to tobacco and liquor companies, which meant that selling space wasn't all that challenging. But when those products were banned from advertising, selling space on billboards became much more difficult. Our timing was extremely lucky. And I feel very fortunate to have been in a business that I thoroughly enjoyed and to take the company public when we did.

Do you still think that there's a lot of growth potential in Arizona?

Yes, I do, definitely. I own a company that both develops real estate and purchases real estate from other developers.

You're still very active with your work, but what do you like to do in your leisure time?

My partner in the billboard business purchased the Los Angeles Angels baseball team, and for some years I owned a small portion of that team. Having been a baseball fan growing up, owning a small part of a Major League Baseball team was a wonderful experience.

Now I like to travel with my wife. We usually take three weeks off in the summer, and in recent years we've spent our time in Europe. I find traveling an opportunity to see and learn new things. Learning new things has always been important to me.

What inspired your generous support of the Holocaust Memorial Museum?

The Holocaust has always been something I could never understand. How so many different people—professors, doctors, farmers, etc.—participated in it is just incomprehensible. The museum is very important to me. It's important for everyone, and for future generations, so that the Holocaust never happens again.

How do you explain your phenomenal professional success?

I've always liked to work. But also, I think I was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. ■

ON THE ROAD

Graduates Reconnect in California and Chicago



LOS ANGELES ALUMNI EVENT (L-R): Martin Singer '77, Marla Allard, Andrew Brettler '05, Dean Nick Allard, and Peter Altman '05

THIS SPRING, Karen Eisen, assistant dean of career and professional development, and Danielle Sorken, director of the public service office, and other members of the office of career and professional development, greeted graduates at the CHI Bar on Chicago's North Side while they were in the city for the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) annual conference. Meanwhile, Dean Nick Allard and Caitlin Monck-Marcellino '02, director of alumni relations, headed farther west to join alumni receptions in San Francisco and Los Angeles.



SAN FRANCISCO ALUMNI EVENT (L-R): Warren Lazarow '86, Michael Polidoro '03, Jessica Wax '03, and Michelle Morcos Smith '98

Warren Lazarow '86 and his firm, O'Melveny & Myers, hosted the reception in San Francisco. The panoramic views of San Francisco Bay from Lazarow's office provided a stunning backdrop for a lively evening of networking with fellow alumni as they learned the latest news from the Law School. Several current students attended the event, taking a break from serving as volunteers in the Bay Area as part of the Brooklyn Law School Alternative Spring Break group.

The Los Angeles reception was held at the Napa Valley Grille. An enthusiastic group spearheaded by George Colman '67, Marshall Silverman '74, Harvey Oringer '73, Matthew Henry '14, Alexander Nguyen '12, Yana Rafailova '15, and Rafael Shpelfogel '05 were motivated by the great turnout and decided to revive the SoCal alumni group. They have already organized two follow-up events: one at the Crescent Hotel in Beverly Hills and another with Professor Paul Gangsei, executive director of CUBE. ■

If you're interested in hosting an event for graduates, please contact Caitlin Monck-Marcellino '02 in the office of alumni relations at caitlin.monck-marcellino@brooklaw.edu or 718-780-0322.

Safe Horizon's General Counsel Opens Home to Alumni

IN THE SPRING, Safe Horizon's general counsel, Michael H. Williams '93, hosted a reception at his home in Park Slope for fellows and interns who have worked in his department since 2009. "We had lawyers in attendance who worked in various areas, including criminal justice, intellectual property, immigration, and employment," said Williams. "Many were eager to offer support to others looking for work or who hoped to transition into new fields."

BLS grads in attendance included Austin Mazzella '14, Edward Yu '13, Olivia Meier '13, Jared Goldman '15, Sherief Morsy '14, Brittany Stern '14, Michael Williams '93, Bin Na Yi '16, Yasmin Sinclair '14, and Hal Budnick '12



Broadway Producers Give a Behind-the-Scenes Look at "Kinky Boots"



ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ENJOYED A SPECIAL NIGHT on Broadway in June. The evening began with a reception a few blocks from the theater where Ron Fierstein '78 and Dorsey Regal '78, co-producers of the Tony award-winning musical *Kinky Boots*, spoke. The husband-and-wife team talked about their professional backgrounds, the process of bringing the show to Broadway, and what it was like to collaborate with Harvey Fierstein (Ron's brother) and Cyndi Lauper. After the show at the Hirschfeld Theatre, guests enjoyed a private discussion with members of the cast and crew. ■



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Ron Fierstein '78, Jacqueline Doyle '93 and Dorsey Regal '78, Keith Kleinick '89 with guest

Recent Graduate Council Helps Job Seekers

THE RECENT GRADUATE COUNCIL hosted a networking event for students and graduates in partnership with the Office of Career and Professional Development and the Office of Alumni Relations. The event featured a panel discussion focused on job search and interview strategies, as well as best practices for a successful career. Members of the Recent Graduate Council shared their advice and war stories from their careers.

L-R: Julie Adler '12, Christine Rodriguez '10, and Kevin Zuzolo '08



Class Notes

1954 William C. Thompson, Sr., a former New York state senator and justice of the NYS Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Second Department, was honored for helping to launch the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) at an event in April 2015. The PLC helps college and high school students who are elected members of their respective student governments obtain their educational and career goals by providing them with mentors and internships. Thompson is currently counsel to Ross & Hill.

1963 Ronald J. Schwartz, who maintains his own elder law and estate planning practice in Bellerose, NY, was honored by the Florida bar for “50 years of dedication to the practice of law” at its annual convention in Boca Raton in June 2015.

1965 Paul H. Tocker recently completed a memoir about his experiences in Schenectady, NY, practicing law as the deputy corporate counsel and then assistant county attorney. He also writes about his work in politics. Tocker, who lives in Delray Beach, FL, is the president of the Republican Club of Kings Point and a member of the Palm Beach County Republican Executive Committee.

1966 Bernard Nash, previously with Dickstein Shapiro, LLP, joined the Washington, D.C., office of Cozen O’Connor as a partner to help launch the firm’s new state attorneys general practice. Nash serves as co-chair of the practice, counseling major private sector clients on a wide range of matters involving state attorneys general and representing states in significant policy disputes.

1967 Harvey B. Besunder, with Bracken Margolin Besunder based in Islandia, NY, recently won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Suffolk County Bar Association. Besunder concentrates his practice in real estate, tax certiorari, condemnation, commercial

litigation, and contested estates. He is a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness and was appointed to the Commission on Statewide Attorney Discipline.

1969 Jeffrey D. Forchelli, founder and managing partner of Uniondale, NY, firm, Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP, was presented with an Outstanding CEO Award by *Long Island Business News* at its annual dinner in May 2015. Forchelli concentrates his practice on complex real estate and land use matters, including litigation and tax certiorari for major real estate developers and national corporations. He is also a member of the Brooklyn Law School’s Board of Trustees.

Michael J. Hughes, vice president and corporate counsel at the Prudential Company of America, was named a 2014 Volunteer of the Year by the Pro Bono Partnership, serving NY, NJ, and CT nonprofits. Hughes was recognized for his assistance with real estate matters, including helping the Essex County Family Justice Center enter into its first lease for New Jersey’s first and only Family Justice Center, which provides services for victims of domestic violence under one roof.

1973 Frank A. Doddato was appointed a district court judge for Nassau County in January 2015. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Doddato maintained his own practice concentrating on criminal matters.

1974 Harriet N. Cohen, founding partner of the matrimonial and family law firm, Cohen Rabin Stine Schumann LLP, co-authored a *NYLJ* article, “N.Y.’s Proposed Maintenance Guidelines: Should the 2015 Proposal Become Law?” (Jul. 27, 2015).

Lawrence I. Feldman, chief executive officer of Subway Development Corporations of Washington, D.C., and South Florida, was elected as vice chair of the Campaign of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. In this role, Feldman leads volunteers to raise money

for the local community, Israel, and 70 other countries.

1976 Sherwin Belkin, a founding partner of the NY real estate firm, Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, was featured in an article in the *The Real Deal* (Aug. 1, 2015). Belkin focuses his practice on landlord and tenant disputes and real estate administrative proceedings. He is a member of the Landlord and Tenant Committee of the NYS Bar Association and its Special Task Force on Rent Administration and is a member of the Administrative Law Section of the American Bar Association.

