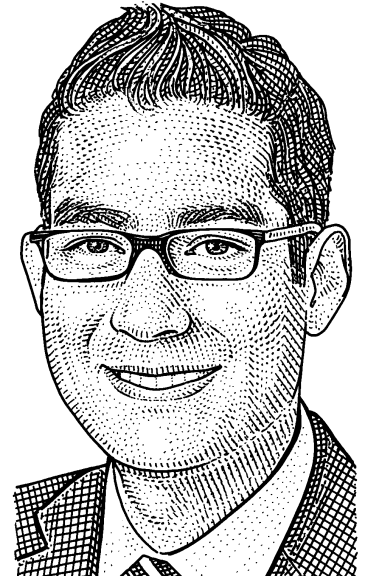
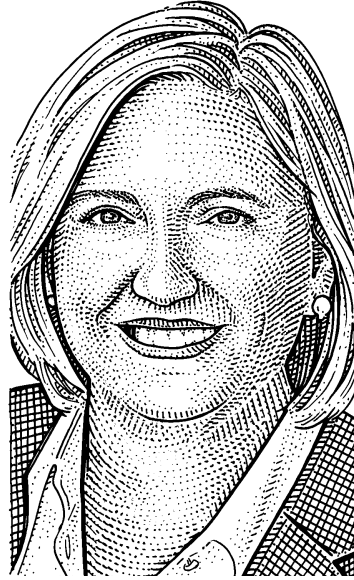


# Brooklyn Law Notes

THE MAGAZINE OF BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL | SPRING 2018



## Big Deals

Graduates at the forefront of the booming M&A business



# SUPPORT THE ANNUAL FUND

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS HELP US

---

- *Strengthen scholarships and financial aid programs*
- *Support student organizations*
- *Expand our faculty and support their nationally recognized scholarship*
- *Maintain our facilities*
- *Plan for the future of the Law School*

**Support the Annual Fund by making a gift TODAY**

Visit **[brooklaw.edu/give](https://brooklaw.edu/give)**  
or call Kamille James at 718-780-7505



## Preparing the Next Generation of Lawyers

**P**ROSPECTIVE STUDENTS OFTEN ask about the best subject areas to focus on to prepare for law school. My answer is that it matters less *what* you study than *how* you study. To be successful, it is useful to study something that you love and dig deep in a field that best fits your interests and talents. Abraham Lincoln, perhaps America's most famous and respected lawyer, advised aspiring lawyers: "If you are resolutely determined to make a lawyer of yourself, the thing is more than half done already.... Get the books, and read and study them till you understand them in their principal features; and that is the main thing."

Today, with so much information and knowledge available in cyberspace, Lincoln's advice is more relevant than ever. Like most professions, law has been forever altered by advances in technology and the global economy, factors that have significantly broadened the universe of skills and backgrounds necessary for the legal services industry to be truly responsive

**"More than 60 percent of our applicants have one to five years of work experience after college or graduate school, bringing a wealth of talent, skills, and maturity to their legal education."**

to society's changing needs. Given this rapidly changing landscape for new lawyers, how exactly should prospective students prepare for law school? How should we evaluate their qualifications for admission? How should we educate them for a rapidly changing profession? Law schools are examining those questions as they educate the next generation of lawyers.

With these questions in mind, a growing number of law schools across the country—19 as of this writing, including Brooklyn Law School—are now accepting Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores. In our case, this will begin with applications for fall 2018 admission. More law schools are sure to follow. Quoted in a recent story in the *Economist*, "Why Are Law Schools Accepting the GRE?" our Dean of Admissions Eulas Boyd explains: "It's pretty shortsighted for us to say that you need to prove your fidelity to a legal career by taking the LSAT now and preparing for months, as opposed to a test that

could potentially qualify you for several careers."

Boyd is right. We made this modest change in our own admissions process to encourage

highly qualified students from diverse academic and work backgrounds to apply and pursue a law degree. Our Law School long has attracted students who come to us with deep experience and study in myriad fields. Currently, more than 60 percent of our applicants have one to five years of work experience after college or graduate school, bringing a wealth of talent, skills, and maturity to their legal education. Law schools also are finding that individuals who are studying or working in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields perform at high levels in law school.

Yet the traditional image of a law student is someone with a degree in the humanities or social sciences. Although certainly these backgrounds always will be important, lawyers today must be fully equipped to deal successfully with the emerging legal issues raised by our new multidisciplinary, multinational, multilingual reality. They also must be effective communicators ready for a new world of law that will increasingly be shaped by a generation of digital natives.

This month, at our 117th Commencement, we will send more than 360 of these lawyers newly minted into the world and to an astounding range of jobs—many in fields that did not exist when most of us graduated from law school, even five or 10 years ago. The class of 2018 will follow in the footsteps of generations of our distinguished graduates who have used the power of their legal education to make a positive difference in our city, our nation, and our world. As they receive their diploma, they also will inherit this enduring Brooklyn Law School legacy and help lead the way into a better future.



**Nick Allard**

*Joseph Crea Dean and President*



# Contents

## Features

### The Real Deal Makers *p. 15*

Meet graduates working at the forefront of today's booming M&A business

### Ready to Work *p. 24*

The Law School's externship program takes students beyond the classroom

### Doing Well While Doing Good *p. 30*

Professors Dana Brakman Reiser and Steven Dean on how social enterprise law is bringing capital and social mission together

## Departments

### 3 News

Professor Alex Stein named to Israeli Supreme Court, new members join the Board of Trustees, NYC first lady on campus, and more

### 10 Clinic Update

LGBT Clinic achieves parental rights victory, Corporate and Real Estate Clinic assists low-income co-ops, and more

### 12 Spotlight on Intellectual Life

The future of global economic integration, opportunities and hurdles in business trends, brain science and the law, and more

### 34 Faculty Highlights

Professor Linda Feldman retires, faculty scholarship, Professor Bradley T. Borden discusses the new tax reform, and more

### 42 Alumni Events

### 46 Q&A with Robert Goldstein '90

The CEO of Sonen Capital shares his insights on impact investing

### 48 Class Notes

### 51 Alumni Profiles

Colleen Piccone '90, associate chief counsel for U.S. Customs and Border Protection; Ross Levi '97, executive director of tourism at Empire State Development; Michael Kingfield '06, general counsel at Business Insider; Lystra Batchoo '07, assistant general counsel at BuzzFeed; and Shujah Awan '08, associate general counsel at Biz2Credit

### 60 Giving

### 61 In Memoriam

### 64 Closing Arguments

Professor Heidi Gilchrist on the human right of higher education

## Brooklyn Law Notes

Vol. 23, No. 1

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Clorinda Valenti  
*Executive Director of Communications*

**Managing Editor**  
Jen Swetzo

**Class Notes Editor**  
Caitlin Monck '02  
*Director of Alumni Engagement and Special Programs*

**Contributing Writer**  
Andrea Strong '94

**Design Director**  
Roger J. Greiner

**Photographers**  
Robert Cadena  
Carol Dronsfield  
Todd France  
Will O'Hare  
Seth Olenick  
Dasha Tanner  
Tory Williams

**Contributors**  
Betty Chang  
Peggy Swisher

**Printer**  
Allied Printing

## Connect with Us



**Contact Us**  
We welcome letters and comments about articles in *Brooklyn Law Notes*. We will consider reprinting brief submissions in print issues and on our website.

**TEL:** 718-780-7966  
**EMAIL:** communications@brooklaw.edu  
**WEB:** brooklaw.edu

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
Managing Editor  
Brooklyn Law Notes  
250 Joralemon Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11201

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

# NEWS

## Professor Alex Stein Appointed to Israeli Supreme Court

IN FEBRUARY, PROFESSOR ALEX STEIN, a world-renowned expert on torts, medical malpractice, evidence, and general legal theory, was appointed to the Israeli Supreme Court by the country's Judicial Appointments Committee. He will fill one of two positions that were recently vacated by retiring justices; Israeli District Court Judge Ofer Grosskopf will fill the other position. Stein's nomination was supported by Justice Minister Ayelet Shaked, who chairs the committee, and he was voted in unanimously. There are 15 justices on the Israeli Supreme Court.

"Professor Stein is one of the world's brilliant legal minds," says Dean Nick Allard. "In the short time that he has been with us, he has made an enormous positive impact on the Brooklyn Law School community—as a teacher, a scholar, and a wonderfully energetic and engaged colleague and friend."

"I am thrilled and humbled," said Stein. "Leaving legal academia—and, in particular, Brooklyn Law School,

where I quickly found a great home and intellectual powerhouse with prolific world-class faculty and highly motivated students—isn't easy. But I very much look forward to serving the people of Israel and its legal system."

Born and raised in the former Soviet Union, Stein immigrated with his parents to Israel, where he finished high school, served in the military, and studied law. After getting married, he moved to the United States, where he has taught law for the last 14 years, while continuing his involvement in the Israeli legal academy and practice. He joined the Law School faculty in 2016.

Stein is one of the most highly cited scholars in the field of evidence. His writings combine law with economic theories and philosophy. His books include *Foundations of Evidence Law*; *Tort Liability Under Uncertainty*; *An Analytical Approach to Evidence: Text, Problems, and Cases*; and *Evidence and Proof*. He received his law degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his doctorate from the University of London.



Supreme Court of Israel

# Dennis J. Block '67 and Lawrence A. Sucharow '75 Join Board of Trustees

TWO HIGHLY RESPECTED attorneys and powerhouses in their respective fields were recently named to the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees: Dennis J. Block '67, senior chair of Greenberg Traurig's global mergers and acquisitions practice, and Lawrence A. Sucharow '75, co-chair of Labaton Sucharow and a leader of the class action bar.

Block, who is widely recognized as one of the foremost M&A lawyers in the country (see page 16), has been integral to major transactions including Pfizer's acquisition of Wyeth, Procter & Gamble's acquisition of Gillette, Westinghouse's acquisition of CBS, and JPMorgan Chase's acquisition of Bear Stearns. He has long been an active member of the Law School community, providing significant philanthropic support for students and serving as an adjunct professor for the last 18 years teaching corporate law. The Law School's Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law is named in his honor.

He also serves as an experienced advisor to companies, boards of directors, and special committees on corporate governance, M&A, and related matters. Prior to entering private practice, he was a branch chief for enforcement in the New York Regional Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"I look forward to helping ensure that the next generation of Brooklyn Law School students have the opportunity to receive a world-class, affordable education that will prepare them for success, innovation, and service to others," Block said.

Sucharow, an internationally recognized securities lawyer, has prosecuted hundreds of cases. His firm has recovered billions in groundbreaking securities, antitrust, business transaction, and product liability class actions, including a landmark case, *In re Real Estate*



Dennis J. Block



Lawrence A. Sucharow

*Associates Limited Partnership Litigation*, which was the first securities action successfully tried to a jury verdict following the enactment of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act.

Labaton Sucharow LLP is one of the top plaintiffs' securities and antitrust class action firms in the world. The firm was recently named for the fifth time as a Class Action Practice Group of the Year by Law360, which also selected Sucharow as one of the 10 Most Admired Securities Attorneys in the United States and as a Titan of the Plaintiffs Bar. In 2012, Sucharow was honored with the Alumni of the Year award.

Sucharow has generously supported the Law School and has helped numerous students with scholarships. In 2013, he and his firm established an internship program in conjunction with the Law School's Clinical Education Program, giving students an opportunity to gain real-world experience by providing pro bono assistance to defrauded individual investors.

"I am delighted to join the board of my alma mater," Sucharow said, "and I am grateful for my time at Brooklyn Law School, which equipped me to confidently enter the legal field. I have remained involved with the Law School community for many years, but as a trustee I look forward to playing an even greater role in its continued success and investment in students."


"We are extremely pleased to welcome Dennis and Larry to the board of Brooklyn Law School," said Stuart Subotnick '68, chair of the Board of Trustees. "Their knowledge, experience, and passion for the role of lawyers advances Brooklyn Law School's 117-year commitment to preparing students for the most difficult of tomorrow's business, economic, and sociopolitical challenges."

## Follow us!

Stay connected on social media and be the first to learn about news and events.

 INSTAGRAM: @brooklynlawschool

 TWITTER: @brooklynlaw

 FACEBOOK: @brooklynlawschool



## Anna Ashurov '12 and An Duong '12 Named as Recent Graduate Trustees

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES has appointed two recent graduates to serve a two-year term: Anna Ashurov '12 and An Duong '12.

Ashurov is vice president in the financing group at Goldman Sachs, where she serves as chief of staff in the Americas financing group. Her area of practice includes equity capital markets, Americas credit finance, investment-grade capital markets, and corporate derivatives and risk.

"I had an amazing experience at Brooklyn Law School," Ashurov says. "The professors and staff encouraged me during my journey as a part-time student, and I look forward to giving back to the Brooklyn Law School community during my term as a trustee and beyond."



Anna Ashurov

I am truly honored and proud to be part of such an accomplished group of people."

"I have always been struck by the remarkable variety of backgrounds and aspirations across the Brooklyn Law School student body," says Duong, who works as vice president and head



An Duong

of strategy and analytics for operational risk assurance at the Bank of New York Mellon. At the school, she says, "I found inspiration, challenge, and ultimately the support I needed to discover my own growth. Being asked now to work with the esteemed group dedicated to guiding the school is both a privilege and an exciting new way for me to engage with a community I care about."



### Constitution Day 2017

Professor Susan Herman, president of the ACLU, joined with her constitutional law colleagues, Professors Joel Gora (far left) and William Araiza, at the annual commemoration of Constitution Day. They discussed noteworthy U.S. Supreme Court cases for the 2017–18 term and took questions from the Law School community.

## Claude Callender

### Longtime Public Safety Officer Retires

AFTER NEARLY FOUR DECADES of service to Brooklyn Law School, most recently as a public safety supervisor, Claude Callender retired in December 2017.

Known by generations of students, faculty, staff, and visitors as the friendly face of Brooklyn Law School, Callender clearly loved working with people. Over 37 years, under four different deans, he greeted more than 15,000 students and a quarter-million visitors. He never had a serious security incident occur during his tenure, which he attributes to his skill at working out tense situations calmly and quietly. Leaving a legacy, he trained most of the public safety officers who continue working at the school, including his brother Lester.

Callender's favorite part of the job has been creating lasting relationships with students and other members of the Law School community. "Students and alumni are part of my life," he says. "It was so nice when alumni would come back to the school and say hi, and the students, faculty, and staff who I saw every day kept me going on a daily basis."

Later this year, Callender, an avid cyclist, will join his cycling team on a trip to Jamaica and visit several other Caribbean destinations.

Until then, he intends to keep his routine of getting up at 4:20 a.m. every day to go to the gym. But he also plans to take at least one vacation that doesn't involve exercise: a trip to his home country of Guyana for the first time in nearly a decade.



## Suzanne Dennis

### Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs Retires

AFTER MORE THAN 16 YEARS at the Law School, Suzanne Dennis retired in February. She joined the Law School as its registrar in 2001, and she was named assistant dean for academic affairs in 2015.

Over the years, Dennis worked with the Law School's vice

deans to lead and manage major initiatives related to designing and implementing complex systems that serve the needs of both students and faculty. She helped bring many registrar functions online, including registration, exams, and course and faculty evaluations.



Suzanne Dennis (center) at her retirement party in February with Professor Maryellen Fullerton (left) and Professor Emerita Ursula Bentele

She also was instrumental in developing the Law School's required American Bar Association learning outcomes, helping to shepherd the curriculum committee's outreach to the faculty and drafting institution-wide learning outcomes. Dennis also counseled thousands of students on their curricular choices. She was honored for her service to the Law School at a reception in February.

"Brooklyn Law School gave me the opportunity and privilege to work in an intellectually stimulating, challenging, and supportive community," says Dennis. "It has been the best experience of my 35 years in higher education."



## Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award Goes to Alexa Bordner '18

The executive articles editor of *Brooklyn Law Review* is one of 10 national winners

ALEXA BORDNER '18, EXECUTIVE articles editor for the *Brooklyn Law Review*, was recently honored with the Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award. She was recognized for her note, "How New York Drinks: If and How Third-Party Providers Can Integrate with the Three-Tier System," which appeared in volume 83, issue 1 (2017), of the journal.

"It is a tremendous honor to be recognized on a national level," Bordner says. "I am immensely grateful to the members of the *Brooklyn Law Review* for their support. I'm also proud to represent Brooklyn Law School, one of the best in the nation."

Bordner's article explores the legal issues created by a surge of new companies that facilitate the home delivery of alcoholic beverages, as consumers increasingly make purchases online. In the case of alcohol sales, however, convenience cannot be the only consideration, she explains. New York and many other states regulate the distribution of alcoholic beverages through a three-tier licensing system of producers, wholesalers, and retailers. Bordner proposes the creation of a minimally burdensome permit for third-party providers as a potential solution that addresses the concerns of all affected parties.

"Alexa's note exemplifies the very best of the *Brooklyn Law Review*: clear analysis of a relevant legal problem, culminating in a novel



and workable solution," says Professor Beryl Jones-Woodin, faculty advisor to the publication.

Bordner says her love of legal writing was nurtured by her 1L legal writing professor, Susan Greene.

"It would be an understatement to say that the fundamentals Professor Greene taught me played a major part in the overall quality of the piece," she says. "I'm really appreciative of all the incredible professors here at the Law School who have challenged my thinking daily."

## Marvin Espana '18 Achieves Immigration Case Victory

As an intern at LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Brooklyn Law student helps an immigrant worker win a substantial settlement

THANKS TO THE EFFORTS of Marvin Espana '18, Jose Rodriguez, a building porter who often worked seven days a week in exchange for a free room in the basement, but was never paid a salary, was recently awarded more than \$40,000 in unpaid wages. After Rodriguez filed a claim with the New York Department of Labor (DOL), LatinoJustice PRLDEF (Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund), a nonprofit providing Latinos with legal resources and support, took on his case.

As part of his internship at LatinoJustice, Espana worked closely with Senior Counsel Jackson Chin to win the successful back-wages claim for their client. Rodriguez received a total of \$43,300 in compensation that the employer agreed to pay during a DOL conciliation process.

"The building employer could not claim 'credit' for providing a rent-free room to Rodriguez from any owed back wages, because such a defense is not applicable here given that

the basement apartment was not a legal unit," says Espana.

Chin called the case "a particularly egregious example of workplace exploitation in an invisible part of our metropolitan low-wage economy." He pointed out that many immigrant workers don't know that employers who give free or discounted living accommodations are not exempt from labor law obligations to pay minimum wage and overtime payments.

This was not the first time Espana has worked to help immigrants. Last year, he was one of six students from the Law School, sponsored by the Public Service Law Center, who spent part of their winter break in Texas working with asylum-seeking refugees under the supervision of attorneys from the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services. Espana had reached out to the San Antonio-based nonprofit to revive the Law School's Immigration Court Observation Project.

# Mobilizing to Support Immigrants

Students, faculty, and alumni provide free legal screenings

IN RESPONSE TO TOUGHER U.S. immigration policies—including threats to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the ban on immigrants from some countries with majority Muslim populations—the Law School recently formed a new group called Imm.BLAST (Brooklyn Law Alumni, Students, and Teachers for Immigration). Led by Professor Maryellen Fullerton, an expert on asylum and refugee law, and Professor Stacy Caplow, an expert in immigration law who codirects the Safe Harbor Project, Imm.BLAST participated in several important initiatives.

“I am so proud of the many Brooklyn Law School alumni and students who are harnessing their knowledge and energy to help vulnerable immigrant communities,” says Fullerton. “They are keeping the Brooklyn Law School tradition alive.”

Maryann Tharappel ’11, special projects director in the immigrant and refugee services division for Catholic Charities,

spearheaded a notable partnership with the Law School this fall.

She helped connect a group of Law School students, faculty, and alumni with legal clinics in Putnam and Westchester counties, where they provided free legal screenings for immigrants.

“The need for our immigrant brothers and sisters in New York to access high-quality legal services has never been greater,” says Tharappel.

“By marrying volunteers with experienced immigration attorneys through scalable programming, we are bridging a gap in access to justice for this vulnerable population.”

Caplow was heartened by the strong response from students, staff, and fellow faculty members to the call for volunteers.

“This shows how much our community is eager to devote their time and skills to helping immigrants navigate the treacherous waters of today’s fast-changing, life-altering immigration policies,”

she says.