Stephen J. Silverberg, who maintains his own estate planning firm in Roslyn Heights, NY, was named to the list of *2016 Best Lawyers in America* in the practice area of elder law. Silverberg concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning, estate administration, asset preservation planning, and elder law. Previously, he served as president of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

1977 Matthew J. D’Emic, a Kings County NYS Supreme Court Justice, received a 2015 20/20 Vision Award from the American Bar Association Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The award recognizes his “instrumental role in mobilizing the legal profession against domestic and sexual violence. D’Emic was appointed to the bench in 1996 and was assigned to the Brooklyn Domestic Violence Court in 1998, a specialized court handling domestic violence felonies.

Sean F.X. Dugan, a partner in the New York office of Martin Clearwater & Bell LLP practicing in the areas of medical malpractice, general liability, healthcare and insurance law, gave a guest lecture about civility matters in Professor Jodi Balsam’s Civil Externship Clinic Seminar. Joining him were **John Bonina Jr. ’90**, founding partner of the personal injury and malpractice firm, Bonina & Bonina, PC, and Hon. Ariel E. Belen (Ret.), former associate justice of the NYS Supreme Court,

Appellate Division, Second Department. Dugan was also recently recertified as a civil trial advocate by the National Board of Trial Advocacy.

Barry Salzberg, who recently retired as global chief executive officer of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited in May 2015, gave the keynote address at this year's Brooklyn College Baccalaureate Ceremony. Salzberg joined the faculty of Columbia Business School as a Professor of Professional Practice in July 2015.

1978 Carol J. Goldstein was appointed a New York City family court judge and is assigned to the New York County Family Court. Prior to her appointment, Goldstein was a family court attorney referee for more than 17 years. She also served with the Legal Aid Society, primarily in the juvenile rights division, for nearly 20 years.

Vincent F. Pitta, founding and managing partner of Pitta & Giblin LLP, was presented with a Robert M. Morgenthau Award by the Police Athletic League at its 17th Annual Legal Profession Luncheon in March 2015. The award recognizes "outstanding leaders in the legal field." Pitta concentrates his practice in traditional labor and management relations in both the private and public sectors.

Benjamin Weinstock, a partner at the Uniondale, NY, firm of Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C., and co-chair of the firm's real estate department, was elected mayor of the village of Cedarhurst in March 2015 for a four-year term. He is the immediate past chair of the real property law section of the New York State Bar Association and he teaches a course in advanced real estate transactions at the Law School.

1980 Maria Logus, a lawyer for the NYS Unified Court System, was installed as the president of the National Philoptochos Society, the women's philanthropic society of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. She joined the society at a young age and has held several positions in the organization.

1981 Anthony M. Miele, a director in the Manhattan office of the specialty and standard commercial lines insurance firm, Crum & Forster, completed the doctoral

program in mathematics education at Columbia University. Miele previously held legal positions with Royal Insurance, AIG, and Zurich North America.

1982 John F. Loughrey was promoted to senior litigation counsel in the Monmouth County prosecutor's office. He joined the office in 1994 and has served in a number of positions, most recently as director of the financial crimes and public corruption bureau and head of the computer crimes unit.

Susan E. Pashman published a second novel, *Upper West Side Story* (Harvard Square Editions, 2015). Harvard Square was founded by Harvard University to publish fiction "with a social conscience." The novel explores racial politics and friendships between people of different races. Pashman is also a professor of philosophy at Boston Architectural College.

1983 David Edelberg, previously with the law firm of Nowell Amoroso Klein Bierman, joined the Hackensack, NJ, office of Sokol Behot as a partner. He focuses his practice in the areas of bankruptcy law, insolvency law, and commercial litigation.

1984 Linda R. Alpert joined the Harrison, NY, firm, Goldberg & Pines, LLP, as of counsel, where she focuses her work in commercial real estate financing. Alpert has also been a certified mediator for more than 20 years with expertise in legal and compliance issues involving the financial services industry.

Rose Ann C. Branda, a partner in the firm, Caruso, Caruso & Branda, PC, was installed as the president of The Columbia Lawyers Association at its 47th Annual Dinner in June 2015. Branda focuses her practice in the areas of family and matrimonial law. She also chairs the New York State Bar Association's committee on attorney professionalism, serves on the State Bar's executive committee for the family law section, and is a former president of the Brooklyn Bar Association.

Jules Martin, a U.S. Navy veteran, was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the Veterans Advisory Board for a three-year term. The board serves as a link between the NYC veteran community and

the mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs. Martin served for 30 years in the New York City Police Department, where he held a number of positions, including chief of the housing bureau. He is a member of the committee of character and fitness for the Appellate Division, First Department, International Chiefs of Police, and served on the civilian complaint review board between 1999 and 2014.

1985 James I. Glasser, a partner in the New Haven and New York offices of Wiggin and Dana and chair of its litigation department, received the Connecticut Law Tribune's 2015 Professional Excellence Award. Glasser represents corporations and individuals in complex civil litigation and in investigations and prosecutions conducted by the Department of Justice, the SEC, FINRA, the State Department, the Commerce Department, State Attorneys General, and other federal and state regulators.

1986 Sherry L. Jetter, formerly with Katten Muchin Rosenman, joined the New York office of Mayer Brown as counsel in its global brand management and Internet practice group. Jetter has previously served as senior vice president and general counsel to HMX Group and vice president of intellectual property and legal affairs at Polo Ralph Lauren Corporation.

Elena Karabatos, founding member and partner of the Garden City, NY, matrimonial boutique law firm Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos, PLLC, was elected president of the New York Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and treasurer of the Nassau County Bar Association.

Joseph Potasnik, executive vice president and former president of the New York Board of Rabbis, the largest interdenominational body of its kind, delivered a keynote address on the topic of "Being Human in the Face of Inhumanity" at St. Francis College's Holocaust Remembrance in April 2015. Rabbi Potasnik is also the rabbi emeritus of Congregation Mount Sinai, where he served as spiritual leader for 42 years.

Bernadette Panzella '81 and Susan Karten '83

Redemption on 91st Street



Susan Karten '83 (LEFT) and Bernadette Panzella '81, with a model of the crane that collapsed

More than 35 years ago, Bernadette Panzella '81 (then a hairstylist) and Susan Karten '83 (then a secretary) both made their way to Brooklyn Law School, taking classes in the evenings after working during the day. Each built a successful law practice of her own, meeting for the first time in 2008 to join forces in a landmark case: They took on the male-dominated construction industry, representing the families of a pair of construction workers tragically killed in a crane collapse on 91st Street in Manhattan. In August 2015, after the longest civil trial in New York's history, the powerhouse duo won more than \$96 million in damages for their clients.

The second civil trial began in September 2014 after several delays and a mistrial, and it continued for more than 119 days. The jury of four women and two men heard testimony from 68 witnesses and saw 600 exhibits. They also heard from five experts on metallurgy, a Buildings Department official who had ordered that the crane be repaired, and the crane's owner before awarding the families of the two victims more than \$48.3 million for economic losses and pain and suffering, and another \$24 million in punitive damages to each family.

The accident occurred because of a defective weld in the crane's turntable. Panzella and Karten argued that the owner should have taken the crane out of service when it was deemed faulty instead of using an unqualified Chinese company to repair the equipment to save money. The attorneys view the awarded damages as a warning to bad actors in the construction industry.

"This jury said you can no longer get away with putting faulty and defective equipment up at construction sites," Karten said.

Both highly successful plaintiff's attorneys in their own right before teaming up to take on the "King of Cranes," Panzella and

Karten started their legal careers in rather unusual ways. Panzella grew up in a traditional Italian-American family on Staten Island. Her father was a postal worker and her mother was a champion for the developmentally disabled, serving on the committee that closed the infamous Willowbrook State Developmental Center in New York. "My brother was developmentally disabled and my mother fought hard for him," she said. Panzella wanted to fight the good fight, too, and told her father she would like to go to college. "My father said, 'No, you're too good looking, you'll get married—it's a waste of time,'" she recalled.