Brooklyn Law School students at Grand Central Station ready to embark on their journey to upstate New York



New York City First Lady Chirlane McCray

## NYC First Lady on Campus to Announce City’s Commitment to Preventing Domestic Violence

ON OCTOBER 23, 2017, the Law School hosted New York City’s first lady, Chirlane McCray, and Cecile Noel, commissioner of the Mayor’s Office to Combat Domestic Violence, for the announcement of the city’s commitment to preventing domestic violence. The event was part of a program known as “City Hall in Your Borough,” during which Mayor Bill de Blasio and his team operated out of Brooklyn’s Borough Hall for a week.



## Law and Politics Are Hot Topics at the Brooklyn Book Festival

### Faculty authors and Dean Allard share their expertise with the public

AT THE ANNUAL Brooklyn Book Festival in September 2017, Dean Nick Allard moderated a panel discussion on legal and political issues related to the Trump administration and the Supreme Court. The panel, Culture, Politics, and the Supreme Court, which aired live on C-SPAN, included Sheryll Cashin, professor of law at Georgetown Law School and author of *Loving: Interracial Intimacy in America and the Threat to White Supremacy* (Beacon Press, 2017); and Norman Ornstein, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, a contributing writer and editor for the *Atlantic*, and coauthor of *One Nation After Trump: A Guide for the Perplexed, the Disillusioned, the Desperate, and the Not-Yet-Deported* (St. Martin's Press, 2017).

Faculty authors sold their books and spoke with visitors at a booth in Columbus Park across from the Law School. Recently published faculty books at the booth included *The Introverted Lawyer: A Seven-Step*

*Journey Toward Authentically Empowered Advocacy* (American Bar Association, 2017) by Professor Heidi K. Brown; and *Social Enterprise Law: Trust, Public Benefit and Capital Markets* (Oxford University Press, 2017) by Professors Dana Brakman Reiser and Vice Dean Steven Dean (see page 30). Both titles were featured at book launch events at the Law School in October.

Also on sale were *Animus: A Short Introduction to Bias in the Law* (NYU Press, 2017) by Professor William Araiza; *Invented by Law: Alexander Graham Bell and the Patent That Changed America* (Harvard University Press, 2015) by Professor Christopher Beauchamp; *Democracy Against Domination* (Oxford University Press, 2016) by Professor K. Sabeel Rahman; and *Religious Freedom in an Egalitarian Age* (Harvard University Press, 2017) by Professor Nelson Tebbe.



### Moot Court Is Home to New York State Appellate Division for a Day

On October 31, Hon. John M. Leventhal '79, Hon. Leonard B. Austin, Hon. Joseph J. Maltese, and Hon. Angela G. Iannacci heard oral arguments for the Appellate Division, Second Department, New York State Supreme Court at the Law School.

Dean Allard with the Appellate Division judges, the Moot Court Executive Board, and Deputy Clerk of the Court Maria Fasulo '95 (second from right)



## Disability and Civil Rights Clinic Successfully Challenges Discriminatory Actions

By restoring private nursing services, the clinic ensures that a 30-year-old woman is no longer homebound



Daisy Concepcion

THE DISABILITY and Civil Rights Clinic brought together clients, legal advocates, and community and government organizations during its annual roundtable in November 2017. The keynote speaker, Daisy Concepcion, shared how the clinic helped improve her daughter's quality of life.

"The work the clinic has done for my family has been nothing short of transformational," Concepcion said.

She explained how the clinic fought the discriminatory actions of two private health insurance companies that had left her daughter homebound despite her ability to participate in the community. Thanks to the work of

students in the clinic, under the supervision of Professor Natalie Chin, who serves as director, and Professor Amy Mulzer, Concepcion's 30-year-old daughter had her right to a private nurse restored. She is no longer confined to her home.

"I loved hearing different perspectives on issues facing the disabled community from a variety of people at the roundtable," said Raine Henry '19, a member of the clinic. "I also enjoyed the number of hands-on experiences I got with the clinic, such as interviewing skills I was able to use to gather information to write our report to the court."

The clinic is currently defending a deaf client who lives in a nursing home that, they argue, is not providing appropriate and consistent interpreting services. It also works on issues involving parental rights and discrimination regarding access to services. In the past year, the clinic has filed amicus briefs and appellate briefs arguing that the Administration for Children's Services must provide accommodation to help parents with disabilities meet requirements to maintain custody of their children under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Stay updated with more news: [brooklaw.edu](http://brooklaw.edu)

## LGBT Clinic Achieves Parental Rights Victory

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF Professor Susan Hazeldean, founder and director of the LGBT Advocacy Clinic, John Reilly '19 and Katherine Zarchikoff '19 represented a lesbian client seeking to protect her parental rights to her daughter through second-parent adoption. The client and her spouse conceived their child using a known sperm donor who is also a close friend of their family.

Initially, the Family Court had reservations about granting the adoption because the donor would remain a close family friend but would no longer have parental rights. But the adoption petition ultimately was granted after the students presented evidence of the sperm donor's consent and support for the adoption. The client and her wife are now both legally recognized parents of their child.





## Safe Harbor Project Helps Family Gain Permanent Residence in the U.S.

THANKS TO THE WORK OF STUDENTS in the Safe Harbor Clinic over the last three years, an activist from a West African nation who championed the rights of the disabled, and his family, obtained lawful permanent residence in the United States. The case began in 2015, when students in the clinic first helped the principal client obtain asylum in the United States. They then petitioned for derivative asylum, which grants protection for an asylum seeker's family, for the client's wife and three children, shepherding them through consular processing. While petitioning for the family, clinic students successfully represented the client in his application for permanent residence. The family has since arrived safely in the United States, where they all have permanent resident status.



## Corporate and Real Estate Clinic Assists Low-Income Co-ops

From the Lower East Side to the Bronx, Brooklyn Law School students make a difference across NYC

IT WAS A BUSY FALL SEMESTER FOR the eight students in the Corporate and Real Estate Clinic. Peter Karuppiah '18 and Maybelline Guido '19 negotiated to reduce a Workers' Compensation Board judgment, reviewed new loan documents, and prepared additional resolutions. Blaise Gibson '19 and Leo Suh '18 met with co-op shareholders to approve a regulatory agreement required for a tax exemption in the Bronx. The students also negotiated a contract of sale for a unit in another building and did preparatory work for a loan closing for a different client.

Meanwhile, Stephanie McPeake '19 and George Peters '18

conducted a loan closing for a low-income co-op after carefully reviewing and negotiating the mortgage. In addition, they joined a long line of other clinic students in the effort to transfer a Lower East Side building to a business corporation so it can operate as a co-op and eliminate more than \$3 million in real estate tax arrears.

In December, before the exam period, Alia Soomro '19 and Iantha Stewart '18 fielded questions in order to obtain board approval for a regulatory agreement to proceed with a \$1.6 million loan for the installation of solar panels and new windows in a 21-unit building in the Bronx. They also worked to refinance existing debt and obtain a real estate tax exemption.

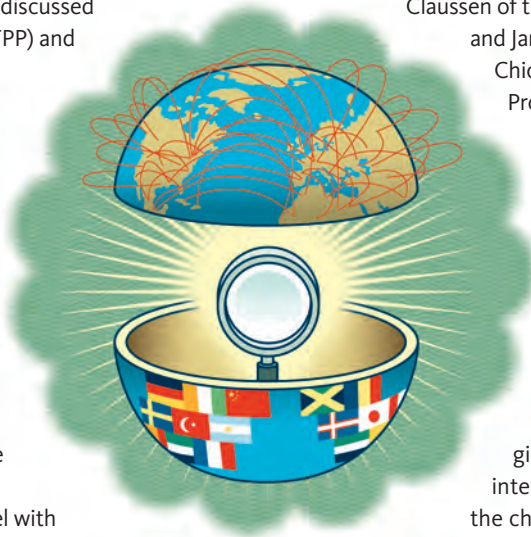


# Scholars Tackle Nationalism, Regionalism, and Globalism

## What is the future of economic integration?

AT A SYMPOSIUM in November 2017 organized by Professor Julian Arato, codirector of the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law, leading scholars discussed the future of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the impact of international economic law on international sovereignty.

Arato kicked off the event with his presentation “Informal vs. Formal Multilateralism: The Case of International Investment Law.” He explored the current state of globalization, its impact on international investment, and whether the time is right to reconsider legal approaches. Robert Howse of the NYU School of Law, Joanna Langille of the University of Toronto, and Thomas Streinz of the Institute for International Law and Justice at the NYU School of Law then presented on issues of globalism and participated in a panel with Arato moderated by Professor Winnie Taylor.



Arato also moderated a panel on regionalism that included Sungjoon Cho of the Chicago-Kent College of Law, Kathleen Claussen of the University of Miami School of Law, and James Thuo Gathii of the Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Vice Dean and Professor Steven Dean moderated the final panel on nationalism, which included Simon Lester of the Cato Institute, Paul Mertenskotter of the NYU School of Law, and Joel P. Trachtman of Tufts University.

The Block Center is the go-to resource for the international business law community and for future lawyers who will practice in a world where globalization is a given. The center offers highly regarded interdisciplinary programs that address the changing nature of the international business world.

# The Law, Money, and Healthcare Reform

## A public health policy expert explains how the federal budget process affects healthcare reform

ACCORDING TO Timothy M. Westmoreland, professor at Georgetown University Law Center and former congressional counsel, nothing in government gets done without money, and that money is subject to many rules and limitations. During an event in October 2017, co-sponsored by the Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy and the Office of Institutional Advancement, Westmoreland discussed the congressional budget process and health reform with Professor Karen Porter, the center’s executive director, and Dean Nick Allard.

Westmoreland, a noted expert in public health and health finance policy, illustrated the human impact of the federal budget process with an anecdote from his time working for Rep. Henry Waxman, who in the 1980s wanted to force Medicare to pay for a new pneumonia vaccine that could prevent thousands of premature deaths. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated a cost of \$100 billion, given that those who did not die from pneumonia would need other expensive services such as hip replacements and heart surgery.

“The CBO eventually withdrew that estimate and said they

made a mistake,” said Westmoreland. “But it was not a mistake. The process is just so one-dimensional that it only looks at what something costs; and when you get right down to it, it costs money to keep people alive.”



Professors Karen Porter and Timothy Westmoreland

ILLUSTRATION BY PETER HOEY



# Opportunities and Hurdles in New Business Trends

Future workspaces and legalized cannabis industry are topics of CUBE panels

IN OCTOBER 2017, ALUMNI and other industry insiders considered the future of work spaces at an event sponsored by the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE) and P/PREP, a peer networking group for professionals who work on public-private real estate projects. Professor Jonathan Askin, founder and director of the Brooklyn Law Incubator & Policy (BLIP) Clinic, moderated a discussion about the benefits and challenges of incubators and co-working spaces. Participants included Rebecca Birmingham '11, general counsel and head of development at New Lab/Macro Sea in the Brooklyn Navy Yard; Mark Jackson '11, general counsel for the real estate developer Two Trees Management Co.; Mark Anthony Thomas, senior vice president of partnerships at the New York City Economic Development Corporation; and Anisha Steephen, community development officer at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation.



Clockwise:  
Joseph Bondy '94,  
Sen. Liz Krueger,  
and Jordan  
Wellington '09

In November, CUBE and the Center for Criminal Justice hosted a discussion on the legal cannabis industry and the role of lawyers in its evolution. Professor Jocelyn Simonson moderated a panel including New York State Senator Liz Krueger; Joseph Bondy '94, a federal criminal defense lawyer who has advised and represented clients on cannabis matters for more than 20 years; Jordan Wellington '09, compliance director at Vicente Sederberg; David Feder '10, a partner at Regosin, Edwards, Stone & Feder; Chris Alexander, policy coordinator of the Drug Policy Alliance; and Harrison Phillips, vice president at Viridian Capital Advisors. The group discussed the legal and financial hurdles of cannabis entrepreneurship, and the potential for further reform of marijuana possession laws, which still disproportionately imprison people of color.

“If you’re a law student thinking about entering the cannabis realm,” said Bondy, “there is no limitation on the things that you can do in this nascent industry.”

## Thinking about Brain Science and the Law



At the annual Ethics Roundtable in September 2017, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Law, Language & Cognition, Professor Adam Kolber (right) raised provocative questions about the relationship between brain science and the law and engaged in a lively discussion with Professor Lawrence Solan (left), director of the center. Read more about Kolber’s work on page 37.

## Deciphering Corporate Triplespeak

Legal scholars explore the role of politics in the electric utility industry

IN SEPTEMBER, Alan R. Palmiter, the William T. Wilson III Presidential Chair for Business Law at Wake Forest University School of Law, delivered the Pomerantz Lecture at an event co-sponsored by the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation and the *Brooklyn Law Review*. Palmiter explored the electric utility industry's moral "triplespeak," in which government agencies and utilities choose whether to use the language of political conservatives, libertarians,

or progressives, depending on their goals. In many instances, according to Palmiter, the same utility company has taken all of these seemingly inconsistent stances at the same time.

After his presentation, a panel including Professor James A. Fanto, co-director of the center; Tamara C. Belinfanti, professor of law and codirector of the Center for Business and Financial Law at New York Law School; and Daniel J.H. Greenwood, professor of



**Professor Tamara Belinfanti of New York Law School, an expert in corporate governance system design, commented on Professor Alan Palmiter's lecture**

law at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, shared their expertise on the topic. Palmiter's paper will appear in a forthcoming volume of the *Brooklyn Law Review*.



**Brooklyn Law School**  
ESTABLISHED 1901

Learn more: [brooklaw.edu/intellectuallife](http://brooklaw.edu/intellectuallife)

## Risk, Regulation, and Corporate Governance



**Professor Edward Janger**

During a roundtable in September sponsored by the Brooklyn Law School Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation, the Centre for International Governance Innovation, the American College of Bankruptcy, and Duke University School of Law, Professor Edward Janger and a group of leading experts debated whether governance of systemically important financial institutions (SIFIs) can reduce systemic risk. The discussion focused on regulatory measures that are meant to keep SIFIs from taking too many risks and whether corporate governance law should require a duty to the public.

# The Real Deal Makers

Meet Brooklyn Law School graduates working at the center of today's booming M&A business

By Jen Swetzoff

Illustrations by Bonnie Gayle Morrill

WHEN YOU HEAR THE latest news about a blockbuster multi-billion-dollar deal, chances are pretty good that a Brooklyn Law School graduate was at the helm.

Amid recent economic trends, and as more startups choose a sale over an IPO, corporate dealmaking is once again a booming business. In fact, 2017 was a record year for mergers and acquisitions (M&A). More than 50,000 deals were announced worldwide (according to data from Thomson Reuters), the highest number since 2007. That momentum continued into the first quarter of this year, with M&A activity across the world hitting a 17-year high.

Several market conditions are responsible for the dealmaking surge, according to a recent analysis in *American Lawyer*. For one thing, companies are taking advantage of the economic stability in North America and Europe. Meanwhile, equity prices have allowed many acquiring companies to make their purchases in stock. And still-low interest rates are encouraging companies to take on more debt. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, the Trump administration's tax reform plan, also is expected to be a major factor in the surge of deals, encouraging U.S. companies to repatriate overseas cash, which they are increasingly likely to spend on acquisitions.

It's no surprise that alumni dealmakers are leading the way on

many of the biggest transactions in recent years. Just a quick subway ride from Wall Street, the Law School long has been a hub for preparing lawyers to work on both the buy side and the sell side of financial transactions.

Nationally recognized for scholarly work and teaching excellence in corporate and business law, the Law School is home to the Center for the Study of Business Law & Regulation and the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law. In addition, the Brooklyn Law Incubator and Policy (BLIP) Clinic helps prepare lawyers who will represent emerging tech, internet, communications, and new media companies. And the annual Business Boot Camp, a four-day "mini MBA" course held during winter session, has garnered national attention as an innovative program offering students the opportunity to learn from alumni business leaders and entrepreneurs. The popular program is led by Professor Michael Gerber and presented in collaboration with Deloitte Financial Advisory Services and John P. Oswald '84, president and CEO of Capital Trust Group and a member of the Board of Trustees.

On the following pages, eight prominent dealmakers share insights from their own careers, forecast trends ahead, and explain the role Brooklyn Law School has played in their success. →





**“Law lets you be the ultimate generalist, because no two situations are ever the same. I think a legal background helps you with whatever you want to do in life.”**

# Dennis J. Block '67

Senior Chairman of Global M&A and Shareholder  
Greenberg Traurig

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL TRUSTEE

## **BIG DEALS**

**Westinghouse's acquisition of CBS Corp.; JPMorgan Chase's acquisition of Bear Stearns Companies; Hanson Trust's acquisition of SCM.**

## **MEMORABLE LESSON FROM BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL**

The importance of substance and style—I learned how to communicate clearly and make a point in my own voice.

## **PROUDEST OF**

The relationships I've built with all kinds of people—among them law students, law school professors, other lawyers, CEOs, and even leaders of our country. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet and work with so many talented and outstanding individuals.

## **BIGGEST CAREER SURPRISE**

That I lasted 50 years as a lawyer when I initially thought I'd be a dentist. Oftentimes, I think what you do in life is more serendipitous than planned.

## **SUPERPOWERS**

Patience, listening well, and having a positive attitude.

## **OUTSIDE THE OFFICE**

I teach corporate law at Brooklyn Law School; play tennis and spend time with my wife, my three married children, and my six grandchildren.

## **BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**

The client comes first. Pay close attention to your clients' needs and communicate with them clearly.

## **BEST ADVICE TO GIVE**

Read three newspapers every morning. Ask questions until you fully understand your assignment. Always outline what you want to write or say before writing or saying it.

## **M&A FORECAST**

Technology acquisitions, particularly related to innovative intellectual property and artificial intelligence, are areas to watch.

# Eileen Nugent '78

M&A Partner and Co-Head of Global Transactions Practice  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

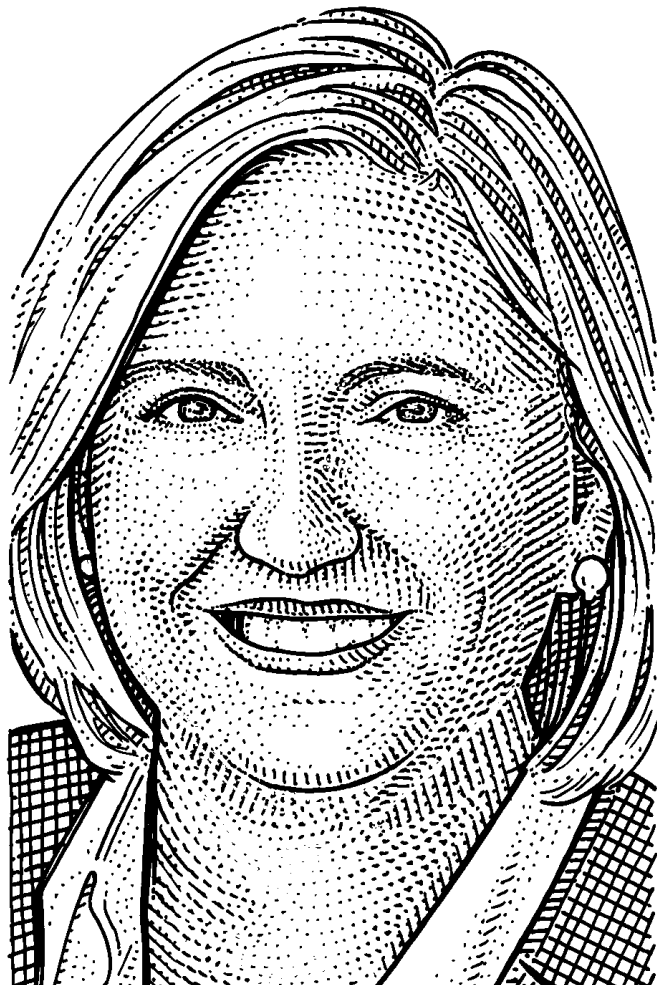
BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL TRUSTEE

## BIG DEALS

**Warner-Lambert Company in its planned \$84 billion merger-of-equals with American Home Products Corporation and its ultimate \$90 billion acquisition by Pfizer (represented by Dennis Block); Carter Hawley in its defense of a hostile takeover and the resulting spin-off and leveraged recap; Cephalon in its \$6.8 billion acquisition by Teva Pharmaceutical Industries; Endo Pharmaceuticals' \$2.9 billion acquisition of American Medical Systems Holdings.**

## MEMORABLE LESSON FROM BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

As Professor Joe Crea used to say, “Don’t drop your briefcase and run.” With reminders like these—to stop and think—and through the incredible clinical experiences I had, I didn’t just learn the law. I also learned how to practice the law.



## NOTABLE HONORS

Named one of the top legal “Trailblazers” by the *National Law Journal*, 2015; listed as one of the “Top 10 Agents of Change,” *Financial Times*.

## PROUDEST OF

Being seen as a valued advisor and helping other people, particularly women, build their own careers. I was the first person in my family to finish college, and I received a scholarship to Brooklyn Law School. That opportunity helped me get where I am today, and I’m so proud to be in a position to give back.

## SUPERPOWERS

Tough, fair, hardworking, and self-deprecating.

## OUTSIDE THE OFFICE

I spend time with my husband and my two stepchildren (ages 32 and 24), who also live in Manhattan; teaching, writing, and public speaking.

## BEST ADVICE RECEIVED

Never question your instincts and views; your judgment and opinions count, no matter what your age or your position.

## BEST ADVICE TO GIVE

Be yourself. Watch everyone around you and absorb the best parts of what you see, like a sponge, but don’t try to be someone you’re not. Also, always keep an open mind to opportunities. All of life is a learning experience.

## M&A FORECAST

In the short term, we’ll see more strategic consolidations coupled with spin-offs, and activism will continue to have an effect on companies.

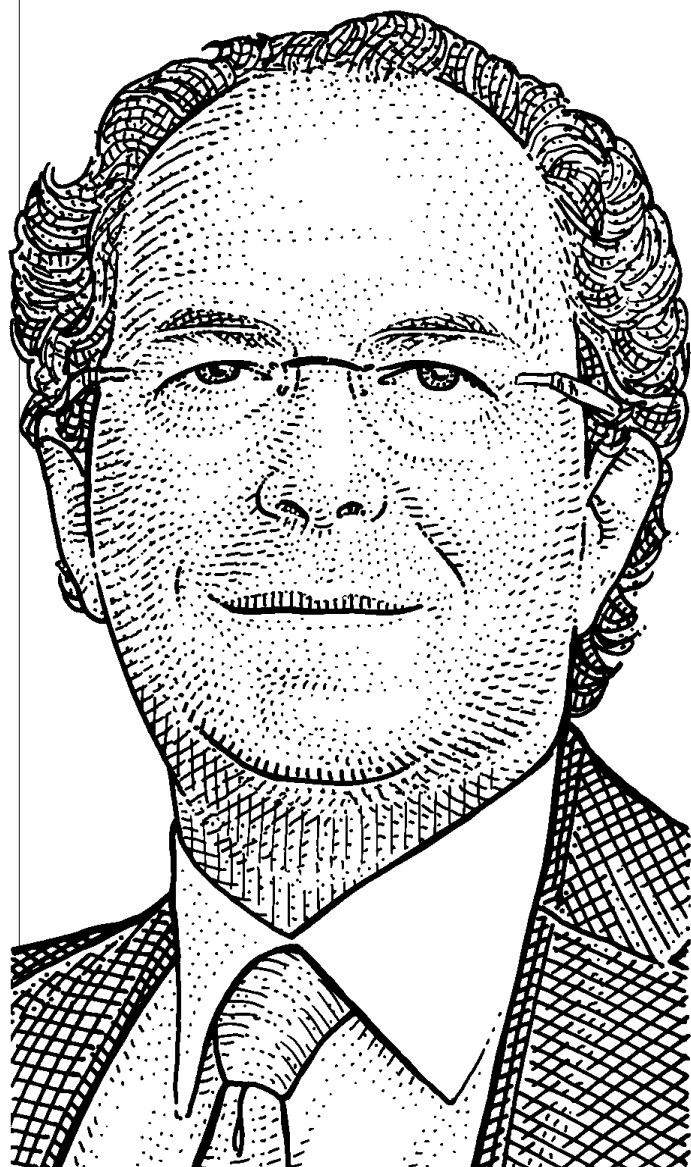
“What draws me to the work? It’s the deals.”

# Francis J. Aquila '83

Partner  
Sullivan & Cromwell

VICE CHAIRMAN, BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**“I’ve been lucky to learn from some of the world’s best business leaders. I just hope that I’ve done my part to help prepare the next generation.”**



## **BIG DEALS**

**InBev’s successful unsolicited bid for Anheuser-Busch and its follow-on acquisitions of Grupo Modelo and SABMiller; Kraft in its merger with Heinz to form Kraft Heinz; Diebold in its merger with Wincor Nixdorf; Panera Bread in its acquisition by JAB; Andeavor in its pending \$36 billion combination with Marathon Petroleum.**

## **MEMORABLE LESSON FROM BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL**

How the law applies to real life. I had extraordinary professors such as Joel Gora and Roberta Karmel, but I also gained insights from my classmates, among them a priest, a doctor, police officers, firefighters, teachers, nurses, and bankers.

## **PROUDEST OF**

Being recognized as a thought leader in the profession. I was a columnist for *BusinessWeek*. I have also spent a lot of time over the years writing and speaking about issues and trends related to M&A, corporate governance, and shareholder activism.

## **BIGGEST CAREER SURPRISE**

The cyclical nature and how the more things change, the more they stay the same. M&A today is really not very different than it was in the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s. There are clear patterns in how the best dealmakers approach transactions and get deals done.

## **SUPERPOWERS**

Focus, creativity, and finding common ground.

## **OUTSIDE THE OFFICE**

In jeans in Soho, surrounded by family, enjoying all that New York has to offer, or relaxing at one of my other homes in New Jersey and Florida.

## **BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**

Be creative. Try to find a way to say yes more often than no. Above all else, work with your clients to understand the nuances of what they want to achieve—and then help them do it.

## **BEST ADVICE TO GIVE**

Come to the practice of law with an open mind and find the area of practice that fulfills you. If you like and enjoy your work, you are going to be successful.

## **M&A FORECAST**

Globalization and corporate consolidation are here to stay. In fact, the threat of new tariffs and potential trade wars will lead business to become more global. Whether intended or not, we will see more and more cross-border M&A activity.





# Steven G. Scheinfeld '85

Partner and Chair of Corporate Department  
Fried Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

---

## **BIG DEALS**

NorthStar Asset Management Group's three-way public company merger with Colony Capital and NorthStar Realty Finance Corp., which created Colony NorthStar; multiple transactions leading to the creation of a new capital and operating structure for Tradeweb Markets; Merck & Co. in the \$30 billion spin-off of Medco Health Solutions; CVS Health's \$1.9 billion acquisition of Target's pharmacy and clinic businesses.

## **MEMORABLE LESSON FROM BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL**

As managing editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review*, I learned how to manage a demanding role in an intellectually stimulating and fast-paced environment. I also learned how to work as part of a team to achieve a common goal.

## **SUPERPOWERS**

Intense focus on client service, willingness to work hard, and ability to remain calm no matter the challenge.

## **BEST ADVICE TO GIVE**

Know your clients' businesses, and treat every client and every matter equally and with the highest priority.

## **M&A FORECAST**

We're monitoring a more vigorous regulatory environment. As the Committee on Foreign Investment continues to broaden its reach, companies will need to take a broader view of potential risks and factor that into their acquisition process.

**“The training I received at Brooklyn Law School and on the *Brooklyn Law Review* gave me the tools I needed to be successful at my firm and to thrive as a leader.”**

# Warren Lazarow '86

Partner and Co-Chairman of the  
Corporate Department  
O'Melveny

**“If you want to be successful in M&A, you can't treat the law like a hobby. Work hard. Ask questions. Raise your hand and volunteer to do more.”**



## **BIG DEALS**

**Closing a \$400 million round of financing at a \$4 billion valuation for Houzz, the leading online platform for home remodeling and design; the \$10 billion sale of Microsemi, a provider of semiconductor and systems solutions, to Microchip Technology.**

## **MEMORABLE LESSON FROM BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL**

People are the biggest differentiator; I learned as much from the diverse student body as I did from my excellent professors.

## **BIGGEST CAREER SURPRISE**

Honestly, I didn't think I'd be this successful. I feel fortunate that I've had a very rewarding career.

## **SUPERPOWERS**

Honesty, ability to understand the points of view of others, and a sense of humor.

## **OUTSIDE THE OFFICE**

I love to spend time in Sonoma County with my wife; both of our sons are working on the West Coast (one works as an attorney at Sullivan & Cromwell in Palo Alto and the other for a physics professor in Berkeley).

## **BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**

Take the time to train people well and treat people well. You have to care about other people's careers if you want to retain talent.

## **M&A FORECAST**

I expect continued high levels of M&A activity, particularly in the tech sector where I focus. On the buy side, U.S. tax reform will give acquirers more cash for acquisitions; on the sell side, we'll continue to see more startups exit by M&A than by going public.

# Angelo Bonvino '96

Partner and Co-Head of the M&A Practice  
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison

---

## BIG DEALS

KPS Capital Partners' acquisition of TaylorMade Golf Company from adidas AG;  
KPS Capital Partners' sale of Waupaca Foundry to Hitachi Metals.

## MEMORABLE LESSON FROM BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL

How to merge my accounting background with my law degree; how to be the quarterback in a deal and in a boardroom.



## PROUDEST OF

Mentoring associates and having them become great lawyers.

## BIGGEST CAREER SURPRISE

The genuinely close and meaningful relationships I've built with my clients, many of whom now trust me so much that they come to me for personal issues as well as business transactions.

## SUPERPOWERS

Practicality, listening skills, and a sense of humor.

## OUTSIDE THE OFFICE

I love spending time at sporting events with my wife, 17-year-old son (an avid golfer), and 15-year-old daughter (a competitive equestrian rider) in Long Island.

## BEST ADVICE RECEIVED

M&A is a team effort.

## BEST ADVICE TO GIVE

Make a conscious effort to have balance in life.

## M&A FORECAST

In terms of private equity, the robust M&A period we're experiencing now will only become more competitive.

**“My main objective is to have everyone leave the table happy, thinking that they got what they really wanted. Understanding how to do that is the most important part of my job.”**





# Denise Faltischek '00

Executive Vice President and  
Chief Strategy Officer  
The Hain Celestial Group, Inc.

**“I learn something new on every transaction I do. Cumulatively, all my deals have helped build a mission-driven company that I’m very proud to work for.”**

## **BIG DEALS**

**I have completed more than 40 strategic transactions, but as an example, we [Hain Celestial] recently acquired Tilda, a basmati rice brand, which provided an entry point into a new category and helped us enter markets in India and the Middle East.**

## **MEMORABLE LESSON FROM BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL**

Strong analytical and communication skills.

## **PROUDEST OF**

My role in helping to grow The Hain Celestial Group from a company with approximately \$600 million in revenue to a company with just under \$3 billion in revenue, all while staying true to its purpose of changing the way the world eats and leaving the environment in a better place for the next generation.

## **BIGGEST CAREER SURPRISE**

After almost 20 years, I still love what I do. I’m grateful to be part of such a great company in the health and wellness space.

## **SUPERPOWERS**

Passion, hard work, and business acumen.

## **OUTSIDE THE OFFICE**

I live in Port Washington, N.Y., with my husband Ken Faltischek '00 and our two daughters (ages 10 and 11).

## **BEST ADVICE TO GIVE**

Develop your legal skills and business acumen at a law firm before going in-house. Once in-house, focus on understanding strategic and operational goals. As lawyers, our job is to help the business achieve its mission and goals.

## **M&A FORECAST**

Deals will continuously get more expensive in the natural and organic products space. If you’re a business owner thinking about your exit strategy, invest in your brands, your processes, and your people. That’s where you can show real value during the due diligence phase of a transaction.

## The Next Generation

“Most of my early-stage startup clients aren’t necessarily thinking about M&A,” says Jared Brenner '15, an associate at Wilmer Hale who works on corporate and transactional legal matters. “As their lawyer, that’s my job.”

Brenner’s interest in M&A, with a focus on startups and venture capital, began during his 1L year, when he became involved with the BLIP Clinic, founded and directed by Professor Jonathan Askin.

“Brooklyn Law School and BLIP opened up doors for me,” Brenner recalls. “It made so many opportunities possible.”

Four other rising stars, following in the footsteps of the M&A giants and powered by the Law School’s



# Matthew V. Soran '05

Partner  
Fried Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson

**“I’ve always enjoyed the thrill of the deal, from the initial bid through closing, and helping two parties come together to achieve a common goal.”**

#### **BIG DEALS**

**Boulder Brands in its \$975 million sale to Pinnacle Foods; Catalent Inc. in its \$950 million acquisition of Cook Pharmica; AEA Investors in the \$1 billion cross-border sale of Houghton International to Gulf Oil.**

#### **NOTABLE HONORS**

Recognized as a “Next Generation Lawyer” by *Legal 500* in M&A: Large Deals; Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Fellow.

#### **PROUDEST OF**

Never wavering from my desire to be in M&A, dedicating myself to honing my craft over the years, and learning to adapt to the fast-paced environment in a way that allowed me to grow professionally and become a partner at the firm.

#### **BIGGEST CAREER SURPRISE**

The impact of the work we do for our clients. There aren’t many professions in which you can collaborate with the CEO of a Fortune 500 company to help him or her achieve a goal.

#### **BEST ADVICE TO GIVE**

I encourage anyone who is looking for a challenge to consider a career in M&A. No two deals are the same, the work is interesting, the environment is collaborative, and you get to advise sophisticated clients on some of their most complex matters.

program in corporate and business law, returned to campus this spring to speak with students in an event titled the Basics of an M&A Transaction. Moderated by Michael Tenenhaus, professional development manager at the Career Development Center and a former investment banker at Bear Stearns, the panel discussion featured Eric Schaffer '17, associate at Clifford Chance; Elizabeth Ann Guidi '13, associate at Dechert; Andrew Fleming '16, assistant vice president of legal and compliance at the Blackstone Group; and



Rising M&A stars (L-R) Eric Schaffer '17, Elizabeth Ann Guidi '13, Andrew Fleming '16, and Bianca Prikazsky '13

Bianca Prikazsky '13, associate at Crowell & Moring. They discussed their career paths and offered advice to students interested in pursuing the M&A field.





L-R: Amanda Lipari '18, Professor Jodi Balsam, and Matthew Grosbard '19 at 111 Livingston Street where the externship program is based





PHOTOGRAPH BY TORY WILLIAMS

# Ready to Work

**Brooklyn Law School's robust externship program takes students beyond the classroom and empowers them with real-world practice**

*By Kaitlin Ugolik Phillips and Andrea Strong '94*

EARLY LAST YEAR, ASHLEY HELLBERG '18 made her way through a blinding blizzard to the Actors' Equity Association (AEA) offices in Times Square. The weather was treacherous and the stakes were high: Hellberg and her mentor, AEA's eastern regional director, were embarking on several long days of negotiations with the League of Resident Theatres. Hellberg recalls that time as one of the most memorable periods of her legal education.

"I saw such passion from both sides," she says. "I watched actors and stage managers advocate for themselves with help from AEA's support staff. And I learned invaluable lessons about the theater industry, the union, and labor law." →

Thanks to Brooklyn Law School’s externship program, which is part of the nationally recognized clinical program, Hellberg has completed three externship experiences, receiving critical preparation for a career in the entertainment industry with a focus on union representation. Prior to her externship at the AEA, she worked with Sony Music, where her duties included reviewing music industry agreements and helping write detailed contract summaries. In spring 2018, she spent two days a week with the Dramatists Guild of America working on copyright law issues.

### The Value of Externships

Hellberg is one of the nearly 400 Brooklyn Law School students who complete an externship each academic year. In addition to their fieldwork—168 hours are required per semester—externship students are assigned to one of a dozen companion academic seminars that augment the learning experience, providing for a deeper knowledge and understanding of the law. An externship closely mirrors an academic course in that students must complete a series of required written assignments, including a learning plan, time records, reflective essays, drafting assignments, periodic assessments, and a final essay.

“What makes our externships so valuable is that, from the get-go, we treat them as an educational enterprise,” says Jodi Balsam, associate professor of clinical law and director of extern-

ship programs. “We want students to become reflective practitioners, and the best practice for doing that is to develop a curriculum of companion seminars. That is a real signature achievement of our program.”

Students at Brooklyn Law School have numerous externship opportunities to choose from in legal practices, judicial offices, and nonprofits—thanks to the close collaboration among Balsam, her fellow faculty members, and the Career Development Center. Fei Zhong, the Law School’s director of employer relations, and Jaime Perrone, associate director of the Public Service Law Center, tirelessly recruit and vet law offices to participate in externship program. The Law School also offers two specialized externship courses: Health Law Practice and Policy, taught by Professor Karen Porter, and Real Estate and Community Development, taught by Professor Debra Bechtel.

### At the Heart of Emerging Legal Issues

During the summer of 2017, Amanda Lipari ’18 worked at the Gender Equality Law Center in Brooklyn as part of her Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship. It was a powerful experience for Lipari, who hopes to provide civil legal services for low-income women and people in the LGBT community after graduation. Through the externship program, she continued working for the center during the fall, which put her right at the center of addressing sexual harassment in the workplace.

# Opportunities Abound

With a prime location in the heart of New York City, Brooklyn Law School offers students world-class externship experiences across all areas of law, as well as in government, business, and nonprofit organizations. Here is a sample of recent externship placements:

- ACLU
- Bloomberg
- Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, Staten Island, and Bronx District Attorney’s Office
- Brooklyn Legal Services
- CBS Broadcasting
- Chanel, Inc.
- Children’s Law Center
- Deloitte Consulting
- Ford Foundation
- JPMorgan Chase Bank
- Judges in SDNY, EDNY, state and local courts, and the Court of International Trade
- Legal Aid Society
- MLB Players Association
- National Labor Relations Board
- The Nielsen Company
- NYC Mayor’s Office
- NYS Attorney General’s Office
- SEC
- Office of U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
- Sony Music
- Thomson Reuters
- United Nations
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Justice
- Urban Justice Center
- Viacom

**“We want students to become reflective practitioners, and the best practice for doing that is to develop a curriculum of companion seminars. That is a real signature achievement of our program.” — Professor Jodi Balsam**

Although the #MeToo wave began with stories about celebrities and high-powered executives, as lower-income workers began to speak out, Lipari, who is especially interested in employment law, was inspired.

“The low-wage workers who chose to come forward and demand a stop to harassment, despite the enormous risk, provided a constant source of motivation,” she says. “While assisting in multi-plaintiff sexual harassment litigation at the Gender Equality Law Center, I had the opportunity to write a policy memorandum critiquing the current federal law standard for sexual harassment and its sometimes erroneous implementation.”

Lipari, who had previously taken the Safe Harbor Project and the Employment Law clinics, also completed an externship for Magistrate Judge James Francis of the Southern District of New York in fall 2016. There she observed numerous settlement conferences, criminal arraignments, oral arguments, and trials. She drafted three opinions related to Social Security disability, settlement enforcement, and a Fair Labor Standards Act default judgment. The experience helped improve her legal writing and research skills, and she gained considerable knowledge of federal civil procedure.

For Matthew Grosbard '19, externship opportunities delivered the in-depth understanding of New York civil procedure that he was looking for, especially his first externship at the New York State Kings County Supreme Court with Judge Donald S. Kurtz '82.

“The Civil Procedure course that most first-year law students take across the United States mostly deals with the federal rules of civil procedure,” Grosbard explains. “But most graduates from New York law schools will practice within state courts and therefore must be familiar with New York civil procedure. My externship with Judge Kurtz gave me the practical experience necessary to be prepared for New York-based civil litigation.”

Grosbard also was placed at the New York County District Attorney's Office, where he supported ADAs in investigations and hearings, doing everything from conducting witness interviews to drafting subpoenas.

“I had a front-row seat to the real-life application of rules of evidence and trial advocacy,” he says.

### **The History of Hands-On Learning**

The first law school clinics and externships were developed in the 1960s, but the real push toward hands-on learning took root in the 1980s and 1990s, when critics of legal education from both the academic and practice realms stressed the importance

of stepping outside the Socratic method. Around the same time, the American Bar Association started regulating these kinds of programs. The ABA realized that law students needed to learn not just so-called hard skills, like negotiation and contract writing, but also soft skills, such as empathy, attention to detail, and professionalism.

Responding to these trends and the movement to refashion legal education along the lines of medical school, which strongly emphasizes clinical work in addition to classroom work, the ABA revised its rules regarding experiential learning in 2016. The new standards required six experiential credits for graduation, defined as law clinics, externships, or simulation courses.