She went to beauty school and began a career as a hairstylist. But she didn't give up on her education. She went to community college in Staten Island while raising her two children. Following her time at Richmond College of Staten Island, she received her master's degree in public administration from Columbia University and then pursued a law degree at Brooklyn Law School, where she was part of the Moot Court Honor Society. She started her own practice following graduation, handling torts and product liability cases, including the \$38 million wrongful death case against Eurocopter and the \$5 million Chrysler Neon steering wheel defect case, in which Professor Richard Farrell was appointed special master.

Meanwhile, Susan Karten, the daughter of a homemaker and a candy store owner turned professor, went to college at night at Marymount and worked during the day as an assistant to the late Hon. Jacob D. Fuchsberg during his time as a practicing torts attorney. When Fuchsberg was appointed to the New York State Court of Appeals, Karten recalled, "He said, 'Susan, you should either continue in politics or go to law school.' I decided on law school."

“This jury said you can no longer get away with putting faulty and defective equipment up at construction sites.”

Karten worked for Fuchsberg as his executive assistant while attending the Law School part time; she was even given permission to attend Albany Law School when he was working in the state capital. "I am forever grateful to Dean Glasser for allowing me to have such a non-orthodox arrangement," said Karten. She joined Fuchsberg as an associate when he retired to private practice in 1983.

In 1987, Karten started a firm—Castro, Weiner & Karten—with two colleagues, and then in 2009 formed Susan M. Karten & Associates. Over her distinguished career, Karten has handled a number of high-profile cases, including that of Dr. Veronica Prego, who developed AIDS when she was stuck with a contaminated needle at Kings County Hospital in Brooklyn. As a result, hospitals

across the country have taken safety measures to prevent needlestick injuries to healthcare workers. Karten also represented victims' families in the arson fire at the Happy Land Social Club in the Bronx in 1990, and the family of Anthony Baez in a wrongful-death suit against the New York City Police Department.

Panzella and Karten might have continued to pursue their separate career paths had a crane on East 91st Street not collapsed into the street on May 30, 2008. Karten was vacationing in Florida with her family when she received a tearful phone call from her receptionist, whose cousin, Ramadan Kurtaj, an Albanian immigrant, had been killed at the construction site. "I literally hung up the phone and flew back to New York and went with her family back to Kosovo with Ramadan's body," said Karten.

Meanwhile, Panzella had been contacted by Donald R. Leo, the father of the deceased crane operator, Donald C. Leo. "I had

represented Don before," she said. "He was a fireman, and a crane operator himself, and when his son died, he called me. He knew that this did not have to happen."

Since 2008, the pair have tirelessly fought for the victims' families against big players—high-profile firms with dozens of associates and endless resources. It took more than \$1.2 million of their own money and years of dedicated work to get the case to verdict. "We sacrificed a lot, but there was so much at stake," said Panzella.

Both women credit the Law School with much of their success, and they remain connected to it. Karten served as president of the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association between 2002 and 2004. Panzella's son, Robert Schacht '99, and nephew, Jeremy Panzella '06, also graduated from the Law School. "BLS prepared us well to win this case," Karten said. "The families will never get their sons back, but there was justice." —*Andrea Strong '94* ■

1987 Jill R. Ginsberg, co-founder of the Fort Lauderdale, FL, firm Ginsberg Shulman, PL, was awarded board certification in the field of elder law by the Florida Bar Association. Ginsberg practices in all areas of estate planning and probate with a primary focus on protecting South Florida's elderly and incapacitated from financial exploitation and abuse.

Jonathan Hudis, previously with Oblon, McClelland, Maier & Neustadt, L.L.P., joined the Washington, D.C., office of Quarles & Brady, LLP, as a partner in its IP practice group. Hudis helps clients establish and grow trademark and copyright portfolios, design and implement procedures to protect their intellectual capital, resolve foreign and domestic disputes, preserve trade secrets, and formulate company-wide IP strategies and policies.

1988 Claudia Werman Connor joined the International Institute of Connecticut (IICONN) as its president and CEO. Connor previously served as director of strategic foundation partnerships at Save the Children. She also worked at the International Rescue Committee, and with UNICEF in Myanmar, and in a variety of other service positions in Africa and Asia. IICONN is a nonprofit dedicated to helping foreign-born persons achieve self-sufficiency offering a range of social services, legal assistance, and job training.

Deborah S. Hanlon-Schron, executive assistant prosecutor in the office of

the Ocean County prosecutor, received the New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement's Leadership Award. Hanlon-Schron joined the Ocean County prosecutor's office in 1993, taking charge of the then-new sex crime and child abuse team. She has held positions of increasing authority at the office, including trial team leader and chief trial attorney.

James P. O'Connor was promoted to partner at the Long Island certified public accounting and business advisory firm, Albrecht, Viggiano, Zureck & Company. O'Connor's practice primarily involves federal and state tax research/planning, tax audits/appeals, trust and estate tax matters, and estate/succession planning.

Gregory M. Torre joined SELLAS Life Sciences Group, a development-stage biopharmaceutical company, as its chief regulatory officer and vice president of operations. Torre has worked for more than 35 years in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries, most recently serving as vice president at Pfizer, Inc., leading regulatory strategy efforts for global established products.

1989 Evan M. Goldberg, a partner at Trolman Glaser & Lichtman, PC, was sworn in as president of the NYS Trial Lawyers Association in June. Goldberg focuses his practice on complicated accident cases including medical malpractice, construction accidents, car accidents, defective machinery and wrongful death. He previously

served as the elected chair of the Trial Lawyers Section of the NYS Bar Association.

1990 Elyse A. Adrian-Johnson, formerly an investment banking attorney, joined the Wayne, NJ, office of Coldwell Banker as a realtor sales associate.

Denise L. Iocco became a partner at Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP, in its private client services and estates & trusts practice groups. She focuses her practice on estate and gift tax planning, charitable giving, and trust and estate administration.

Antonio C. Martinez II, who maintains a general law practice in New York, celebrates his son, Giancarlo, entering Brooklyn Law School as a third-generation legacy. Martinez's late father, Antonio, was a member of the class of 1956.

Lawrence R. Plotkin, previously a partner and head of the real estate practice at Chadbourne & Parke LLP, joined the New York office of Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP as counsel in its corporate department. Plotkin practices in the real estate group, representing clients in commercial real estate transactions.

1991 Mitchell A. Drossman, managing director and the national director of wealth planning strategies group at U.S. Trust, Bank of America Private Wealth Management, was honored by the UJA Federation of New York at its trust & estates group 24th annual awards event

in June 2015. Drossman provides wealth planning and tax matters, in addition to specializing in sophisticated tax, estate, and financial planning on both a national and leadership level.

Jeffrey M. Kimmel, a partner at the Woodbury, NY, office of Salenger, Sack, Kimmel & Bavaro, LLP, and head of its medical malpractice group, was sworn in to serve on the advisory council of the Nassau Suffolk Law Services Committee (NSLS) in June 2015. NSLS is one of the largest providers of free civil legal assistance in New York.

Michael B. Mirotznik, managing attorney of the Long Island-based firm Mirotznik & Associates, LLC, was presented with a United Hospital Fund Distinguished Trustee Award by the Nassau University Medical Center in May 2015 in recognition of his “leadership and extraordinary service to hospitals in New York City’s five boroughs, Long Island, the Hudson Valley, and New Jersey.” He focuses his practice on civil, criminal, and medical malpractice litigation.

David Pratt, a partner at Proskauer Rose LLP, chair of its personal planning department, and head of its Boca Raton office, was elected vice chair of financial resource development of the Jewish Federation of South Palm Beach County. He previously served as vice chair of the federation’s annual campaign. Pratt’s practice is dedicated to the areas of trusts and estates, gift and generation-skipping transfer, fiduciary and individual income taxation, and fiduciary litigation.

Y. David Scharf, a partner in the New York office of Morrison Cohen LLP and chair of its real estate loan work-outs, restructurings, and foreclosures group, was elected vice president of the board of directors of the U.S. Tennis Association Foundation for a three-year term. Scharf represents clients involved in complex real estate disputes and other high-stakes business crises.