Recently named by the *National Jurist* as “one of the best law schools in the nation for practical training,” Brooklyn Law School has been at the forefront of experiential learning since long before the ABA requirements were issued. Starting in the late 1970s, under the direction of Professors Gary Schultz and the late John Ronayne, students were doing externships in criminal and civil practice. In the early 1980s, a more formal program was developed with the support of faculty including Professors Michael Gerber and Stacy Caplow offering “three streams” of experiential learning—civil, criminal, and judicial—with courses that complemented students' practice work. In 2014, the Law School instituted a requirement for “live practice experience” (either an externship or a clinic) for all students.

Balsam, who previously taught in the lawyering program at New York University School of Law and the legal practice program at New York Law School, joined Brooklyn Law School four years ago to lead the externship program. Her objectives as director are to nurture and develop the Law School's externship programs, cultivate more opportunities for students, improve the training for supervising attorneys, and enrich the program's companion seminars. Balsam is also active in the legal academic community, serving as cochair of the Externship Committee of the Clinical Legal Education Association and an active member of the Externship Committee of the Association of American Law Schools.

“We have always been committed to experiential learning for our students,” Balsam says, “and my role is to continue to grow that pedagogy and tradition.”

### **Preparing Students for the Future**

Under Balsam's direction, the externship program has introduced a two-tier system of companion seminars to ensure that students are not sent into the real world of lawyering without





Externships take students out of the classroom and expand their career networks in law, business, and nonprofit organizations.

solid academic support. These on-campus seminars are taught by a member of the faculty and help students process and learn from their fieldwork experiences.

“There’s nothing like being thrust into the world of practice, which is not student-centered,” says Balsam. “It’s chaotic and functions around the life of the law and clients. Externships can show students what kind of professional experiences they like, and what may not be the right fit for them. They give students invaluable skills beyond what they learn in the classroom, like resilience, adaptability, and how to manage strategic interactions in an unpredictable setting. But it’s also important to discuss those experiences in a classroom setting.”

All first-time externship students enroll in Learning from Practice, a foundational seminar that covers active observation, analytic reflection, and self-evaluation. The seminar also includes professional competencies such as communication skills, making presentations, networking, and ethics. During their second or third externship, students can take a more tailored seminar aligned with the type of work they are doing, such as entertainment law, government practice, transactions, or litigation.

“Students learn how to do a client intake and how to cross-examine a witness,” Balsam explains. “They also get a sense of the ethical, behavioral, and cultural values that lawyers need to understand and cultivate.”

New seminars, such as Tech Tools for Law Practice, that reflect changes in legal practice are frequently added to the curriculum. Through demonstrations, guest speakers, and practical exercises, students in that particular seminar learn about the theoretical and practical underpinnings of evolving technologies for law practice management, cloud computing, virtual lawyering, and more.

Externships can be a road map for postgraduate employment.

“We’ve hired many externs from the Law School,” says Barry Hochhauser ’89, a deputy director in the Office of Fraud Protection and Market Intelligence at the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). For an extern, “it’s a helpful way to

learn what it’s like to be a lawyer and it’s an invaluable way to network and find your way in your career.”

Balsam agrees. “One of the advantages our students have is that many of these offices prefer to hire someone who has externed there,” she says, explaining that while an externship is not intended as a means of getting a job after graduation, the experience does give students a leg up, along with a professional network. As a result, employment opportunities do often result from externships.

“Externships expand students’ social and professional networks, which are critical to landing their first jobs out of law school,” says Zhong, director of employer relations. “Most employers prefer and tend to hire someone they know, and it’s usually through a previous work experience or a recommendation from a mutual contact. Externships expose students to these key contacts in the relevant industry who can make the recommendations and become mentors and/or potential employers. More important, these network contacts are valuable not just in the beginning but throughout the entire duration of the graduate’s career.”

### **Mentor Attorney Development**

The externship experience, by its very definition, is a learning opportunity that takes place outside the four walls of the Law School. The value of an externship, therefore, depends heavily on the quality of the attorneys supervising the students. For this reason, every supervising externship attorney is considered a “mentor attorney” and is given support and training to ensure that students have meaningful educational experiences while working in their placement.

“These attorneys are basically volunteer teachers, and we need to support them in that,” says Balsam.

Mentor attorneys, many of whom are graduates of the Law School, are required to deliver meaningful practical learning experiences that foster a broad range of lawyering skills and give students a greater understanding of professional roles and responsibilities.

## “Helping a student develop as a professional is something we owe to our profession.” —Robin Kaver ’91, Nielsen

The Law School supports the mentor attorneys in myriad ways, with roundtable discussions, a comprehensive handbook, and regular communication from the Law School throughout the semester. In addition, a consortium of New York law school externship program directors came together three years ago to address a growing need for training programs for the attorneys supervising externship students. The consortium decided to take this a step further and provide a CLE program focused

the idea, but only if Kaver ran the program. Since then, Kaver has brought on externs from the Law School consistently during the academic year, and she hired Jessica Jiang ’14 and Julia Mehlman ’16 straight from law school, something the company had never done before.

Today, Kaver, who externed at the Brooklyn D.A.’s office while a law student, is also an adjunct faculty member at the Law School teaching the Externship Seminar on Corporate Counsel.

Kaver’s externs learn how to draft contracts and licenses, how to negotiate with adversaries, and how to “second chair” meetings. She also is quick to note that the mentor commitment is real, and she will continue to offer students a place at Nielsen because of the impact an externship can have on a student’s career.

“It is so important to the students,” she says. “It helps them understand what the work is really like and [helps them] make an informed decision about a career path, and it also gives them incredible substantive experience.”

Kaver hopes that other alumni will consider taking on externs. “I think that helping a student develop as a professional is something we owe to our profession. Someone has to teach and look backward and help bring up the next generation,” she says.

The sentiment is shared among other alumni who are mentor attorneys.

“I am a strong believer in the externship program,” says FINRA’s Hochhauser, who has been a mentor attorney since the early 1990s and is also a member of the externship seminar faculty. He explains that his commitment to the program

comes from his own experience; while at the Law School, he was an extern for four semesters at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), and he was hired by the NYSE after graduation. Like Kaver, Hochhauser began taking on externs, in his case first at the NYSE and then at FINRA.

“It has been a great way for me to keep in touch with what is going on at the Law School,” Hochhauser says. “It also helps me give back to the students all of the skills that I was able to gain when I was an extern. When students are here with us, they’re not only learning securities laws but also the importance of professionalism. It’s the best way to educate a complete lawyer.” ■



The Law School's prime location in Brooklyn, just one subway stop to Manhattan, offers a wealth of professional opportunities.

on information and skills relevant to attorneys who supervise junior people, whether they are students or junior lawyers. Last year, the program took place at Brooklyn Law School, attracting 150 attendees. “It reinforced that Brooklyn is, more than ever, integrated into the practice community,” says Balsam.

Mentor attorneys find the experience incredibly rewarding. When Robin Kaver ’91 joined the Nielsen Company in 2011 as associate general counsel, she asked the general counsel if she could take on externs from the Law School. “We had commercial transaction lawyers, privacy lawyers, and a number of other subject matter specialists and I felt this would make a great place for students to learn,” she says. Kaver’s supervisor was in favor of









DOING

WELL

WHILE

DOING

GOOD

**Lawyers and entrepreneurs are not always the most obvious allies. Lawyers are often perceived as the people who say “No, you can’t do that,” or “That’s impossible.” Entrepreneurs, on the other hand, see themselves as the ones who say, “Yes, why not?” and “Anything is possible.” And they’re right.**

**By Professors  
Dana Brakman Reiser  
and Steven Dean**

But it doesn’t have to be this way. The law can be an incredibly powerful tool and one that should be harnessed to help social enterprises thrive. In fact, when it comes to social entrepreneurship—for-profit ventures dedicated to generating both social good and financial returns—the law is particularly important.

Work in this area of the law began in earnest less than a decade ago when state legislatures created a variety of legal forms specifically designed to accommodate social enterprises. Now more than 30 U.S. jurisdictions offer at least one of these forms to entrepreneurs seeking to blend mission and profit. They go by various sound-alike names, like the benefit corporation, social purpose corporation, and Delaware public benefit corporation. They represent a laudable first step, by legitimizing dual-mission ventures as part of the larger business environment. They have not, however, resolved the fundamental obstacle social entrepreneurs face in raising capital. Our work on social enterprise law boldly plants a flag on the territory first tamed by this initial wave of specialized forms, demonstrating how much more the law has to offer social enterprise.

But first, we must begin by explaining what we mean by social enterprise.

#### **Social Enterprise 101**

A social enterprise represents neither unfettered greed nor pure altruism—it’s somewhere in the middle. But that explanation conveys little about the role such organizations play in today’s

economy and less about what they might become in the future. Even Goldman Sachs—a paragon of financial success—touts its “commitment to finding effective and innovative ways to tackle economic, social, and environmental challenges.” Concluding that Goldman Sachs pursues a social mission alongside its profit imperative, or that it maintains a dual or blended mission, would render the concept of social enterprise meaningless.

There is transformational potential in for-profit ventures dedicated to generating both social good and financial returns. Such firms want to earn profits for their owners (who are their founders, at least initially) but also have a deeply rooted commitment to benefiting society or the environment. More important, unlike a merely

Illustration  
By  
Mike Austin

ethical for-profit venture, they (at least sometimes) demonstrate a willingness to trade profit for gains in social good.

Patagonia is one of the best-known such ventures. An outdoor clothing and gear manufacturer, Patagonia proudly declares its mission to “[b]uild the best product, cause no unnecessary harm, use business to inspire and implement solutions to the environmental crisis.” Without any elaboration, that affirmation would be hard to distinguish from the Goldman Sachs statement above and countless other mission statements. In describing its insistence on balancing profit ambitions with its other aims, though, Patagonia goes further, including numerous efforts to “ensure that Patagonia products are produced under safe, fair, legal, and humane working conditions throughout the supply chain,” protecting workers and the environment on the way, and issuing public disclosures about its impact and activities.

TOMS Shoes and Warby Parker have popularized the one-for-one approach to blending profit making and social purpose. By pledging that “[e]very time a TOMS product is purchased, a person in need is helped” or that “for every pair of glasses sold, a pair is distributed to someone in need,” these for-profit companies distinguish themselves from competitors and attract customers.

Social enterprises really abound, however, at the smaller end of the spectrum of businesses—far from household names like these. Harvest Power, a for-profit sustainable waste processor and organic consumer products manufacturer, states its founding vision is to “create a more sustainable future by helping communities meet challenges at the intersection of waste, agriculture and energy in the 21st century.” Nisolo, an apparel and shoe manufacturing business, offers employees in Peru above-fair-trade wages; healthcare benefits; and skills, health, and financial literacy training as part of its goal to produce “ethically made” fashion items. A browse through any airline magazine, community newspaper, or business case competitor list will reveal additional examples of medium-sized, small, and micro businesses blending profit and purpose to varying degrees.

### The Capital Access Challenge

Social enterprises all share the challenge of access to capital. Their promise will go unfulfilled if their founders cannot access the capital they need to survive and scale.

Access to capital suffers in the absence of trust, and faithlessness can run in either direction. An investor would be a fool to give her money to someone styling himself as an entrepreneur but offering no assurances he would devote himself to creating value for the firm and, in turn, the investor herself. An entrepreneur

would be just as foolish to give up control to investors he believed intended to use that power to appropriate for themselves all the value he created in starting the company. Even in the traditional business realm, if entrepreneurs and investors cannot trust each other, capital will not flow.

The dual mission at the core of social enterprises makes this already vexing problem much harder.

Socially oriented investors need to be convinced not only that they can earn returns, but also that they can trust an entrepreneur’s social commitments—and those of any fellow investors. The last thing such an investor wants to be is a sucker, enduring lower financial returns supposedly to generate social good and instead watching her funds being frittered away or padding the pockets of others. Social entrepreneurs not only worry that an investor might use control to pillage a venture’s finances, but also need assurances that investors will not literally sell out or simply stop trying to change the world once big profits become attainable.

If dual mission business owners cannot resolve these high-degree-of-difficulty trust problems, capital will remain elusive.

The first generation of specialized legal forms for social enterprise were designed to free entrepreneurs from the concern that the law would conspire with market forces to strip them of their social mission. The forms do little, however, to ensure that social entrepreneurs seeking capital and investors keen to contribute to generating a combination of financial and social returns can find and trust each other.

Fortunately, the law remains a fertile field for the second generation of innovations required to respond to the challenge of capital access. These tools are not limited to specialized organizational forms, but include options as varied as hybrid financial instruments, targeted regulatory regimes, and discerning transactional design. Collectively, these legal devices demonstrate that the law can be a potent and nimble ally of social enterprise.

### Social Enterprise Law Rebooted

Only the lawyer’s creativity limits the means by which law can nurture trust between social enterprise investors and entrepreneurs. For an organizational form to do this work, it will need to go further than benefit corporations and their kin, which merely declare that state law will not interfere when investors and entrepreneurs reach a consensus to balance mission and profit. The hands-off approach of these forms offers scant assurance that any such consensus will endure, so adopting them does little to promote investment in social enterprise. But a specialized form could be built to provide such assurances.



Professors Dana Brakman Reiser and Steven Deaton

We propose one such framework: a mission-protected hybrid (MPH). This new legal form would integrate two principal layers of security for a social enterprise's mission. The significance of the first—the fact that an MPH must prioritize its social mission—can be difficult to appreciate. That impact-first orientation establishes a vital presumption. Profit may still trump mission in a particular situation, but not without reflection and an affirmative choice. In a sense, that emphasis on mission inverts the traditional corporate focus on profit. The second level of protection follows charities' lead in shielding mission through a set of interlocking enforcement mechanisms, including curbing payouts. Exiting the MPH form and converting into a traditional business would free a venture from the impact-first imperative but at the price of a portion of its assets, which would be transferred to an organization still committed to the MPH's former cause.

Together, those features not only permit but also protect a pairing of social mission with profit. Without reliable commitments, investors and entrepreneurs will remain on the sidelines, understandably reluctant to find themselves left holding the proverbial bag should their counterparts trade mission for money. The MPH builds on the success of the first generation of specialized entities by providing the oversight they lack. Policing the prioritization of social mission, however, will be resource intensive. In the real world of significant resource constraints, identifying alternative paths to address the trust deficit is even more important than modifying specialized forms.

Fortunately, the pool of possible options extends far beyond organizational forms. The flexible low-yield (FLY paper) debt instrument we propose fashions a convertible note that addresses the trust problem faced by social entrepreneurs and potential investors. Its below-market yield identifies socially committed investors, who would make different investments were profit their foremost concern. These investors are in turn assured of the entrepreneur's *bona fides* by conversion rights triggered if the entrepreneur sells out. In the event such a transaction occurs, the investors would have the right to convert their debt investment into the lion's share of the venture's equity. As a result, no such sale would occur without first securing the consent of the FLY paper holders. Unlike the first- and second-generation specialized forms, FLY paper makes no attempt to offer comprehensive protection for a venture's mission. Instead, it eliminates the sell-out as a stand-alone—but significant—threat.

Sophisticated financial instruments such as FLY paper could accomplish much that the first generation of specialized forms has not, but they are costly. They might never be within the reach of investors and entrepreneurs of modest means. New federal regulations targeted at crowdfunding seem tailor-made for small-scale social enterprises that want to raise equity capital, but those rules offer no mechanism investors can use to identify committed social enterprises.

A third strategy for preserving a balance between social mission and profit would fill that gap. We propose a tax regime, styled SE(c)(3), that pairs an elective tax benefit for mission-related expenditures with increased taxation of dividends and capital gains. This combined tax benefit and tax increase rewards fidelity

to mission while putting a price tag on faithlessness. Opting into the SE(c)(3) regime would allow even a shoestring social enterprise to signal its resolve to prioritize mission. A higher tax burden on profit taking makes shareholder greed its own punishment.

Like traditional charities and for-profit ventures, social enterprises can fill almost every conceivable niche. Because of that diversity, crafting a single yardstick to test whether any given venture's commitment to mission measures up presents a daunting task. Moreover, the stakes are high. A reliable metric could anchor every one of the proposals described here, from SE(c)(3) and FLY paper to the first- and second-generation specialized forms.

### Exit: The Ultimate Test

These issues come into clear focus when the time comes for an exit. The fatal flaw in the first generation of specialized forms lies in the ease with which ventures can embrace those forms, only to cast aside the commitments they impose. The MPH borrows from the charitable playbook to prevent those easy exits. FLY paper enhances social mission's durability with financial engineering (and without government intervention) by targeting greed.

But many, if not most, social enterprises will face transitions without these mechanisms in place. Again, the law offers a variety of tools to assist entrepreneurs and investors who are navigating the shoals of exit. Contexts as diverse as venture capital finance, small-business sales, and even the misunderstood tale of Ben & Jerry's takeover by Unilever offer lessons in using the law to prevent a sale from becoming a sellout.

The social enterprise law innovations we identify focus on raising capital, and will not solve every problem faced by double-bottom-line ventures. Our efforts should, however, dispel the misconception that the best the law can do to help social enterprise is stay out of the way. Well-designed legal interventions can affirmatively promote trust among investors and entrepreneurs, bringing together like-minded individuals with the resources and drive needed to build successful social enterprises. ■

➤ This article was adapted from *Social Enterprise Law: Trust, Public Benefit and Capital Markets* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

**Dana Brakman Reiser** is a professor of law at Brooklyn Law School and an expert on law and finance for social enterprises. Her scholarship has appeared in *Boston College Law Review*, *Emory Law Journal*, *Indiana Law Journal*, and *Notre Dame Law Review*, among other publications, and she has written extensively on nonprofit accountability and governance. She graduated from Harvard Law School and was a legal fellow in the Office of the General Counsel of Partners HealthCare System, Inc., and a law clerk to the Hon. Bruce Selya of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. She is a member of the American Law Institute and was an associate reporter for its *Principles of the Law of Nonprofit Organizations*.

**Steven Dean** is the vice dean and a professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. In addition to his social enterprise scholarship with Brakman Reiser, his work focuses on tax law. He is a coauthor of *Federal Taxation of Corporations and Corporate Transactions* (with Professor Brad Borden) and has also studied tax havens, tax complexity, and tax shelters. He graduated from Yale Law School and previously worked as an associate at two global law firms. He is a member of the executive committee of the New York State Bar Association's Tax Section.



# Professor Linda Feldman '83 Retires

## Founder and director of Brooklyn Law School's Academic Success Program inspired generations of students and colleagues

AFTER 30 YEARS AS A FACULTY member at Brooklyn Law School, Professor Linda Feldman '83 is retiring this year, leaving behind a remarkable legacy—the Academic Success Program—which she built and led for nearly three decades. As director of the program, she helped thousands of students as a teacher, an ally, a mentor, and a friend. Colleagues have praised her dedication to the Law School, her generosity of spirit, her wise counsel, and her clear-eyed perspective. In recognition of her many contributions, she was named an Icon of Brooklyn Law School and honored with other distinguished faculty and alumni at a gala on Ellis Island in 2015.

“Linda Feldman is the heart and soul of Brooklyn Law School,” says Dean Nick Allard. “Her tremendous dedication to student success has done nothing less than transform the lives of generations of our students who now have flourishing careers in the law and beyond.”

Faculty members added to Dean Allard's praise.

“One cannot think of Brooklyn Law School without thinking of Linda Feldman,” says Carrie Teitcher, assistant professor of legal writing and LL.M. legal writing coordinator. “She personifies the principle that if students don't learn the way you teach, then you should teach the way they learn.”

“She is an amazing educator,” echoes Professor Dana Brakman Reiser. “Through tremendous diligence, creativity, and insight, she is able to hone her teaching to best reach her students where they are.”

“Linda Feldman is a nationally recognized leader in her field,” says Claire Kelly '93, a judge on the Court of International Trade, a member of the Board of Trustees, and a former faculty member. “But it is her selfless dedication to her students and to Brooklyn Law School that has made her one of the most respected and loved professors in the Law School's history.”

Feldman's former students often recall her as the faculty member who had the most influence on their law school careers.

“She recognized that everyone needs development, and she helped me make the most of myself,” says Matthew Dunn '93, a partner and co-chair of the immigration practice at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel. “I feel indebted to her for teaching me how to think like a lawyer.”

Feldman's ability to bring out the best in her students, and to encourage them to believe in their own abilities, has been the touchstone of her career at Brooklyn.