1992 Stuart A. Minkowitz, a New Jersey Superior Court judge and presiding judge of the criminal division, was appointed by Chief Justice Stuart Rabner to lead the Morris/Sussex Vicinage. Minkowitz was appointed to the bench by Governor

Jon Corzine in 2008. He previously served as a civil healthcare fraud coordinator for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of New Jersey and an associate at the firm of Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard.

Mark S. Weprin, formerly a New York City council member for District 23, was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo to serve as his deputy secretary of legislative affairs. Weprin was elected to the New York City Council in 2009, and most recently served as chair of the zoning and franchises committee. He also served as chair of the Queens council delegation. He was previously a member of the New York State Assembly for 15 years.

1993 Michelle Kantor Allen was appointed an administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration, presiding in Milwaukee, WI, effective June 2015. Allen previously served as an attorney with the firms of Cherry, Edson & Kelly in Carle Place, NY, and Rivkin Radler LLP in Uniondale, NY, where she specialized in insurance defense.

Judith D. Grimaldi, a named partner of Grimaldi & Yeung LLP, and **Joanne S. Seminara ’85**, of counsel at the firm, co-wrote *5@55: The Five Essential Legal Documents You Need by Age 55* (Quill Driver Books, 2015). Grimaldi, a certified elder law attorney, has special expertise on planning for the pre- and post-retirement years, with a particular focus on family caregivers and home care. She is also a member of the adjunct faculty at Brooklyn Law School, where she teaches elder law. Seminara practices in the areas of elder law, including estate and trust planning, estate tax and Medicaid planning, and special needs planning.

Scott B. Howard, previously a partner at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, practicing patent litigation, was appointed an administrative patent judge at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, effective August 2015.

1995 Amy E. Altshuler, a partner in the Phoenix, AZ, office of Lewis Roca Rothgerber, was named practice group leader of its business transactions group. Altshuler practices in the areas of real

estate leasing, land acquisition, and land development. She also advises on related corporate and entity issues including the formation of joint ventures, partnerships, corporations, and limited liability companies.

Steven G. Sanders was promoted to deputy chief of the appeals division for the U.S. Attorney’s Office, District of New Jersey. Sanders has been with the U.S. Attorney Office’s Appeals Division in Newark, NJ, since 2007. Before joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office, he was a partner at the firm of Arseneault, Fasset & Mariano.

Benjamin J. Stone became a partner in the Seattle, WA, office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP. He represents employers against claims of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation in the workplace.

1996 Gregory Adelstein, president and cofounder of Montreal-based iGotcha Media, was named the first “Entrepreneur-in-Residence” at the John Molson School of Business at Concordia University in Montreal. The role includes participating in research, guiding student projects, guest lecturing, and mentoring students. After working with several technology startups, Adelstein cofounded iGotcha in 2005. The company develops digital signage solutions and content, including video walls and wayfinding kiosks.

Maureen A. Coleman was appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo as general counsel for the Environmental Facilities Corporation. The corporation provides low-cost capital and expert technical assistance for environmental projects in New York. Coleman previously served as assistant counsel to the governor, focusing on energy and environment. She also served at the Department of Environmental Conservation for 13 years.

Laurie Mintzer Edberg is serving as special assistant to Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD), the senior ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Edberg previously served as senior legislative aide to the Montgomery County Council.

1998 Charles N. Curlett, Jr., founding member and managing partner of the firm,

Jason Schoenberg '00 and Keith Gralitzer '02

Building Momentum in Recruiting

In a tough job market, where it matters not only *what* you know but also *who* you know, Jason Schoenberg '00 and Keith Gralitzer '02, co-founders of Momentum Search Group, are two good people to know. In less than five years, these entrepreneurial attorneys have built a thriving New York-based legal recruiting agency with bicoastal offices and more than 20 employees, including four Brooklyn Law School graduates.

"When we worked for other people, we dreamed about how we'd do things differently," Schoenberg said. "Now we do it our way."

After graduating from the Law School, where he had been managing editor of the *Journal of Law and Policy*, Schoenberg worked as a litigator for more than six years, focusing on complex commercial litigation. He was successful, but not entirely fulfilled by the job. He wanted to spend less time doing paperwork and more time working directly with clients. While talking with a recruiter, he realized that it was time to change course. He soon left the practice of law to become a legal recruiter himself and joined a boutique search firm.

There he met Gralitzer, who had left the practice of law and followed a similar path into recruiting a year earlier. "I was tired of sitting at a desk; I liked thinking on my feet and networking with people," he said. He already had experience in sales and business from working at an advertising agency after completing his bachelor's degree at the University of Michigan.

Schoenberg and Gralitzer became fast friends and started talking about the idea of one day opening their own shop. But first, they had to learn the ropes, make connections, and establish themselves with clients. In 2007, they moved on to one of the most well-known and largest executive recruitment agencies in New York City and established a legal division within the company. Together, they grew an extremely successful team—despite the financial recession happening at the same time. "It was a tough period. But we hunkered down, made placements where we could, and focused on cultivating relationships and establishing our own names in the legal recruiting industry," Gralitzer said. "Then it was time to take a risk."

They launched Momentum Search Group in January 2011. "We believed we would make it work," Gralitzer said, "because we knew what we were doing—how to recruit, work with our candidates and clients, make placements, and build something from nothing. We knew it would take time before we saw real success, but that was part of the process to get there."

"It was exhilarating," Schoenberg said. "When we first started, it was just the two of us at a desk in a small room. But our clients were ready to join us, and we hit the ground running. We knew our



Jason Schoenberg '00 (LEFT) and Keith Gralitzer '02

market and how lawyers thought. We understood their risk-averse tendencies and how to best advance their careers."

"Sometimes making matches feels like searching for a needle in a haystack," Gralitzer said. "You've got to get the right personality, the right experience, the right person at the right time. If it doesn't happen, you don't make the placement. But it's completely rewarding when you make the connections and change someone's career trajectory for the better."

The partners both credit Brooklyn Law School with much of their success and encourage their fellow alumni to contact them to discuss their own careers. While they typically work with experienced attorneys, they like to start establishing relationships with people as early as possible.

"Even if we might not be able to place a person immediately," Schoenberg said, "we can help them think about where they're headed, where they want to be, and what they need to do for that to happen. Our clients—whether they're law firms, entertainment companies, or hedge funds—come to us because we understand what they are looking for and what types of backgrounds and personalities will add value to their companies."

Now that the firm has established its brand and is flourishing in both New York and California, the founders hope to expand to more cities in the near future. They already have a successful relocation business that has led to placements in most major U.S. cities and legal markets.

"Our placements can be seen throughout the legal industry, from partners and practice groups at large companies to boutique firms we helped launch and grow," Gralitzer said. "The ability we have to cultivate strong relationships with people, lead them in a new direction, and make a lasting positive impact on their lives—that's when our work really means something." —Jen Swetsoff ■

“It's completely rewarding when you change someone's career trajectory for the better.”

Janell Hafner '02 and Libby Bakalar '05

Blazing a Legal Trail in Alaska



Janell Hafner '02 (LEFT) and Libby Bakalar '05

Most people go to Alaska to explore Denali National Park, hike the Chugach Mountains, or dogsled across the epic Matanuska Glacier. But Janell Hafner '02 and Libby Bakalar '05 left the Lower 48 for a different reason: the law. Both graduates have established significant legal careers in Juneau, the state's capital, as assistant attorneys general at the Alaska Department of Law, and they're eager to help fellow graduates embark on similar professional journeys.

Hafner, who works in the appeals group, has a caseload that includes a range of civil appeals before the Alaska Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit on behalf of the state: child protection, torts, and issues involving the constitutionality of a state statute, along with an array of appeals representing state bodies and agencies such as the Department of Education, the Alaska Public Offices Commission, and the Local Boundary Commission. This past year, she co-drafted an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in a case that involved the National Park Service regulation of state-owned, native-owned, and privately owned lands. Hafner also serves as the amicus coordinator for the entire Department of Law. "Though it must be nice to specialize and gain confidence in one area, I love the diversity of my job," she said. "It feels challenging—and rewarding—to frequently be working on something fresh, diving into new subject areas."