“Professor Feldman's dedication and concern is ever present,” says Fr. Patrick Keating '17, executive director of Catholic Migration Services. “She genuinely cares and is always available for advice or simply a word of encouragement. She added a very human touch to the law school experience.”

Feldman received her B.A. from American University and her M.A. in political science from the New School for Social Research. She spent nearly a decade working as a junior high school social

studies teacher in New York City's public school system. Feldman and her husband Jack Wright '81 challenged each other to take the LSATs. Their bet: Whoever scored higher would go to law school. They both did well on the test and were accepted to—and ultimately graduated from—Brooklyn Law School. Feldman's son Matthew Wright is a 2012 graduate. Her other son, Zachary, is a high school English teacher.

When Feldman returned to the Law School as a faculty member in 1988, after five years in private practice focusing on litigation and real estate, the late Dean David Trager asked her to create a program for students who might have trouble acclimating to the law school environment. A year later, she founded the Academic Success Program, which was among the first of its kind in the nation.

Since its creation, this innovative program has helped students navigate the rigors of law school and succeed in their careers.

When the summer course marked its 25th anniversary more than four years ago, students and graduates gathered at the Law School to pay tribute to Feldman and share their success stories.

Throughout her career, Feldman has been in demand as a speaker on the topic of academic success, and she has spoken frequently across the country. A former chair of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Academic Support Section, Feldman currently serves on its nominating committee. She also is a member of the Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship Program and Brooklyn Law School's Professional Development Committee.

Feldman has received numerous honors, including the Hispanic Law Students Association Award, the Student Bar Association's Distinguished Alumna Award, and the Faculty Award from the Black Law School Students Association. Most recently, in January, she received the Section on Academic Support Award at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Diego.

“I look back on my career at the Law School with enormous pride,” Feldman says. “I've heard again and again from students that the Academic Success Program, particularly the Legal Process Course, was critical to their ability to succeed in law school. If you hear it often enough, I guess you have to believe it.” ■





## Faculty Ranked 30th in the Nation for Scholarly Excellence

ACCORDING TO THE INFLUENTIAL blog Brian Leiter's Law School Reports, the Law School's faculty ranked 30th in the nation for scholarly excellence in 2017. The list is based on a poll of law school faculty peers in the field.

"The Law School's scholarly strength has long been a source of pride for us," says Vice Dean and Professor Steven Dean. "Alongside our commitment to teaching and service to the community, we are delighted that our scholarly excellence continues to receive national recognition."

New faculty hires by the Law School in 2017 also received praise from Brian Leiter's Law School Reports. The Law School was highly ranked in another Leiter Report list, most-cited tenured law school faculty, placing 26th in the nation in 2016 (moving up from 33rd the year before).

Following are selected highlights of recent faculty work and accomplishments. To learn more, visit [brooklaw.edu/faculty](http://brooklaw.edu/faculty).

### **Miriam Baer** Professor of Law

Sorting Out White-Collar Crime, 97 *Texas Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2019)

ALTHOUGH STATE PROSECUTORS routinely charge crimes such as homicide or robbery in varying degrees, the federal code's core fraud statutes decline to sort fraud offenses according to degrees of harm or culpability. By lumping so much conduct under a single statutory umbrella, the federal code deprives the public of the ability to gauge the seriousness of a specific offense. At the same time, it obscures those factors that separate the worst frauds from the merely bad ones. Baer argues for the use of a white-collar misdemeanor statute to improve—and sort—the federal code's fraud crimes.

### **Jodi S. Balsam** Associate Professor of Clinical Law

Assessing Law Students as Reflective Practitioners, 62 *New York Law School Law Review* 49 (2017/2018)

BEGINNING WITH THE TWIN premises that legal educators aim for their students to become reflective practitioners and that law faculty can assess law students' ability to reflect meaningfully by reviewing and evaluating their reflective journals and essays, Balsam explains the genesis of her teaching practice and details a rubric to track a student's progress in reflective practice. She and her coauthors have embarked on a project to test whether the rubric can become the basis for reflective practice as a schoolwide learning outcome.

### **Christopher Beauchamp** Professor of Law

Repealing Patents, 72 *Vanderbilt Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2019)

BEAUCHAMP USES NEW ARCHIVAL sources to uncover the history of patent cancellation during the first half-century of American patent law. Early statutory provisions for repealing patents were more widely used and more broadly construed than has been realized. Some U.S. courts in the early Republic repealed patents in a summary process without a jury, until the Supreme Court halted the practice. These findings have implications for the questions currently before the Supreme Court.

### **Dana Brakman Reiser** Professor of Law

Disruptive Philanthropy: Chan-Zuckerberg, the Limited Liability Company, and the Millionaire Next Door, 70 *Florida Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

BRAKMAN REISER PROVIDES the definitive explanation for the decision of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan, to set up their philanthropic organization, the Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative, as a for-profit, limited liability company. The philanthropy LLC structure, she explains, offers donors the flexibility to bolster charitable grantmaking with impact investment and political advocacy, free of the restrictions, penalties, and transparency requirements applied to tax-exempt vehicles.

### **Heidi K. Brown** Associate Professor of Law

Break Bad Briefs, 41 *Journal of the Legal Profession* 259 (2017)

BROWN, DIRECTOR OF THE Legal Writing Program, looks at the practical effects of bad briefing on the legal process and suggests a holistic remedy: a system-wide commitment to instill in law students and lawyers a respect for legal writing as not only a fundamental competency of their chosen profession, but a talent that requires initial training, focused study, repeated practice, and conscious evolution throughout one's legal education and career.

### **I. Bennett Capers** Stanley A. August Professor of Law

Criminal Procedure and the Good Citizen, 118 *Columbia Law Review* 653 (2018)

EMBEDDED IN THE SUPREME Court's criminal procedure jurisprudence are asides about what it means to be a "good citizen." The Court's "citizenship talk" dictates how a good citizen should behave, move, and even speak. Capers examines the Court's assumptions of this aspect of its criminal procedure decisions in order to explore a series of questions about the nature of power, participation, and citizenship today, especially with respect to the police.

**Natalie Chin**

**Assistant Professor of Clinical Law**

Group Homes as Sex Police and the Role of the Olmstead Integration Mandate, *N.Y.U. Review of Law & Social Change* NYU \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

CHIN ADDRESSES THE SYSTEMATIC failure of group homes to modify punitive and overprotective policies and to provide services related to sex and intimacy, creating an environment of sexual isolation. Although legal scholars have explored the complexity of disability and sexual consent capacity and examined sexual rights in the context of institutionalized care, they have yet to explore the ramifications of policies and practices within group homes under federal disability rights law. Chin argues in this article that group homes have an affirmative duty to support intellectually disabled adults in exercising choices with respect to sex and intimacy.

**James Fanto**

**Gerald Baylin Professor of Law**

The Governing Authority's Responsibilities in Compliance and Risk Management, as Seen in the American Law Institute's Draft Principles of Compliance, Risk Management, and Enforcement, 90 *Temple Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

FANTO DISCUSSES THE ALI Compliance & Risk Management Project in relation to governance of compliance and risk management in an organization. Several important issues have emerged in the drafting process and the debates about possible drafting approaches to them. He focuses on the appropriate oversight role of the "highest legal authority" in compliance and risk management, and the related issue of the reporting line of internal control officers, particularly the chief compliance officer and the chief risk officer.

**Maryellen Fullerton**

**Professor of Law**

Borders, Bans, and Courts in the European Union, 23 *Roger Williams University Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

BUILDING NEW BORDER WALLS and banning immigrants have been rallying cries in the European Union, as well as in the United States, in the past year. Recently, the European Union Court of Justice upheld the EU Council's provisional plan to assist refugees and asylum seekers. However, due to anti-immigrant sentiment fueling political campaigns on both continents, Fullerton predicts that litigation that began with border walls and proceeded to refugee bans will return to the highest EU court.

**Joel Gora**

**Professor of Law**

Money, Speech and Chutzpah, *Litigation*, Summer 2017, at 48

GORA EXAMINES the background to the key campaign finance cases of the last 45 years,

from before *Buckley v. Valeo* to after *Citizens United*. He criticizes the "chutzpah" of those who passed and defended campaign finance laws that directly restrict political speech and association and praises the "chutzpah" of those who challenged those laws as antipathetic to First Amendment rights and democracy's demands. Gora traces the origins of the first free speech challenges to modern campaign finance laws, the landmark decisions since then, and the most recent legal battles.

**Susan Herman**

**Centennial Professor of Law**

Our Heroic Constitution? 43 *Human Rights*, no. 2, 2017, at 25

HERMAN WEIGHS THE U.S. Constitution's legacy of protecting human rights. Although the Electoral College's protection of states' rights over democratic equality and the protection of voter disenfranchisement are deep flaws, there is much to admire. Article VI confirms that the People's Constitution is the supreme law of the land—not the will of elected leaders. The system of checks and balances has been a deterrent to the accumulation of executive power. But actions implementing the Constitution require human agents. The true heroes of human rights are the judges, lawyers, and members of the public who resist affronts to human rights, but the Constitution is their superpower.

**Noah Kupferberg**

**Assistant Professor of Legal Writing**

Is the President a Traitor? XXI *International Trade and Business Law Review* 301 (2018)

KUPFERBERG CONSIDERS whether a hypothetical quid pro quo agreement between the campaign team of Donald Trump and the Kremlin to release information damaging to Hillary Clinton, in exchange for a shift in United States foreign policy favoring Russia, would constitute treason under the law. He uses this hypothetical to examine the history of treason in American jurisprudence and explore what actions and intentions constitute treason under the law.

**Rebecca Kysar**

**Professor of Law**

Dynamic Legislation, 167 *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2019)

KYSAR ARGUES THAT DYNAMIC legislation, in which the legislative product itself may spontaneously be updated without further action by Congress, has the most potential to combat legislative inertia while also meeting the challenges of the democratic process. Dynamic legislation holds promise in such areas as fiscal policy, where these concerns are acute, and where its design is not too costly.

**Brian Lee**

**Professor of Law**

Uncompensated Takings: Insurance, Efficiency, and Relational Justice, 97 *Texas Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

THE FIFTH AMENDMENT requires the government to pay "just compensation" when it takes private property through eminent domain. Prominent scholars, however, have argued that optimally the government would pay nothing for taken property. Treating takings compensation as a form of government-provided insurance, they argue that owners should be left to purchase that insurance from private companies. Lee argues that both the standard justifications for requiring government compensation and the arguments challenging that requirement have overlooked the importance of a distinct form of "relational justice." Lee shows why any net social efficiency gains from replacing government compensation with private insurance would likely be negligible at best.

**Gregg Macey**

**Professor of Law**

The Incomplete Ecology of Hydraulic Fracturing Governance, 50 *Arizona State Law Journal* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

LEGAL SCHOLARS respond to novel risks and technologies such as hydraulic fracturing with a wide range of governance claims. What these claims lack is an account of how governance emerges in response to a new policy context. Macey recasts unconventional oil and gas development as a landscape conservation problem. The parallel development of peer-reviewed research and the design of restrictions and controls in states such as Wyoming and Colorado occurred as governance emerged among unique assemblages of scientists, department officials, operators, and other groups. Macey suggests that before we consider governance claims such as state primacy in tailoring or testing knowledge, or the federal role in collecting or dispersing knowledge, we study these interactional responses that co-produce governance of a policy problem such as unconventional energy.

**Christina Mulligan**

**Associate Professor of Law**

Diverse Originalism, \_\_ *University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

MULLIGAN ARGUES that originalists can take several actions today to address originalism's race and gender problems, including debiasing present-day interpretation, looking to historical sources authored by people of color and white women, and severing originalism and the constitution's text from their historical associations with racism and sexism. Taking these steps will not only make originalism more inclusive, but also help originalists become better at accessing the original meaning of the constitution.



**K. Sabeel Rahman**  
**Assistant Professor of Law**

Reconstructing the Administrative State in an Era of Economic and Democratic Crisis, 131 *Harvard Law Review* 1671 (2018)

RAHMAN REVIEWS Jon Michaels's important new work, *Constitutional Coup*, situating it in context of wider battles over social and economic inequality and the crisis of democracy. The defense of the administrative state, he argues, is not just about ensuring checks and balances; it is about preserving democracy—the idea that, through political institutions, we the people expand our capabilities and capacities to remake social and economic systems that are otherwise beyond the scope of individuals, associations, or ordinary common law.

**Jayne Ressler**  
**Associate Professor of Law**

#WorstPlaintiffEver: Popular Public Shaming and Pseudonymous Plaintiffs, 84 *Tennessee Law Review* 779 (2017)

ALTHOUGH PUBLIC SHAMING can be an effective tool in imparting current collective values, it also can deter victims of wrongs from vindicating their rights. Some legislatures and courts, including the United States Supreme Court, have permitted certain rightsholders to bring lawsuits pseudonymously. However, as Ressler shows, the standards and procedures in place for doing so are ad hoc, inefficient, and ultimately ineffective. When rightsholders demonstrate a likelihood of public shaming that reasonably will deter them from bringing a lawsuit, Ressler proposes that they should be presumptively permitted to proceed under a pseudonym.

**Elizabeth Schneider**  
**Rose L. Hoffer Professor of Law**

Why Feminist Legal Theory Still Needs Mary Joe Frug, 51 *New England Law Review* 1 (2018)

SCHNEIDER EXPLORES dimensions of Professor Mary Joe Frug's work and its continuing vitality and importance to feminist legal scholarship. She argues that Frug's work has special significance in grappling with contemporary conflicts in feminist legal theory. This essay is part of the Mary Joe Frug Memorial Symposium published on the 25th anniversary of Frug's death.

**Jocelyn Simonson**  
**Assistant Professor of Law**

The Place of "the People" in Criminal Procedure, 119 *Columbia Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2019)

THE RULES AND PRACTICES OF criminal procedure assume a clean separation between the interests of the public and the interests of the lone defendant who stands accused. Even the names given to

## Adam Kolber Examines the Impact of Free Will and Moral Risk on the Law



FEW LEGAL SCHOLARS can elucidate the cognitive issues in law and public policy as compellingly as Professor Adam Kolber, who has made addressing difficult, complex topics such as free will, moral risk, and other thorny philosophical aspects of crime and punishment a hallmark of his teaching and research. Affiliated with the Law School's Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy and the Center for Law, Language & Cognition,

Kolber writes and teaches in the areas of health law, bioethics, criminal law, and neurolaw.

In 2004, the President's Council on Bioethics released a report discussing research into pharmaceuticals that dampen recent traumatic memories. Kolber, who had recently become a law professor, was fascinated by the report. In response, he authored an article, "Therapeutic Forgetting: The Legal and Ethical Implications of Memory Dampening," 59 *Vanderbilt Law Review* 1561 (2006), discussing the implications of such drugs and criticizing the council's overly fearful tone. He soon discovered a whole wave of new brain-related technologies that were starting to raise important questions for lawyers, judges, and scholars. Today, there is a substantial community of scholars focused on neurolaw.

In his recent article, "Supreme Judicial Bullshit," forthcoming in the *Arizona State Law Journal*, Kolber discusses the many

reasons that judges—particularly at the U.S. Supreme Court—use bullshit (as defined by noted American philosopher and Princeton University Professor Emeritus Harry Frankfurt) and how it reduces transparency and creates other potential problems.

"While we have come to expect bullshit from politicians, there is no shortage of judicial bullshit either," he writes. "[W]e see judges bullshit for many reasons including the desire to keep precedents malleable, avoid line drawing, hide the arbitrariness of line drawing, sound important, be memorable, gloss over inconvenient facts, sound poetic, make it seem like their hands are tied, and appear to address profound questions without actually staking out provocative positions." He has received widespread attention for his paper, which he presented at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Stanford Law School, and Seton Hall Law School.

Kolber has been busy this spring presenting his work to colleagues in the field. At Oxford University, he delivered a talk on punishment theory, "The Time Frame Challenge to Retributivism." His article "Punishment and Moral Risk," which appears in the current issue of the *Illinois Law Review*, was the subject of an online symposium in April at the University of Illinois College of Law, where five law professors responded to the paper.

"Legal opinions would be much more transparent if judges directly addressed their uncertainty and explained its influence on their deliberations," he argues in this article. Kolber believes all moral and legal theorists, like himself, also should more openly address moral uncertainty in their work and in scholarly exchanges, and he takes this approach in his teaching as well. He encourages students in his bioethics and public policy class to not only consider their views on an issue like abortion but also explore the "approximate probability that their views are wrong."

"I want to show students the many dimensions of heated political debates," he says.

## Cynthia Godsoe Advocates for Children and Families



“I TRY TO CONNECT my scholarship to the real-world problems facing children and families,” says Professor Cynthia Godsoe, who has dedicated her career to advancing rights for children and families under the law. “That may mean examining the inconsistencies in prosecuting juveniles for prostitution when they are below the age of consent for sex, or arguing that the longtime placement of foster and adoptive children with gay and

lesbian parents bolsters the case for same-sex marriage.”

Before joining the Law School in 2007, Godsoe, a highly regarded expert on juvenile justice and family law issues, represented children and youth in impact litigation and individual cases in juvenile justice, education, and child protection matters as an attorney at the Legal Aid Society’s Juvenile Rights Division and Advocates for Children. Today, she teaches and writes on issues in family law, criminal law, children and the law, professional responsibility, and public interest lawyering. She also is regularly consulted by the media on juvenile justice and family law issues, and she has published op-eds in both the *New York Times* and *Time*.

Godsoe’s scholarly work focuses on the regulation of intimate behavior and gender roles through family and criminal law, encompassing topics including the path to marriage equality, the designation of victims and offenders in intimate violence, and the criminalization of non-conforming girls. Her interest in these issues is exemplified in recent articles such as “Recasting Vagueness: The Case of Teen Sex Statutes,” 74 *Washington @ Lee Law Review* 173 (2017); and “Perfect Plaintiffs,” 125 *Yale Law Journal Forum* 136 (2015).

“Many of my scholarly interests have grown out of the barriers I saw facing my clients—youth and families marginalized by poverty and race—when I practiced,” Godsoe says.

Godsoe continues to participate in pro bono work on a variety of children’s rights issues and served as chair of the Juvenile Justice Committee of the New York City Bar from 2008 to 2011. Last fall, she joined with Professor Kate Mogulescu and lawyers from Jones Day and the Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center to file an amicus brief in a criminal appeal before the Ohio Supreme Court to support a then-15-year-old girl who was a victim of human trafficking. Oral arguments in the case were held in January. The case brings together Godsoe’s scholarly interests with her work on the board of the nonprofit Girls Educational & Mentoring Services, the only organization in New York specifically designed to serve girls and young women who have experienced commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking.

“It is very important to me to continue to connect my work at the Law School to these pressing social justice issues and to stay in dialogue with lawyers and reformers in this field, including many former Brooklyn Law School students and alumni,” she says.

criminal prosecutions often declare this dichotomy, as in jurisdictions such as California, Illinois, and New York that caption criminal cases *The People of the State of X v. John Doe*. Simonson puts forth a new, alternative approach to thinking about popular participation in criminal procedure, an approach that recognizes that “the people” can and do appear on both sides of the scale of justice.

**Lawrence Solan**  
**Don Forchelli Professor of Law**

The Interpretation of Legal Language, 4 *Annual Review of Linguistics* 337 (2018)

IN EVERYDAY INTERACTIONS, we do our best to resolve linguistic vagueness, ambiguity, and other indeterminacies contextually. When these problems arise in the interpretation of authoritative legal texts, by contrast, it is not abundantly clear what context is relevant, or even legitimate. Solan discusses approaches that legal analysts take in resolving linguistic indeterminacy.

**Alex Stein**  
**Professor of Law**

Law and the Epistemology of Disagreement, 96 *Washington University Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

STEIN IDENTIFIES A DISCREPANCY between law and epistemology and proposes a way to fix it. Our legal system relies on decisions of multimember tribunals. But members of those tribunals often disagree with each other on matters of fact. The system settles such disagreement by applying head-counting rules: the unanimity or supermajority requirement for jury verdicts and the majority rule for judges’ decisions. These rules are fundamentally incompatible with the epistemological principles of rational fact-finding, he argues. When a person makes a factual finding and then realizes that an equally informed, competent, and honest individual arrived at a different conclusion, based on the same information, that conclusion must be given weight and cause one to revisit the original opinion.

**Aaron Twerski**  
**Irwin and Jill Cohen Professor of Law**

The Demise of Drug Design Litigation: Death by Federal Preemption, 68 *American University Law Review* \_\_ (forthcoming 2018)

THE UNITED STATES SUPREME Court has made decisions that will have a profound effect on whether drug design defect cases, in general, are federally preempted. In *PLIVA v. Mensing and Mutual Pharmaceutical Co. v. Bartlett*, the Court preempted product liability actions for failure to warn and design defect against the manufacturers of generic drugs that met the FDA standard for the name-brand drug. The Court made wide-ranging statements that are applicable to name-brand drugs as well. Twerski argues that the sweeping language in these cases leads to the conclusion that common law drug design cases in name-brand drugs will fall prey to federal preemption.

## Minna Kotkin Battles Sexual Harassment Issues in the Workplace



LONG BEFORE Harvey Weinstein and the #MeToo movement became front-page news, Professor Minna Kotkin was exploring and writing about sexual harassment issues in the workplace. Kotkin is the director of the Law School's Employment Law Clinic and teaches Employment Discrimination and New York Civil Practice. She has written and lectured extensively on issues of employment discrimination and sexual harassment—and as the

focus on these issues intensified last fall, she cemented her role as one of the nation's go-to legal experts.

At the height of the Weinstein uproar, Kotkin penned an op-ed in the *Washington Post* called “How the Legal World Built a Wall of Silence around Workplace Sexual Harassment,” arguing that the U.S. regulatory and judicial systems are complicit in protecting workplace harassers from public exposure and condemnation. The piece highlighted the ways in which harassment cases involving high-profile figures such as Weinstein, Bill O'Reilly, and Roger Ailes shed light on the much larger issue of how confidentiality agreements and other legal maneuvers keep this conduct under the radar and perpetuate the problem.

“Confidentiality agreements help protect serial harassers,” Kotkin wrote. “But with public attention now focused on harassment, victims and their lawyers can shift the balance of power in settlement negotiations.” She advocated for congressional action to eliminate the

secrecy of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission proceedings, noting “now is a good time for civil rights and women's organizations to take up this battle.”

Kotkin also has suggested concrete steps individuals should take when faced with workplace sexual harassment. “Put everything in writing,” she told the *New York Times*. “You don't just go and talk to H.R.”

At this year's Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Forum, which explored issues of sexual harassment and low-income workers, Kotkin encouraged members of the audience to expand their thinking beyond the legal definition of sexual harassment.

“There are many types of harassment in the workplace,” she says. “The press is focused on the sexual variety, but we should think about harassment more broadly. Harassment can be overt: ‘Sleep with me and you'll get a promotion,’ or it could be a hostile work environment.”

Outlining the legal barriers for low-wage workers to bring a claim, Kotkin cited the difficulty in accessing resources and systems that employers put in place. “There are a lot of hoops you need to go through to bring a complaint—and then there's also the fear of retaliation,” she said, adding an appeal directly to the law students in the room: “The biggest challenge for low-income workers is the difficulty in getting a lawyer to represent you.”

**“Confidentiality agreements help protect serial harassers. But with public attention now focused on harassment, victims and their lawyers can shift the balance of power in settlement negotiations.”**

**—Professor Minna Kotkin**

“Op-ed: How the Legal World Built a Wall of Silence around Workplace Sexual Harassment,” the *Washington Post*

## ABA Profile of Dean Allard Highlights Career in the Public Interest



“I CANNOT remember a time when I did not want to be a lawyer,” Dean Nick Allard says in the winter 2017–18 publication from the American Bar Association's Division for Public Services. “I have been privileged to work with, learn from, and be inspired by some of the giants of recent American history, including leading educators... leaders in the private sector... and in the arts, another one of my passions.”

Allard was featured as the Public Interest Law Profile, which honors the accomplishments of ABA lawyers who are dedicating their time and energy to the public interest. Reflecting on his

career in higher education leadership, government, and private practice, Allard shared his lifelong passion for the law, the people and the events that have influenced him most, his transition from the private sector to academia, and his advice for law students and lawyers at various career stages.

Among his great satisfactions as the dean of a law school, Allard says he is honored, “to be part of our students' journeys from very nervous and excited new law students to confident members of the bar who go on to impressive jobs.” He adds: “The achievements of our graduates—and their impact on the law, society, and on people's lives—are simply astonishing.”

The publication is read widely by members of the ABA's Division for Public Services, which includes legal scholars, judges, lawyers in the public interest community, private firm practitioners, corporate and government analysts, health professionals, scientists, and economists.



# How the New Tax Act Creates Complexity and Inequity for Small Businesses

By Professor Bradley T. Borden

THE 2017 TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT changes the choice-of-entity analysis for business owners, including attorneys. The choice of entity for business owners may vary depending upon the type of business and the amount of the business's income. An examination of how the new law affects different types of businesses shows the new act complicates the choice-of-entity analysis and treats similarly situated businesses differently.

Two aspects of the new law create complexity and inequity: the 21 percent corporate tax rate and the 20 percent deduction for qualified business income (QBI). The corporate tax rate applies to a corporation's taxable income, but corporate dividends are also subject to tax, at a rate ranging from 0 to 20 percent. By contrast, the taxable income of an individual is subject to a rate schedule with rates ranging from 10 to 37 percent. The top rate applies only to taxable income over \$600,000, so few individuals are subject to the top tax rate.

The new act also creates a deduction for QBI, which applies to income from a qualified trade or business (QTB). The QBI deduction is 20 percent of QBI, subject to limits based upon the W-2 wages and assets of the QTB. Many LLCs, partnerships, S corporations, and sole proprietorships will qualify for at least some portion of the QBI deduction. Specified service trades or businesses (SSTBs) generally do not qualify for the QBI deduction. SSTBs include professional services businesses, such

as those in the fields of law, accounting, healthcare, athletics, consulting, financial services, and performing arts. The full QBI deduction applies to the income of an SSTB only if the income is less than \$315,000 for married couples. The deduction phases out entirely if a married couple's taxable income exceeds \$415,000.

The new law fosters inequity by taxing similar income differently. Consider the different amounts of tax owed on a married couple's \$500,000 of taxable income (\$800,000 of gross income and \$300,000 of W-2 wages) under the following scenarios. To simplify the analysis, the discussion does not consider employment taxes or other tax rules, such as personal deductions and alternative minimum tax, which could otherwise apply.

- Couple withdraws 100 percent of earnings from a corporation. A corporation will pay tax of 21 percent on the \$500,000. That corporate-level tax will be \$105,000, leaving the corporation \$395,000 to distribute, which will be subject to the tax on dividends. The total tax paid on the \$500,000 will be \$152,670, and the effective tax rate will be 30.53 percent ( $\$152,670 \div \$500,000$ ).

- Couple has QBI in pass-through entity. If the \$500,000 is QBI of an LLC, partnership, or S corporation and the income qualifies for the 20 percent QBI deduction, the couple may

## TAX TREATMENT OF \$500,000 OF INCOME

Based Upon Entity and Business Type

Arrangement	Total Tax	Effective Tax Rate
<b>Corporation (100% distribution)</b>	<b>\$152,670</b>	<b>30.53%</b>
<b>SSTB (no QBI deduction)</b>	<b>\$126,379</b>	<b>25.28%</b>
<b>Corporation (25% distribution)</b>	<b>\$108,233</b>	<b>21.65%</b>
<b>QTB (20% QBI deduction)</b>	<b>\$91,379</b>	<b>18.28%</b>

“The new law taxes the same income differently depending upon its type and location.”

deduct \$100,000 ( $\$500,000 \times 20$  percent) from the income. After that deduction, the couple’s tax liability using the graduated rate structure would be \$91,379, and their effective tax rate would be 18.28 percent based upon the \$500,000 taxable income.

- Couple withdraws 25 percent of earnings from a corporation. Some business owners (typically those with income of more than \$500,000) may choose to withdraw only a portion of earnings. If the couple withdraws only 25 percent of a corporation’s after-tax income and reinvests the remainder in the business, only a portion of the business taxable income will be subject to the two layers of tax. The total tax on the \$500,000 of corporate income in such a situation will be \$108,233 ( $\$105,000 + \$3,233$ ), resulting in a 21.65 percent effective tax rate.

- Couple has an SSTB in a pass-through. If the couple’s income comes from an SSTB, no portion of the QBI deduction will be available to them. They would thus owe \$126,379 of taxes under the graduated rate structure, and their effective tax rate would be 25.28 percent.

The table on page 40 summarizes the effective tax rate that would apply to income of a corporation, a QTBE, and an SSTB, all else being equal. Other factors, such as the tax consequences of owning property and employment taxes, may affect the choice-of-entity analysis, but this simple analysis illustrates how the new law taxes the same income differently depending upon its

type and location. The amount of taxable income also may affect the choice of entity. For instance, as the ordinary income from a business increases, more of it will be subject to the 37 percent rate. That difference further emphasizes the complexity the new act adds, but does not obscure the inequities it creates.

For a more detailed analysis of these scenarios, see “Choice-of-Entity Decisions Under the New Tax Act,” available at [papers.ssrn.com/abstract=3119829](https://papers.ssrn.com/abstract=3119829).



**Bradley T. Borden** is professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. His research, scholarship, and teaching focus on taxation of real property transactions and flow-through entities. His work has been published in several law reviews and leading national tax journals, and he is the author or coauthor of several books, including *Federal Taxation of Corporations and Corporate Transactions* (Aspen Casebook, 2017), with Professor Steven Dean; *Federal Income Taxation* (Foundation Press, seventh ed., 2017), with Daniel L. Simmons et al.; and *Limited Liability Entities: A State by State Guide to LLCs, LLPs, and LPs* (Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, 2012). His work has been cited by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth and Ninth Circuits, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and state judicial bodies. He is frequently quoted in the media, including the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *National Law Journal*.

## Announcing New Faculty Members

**Professors Andrew Gold (left), an expert in corporate law, fiduciary law, and private law theory, and Shane Dizon, director of the Academic Success Program, will join the Law School in the coming academic year. Read more about them in the fall issue of *Brooklyn Law Notes*.**



# Alumni Events

## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONORED AT ANNUAL LUNCHEON

IN FEBRUARY, ALUMNI, FACULTY, trustees, and guests gathered at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in New York for the Law School's annual Alumni Association luncheon. **Allen J. Grubman '67**, one of the world's most powerful entertainment lawyers and founder of Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, and **Hannah Cao '03**, general counsel for China's Silk Road Fund, who has been recognized as one of China's top general counsels, were honored as Alumni of the Year. **Andrew Rausa '13**, lead advertising and privacy counsel for Facebook, was recognized with the Rising Star award.

At the awards ceremony, Dean Nick Allard introduced Grubman, noting that "his client roster is a nearly encyclopedic collection of A-list celebrities from the music world, film, sports, media, and culture," including Robert DeNiro, LeBron James, Tommy Hilfiger, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Diane Sawyer, Barbara Walters, and Martha Stewart.

"While Allen clearly has 'made it,' he has never forgotten his roots at Brooklyn Law," Allard said, noting his long-standing generous support of the Law School.

In his remarks, Grubman paid tribute to Professor Joe Crea '47, crediting him for saving Grubman's law school career and putting him on the path to success.

"I wouldn't be here—I don't know where I would be—if not for Brooklyn Law School and Joe Crea," he said, telling the story of how Crea helped him to pass, just barely, his Torts class, which enabled him to stay in law school and eventually graduate. Grubman also recounted how he got his start in the entertainment business, working in the mailroom at the William Morris Agency and as a page at CBS during law school. After graduation, he got a list of all the entertainment firms in New York and went door-to-door looking for a job until he closed his "first deal" with an attorney named Walter Hofer.

"I said to him: 'My family doesn't have much money. How much money will I have to pay you to allow me to work for you?'" Grubman recalls. "He looked at me and said: 'I like that. I'm going to hire you for \$125 a week.' And that's where my career started."

In an emotional closing, Grubman again expressed his gratitude to Brooklyn Law School: "I am deeply indebted to this law school," he said, "and will be for the rest of my life."

"To me, the legal education at Brooklyn Law School was transformational and empowering," said Cao, who was introduced by Professor Michael Gerber. Acknowledging past and present faculty members in addition to Gerber who had a profound influence on her, including Professors Roberta Karmel, Stacy Caplow, Neil Cohen,



L-R: Luncheon honorees Allen Grubman '67, Hannah Cao '03, and Andrew Rausa '13





L-R: Dwayne Thomas '13, Christina Leonard '09, and Angela Santos '10

Joel Gora, Arthur Pinto, and Hon. Claire Kelly '93, judge of the U.S. Court of International Trade and a member of the Board of Trustees.

"This award is not just a recognition of my efforts; it also reflects the school's strong international vision," she said. "It is a celebration of all our alumni's commitment to making this world a better place."

Cao also described her work with the \$40 billion Silk Road Fund, which is implementing the Belt and Road Initiative aimed at spearheading global economic development. Cao was named one of China's top GCs in the last two years by *Asian Legal Business* magazine.

Rausa, this year's Rising Star, was introduced by Professor Jonathan Askin. Citing the urgent issues facing social media, including Facebook being implicated as a tool used to facilitate Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, Rausa said he was confident his experience at Brooklyn Law School prepared him to deal successfully with those challenges.

"My time at Brooklyn Law School armed me with not only the legal skills to tackle these issues, but also the mind-set that truly good attorneys don't just stay within their siloed discipline and handle the immediate issue at hand," he said, mentioning the valuable experience he received at Business Boot Camp and in the BLIP Clinic directed by Askin. "Truly good attorneys learn what is necessary to identify and address the issues that may come a few weeks, months, or years down the road."

Alumni Association President Michael Grohman '83, a partner at Duane Morris, reported that alumni donor participation is currently higher than it has been in at least five years, with a record number of graduates donating to the Annual Fund in the last year.

"I hope we can count on you to join us in our support of Brooklyn Law School," he said. "And please encourage your friends and classmates to do the same." ■



L-R: Harriet Cohen '74, former Dean Hon. I. Leo Glasser '48, and Trustee Fred Cohen '67



L-R: Diana Kane '15, Jennifer Hafkin '02, and Susan Liebowitz Strombeårg '90

## LAW SCHOOL LAUNCHES WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK

The new Women's Leadership Network aims to support and mentor women in the law, facilitate networking, and promote career success. Founding alumni members include judges, corporate leaders, partners and associates in leading law firms, entrepreneurs, and those working in public service and nonprofits.

In November 2017, Deborah Epstein Henry '94, founder of DEH Consulting and cofounder of Bliss Lawyers, led the group's inaugural program "Innovating Women in Law: Developing Plans for Success in Sponsorship, Promotion, Networking, Leadership, and Flexibility." The event, which drew more than 120 attendees, focused on five key areas for success at work: sponsorship and strategic alliances, leadership and executive presence, self-promotion and risk, networking and "the ask,"

and flexibility and work-life balance.

Members of the new group shared their own experiences and strategies for success in discussions led by members of the Law School's Women's Leadership Circle.

"The most important decisions about you happen when you're not in the room, so make sure there are people in the room to advocate for you," said Meeka Bondy '94, senior vice president of legal affairs at HBO.

For more information about how to get involved in the Women's Leadership Network and events, please contact Caitlin Monck '02, director of alumni engagement and special projects, at 718-780-0322 or [caitlin.monck@brooklaw.edu](mailto:caitlin.monck@brooklaw.edu).



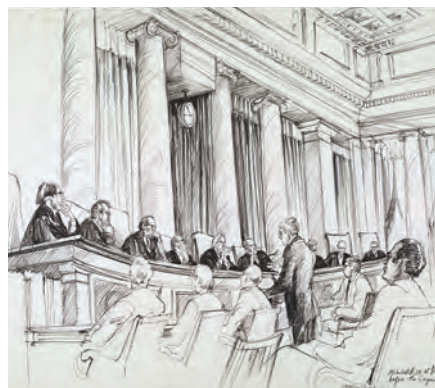
Members of the Women's Leadership Circle at the launch event in November 2017, L-R, Bev Wilson '12, Denise Faltiscek '00, Jodi Siegel-Stein '06, Stacy Kanter '84, Colleen Piccone '90, Meeka Bondy '94, Debbie Epstein-Henry '94, Anne Swern '80, Susan Posen '78, Nicole Middleton '01, and Anne Marie Bowler '00

## ON THE ROAD Washington, D.C.

As part of a private tour in October 2017, Library of Congress docent Steven Kline '71 brought fellow Brooklyn Law School graduates to see the exhibit "Drawing Justice: The Art of Courtroom Illustration." The group saw courtroom drawings of some of the most notable legal cases of the last 50 years. Following the tour, alumni were joined by current Brooklyn Law School students for a reception at Sonoma Restaurant & Wine Bar on Capitol Hill.



» Bernard Madoff, going to jail post plea



» Archibald Cox at Bakke hearing before the Supreme Court



» Mick Jagger on stand at "Just Another Night" trial



## COME FROM AWAY **Brooklyn Law School on Broadway**

In **October 2017**, the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association hosted a memorable evening on Broadway. Seventy-five alumni and guests enjoyed a performance of the Tony Award–winning musical *Come from Away*, which dramatizes the true story of 7,000 airline passengers redirected to Gander, Newfoundland, on September 11, 2001. Before the performance, attendees enjoyed a reception and discussion with Dean Nick Allard and Professor Heidi Brown, director of Legal Writing, who was one of the 7,000 travelers redirected to Newfoundland on that tragic day. Before the performance, she shared her memories and personal experiences from 9/11 and the days that followed.

L–R: Professor Heidi Brown sharing her experience of 9/11 and the days that followed; Cara Goldberg, Brian Goldberg '08, Alicia Meehan '07, and Brian Mason '08



## ON THE ROAD **South Florida**

In November 2017, alumni gathered at St. Andrews Country Club in Boca Raton, Fla., to hear a compelling discussion with Dean Nick Allard and Dina Gold, author of *Stolen Legacy*, which recounts her legal struggle to seek justice for her family and reclaim the Berlin building that had been stolen from them by the Nazis. The Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE) convened a roundtable discussion,

moderated by Professor Jonathan Askin, with local graduates in Miami. Panelists Robert Manne '77, general counsel and senior vice president at Ultimate Software; Lori Anne Wardi '92, vice president of registry solutions at Neustar; and Ryan Malkin '06, principal attorney at Malkin Law, explored how innovation and new technologies are changing existing rules and regulations, as well as the general practice of law.



L–R: Walter Kantrowitz '54 with his wife, Daisy; Lori Anne Wardi '92 and Robert Manne '77







## A Conversation with ROBERT GOLDSTEIN '90

Sonen Capital's CEO leads the way on the new  
frontier of impact investment

“FIRST AND FOREMOST, we are investors,” says Robert Goldstein '90. But the potential for generating profits isn't the only thing that Goldstein and his firm consider when making investment decisions.

Today, as CEO of the San Francisco-based firm Sonen Capital, Goldstein focuses on delivering investment solutions that achieve positive social and environmental impact as well as competitive market returns. He sees his role as an opportunity to combine his expertise in the law and finance while pursuing his passion to make a positive difference in the world.

“When we consider making an investment,” Goldstein says, “it must be financially viable, and it must have the degree of impact that we're looking for. We won't make an investment unless both are present. There also needs to be ‘intentionality’ by the company, clarity that [leaders are] doing this because their intention is to create some social or environmental impact.”

Prior to joining Sonen, Goldstein was CEO and managing director of RCM Capital Management's San Francisco office. RCM, which has since been rebranded Allianz Global Investors, was a global investment management firm with more than \$125 billion in assets under management in both the institutional and retail market. While at RCM, Goldstein chaired the U.S. management committee, and was a member of the global executive committee, the global sales and marketing committee, and the global business management committee. Goldstein has extensive experience in strategic planning, execution, and operations management. Before assuming the role of RCM CEO in 2010, he served as the company's San Francisco chief operating officer and general counsel.

Previously, Goldstein was an associate in the New York, London, and Prague offices of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, where he focused on mergers and acquisitions, corporate transactions, and investment management matters.

During an event at the Law School last fall, Goldstein spoke about his career with Dean Nick Allard. An edited and condensed excerpt of their conversation follows.

### **What are some of your recent projects that you're excited about?**

We recently invested in a company that develops hydro, solar, geothermal, and wind farms in sub-Saharan Africa and serves energy-constrained countries. We've also been conducting due diligence on livestock farms in Australia. People may or may not realize that about 15 percent of carbon and methane in the atmosphere comes from livestock, so it's very important to find better ways of raising cattle and providing people with beef in a sustainable way. We're looking to invest in those kinds of innovative livestock breeders.