Hafner's thirst for knowledge and adventure has been integral to her professional path. After receiving her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Connecticut, she enrolled in Brooklyn Law School's challenging joint-degree program; in 2002, she graduated with her J.D. and a master's degree in political science from Brooklyn College. She kept her plate full as a law student, working as a research assistant to Professors Maryellen Fullerton and Elizabeth Schneider and serving as an Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellow at Equality Now, an international

women's human rights organization in Kenya and Uganda, where she helped lobby for a women's land ownership rights bill.

Hafner moved to Ketchikan, Alaska, following graduation for a clerkship with State Court Trial Judge Trevor Stephens. She soon fell in love with the state—and her now partner, Christopher Poag. They put down roots in Juneau, where Hafner worked in private practice before moving to the State Division of Juvenile Justice. She then took a clerkship for State Supreme Court Justice Walter "Bud" Carpeneti, before joining the Department of Law in 2006.

Like Hafner, Libby Bakalar was also a Public Interest Law Fellow. The fellowship brought her to Bethel, Alaska, a rural community west of Anchorage, where she did civil legal aid work during her first summer of law school.

"In Alaska, the legal community is small," Bakalar said, "and the opportunities are big. If you're smart and you work hard, you're going to get the chance to make a significant impact."

Bakalar graduated from Brown University with a bachelor's degree in English, and came to the Law School after two years of work with the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB), where she investigated police misconduct. "My work at the CCRB inspired me to go to law school," she said. "I became interested in Fourth Amendment issues and hoped to work for a government agency." In addition to her Sparer fellowship, she was the executive notes and comments editor at the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*. After graduating, she returned to Alaska to clerk for Judge Beverly Cutler, the first woman named to the Alaska State Superior Court.

A year later, in 2006, Bakalar joined the Department of Law as an assistant attorney general. She spent five years working in health and social services, and then in 2011 began representing the state—litigating, drafting testimony to the Legislature, and assisting and advising on the drafting of legislation. Bakalar already has argued a Ninth Circuit appeal, argued a State Supreme Court appeal, and conducted a two-week federal bench trial. "These sorts of opportunities don't happen elsewhere," she said.

Hafner and Bakalar clearly love what they do, particularly because of Juneau's tightknit legal community. "The manner in which people work together is really great," Hafner said. "There's a high level of respect and collegiality among the bar, the bench, and attorneys."

They have also found a work-life balance in Alaska that enables them to have busy, successful legal careers and full family lives with young children. "No one feels guilty skiing, running marathons, or spending time with family," said Hafner. "It's an environment that nurtures your personal time in a way that other states and communities don't. That's a truth that you'll hear from almost everyone here."

Neither has plans to leave Alaska anytime soon. Although it is a long way from Brooklyn, Hafner and Bakalar encourage current students to apply for an internship with the Alaska Department of Law. "It's a great opportunity to get a sense of what Alaska is like," said Bakalar. —Andrea Strong '94 ■

Levin & Curlett LLC, was elected chair of the criminal law section of the Federal Bar Association. Curlett practices in the areas of white collar litigation, general criminal defense, and whistleblower litigation.

Peter R. Piazza, previously deputy chief legal officer, senior vice president, and general counsel at the Nielson Company, joined MediaMath as its general counsel. The company is the creator of the TerminalOne market operating system for digital marketers. Piazza oversees all legal matters and supports the company's commercial operations.

Jennifer S. Rosenkrantz, a partner of the Garden City, NY, matrimonial boutique law firm, Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos, PLLC, was elected as a director of the Nassau County Bar Association. Rosenkrantz is also the second vice chair of the matrimonial law committee of the Nassau County Bar Association and the co-editor of its monthly publication, *Recent Decisions in Matrimonial Law*.

1999 Matthew J. Bromberg, formerly in-house counsel at the Bank of New York Mellon, joined the New York office of Reed Smith LLP as a partner in its financial industry group. His practice focuses on legal and regulatory matters relevant to investment funds and investment advisers.

2000 Lisa A. Chiarini, previously with Hughes Hubbard & Reed LLP, joined the New York office of Fish & Richardson as a partner in its intellectual property litigation group. She focuses her practice on intellectual property disputes, including patent litigation at the International Trade Commission and International Chamber of Commerce arbitrations.

Meredith R. Miller, founder of legal advisory and consultancy firm, Miller Law, PLLC, was elected president of LeGal, the LGBT Bar Association of Greater New York, for a two-year term that began in January 2015. Miller also serves as an associate professor of law and director of Solo & Small Practice Initiatives at Touro Law Center, where she teaches a variety of classes related to business law.

Jeffrey L. Schulman, formerly a partner and practice group leader in the New York office of Dickstein Shapiro

LLP, opened the Law Offices of Jeffrey L. Schulman, P.C., in April 2015. Schulman focuses his practice on civil and criminal litigation, arbitration and mediation for individuals and businesses.

2001 Joel A. Glaser became a member of the personal injury law firm, Trolman, Glaser & Lichtman, P.C. Glaser manages the firm's medical malpractice department and concentrates his practice on surgical errors, delay and/or failure in diagnosis and birth trauma. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association.

Frank Lieto joined the Norwalk, CT, firm, Goldman Gruder & Woods, LLC, as a partner and chair of its criminal law and family law groups. Lieto previously worked for 12 years at the law firm he cofounded, Lieto & Greenberg LLP. He also serves as the chairman of the Monroe Town Council and has held several other civic appointments, including membership on the Council's legislative and administrative committee, the Monroe Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Economic Development Commission.

Heather Miller (Siegel), senior counsel in the Boca Raton office of Broad and Cassel, was named a finalist in the *South Florida Business and Wealth's* 2015 Up and Comer Awards. Miller is a member of the firm's health law practice group, where she focuses on complex healthcare transactions on behalf of physicians and hospitals, regarding regulatory compliance and federal and state fraud and abuse issues.

2002 Jennifer A. Broomfield joined Florida State University as its Title IX director. Broomfield is FSU's first full-time employee to concentrate solely on coordinating and directing the university's Title IX efforts. Her responsibilities include developing, implementing, and monitoring policies, procedures, and practices to ensure compliance with federal and state law. She was previously with the Department of Veterans Affairs, serving as manager of the national domestic violence/intimate partner violence assistant program.

Jeffrey W. Kleiner, formerly with LePatner & Associates, joined Olshan

Frome Wolosky LLP, as counsel in the firm's real estate law practice. Kleiner's practice is focused on construction and real estate-related commercial transactional matters, corporate compliance, and advisory services and commercial real estate litigation.

2003 Anta Cissé-Green, senior counsel in the tax and private client services practice at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, was selected by the *New York Law Journal* as one of its six 2015 "Lawyers Who Lead by Example" in the area of pro bono work. Cissé-Green, who provides estate planning services to low-income New Yorkers, represents minors in custody proceedings, and helps nonprofits develop planned giving strategies, was recognized for her "outstanding record of providing crucial legal services to indigent New Yorkers."

Winston M. Paes was appointed chief of the business and securities fraud section of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District, New York. Paes joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 2008 and has held positions of increasing authority, most recently serving as deputy chief of the business and securities fraud section. Prior to joining the office, he served as a litigation associate at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.

Melissa L. Rappaport (Lenowitz) launched a per diem practice in Westchester County, NY. Rappaport previously ran the Kings County division of the law offices of Ronald A. Lenowitz, where she handled cases and managed employees and all other office matters.

Camille J. Varlack was appointed by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo as special counsel to the superintendent for ethics, risk, and compliance for the department of financial services. Varlack previously served as a principal law clerk for the NYS Supreme Court and also as assistant vice president and counsel at AXA Financial, Inc.

William Wang, a litigation partner at Lee Anav Chung White & Kim LLP, was elected president of the Asian American Bar Association of New York in April 2015. Wang's primary practice areas are commercial litigation, banking and financial services, and intellectual property

litigation. He has served AABANY in several capacities including vice president, finance and development, membership secretary, recording secretary.

2004 Christopher A. Gorman became a partner of the Uniondale, NY, firm, Westerman Ball Ederer Miller & Sharfstein, LLP, in its litigation department. He concentrates his practice on commercial litigation and business disputes.