### **How do you measure your firm's progress?**

The easiest way to measure progress in terms of environmental and social impact is by looking at the outputs and outcomes of a particular investment. For example, we would measure the megawatts generated by renewable resources and the amount of fossil fuel energy displaced for a clean energy investment. Or you can look at the number of people who previously didn't have access to electricity until you brought in a micro-grid fed by a wind or solar farm. Simply said, we can see impact as more people gain access to electricity.

Additionally, we can measure the carbon footprint of some of our portfolios. There is scientific research that now charts the amount of carbon reduction necessary to meet the standards set by the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015. The agreement seeks to prevent global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius from pre-industrial times. We can map our portfolio along that line graph.

### **Why is impact investing good for business?**

Renewable energy used to be just for hardcore environmentalists, but, for the most part, solar and wind are at cost parity now with fossil fuel-based energy. We're seeing a technology revolution that is helping to address climate change in innovative ways. Many companies, especially those that are big users of electricity like



Microsoft or Amazon, are looking for more sustainable ways to run their massive data farms. Once they put in renewable energy and buy power purchase agreements that go out 20 or 30 years, they know exactly what their cost of energy is going to be, and they can manage their company more efficiently.

**What kinds of investors have an appetite for the products you offer?**

Historically, this has been a focus for high-net-worth individuals, family foundations, and similar organizations that align their portfolio with their mission. But for impact investing to really take off, we need to democratize the space. Nine out of the 10 largest money managers in the world now have impact departments, and they're starting to create products that are accessible for retail clients.

**What role has the Law School played in your success?**

The Law School taught me to be a critical thinker. I tend to analyze things in a linear way, as opposed to a fragmented approach. And it taught me the importance of clear and concise writing. I think that being able to express yourself in a cohesive, linear, and articulate way is critical for a successful career.

**Your career started in Big Law. What was your first job like?**

I look back on my first job at Weil, Gotshal & Manges as one of my most important professional experiences. I learned that being

successful and making a difference requires the willingness to put in the effort and hours to get the job done. There is no shortage of smart people, but without hard work, it will be difficult to differentiate yourself. One example of this that sticks out in my mind was when I was working on a large merger with another Brooklyn Law School graduate, Dennis Block.

I was just a year or two out of law school and working crazy hours every night. One Friday night, I worked really late. But my phone rang at 6:30 the next morning and, when I answered, I heard this booming voice.

"Where are you?" Dennis asked. He then told me we had work to do and to get back into the office. And when I arrived, feeling half asleep, there was Dennis—full of energy and focus.

**What's your advice to a law student who wants to pursue a career in impact investing?**

There are law firms that focus on this work. Morrison & Foerster has a fantastic impact practice based in San Francisco, and we use Arnold & Porter a lot. There also are law firms that work with social entrepreneurs, which is another way to get involved. You might consider foundations and nonprofit organizations, such as the Ford Foundation, which just dedicated a billion dollars to impact investing. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is doing a lot of this work already.

But the reality is, in 10 or 15 years, I hope impact investing won't be an area of specialization. It will just be the way people invest. ■

# ClassNotes

---

1962

**Arnold P. Etelson**, a justice for the Village of Montebello in Rockland County, was honored by the New York State Magistrates Association for his 50 years of service as a local justice. He is currently the longest-serving local justice in New York State.

---

1967

**Clark A. Marcus**, the chair and CEO of Advanzeon Solutions, Inc., in Tampa, Fla., recently joined the board of directors at Document Security Systems, a developer and marketer of secure technologies that specializes in fraud and counterfeit protection for various forms of printed documents and digital information.

---

1972

**Richard G. Fromewick**, a member of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, and chair of the firm's tax certiorari and condemnation department, was honored with the *Long Island Business News* Leadership in Law Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes Fromewick's professional experience, dedication, and excellence, and his positive impact on Long Island.

---

1975

**Jeffrey Citron**, co-managing partner of Davidoff Hutcher & Citron in New York, authored an editorial featured in the *Commercial Observer*, "Amazon, Don't Be Fooled by the Others; We're Your True Home!" (October 5, 2017).

**Lawrence A. Sucharow**, firm chairman of Labaton Sucharow, was named a Litigation Star by *Benchmark Litigation* for the fifth time. He was also recognized by *Chambers and Partners USA* as a Plaintiffs Securities Senior Statesman for the fifth consecutive year and recommended in the field of securities litigation by *The Legal 500* for the 10th year (see page 4).

---

1976

**Vincent Bonventre**, Justice Robert H. Jackson Distinguished Professor of Law at Albany Law School, has been a frequent voice on television and radio, offering insight into the new Supreme Court term for audiences across New York State and as far away as Phoenix, Ariz. He recently appeared on Spectrum News's Capital Tonight, on WCNY's statewide radio show, The Capitol Pressroom, and on KJZZ-FM, NPR's Phoenix affiliate.

---

1981

**Irwin Shipper** was honored by the Friedman Commission for Jewish Education at its inaugural Champions of Jewish Education event in West Palm Beach, Fla. He was recognized for three decades of community service on behalf of national and local Jewish organizations and for his support of Jewish education in the Palm Beach area.

---

1982

**James Brennan** authored an editorial, "Congestion Pricing Train Already Running Late in Albany," published in the *Gotham Gazette's* opinion column. He served as a member of the New York State Assembly for 32 years until his retirement in 2016.

---

1983

**Mitchell C. Littman**, founding partner of Littman Krooks, is of counsel to Helbraun & Levey as a result of a strategic alliance between the two firms. Littman leads the corporate and securities department of Littman Krooks and serves as an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School, where he teaches Transactional Skills for Startups as well as seminars on corporate and transactional matters.

**Joseph G. Milizio**, managing partner of Vishnick McGovern Milizio, was named Person of the Year by Long Island Crisis Center, in recognition of his support for the center and its "Pride for Youth" Division, which provides services and programs for LGBT youth. Milizio is a member of the firm's business and transactional law, exit planning for business owners, and real estate law practice groups.

---

1984

**Lisa Stern** was named managing director of investment bank and financial advisory firm HighBank Advisors, based in Baltimore. She was previously a managing director with the DAK Group.



# The Lawyer on Hollywood Stars' Speed Dial

## Marty Singer '77 returns to Brooklyn Law School for a special event

IN OCTOBER, MARTY SINGER '77, the go-to lawyer for many of Hollywood's biggest names, returned to the Law School. During a special event co-sponsored by the school's Entertainment and Sports Law Society, he offered an insider's look at his work with top celebrities over the decades and his dealings with the media in protecting their interests.

Dean Nick Allard conducted a Q&A with Singer, who has been referred to in the *New York Times* as a "guard dog to the stars (legally speaking)" and in *Vanity Fair* as the "bane of studio chiefs and tabloid editors" and the "rabid defender of stars in trouble."

Singer shared career advice and captivated the audience with tales of headline-grabbing cases. He said his first big entertainment-related case came in 1982, when he handled a matter for comedian Richard Pryor that made national headlines. Pryor had attempted suicide after learning his longtime manager had stolen millions of

dollars from him. Applying a rarely used New York law to void the manager's contract, Singer and his partner recovered the money. From that case, Singer's reputation for success among the entertainment community grew, garnering him a long list of high-profile clients. A founding member of Lavelly & Singer, a premier entertainment litigation firm, Singer has represented numerous Fortune 500 and Forbes 400 clients and A-list celebrities, as well as writers, directors, and athletes, in a broad

range of entertainment industry disputes—including cases against the tabloids and other media and internet outlets. He has received numerous accolades and honors for his work, including being named to the Hollywood Reporter Power Lawyers 2017 list.

"Brooklyn Law School really teaches you pragmatically how to deal with issues," Singer told the audience. "[My professors] literally taught me how to reason." ■



Marty Singer '77 and Dean Nick Allard

### 1986

**Connie Mallafre Melendez** was sworn in as a civil court judge in Kings County. She is the first Cuban-born elected official in New York State. She previously served as the principal law clerk for justice Marsha L. Steinhardt '72 at the New York Supreme Court in Kings County.

### 1987

**Randi Hedin** was elected to the board of directors of Heifer International. As an at-large delegate, she will serve a three-year term for the nonprofit, whose mission is to end hunger and poverty around the world. Based in Seattle, she is co-owner of two family businesses, RPX Research and GMP Proprietary Trading, where she oversees legal, tax, and accounting areas.

**Gregg S. Peterman**, Supervisory Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota, was awarded the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Exceptional Service in Indian Country by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Peterman has served as a federal prosecutor since 1995.

### 1988

**Gregory M. Torre**, Ph.D., was appointed chief regulatory officer and vice president, operations, at Sellas Life Sciences, a development-stage biopharmaceutical company with a focus on developing products to treat cancers and central nervous system diseases. He was previously vice president, worldwide regulatory strategy, global established products at Pfizer, Inc.

### 1992

**Jillian Rosen** was named partner at Pollack, Pollack, Isaac & DeCicco. Based in the firm's Manhattan office, she focuses her practice on writing appeals and substantive motions for plaintiff's attorneys and appearing for oral argument before the New York State Appellate Division and Supreme Court. She joined the firm as a senior attorney in the appellate department in 2007.

### 1993

**Karen Doyle** joined the Hudson Highlands Land Trust as manager of public policy and planning, responsible for engaging village, town, city, and county representatives in sound land-use planning and natural resource protection strategies.

She previously served in nonprofit and government law offices, and represented various municipalities in land-use, zoning, public health, and environmental matters. During her career in the New York City Law Department, Doyle spent many years working with the Department of Environmental Protection on watershed protection issues.



**Matthew S. Dunn**, partner at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel, was named co-chair of the firm's immigration

department. His clients include banks, global financial services companies, technology and business consultancies, advertising agencies, healthcare institutions, and sports and entertainment organizations.

**David Frey** was appointed New York City civil court judge by Mayor Bill de Blasio. He was first appointed as interim civil court judge in January 2017 and has been assigned to criminal court. Judge Frey served for 19 years with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, where he last served as bureau chief of investigations.

**Robert Laplaca**, partner at Verrill Dana, was the recipient of the firm's 2017 Roger A. Putnam Community Service Award in recognition of his charitable work, particularly his 15 years as a firefighter for the Weston (Conn.) Volunteer Fire Department. Laplaca practices commercial litigation and promotion law.

## 1994

**Jeffrey B. Gewirtz**, executive vice president of business affairs and chief legal and compliance officer at Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment, was named to the board of directors of the Brooklyn Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP). VLP works to provide access to the legal system for impoverished Brooklyn residents and those with special needs.

**Deborah Epstein Henry**, a consultant and public speaker on women, careers, and the legal profession, was elected a member of the board of directors of the Forum of Executive Women, a membership organization of more than 450 influential women representing diverse businesses of the Greater Philadelphia region. Henry is the founder of Flex-Time Lawyers and Bliss Lawyers. She facilitated the inaugural Women's Leadership Network event at the Law School (see page 44).

## 1995

**Steve Sanders** returned to the Appeals Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, where he previously served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for nearly 10 years, from 2007 to 2016. He was most recently a director in the criminal defense department of Gibbons P.C.

**Jennifer S. Zucker** joined Greenberg Traurig as government contracts and projects shareholder in the firm's Washington, D.C., office, representing clients in all aspects of government contracts matters. She was previously a partner in the Washington, D.C., offices of Wiley Rein and Squire Patton Boggs.

## 1996

**Tracey Vallarta Jordal** was promoted to executive vice president in Pimco's New York office, where she is head of the legal and compliance department's counterparty transactional management team. She oversees and advises Pimco's global offices with respect to derivatives and forward/financing-related transactions and agreements, as well as any related regulatory issues.

## 1997

**Lisa Grey** was sworn in as civil court judge for Richmond County. She was previously the Staten Island Republican commissioner on the board of elections, and previously served as an Assistant District Attorney under Richmond County District Attorneys Bill Murphy and Dan Donovan. Judge Grey will serve a 10-year term.

**Sonya Smith-Valentine** was recently elected to the board of directors for the Prince George's Community Federal Credit Union, a financial institution with more than \$165 million in assets. She is president of Financially Fierce, a professional development and training company that uses financial education to help clients increase productivity.

## 1998

**Parshueram Misir** has been named a partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana, based in Uniondale, N.Y. Previously an associate at the firm, he concentrates his practice in the areas of construction litigation, commercial litigation, and judgment enforcement.

**Richard J. Sobelsohn** joined Cohen Brothers Realty Corporation as vice president, legal. He continues to teach Sustainable Building Law, Real Estate Practice, and Commercial Leasing at Brooklyn Law School. In October 2017, he presented one of the first New York State-mandated "Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias" CLE programs for the Judicial Title Agency. He was recently reappointed as chair of the Economics, Technology, and Practice Methods Committee of the ABA's real property, trust and estate law section.

## 1999

**Christine Miller Martin** joined New York real estate brokerage Stribling & Associates. She was previously an agent at Engel & Volkers.

# Colleen Piccone '90

## Law and the Border

■ DURING HER LONG CAREER with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), an agency within the Department of Homeland Security in New York City, Colleen Piccone '90 has repatriated stolen antiquities to a small village in northern France, brought down a bank in Manhattan involved in trade-based money laundering, arrested smugglers bringing in fake designer goods, caught heroin traffickers, and prosecuted the sale of military aircraft parts to Iranians.

Today, she serves as associate chief counsel for CBP, the largest federal law enforcement agency in the United States, with nearly 60,000

After spending six years working at Six World Trade Center as a staff attorney, she was appointed Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, a role created to establish a stronger relationship between the Customs Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office. That led to her role as deputy chief counsel to the CBP, where she spent 17 years. In 2016, she was promoted to her current position, in which she oversees legal services to the CBP for the Northeast U.S.

On the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Piccone was flying to San Diego for a training session—instead of working at her World Trade Center office. After the attack, her flight was grounded in Las Vegas, and she rented a car and drove across the country to get back to her children as quickly as possible.

Fifteen years later, Piccone advocated for a move back downtown to One World Trade Center from the CBP's "temporary" offices in Penn Plaza. She led efforts to secure more funding for the move, worked with architects, and helped to mediate employee issues associated with the move while being sensitive to those who had been in the original site during the 1993 and 2001 attacks.

"A lot of people had a legitimate fear," says Piccone, "but I thought it was really important for us to come back, especially being part of the Department of Homeland Security. If we're not coming back, who is? For me, it's like coming home."

A particularly controversial legal issue facing CBP since the election of President Donald Trump has been the changes to federal immigration policy. Piccone's office oversaw the legal issues in the Northeast arising from enforcement of the president's first travel ban in January 2017, an experience that she said was especially challenging.

"We had thousands of protestors and a mountain of legal issues, and my office was in court with the Department of Justice," she says. "We were working 24/7 during that period. It was a tremendous effort, and I am hugely proud of my agency and their work."

Amid sometimes contentious national conversations about politics and policy, Piccone says she tries to create a place for constructive dialogue while ensuring that justice is served.

"The political pendulum swings," she says. "But regardless of what you believe, you have to serve the president and uphold the Constitution. Active debate is treasured and honored in my office. I believe that vigorous conversation is always important, and it's how we find the best answer." ■

— Andrea Strong '94



employees nationwide. "We're enforcing 800 laws at the border," she says, "which means we deal with new legal issues all the time."

After studying Russian at the University of Pennsylvania, Piccone was attracted to Brooklyn Law School for its strength in international business. But she quickly discovered her passion for the courtroom, explaining that one of her favorite experiences was the semester she spent in Professor Gary Schultz's landlord-tenant clinic.

"There I was in court, in the middle of all this craziness, and I absolutely loved it," she says. Piccone joined the U.S. Customs Service, which was the name of the agency before 9/11, straight from the Law School and never left.



## 2000

**Jonathan Brundige** joined real estate investment firm Waypoint Residential as managing director of capital markets. Based in the firm's Stamford, Conn., office, he is responsible for overseeing the launch of new investment products, including development of offering materials and marketing to prospective investors. He previously served as chief operating officer for Candlebrook Properties.

**Leah Eisenberg**, of counsel at Foley & Lardner, received the Executive of the Year Award from the New York Institute of Credit Women's Division. The award was presented by the Hon. Robert E. Gerber, U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of New York, at the 11th Annual Women in Achievement Awards.

**Kenneth Epstein** joined Bentham IMF as an investment manager and legal counsel. He was previously a managing director in the restructuring group at MBIA, and began his career at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft.

**Stacey Gorny** was promoted to partner at Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles. Based in the firm's Long Island office, she focuses her practice on the defense of corporate, commercial, and individual clients in state and federal courts involving cases of civil litigation, premises liability, construction accidents, property damage, labor law, vehicular negligence, and commercial litigation.

**Faige Klein** was elected partner in the real estate finance group of Arent Fox. She advises clients on all forms of financing transactions—including multifamily, senior housing, manufactured housing, and commercial and office properties. She also counsels clients on construction issues, title matters, commercial leasing, and property management concerns.

## 2001

**Dona J. Fraser** was named director of the children's advertising review unit (CARU) of the Council of Better Business Bureaus. CARU is the children's arm of the advertising industry's self-regulation program and evaluates child-directed advertising and promotional material in all media. Fraser was previously a vice president at the Entertainment Software Rating Board.

**William X. Lang**, partner at Winston & Strawn, was a recipient of the Lawyers Alliance for New York's 2017 Cornerstone Award honoring outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits, in recognition of his efforts on behalf of the Charter High School for Law and Social Justice and the Chinese Community Concerns Corporation. Lang focuses his practice on commercial real estate.

**Brian J. Markowitz** joined Goldstein Hall as partner in the firm's New York City office. His practice areas include construction disputes, construction contract drafting and negotiation, and real estate and commercial litigation. He previously served as counsel for Warshaw Burstein.

**Mary Kate McGrath** was elevated to shareholder in the healthcare department of Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman & Goggin. Based in the firm's Philadelphia office, she focuses her practice on the defense of healthcare providers, hospitals, health systems, rehabilitation centers, and skilled nursing facilities.

**Frank T. Santoro** was promoted to partner at Farrell Fritz. He focuses his practice on estate litigation, representing clients in probate contests, contested accounting proceedings, discovery proceedings, and fiduciary litigation.

## 2002

**Kenneth Anand** was named general counsel of Yeezy/West Brand Fashions, an apparel company owned and operated by Kanye West. He previously was partner at Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley.

**Gina Mavica**, partner at BakerHostetler, is serving as treasurer on the 2018 board of directors of Commercial Real Estate Women of New York (CREW New York).

**Elizabeth M. McOmber** was elected to partner at Snell & Wilmer. Based in the Salt Lake City office, she has been with the firm's product liability litigation group since 2004, defending high-stakes product deficit claims against leading manufacturers of pharmaceuticals, medical devices, automobiles, watercraft and marine products, and aircraft.

## 2003

**Maxine S. Broderick** was inducted as a Nassau County district court judge in January 2018. Judge Broderick presides over criminal and civil matters.

**Joshua Kopelowitz**, a member of the litigation department at Rosenberg & Estis, was cited in a decision by the New York Appellate Division, Second Department. The court held that a provision in the lease waiving the tenant's right to seek declaratory and Yellowstone relief was enforceable and did not violate public policy, making specific reference to a 2014 *New York Law Journal* article co-written by Kopelowitz addressing whether such waivers are enforceable. He was also recently appointed to the board of zoning appeals for the Village of Roslyn Harbor.

**Deirdre M.W. Lok** was honored with the GC Impact Award by *New York Law Journal*, in recognition of her accomplishments as assistant director and general counsel of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center for Elder Justice at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale. Lok also serves as an adjunct professor and runs the elder rights clinic at Brooklyn Law School.

# Ross D. Levi '97

## He Loves NY

■ ROSS D. LEVI '97 WENT TO LAW SCHOOL TO change the world. After he helped bring about New York's historic and groundbreaking advances in LGBT rights, his career took an unexpected turn when he was presented with the opportunity to promote the wonders of the Empire State to the world.

Today, as executive director of tourism at Empire State Development, the state's chief economic development agency, Levi leads New York's tourism program, promoting the state's "I Love New York" campaign as well as an astounding range of tourism options throughout the state—including Broadway shows, ocean beaches, hiking trails, and ski slopes.