Nicholas Melissinos was appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo as special counsel to the commissioner for ethics, risk, and compliance at the division of human rights. Melissinos was also recognized as a 2015 "Best LGBT Lawyer Under 40" by the LGBT Bar Association. He previously served as an assistant corporation counsel at the New York City Law Department's special federal litigation division and worked at private law firms.

Cassandra M. Porter, counsel in the Roseland, NJ, office of Lowenstein Sandler LLP, was named a member of the lawyers advisory committee for the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey. Porter's practice focuses on restructuring and debtor-creditor law issues and related litigation. She also assists corporations and nonprofits navigate state and federal regulations concerning the treatment of personal information.

Kate D. Spinelli became a member of Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn, & Dial in its Miami, FL, office. She focuses her practice on complex civil defense litigation.

2005 Lawrence S. Elbaum, previously with Proskauer Rose LLP, joined the New York office of Vinson & Elkins LLP as counsel in its commercial and business litigation practice. Elbaum focuses his practice on commercial litigation with an emphasis on securities and financial services litigation/regulation, restrictive covenant and trade secret matters, and bankruptcy-related proceedings.

Samantha V. Ettari was named counsel of the electronic discovery group at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, an in-house resource comprised of litigation technology professionals who evaluate and deploy an evolving set of technological tools. Ettari, who is also a member

of the firm's cybersecurity, privacy, and data practice group, focuses her practice on complex commercial litigation, with an emphasis on contract disputes, bankruptcy litigation, and regulatory defense work. She is also co-editor of the *Electronic Discovery Update*, which reports on legal developments in the area.

Deborah B. Koplovitz became a partner at Rosen Livingston & Cholst LLP. She concentrates her practice on commercial litigation, real estate, and legal malpractice defense.

Errol T. Louis, the political anchor of NY1 News, was the commencement speaker at Baruch College's 2015 commencement exercises in June 2015. Louis hosts "Inside City Hall," a nightly prime-time show about New York City politics. He is also a CNN contributor, providing on-air commentary on key events from presidential primaries to election night, and he frequently writes for CNN.com.

2006 Joseph A. Castelluccio, previously with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, joined the New York office of Mayer Brown LLP as counsel in its corporate & securities practice. He focuses his practice in the areas of mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, equity financings, and joint ventures involving public and private companies, investment managers, private equity firms, and investment banks worldwide.

Scott B. Selinger became a partner in the New York office of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in its finance group and private equity group. Selinger focuses his practice on complex acquisition and leveraged finance transactions. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association.

Jodi R. Siegel-Stein, previously counsel in the land use & zoning group at Herrick, Feinstein, joined real estate company Lightstone Group as vice president, working in acquisition and development.

Daniel K. Wiig, in-house counsel to the Municipal Credit Union, was appointed editor of *NY Litigator*, a publication of the New York State Bar Association focusing on issues affecting commercial and federal litigation in New York. Wiig was also awarded the New York County Lawyers' Association Young Lawyers' Section 2015

Appreciation Award in April 2015 in recognition of his leadership.

2007 Clara J. Altman joined the Federal Judicial Center (FJC) as director of its history office, which is charged with promoting the preservation of the history of the judicial branch. Altman oversees the work of the historians at the FJC and plans and implements projects to promote the judicial branch. She was previously a visiting assistant professor at Amherst College's Department of Law, Jurisprudence, and Social Thought.

Matthew A. Scoville became a partner in the New York office of Hunton & Williams LLP in the firm's capital finance and real estate team. Scoville focuses his practice in the areas of construction and real estate finance, acquisitions and dispositions, real estate development, leasing, and loan workouts and restructurings.

Thomas Vance, an attorney in the Milwaukee, WI, office of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C., was named leader of the firm's tax exempt organizations team. Vance advises clients on tax matters.

2008 Melissa Rivero, a merchandizer at mobile commerce startup, Boxed Wholesale, welcomed her second son, Gabriel, in April 2015. Rivero was also named a 2015 NYC emerging writers fellow at the Center for Fiction in May 2015 and is currently working on a novel.

Cindy S. Shu joined the New York office of Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. as an associate in the firm's intellectual property group. Shu prepares and prosecutes U.S. and foreign patent applications in technologies including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, chemical, biomedical, and mechanical inventions.

2009 Matthew R. Brush, previously an associate at Weil Gotshal & Manges, LLP, joined DST Global, a growth equity fund, as assistant general counsel.

Ashley E. Fisher (Kelly), previously an associate in the New York office of Debevoise Plimpton LLP, joined Visa Inc. as counsel for global brand and sponsorships. Fisher is located in Visa's headquarters in Foster City, CA.

Mahsa Saeidi joined KTNV-TV, Channel 13 Action News in Las Vegas, NV, as a general assignment reporter with a focus on the courts, crime, and the law. Saeidi was previously a reporter for NY1, a 24-hour cable news channel.

2010 Jenna M. Adams joined the New York City Department of Transportation as its director of legislative affairs, where she is responsible for drafting legislation to enhance the city's transportation infrastructure, promote bicycle use, and make the streets safer, and for formulating strategies to advance the agency's priorities in City Council and the State Legislature. Adams previously served as director of intergovernmental affairs at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Valerie Durollari Biberaj joined the Kate Spade & Company Foundation as the executive director and Kate Spade & Company as the director of philanthropic programming. She is responsible for grantmaking and programming promoting women's empowerment in underserved communities in NYC. She previously served as director of development at the Lunchbox Fund, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a daily meal for orphaned and vulnerable school children in township and rural areas of South Africa.

2011 Kristin M. Gallagher, previously an associate at Kraus & Zuchlewski LLP, joined the Community Service Society of New York as an associate supervising attorney in its community health advocates division. The Society works to address the root causes of economic disparity through research, advocacy, litigation, and innovative program models.

Mark D. Jackson joined Two Trees Management Co. as real estate counsel in its commercial division. Jackson previously served as assistant general counsel to the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, where he oversaw public and private development matters including tax credit financing, re-zoning applications, negotiations on ground leases and long-term space leases, power purchase agreements, construction contracting, and real estate financial modeling.

Irene Tan, an associate counsel at AIG Property Casualty, was elected membership secretary of the Asian American Bar Association of New York, and began her term in April 2015. Tan has been a member of AABANY since 2008 and previously served as co-chair of the student outreach and young lawyers committees.

Bradley M. Wanner, previously an assistant corporation counsel at the New York City Law Department, joined the New York office of Harris Beach PLLC as an associate in its mass torts and industry-wide litigation practice. Wanner represents a range of clients in mass tort, class action, products liability, and commercial litigation.

Jennvine Wong, a staff attorney in the parole revocation defense unit at the Legal Aid Society, served as a host-committee co-chair for the Urban Justice Center's Sex Worker's Project Fundraiser in June. Wong previously served as a fellow at the organization through the Law School's post graduate fellowship program, where she filed motions to vacate convictions for sex-trafficking survivors.

2012 Julie M. Adler, formerly an associate at Bortstein Legal Group, joined Dentsu Aegis Network, a global network of media agencies, as legal counsel. Adler is responsible for advising DAN's agencies in North and South America in all aspects of the services they provide to worldwide brands, including marketing analytics, media planning and buying, digital creative advertising execution, and other media services.

Jared D. Newman, previously with Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP, joined Chaves & Perlowitz LLP as an associate in its commercial real estate finance department. Newman represents financial institutions in a wide variety of secured financing transactions, including real estate acquisition, construction, permanent, mezzanine, and asset-based loans.

Alexander Rabinowitz previously with Trenk, DiPasquale, Della Fera & Sodono P.C., joined the Livingston, NJ, firm of Braff, Harris, Sukoneck & Maloof as an associate. He focuses his practice in the area of insurance defense litigation.

Jeremi Roux joined Hamlin Capital Management, LLC as its general counsel

and chief compliance officer. He was previously the chief compliance officer of Satovsky Asset Management, LLC.

David A. Shapiro joined the Baltimore City Juvenile Court Division of the Maryland Office of the Public Defender. He previously served as the campaign manager for the Campaign Against Indiscriminate Juvenile Shackling in Washington, D.C.

2013 Rebecca A. Bernstein (Ford), a former blog editor for the Oxford University Press (OUPblog) from 2006–10, was featured in the blog's tenth anniversary celebration series reflecting on former editors' experiences. Bernstein is an associate at Fridman Law Group, PLLC, a New York boutique law firm focused on startups and creative agencies.

Margaret I. Corchado, previously a senior associate at KPMG, LLP, became a law clerk to the Honorable Terry Jane Ruderman of the NYS Court of Claims in Westchester County.

Jaclyn M. DeMais, formerly a law clerk to the Honorable Mary Gibbons Whipple of the Superior Court of New Jersey, joined the New Jersey office of Greenberg Traurig.

Melissa M. Salsone joined the Nassau County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney.

Chase J. Sandler, previously with Brown & Altman LLP, joined the Newark, NJ, office of McCarter & English, LLP as an associate in the firm's real estate transactional group. Sandler advises corporations, financial institutions, developers, property owners, tenants, and nonprofit institutions across a range of real estate matters and complex transactions.

2014 Michael R. Jones joined the White Plains, NY, office of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott LLP as an associate. Jones focuses his practice on intellectual property matters, including patent prosecution and litigation.

Summer M. McKee, previously a law clerk to the Honorable Elizabeth Stong of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District, New York, joined the New York office of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP as an associate on its restructuring team. ■

Anita Subotnick



ANITA SUBOTNICK, wife of Stuart Subotnick '68, president and CEO of Metromedia Company and chairman of the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees, died on June 18. Both Anita and Stuart have been longtime supporters of the Law School. Their generosity has had a profound effect upon the school and generations of students.

In 1988, they established the Stuart and Anita Subotnick Foundation Scholarship, which is awarded to a student of the evening division who provides support for dependent children and who demonstrates both scholastic merit and financial need. They also played a major role in funding the addition to the main Law School building, which was completed in 1994.

The Anita and Stuart Conference Center on the 10th and 11th floors is named in their honor and serves as the venue for hundreds of academic programs and social events for students, faculty, alumni, and the community. They recently created a named endowed professorship, the Anita and Stuart Subotnick Professor of Law, which is held by Professor Anita Bernstein.

Professor Joseph Crea '47, became friendly with Stuart and Anita while Stuart was his student and they have remained close friends ever since. "I had a very special rapport with Anita throughout the years," he said. "She will be sincerely missed by me, and by the many other people whose lives she touched."

Anita and Stuart had a long love affair. After meeting in 1959 at their Brooklyn high school, they became nearly inseparable and remained that way for the 52 years of their marriage. In addition to their support of the Law School, they also worked tirelessly to benefit society through the many contributions they made to charitable organizations, often anonymously, over the years.

Anita was also very passionate about thoroughbred horses. She and Stuart owned a 330-acre farm in Millbrook, N.Y., where more than a hundred horses have been trained for racing—some winning significant purses. Anita's father, Irving, had introduced her to horse racing as a child and she grew to love the sport as an adult.

In addition to her husband, Stuart, Anita is survived by her children Bryan, a member of the class of 1991, and Paula, and her four grandchildren. ■

Elizabeth M. Fink '73

ELIZABETH M. FINK '73, an outspoken lawyer who dedicated her law career to fighting for social justice, died on Sept. 22 at age 70. For nearly three decades, she worked tirelessly as a civil rights attorney, most notably winning a \$12 million settlement for inmates involved in the 1971 riot at Attica Correctional Facility, a maximum-state prison in upstate New York.

Fink graduated from Reed College in Portland, Ore., in 1967 and from Brooklyn Law School in 1973. She remained a Brooklyn resident. Just a month after she had been admitted to the bar, she went to work for the Attica Brothers Legal Defense Committee. She helped draft a civil suit against the New York state authorities over the force used to retake control of the prison from inmates. The

riot was incited by overcrowding and other abuses; after a five-day siege, 10 corrections officers and civilians and 33 prisoners were dead.

The case crawled through the courts for more than 27 years, but Fink stuck with it. In 2000, as the lead counsel in the deferral civil rights case, she won an \$8 million settlement from the state, plus \$4 million in legal fees. The Attica lawsuit was chronicled in "Ghosts of Attica," a Court TV documentary broadcast in 2001.

Fink worked on other prominent civil rights cases and represented criminal defendants, including difficult cases other lawyers avoided, said former colleague Sarah Kunstler, daughter of William Kunstler. "She believed standing between a client and the crushing weight

of government power was a political act," Kunstler told *The New York Times*.

Fink was part of a team of lawyers who in 1990 won the release of former Black Panther Party leader Dhoruba Bin Wahad on the grounds that the prosecution had withheld evidence in the 1971 drive-by shooting of two New York police officers. She also helped represent the radical lawyer Lynne F. Stewart, who in 2006 was sentenced to prison for helping a convicted terrorist client, Sheik Omar Abdel Rahman.

Fink told the *New York Daily News* in 2000: "I don't make much money at all. But I've had a helluva time. There is no satisfaction like winning."

She is survived by her brother, the photographer Larry Fink. ■

Leonard Silverman '54

LEONARD SILVERMAN '54, a former Court of Claims judge who served five terms in the New York State Assembly and who was known for finding common ground both in Albany and on the bench, died on Sept. 7 at the age of 84.

Born in Brooklyn, Silverman completed his undergraduate studies at New York University and graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1954. From 1969 through 1977, he represented the 48th District in the New York State Assembly, serving as chairman of the Standing Committee on Insurance, which helped to pass legislation to protect patients' rights to sue, toughened discipline for negligent doctors, and lowered coverage costs for medical insurance. In addition, he sponsored legislation to prevent elections from being held on holy days and to protect minors from being subjected to religious conversions against their will.

In 1977, Governor Hugh Carey appointed Silverman to the Court of Claims, where he served until 2000 when he accepted a position as a judicial hearing officer for the Brooklyn Supreme Court. He retired in 2004.

Frank Aquila '83, vice chairman of the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees and partner at Sullivan & Cromwell, who worked for Silverman's campaigns as a teenager and college student at Columbia University, said Silverman had a reputation as a "quintessential politician" who could bring people together. He could connect with a diverse array of his constituents in Borough Park and in Albany he could work with Republicans and with different factions of his own party. Aquila noted that Silverman influenced his own decision to become an attorney and he continued to work for him in his chambers while he was a student at the Law School.

Silverman is survived by his sons Adam (class of 2001), Joshua (class of 2000), and David, and three grandchildren. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: The alumni relations office receives information for the "Class Notes" and "In Memoriam" sections from various sources. All information is subject to editorial revision. *Brooklyn Law Notes* is produced a few months in advance of publication, and any information received after production has begun is included in the next issue.

Please send information for future issues to communications@brooklaw.edu, or visit brooklaw.edu/classnotes to submit a class note online.

1939

Raymond Kaufman

June 27, 2015

1948

Miriam M. Finkelstein

August 3, 2015

Jack N. Albert

July 25, 2015

1950

Herbert A. Simon

June 1, 2015

1951

Gabriel Kohn

June 3, 2015

Irving Hamada

March 13, 2015

1952

Brian J. Kandell

July 10, 2015

Harvey Rosenberg

July 5, 2015

1953

Leonard Feinberg

September 10, 2015

Hon. Edwin Kassoff

June 10, 2015

1954

Thomas J. Culhane

September 2, 2015

Paul Fink

March 21, 2015

Seymour Serebnick

July 13, 2015

Frederick C. Hinchcliff

March 17, 2015

1955

Nicholas C. Vogel

August 1, 2015

Paul Nortman

July 4, 2015

1956

Allan A. Crystal

April 7, 2015

1957

David Inz

March 30, 2015

1959

Frank Ronga

Februaru 12, 2015

1962

Louis Nahmias

August 10, 2015

1965

Elliott M. Rosenbaum

June 23, 2015

1977

Allen D. Werter

April 10, 2015

1981

Therese M. Hough

July 24, 2015

1986

Brian P. Walsh

July 22, 2015

1988

Joanne C. Devine

April 1, 2015

1989

Michael Quintana

January 27, 2014

1991

Kenneth John Miele

March 16, 2015

1997

David L. Roeber

July 15, 2015



Closing Arguments

By Professor Stacy Caplow

A Safe Harbor for Transgender Immigrants

The Law School's immigration clinic works to expand granting of asylum

» Growing up in a Central Asian republic of the former Soviet Union, Karla (then known as Karl)* didn't identify herself as transgender. She may have felt confused and rebellious at a young age, but she didn't have the knowledge or vocabulary to express her gender dysphoria. Even when she left her native country, she had no idea that her story would eventually become one of the new wave of cases for transgender asylum seekers in the U.S. legal system. Yet, remarkably, that is what has happened over the past six years—thanks to her bravery, the hard work of students and faculty at Brooklyn Law School, and growing societal acceptance of transgender equality in the United States.

In 2009, Karla became our client at the Law School's immigration clinic, the Safe Harbor Project. Although she later described a horrific childhood because of her effeminacy and recalled being punished for wearing girls' clothing, she didn't initially disclose any of that painful, private information. At the time, she presented herself as a man and said she was applying for asylum out of fear of persecution because of her political activities against the totalitarian regime in her home country.

After her case dragged on in Immigration Court for almost two years, her application for asylum was denied. She filed an administrative appeal and waited a year for the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) to act. Denial was affirmed.

In 2012, Karla disclosed her transgender identity and began the process of transitioning from male to female. We believed that she now had another basis for seeking asylum in the United States. We tried to persuade the BIA to reopen her case because LGBTQ individuals were fundamentally unsafe in her native country, a notoriously homophobic dictatorship that ranks among the worst human rights abusers in the world. Evidence showed that being transgender there is seen as a form of gross sexual deviance and remains underground; no organized support groups or transgender rights organizations exist. Any openness about her gender identity would place her in danger of social ostracism, physical harm, and even prison. But our motion was denied again because Karla had not raised these grounds for relief earlier. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed that decision a year later, saying that her claim “[s]hows only the recent expression by him of his unchanged psychological self-perception” and that “[h]e could at any time have assumed a woman's habit and presentation.”

This gross oversimplification ignored the reality of Karla's past—her inexperience, her confusion, and her suffering—and the grave risks she would have faced by identifying as female earlier in her life, including during the 15 months she spent in detention in a U.S. county jail for men. Emerging as a transgender individual is a slow, complex, and often traumatic process that takes a great deal of courage, time, and support, as well as a safe environment.

Over the next two years, Karla continued her emergence as a woman—physically, psychologically, and socially. She has undergone medically monitored hormone therapy. She now has long blond hair, has a female shape, wears makeup and nail polish, and has a boyfriend. She has legally changed her name and the gender marker on her documentation, including her state ID card.

Earlier this year, as Karla was facing a final order of removal, we once again asked the BIA to reopen Karla's case, given her total transformation and identification as a woman, which we presented as an “exceptional circumstance” warranting this rarely granted form of relief. To our amazement, after years of disappointment and frustration, the tide turned. Persuaded by Karla's appearance, her psychological state, her name change, and the incontrovertible evidence of the mistreatment of transgendered persons in her native country, the BIA granted our motion and remanded her case to Immigration Court for a hearing.

“Emerging as a transgender individual is a slow, complex, and often traumatic process.”

This case is an opportunity for the New York Immigration Courts to recognize the plight of transgender individuals and allow them to live in safety, free from the threat of violence or persecution. After years of disappointing setbacks, Karla now has a real chance to prove her eligibility for asylum. But understandably, she still worries that the immigration judge will not grant her application. The path remains uncertain, but hopeful. In September, for example, the Ninth Circuit ordered relief for three transgender women from Mexico, finding that the BIA had conflated gender identity with sexual orientation and erroneously concluded that the passage of same-sex marriage laws in Mexico demonstrated a commitment to protecting the rights of transgender people. In the Fifth Circuit, the government recently consented to remand the case of another transgender Mexican woman.

As attitudes change and adjudicators become more informed, we're hopeful that Karla will receive the protection she deserves. Her win would be a victory for everyone committed to civil rights and to this country's expanding recognition of transgender equality. ■

Stacy Caplow is the associate dean of professional legal education and a professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. In addition, she teaches several criminal law and immigration law courses. She also codirects the Safe Harbor Project, the Law School's immigration clinic, which represented the client featured in this article.

**The client's name has been changed to protect privacy.*



The Legacy Society Makes a Lasting Impact

Alumni who bestow planned gifts on the Law School support future generations of students

For more than 35 years, Alexander Joseph Lapinski '62 gave generously—and frequently—to Brooklyn Law School. In total, he made 54 donations, including annual contributions and a planned gift through his estate. A respected attorney who lived in Queens and practiced law for more than 40 years in New York City, Lapinski built his career with hard work and dedication. He received his bachelor's degree from St. John's University and then served in the U.S. Marine Corps before attending law school. Sadly, he passed away last year, but his life's work and true kindness lives on in students today because of his benevolence to the Law School.

Lapinski's gift made him a member of the Brooklyn Law School Legacy Society. Established in 2003, the Legacy Society honors an extraordinary group of alumni and friends who have made the Law School a beneficiary of a bequest, trust, or other planned gift. The group's support has enabled the Law School to offer more scholarships, advance academic programming, and improve services that enhance the students' experiences in and out of the classroom. "The most rewarding relationship between a graduate and his or her school is a true back-and-forth of mutual support," Director of Development Ursula Vesala said.

Timothy Ulrich '74, general counsel for Transworld Oil Limited, is another Legacy Society member who is passionate about giving back to the Law School. "No matter where I am," Ulrich said, "whether I am working on a difficult transaction in Bermuda, India, South Africa, or somewhere in the United States, I remember something I learned from Professor Joseph Crea or the late Dean and Professor David Trager that steers me toward a solution."

Students today are also benefiting from the generosity of the late Robert A. Levitt '39, who served as chief labor counsel with Western Electric Telephone Company. "My husband was so grateful for the scholarship he received from the Law School and the significant impact it had on his career and life," said Levitt's wife, Shirley. To honor her husband's memory, Shirley Levitt made a bequest in 2011 to endow the Robert A. and Shirley Levitt Memorial Scholarship, which supports a student in need of financial assistance in achieving his or her academic goals. ■

To become a member of the Legacy Society, please contact Ursula Vesala, director of development, at 718-750-7516 or ursula.vesala@brooklaw.edu.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Upcoming Events

Nov. 11 **Center for Law, Language, and Cognition Roundtable**
Lies, Deceit, and BS in Court: What are the Differences and Why do they Matter?

Nov. 13 **AAIDD Legal Clinic Breakfast Roundtable**
The Disability Rights Movement in a Post-Olmstead World: Where Are We Now, Where Are We Going?
Cosponsored by the Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy

Nov. 17 **Symposium**
Protecting Trade Secrets in a World of Cybercrime
Cosponsored by TSI and CUBE

Nov. 19 **Barry L. Zaretsky Roundtable Discussion**
International Harmonization of Bankruptcy and Secured Credit: Security vs. Rescue
Cosponsored by the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation and the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI)

Nov. 20–21 **Young Bankruptcy Scholars' Work-in-Progress Workshop**
Cosponsored by the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation and the ABI

Jan. 4 **Winter session begins**

Jan. 8–10 **Bridge the Gap CLE Program**
Classes of 2014 and 2015

Jan. 14 **Business Boot Camp Reception**
Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation

Jan. 19 **Spring semester begins**

Jan. 29 **Alumni Association Annual Luncheon**
Honoring Alumni of the Year Martin A. Fischer '64 and the Hon. Nelson S. Roman '89, and Rising Stars Nithya B. Das '06 and Winston M. Paes '03
The Plaza Hotel, New York

Feb. 19 **David L. Trager Public Policy Symposium**
The Post-Carbon World: Advances in Legal and Social Theory
Sponsored by the *Brooklyn Law Review*

Feb. 26 **Symposium**
Free Speech Under Fire? The Future of Free Speech
Sponsored by the *Journal of Law and Policy*

March 4 **Symposium on Compliance and Technology**
Cosponsored by the Center for Business Law and Regulation and the *Brooklyn Journal of Corporate, Financial & Commercial Law*

March 6 **Alumni Reception**
Washington, D.C.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS AND DATES: brooklaw.edu/newsandevents