"Our primary job is to let folks know that, yes, New York State is New York City, and it's also so much more," says Levi, who has helped craft New York's tourism strategies since 2012, when he was first appointed to Empire State Development by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

New York's numerous attractions make it an easy sell, but Levi's job is about a lot more than fun and relaxation. New York is one of the world's most popular destinations, and given its almost 240 million visitors a year, tourism is the state's fourth-largest industry. Tourism is responsible for one in 12 jobs across the state and has an economic impact of \$105 billion annually. While promoting New York's already popular attractions, Levi also strives to build the tourism industry and promote different regions of the state by making connections with people of varied interests, including history, culinary arts, and social and political movements.

Before joining the agency, Levi served as the executive director of the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA), New York's statewide LGBT organization. During his time there, New York legalized same-sex marriage, passed a hate crimes law that included LGBT people, and passed the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act, which made it illegal to fire people or refuse them public accommodation because of their sexual orientation.

"Leading New York's statewide LGBT organization during the years that we achieved marriage equality in New York was an incredible experience," Levi says. "I'm honored to say that I ended up being a part of every LGBT statewide law passed in New York State."

He started working for ESPA as an Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellow at Brooklyn Law School. After working in the New York State Senate upon graduation, he became ESPA's legislative counsel in 2000, and then director of public policy and education, before being named executive director. In those roles, he has



served as a lobbyist, helped draft policy papers and legislation, and contributed to amicus briefs related to LGBT rights policy.

A consequence of the legalization of same-sex marriage was the potential surge in the number of people traveling to New York to get married and attend same-sex weddings. Levi highlighted this fact to the Cuomo administration in 2012, suggesting that the state hadn't yet taken full advantage of this tourism opportunity. That, along with his extensive knowledge of New York State and prior film industry marketing experience, led the governor to appoint him vice president of marketing initiatives for Empire State Development.

Above all else, it was Levi's involvement with the Sparer program that set him on the path to public service.

"It was my Sparer experience that really led to knowing what I wanted to do, and my ability to go do it," Levi says. "It was important for me to go to a school that had a strong social consciousness bent, and Brooklyn Law School's history and strong public interest programs made a big impact." ■

— Kaitlin Ugolik Phillips

## 2004

**Sara Rubenstein** was appointed general counsel and senior vice president of Continental Ventures, a New York City residential and commercial development company. Rubenstein previously served as counsel for Herrick Feinstein.

## 2005

**Peter I. Altman** was elected to partner at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld. Based in Los Angeles, he is a member of the firm's white-collar and government investigations practice. Altman previously worked in the SEC's Division of Enforcement.

**Lawrence Elbaum** was promoted to partner at Vinson & Elkins. Based in the firm's New York office, Elbaum is a litigator and business advisor and has defended public and private companies in complex securities, commercial and bankruptcy litigation, and regulatory investigations throughout the United States.

**Amber Long** was named partner at Levy Konigsberg, where she represents victims of asbestos and other toxins. She oversees the firm's New Jersey asbestos litigation department. Long joined the firm in 2006.

**Timothy Oberweger** joined Stewart Title as vice president and senior development officer. He was previously managing director and of counsel at TitleVest.

## 2006

**Laureve Blackstone** was promoted to partner at Levy Ratner, where she practices labor and employment law on behalf of unions and individual employees.



**Gregory Chiarello**, who concentrates on employment law, has been named a partner at Outten & Golden, where he

focuses his practice on legal cases involving workplace discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. With the national spotlight on sexual harassment in the workplace, he assisted the American Bar Association with its recently published manual, "Zero Tolerance," which explores sexual harassment in the legal profession. According to Chiarello, the manual serves as a "tool kit for attorneys and employees to combat sexual harassment in the field."

**Daniel Wiig**, in-house counsel to Municipal Credit Union, served as chair of the New York City Bar Association's 2017 Corporate Counsel Symposium, held on December 1. He authored three recent articles: "In-House Counsel Can and Should Collect Attorney Fees," *Corporate Counsel* (August 4, 2017); "The Art of the In-House Litigator," *Corporate Counsel* (September 26, 2017), and "Who's Liable to Whom? A Brief Primer on Altered, Fraudulent, and Forged Checks for the In-House Bank Lawyer," *Inside: A Journal of the New York State Bar Association* (Fall 2017).

## 2007

**Samir Ahuja** joined Blank Rome's New York office as an associate in the finance, restructuring, and bankruptcy group, representing investment banks, financial institutions, and borrowers. He was previously with the international law firm Ashurst.

**Amy Altman** joined Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara, Wolf & Carone in Lake Success, N.Y., as a partner in the trusts and estates law group. She focuses on estate litigation matters such as probate contests, discovery proceedings, accounting proceedings, kinship proceedings, and other miscellaneous litigation related to trusts and estates.

**Anson Frelinghuysen** was elevated to of counsel at Hughes Hubbard & Reed. He is a member of the corporate reorganization and bankruptcy department in the firm's New York office.

**Chris Gartman** was elevated to of counsel at Hughes Hubbard & Reed. Based in the firm's New York office, he is a member of the corporate reorganization and bankruptcy department, where he focuses on bankruptcy, restructuring, and commercial litigation.

**Karen Kim**, associate at Menaker & Herrmann, was a recipient of the Lawyers Alliance for New York's 2017 Cornerstone Award honoring outstanding pro bono legal services to nonprofits, in recognition of her efforts on behalf of Dress for Success Worldwide. She practices trademark and corporate law and provides general counsel to architects.

**Joshua Shpayher** was named general counsel of LabPro, a laboratory testing services company based in Harwood Heights, Ill.

## 2008

**Ariel Aranda** was promoted to special counsel in the real estate group at Schulte Roth & Zabel. He is based in the firm's New York office and focuses his practice on a variety of real estate transactions, representing lenders and borrowers in connection with commercial mortgage and mezzanine financings, acquisitions and dispositions of commercial properties, negotiation of joint venture agreements, and workouts and restructurings.

**Blake T. Denton** was elected to the partnership of Latham & Watkins. Based in the firm's New York office, he is a member of the litigation and trial department and focuses his practice on bankruptcy litigation, merger litigation, money laundering controls, and other securities and complex commercial matters.



# Michael Kingfield '06

## Inside Man



### ■ “JUST SAY YES.”

That may sound like a next-generation Nike slogan, but it has been the mantra of Michael Kingfield '06 since he graduated from Brooklyn Law School.

“I’ve always felt that an opportunity is a gift,” says Kingfield, who in 2016 was named general counsel at Business Insider, an award-winning website that covers finance, media, technology, and politics. “If an opportunity comes your way, whether or not you feel ready for it, just say yes. Figure it out, because if you don’t say yes, you might not get another chance.”

Kingfield, who joined Business Insider in 2014, says his current position is the most rewarding of his career, putting him on the front lines of media and technology. In addition to his day-to-day responsibilities, which include handling contracts, real estate, and editorial and employment matters, he was involved in the company’s 2015 acquisition by Axel Springer, one of Europe’s largest media companies. Kingfield helped Business Insider navigate the complex deal, and he played a key role in installing the post-merger systems and processes necessary to operate as part of a public company. He continues to run trainings for the editorial and publishing teams on legal issues related to intellectual property and the First Amendment, including libel, slander, and defamation. He also has established important pre-publication legal review procedures for the company.

Kingfield began his law school career with a desire to work in the startup community. The summer after his first year at the Law

School, he worked as a legal intern at UGO, a pop culture and comedy website that focuses on film, television, gaming, and geek culture. He loved the work so much that he ended up staying with UGO throughout law school and focused on classes related to the world of media startups—including corporations, financial transactions, intellectual property, and contract drafting and negotiation.

When UGO offered him a job after law school, Kingfield said yes—even though it was an opportunity in business development.

“I had a chance to get in at an early stage of an exciting startup,” he explains. “I knew I’d get to do a lot of different things because the company was growing, and it would probably need additional legal help down the road.”

He was right. Within a couple of years, UGO was acquired by Hearst, and Kingfield was asked to become head of legal affairs for the company. Although Kingfield remembers being terrified, he still accepted the offer.

“I was two years out of law school, and I was going to basically take on the role of in-house counsel for this company,” he says.

He relished the challenge, learning from anyone who would take the time to show him the ropes, and he leaned heavily on the general counsel and lawyers at Hearst. In 2012, after UGO was sold to IGN Entertainment, Kingfield joined Media Math, an ad tech company, in business development. Three years later, a friend from UGO recruited him to join Business Insider. Kingfield started in a hybrid legal and business development role, but he was soon promoted to senior vice president of legal affairs and then named general counsel a year later.

“Coming into Business Insider, which had not had an attorney in-house before me, I saw firsthand all the things that could have been done differently for the business if a lawyer had been here from the get-go,” he says. “There is so much benefit for a startup to have a lawyer who is familiar with the day-to-day operations.”

Today, early-stage startups can access that essential legal help thanks to the Law School’s Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE), which Kingfield says is game-changing for both students and early-stage companies.

“CUBE really prepares students for a more entrepreneurial world, while offering essential legal resources to the startup community. It opens up a world of career opportunities for students and gives them their own chance to just say yes.” ■

— Andrea Strong '94

**David Herscovici** joined Simply Funding, a direct merchant cash advance and alternative funding company, as in-house general counsel.

**Mickey Passman** was named partner at national insurance coverage law firm BatesCarey. He concentrates his practice on insurance law, including pre-litigation insurance coverage analysis and the litigation of complex insurance coverage disputes in state and federal courts throughout the country.

**Aaron Prince** was elected partner of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati. Based in the firm's New York office, he focuses his practice on energy and infrastructure, in the United States and internationally.

**Devin Taylor** was promoted to general counsel at Integro Insurance Brokers, an international insurance brokerage and risk management firm. Taylor joined Integro as deputy general counsel in 2014.

## 2009

**Yesenia D. Batista** was elected to partner at Thompson Hine. She is a member of the commercial and public finance practice group in New York, focusing on corporate trust-related agreements and structured finance transactions.

**Michael German** joined international dispute resolution funder Vannin Capital as investment director, based in the company's New York City office. German was previously a senior associate at Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer.

**Tristan A. Mullis** was promoted to shareholder at civil litigation law firm Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin. Based in the firm's Los Angeles office, he practices in the employment and labor law group, representing California employers in the defense of claims involving issues of workplace discrimination, harassment, retaliation, wrongful termination, and wage and hour violations.



**Moya O'Connor**, founder and CEO of Caribbean Attorneys Network (CAN), recently joined MetLife as a senior trial attorney. In 2017, she was listed as one of the "40 Under 40 Achievement Award" honorees by the *Network Journal*, a magazine highlighting black professionals and black-owned small businesses. Of Jamaican descent, O'Connor founded CAN to assist law students, attorneys, and other professionals in the legal field of Caribbean ancestry with professional development and networking opportunities. She intends for CAN to one day have an international presence.

**Andre B. Nance** was promoted to partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. He joined the firm's New York office in January 2017 as a member of the private funds group. He focuses his practice on the representation of private fund sponsors in connection with the formation, capital raising, and operation of domestic and offshore funds.

**Michele Rita** joined Rivkin Radler as an associate in the firm's insurance fraud practice group. She focuses her practice on insurance defense and no-fault insurance fraud matters.

**Julie F. Schechter** was elevated to partner at Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads. She is a transactional attorney based in the firm's New York office, where she advises and represents co-op/condo boards in all areas of concern.

## 2010

**Anthony Wong** was promoted to senior counsel at Wood Smith Henning & Berman, where he practices in the areas of commercial litigation, construction defect, and insurance defense. He is based in the firm's Las Vegas office.

**Brendan Palfreyman** has found a way to fuse his love for craft beer and the law into his career. After clerking for the New York State Education Department and working at Proskauer Rose, he moved to Syracuse in 2013 and joined Harris Beach, where he was named a partner in 2017. He has built a practice there representing 102 breweries, distilleries, and vineyards. This fall, he will return to the Law School for a panel discussion on the craft beer industry.

## 2011

**Paul Cossu** became a named partner at Cahill Cossu Noh & Robinson, which was formerly known as Cahill Partners. He concentrates his practice on general commercial matters with a particular focus on litigation and transactional matters for those in the art world.

**Heather Martone** joined the employment law firm Fisher Phillips as an associate. Based in the firm's Irvine, Calif., office, she focuses her practice on labor and employment litigation.

## 2012

**Amanda Bernardo** was one of 10 Filipino-American community leaders selected by the Embassy of the Philippines for FYLPRO, the Filipino Young Leaders Program, in recognition of her work in immigration law. FYLPRO delegates participate in a distinguished, expenses-paid, weeklong immersion program in the Philippines.

# Lystra Batchoo '07

## Buzzworthy



■ LYSTRA BATCHOO '07, ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL AT the digital media company BuzzFeed, has her hands in all aspects of the company's operations. Her typical day might involve engaging in contract negotiations with an ad agency; deciphering the intent of FTC rules; advising on copyright infringement; and providing general legal support to the company's sales, technology, research, and business operations and strategy teams. Dull it's not—and she loves it.

"BuzzFeed is a company that likes to take risks," Batchoo says, "which could drive some attorneys crazy. But for me, it makes my work interesting."

Batchoo was not initially drawn to a law or media career. After graduating from Columbia University, where she studied history and liberal arts, she worked for the Robin Hood Foundation and then for NPower NY, a technology service provider for nonprofits and a job training program for low-income New York City residents. The public service work inspired her to pursue law, and she was attracted to Brooklyn Law School because of its strong focus on public interest and its commitment to practical training.

"I wanted to be able to hit the ground running after graduating," she says, noting that she did a clinic or an externship every semester after her first year. Her experience during law school included work at the Children's Law Center and the Manhattan D.A.'s office. She

also had two judicial clerkship externships—with U.S. District Court Judges Deborah Batts and Shira Scheindlin in the Southern District of New York.

Batchoo's professors at the Law School further inspired and helped to shape her career path. She was impressed with the passion and intellectual stature of the faculty.

"Teachers like [the late professor] Michael Madow, who had such a passion for teaching, really brought the law to life for me and opened my eyes to many different opportunities," she recalls.

After graduation, Batchoo joined Kelley Drye & Warren, starting out in the litigation group and then shifting her focus to advertising law. She built her career at the firm for more than eight years while she also was building her family with her husband, Joel Daniels.

As it became more challenging to juggle family and work at a New York City law firm, Batchoo also realized she wanted

to focus on advertising law rather than general litigation. "It was a re-conception of my career and the type of lawyer I wanted to be," she says.

In 2015, Batchoo became a staff attorney at the National Advertising Division, a self-regulatory body for the advertising industry, which settles and arbitrates cases between competitors and handles consumer complaints. A year later, in 2016, she was hired away to become senior counsel at BuzzFeed. It's a position that has given her enormous professional and personal satisfaction.

"The BuzzFeed legal team is led by a general counsel who understands the pressures on working parents, especially mothers," Batchoo explains. "She has two children as well and respects our time outside the office. That sets the tone for everyone else. I can work remotely, and actually enjoy vacations without interruptions from the office. The flexibility I enjoy now has been a wonderful surprise."

The fast-paced work also has been rewarding.

"Moving to BuzzFeed has been a thrilling transition," Batchoo says. "We're tackling, debating, and discussing cutting-edge legal issues all the time. It's the kind of job that pushes me to come up with creative solutions, because people don't want to hear 'no.' And that has made me a better lawyer." ■

— Andrea Strong '94



**Everett Hendler**, previously at Lionsgate Entertainment, has joined RYOT as its manager of business affairs. A subsidiary of Oath, RYOT is an Oscar-nominated immersive media company that spotlights global and social issues through innovative 360-degree, virtual, and augmented reality experiences, as well as more traditional documentary shorts and features.

**Devika Kapoor** joined French & Casey as an associate. She handles litigation matters including construction, premises liability, and real estate.

**Matthew Pisciotta** joined Broad and Cassel as an associate in the firm's real estate practice group. He is based in the firm's West Palm Beach office. Pisciotta was previously an associate at Zarin & Steinmetz in White Plains.

## 2013

**Corey Briskin** joined the New York County District Attorney's Office as an Assistant District Attorney in the Trial Division. He previously spent four years at the Nassau County District Attorney's office.

**Liz McKenzie** joined Pernod Ricard USA as counsel, marketing and innovation. Pernod Ricard is the world's second-largest wine and spirits company, with a portfolio of leading brands including Absolut Vodka, the Glenlivet Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Jameson Irish Whiskey, Kahlúa, Beefeater Gin, and Perrier-Jouët and G.H. Mumm Champagnes. She was previously in the intellectual property group at Jones Day in Washington, D.C.

**Brigitte Volochinsky** is corporate counsel for Conduent, a publicly traded international company, headquartered in New Jersey. She previously was corporate counsel, compliance and operations, at CarePoint Health System.

## 2014

**Alex Cohen** joined Constantine Cannon as an associate focused on antitrust and complex commercial litigation. He was previously an Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the New York State Attorney General.

**Paul Lee** joined iptiQ Americas as vice president, legal counsel. Based in Armonk, N.Y., iptiQ is a wholly owned subsidiary of Swiss Re, a wholesale provider of reinsurance, insurance, and other forms of risk transfer. Lee was previously an associate in the corporate practices of Weil, Gotshal & Manges and Lowenstein Sandler.

**Scout Richters** joined the ACLU of Nebraska as legal and policy counsel in September 2017. She was previously a staff attorney at Legal Aid of Nebraska.

**Shawn Roche** is an associate at Colligan Law in Buffalo, N.Y., providing legal services to entrepreneurs and startups in the region. His practice area focuses on intellectual property, securities, and corporate law. He is also a registered patent agent, licensed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

## 2015

**Tatiana Benjamin** was installed as vice president of the Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York. She is a law clerk in Kings County Supreme Court.

**Richard B. Corde**, associate attorney at Rosenberg & Estis, was recognized by *Commercial Observer* as one of its "30 Under 30: The Best and Brightest of NYC Real Estate." Corde's practice involves complex commercial and residential landlord-tenant litigation as well as contract and lease negotiations.

**Casey Delaney** joined Cuddy & Feder as an associate in the real estate practice group, representing institutional lenders as well as individual and corporate borrowers, purchasers, and sellers in varied commercial real estate, transactional, and corporate matters. He was previously an associate at Bleakley, Platt & Schmidt.

**Jared Goldman** joined Outten & Golden as an associate in the firm's class and collective action practice group. He was previously a law clerk to the Hon. Robert M. Levy, United States magistrate judge for the Eastern District of New York.

**Garynn M. Noel** was installed as treasurer of the Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York. She is an associate in the institutional securities documentation group of Morgan Stanley.

## 2016

**Dane Fioravante** joined Brooklyn Defender Services as a staff attorney in the criminal defense practice.

### Share your news with your classmates!

Send information for  
Class Notes to  
[communication@brooklaw.edu](mailto:communication@brooklaw.edu),  
or visit  
[brooklaw.edu/classnotes](http://brooklaw.edu/classnotes)  
to submit a class note online.

# Shujah Awan '08

## The Future of Fintech

■ WHEN SHUJAH AWAN '08 WAS AT THE NEW JERSEY Institute of Technology studying computer science and software engineering, a course in patent law fired his interest in the field and set him on an unexpected path to law school.

"After that class, I wanted to learn more about the law," he says.

Awan was attracted to Brooklyn Law School's strong alumni network and its location in the bustling borough that was taking on a new global prominence. He expected to study patent law, but then his legal career plans took another detour.

After his second year, he was hired by Elizabeth Rosenberg '01 as a summer associate at Whatley Kallas, LLP, which focuses on securities, healthcare, and general commercial litigation.

"I could not have asked for a better experience," he says. "It showed me the thrill of being in a courtroom."

Awan joined Whatley Kallas after graduation; there, he practiced high-stakes commercial litigation, primarily in federal court. Eight years later, he joined a Manhattan real estate firm where he specialized in real estate litigation, representing developers and landlords. By 2016, he was ready to go in-house: He became counsel for technology-focused hedge fund Nexlend Capital Partners and the general counsel of 6th Avenue Capital, its affiliate alternative funding company. The job put Awan at the forefront of a quickly growing movement in financial technology (fintech) known as marketplace lending, which allows financial institutions to invest in various financial products (such as loans).

"It was a great opportunity to use my technology and securities background, and to work on corporate matters, including preparing transactional agreements, as well as some litigation," he says.

Awan quickly proved himself to be an asset in the burgeoning industry. In 2016, he was named as a New York Metro Rising Star by *Super Lawyers* magazine. In 2017, he was named associate general counsel at Biz2Credit, a leading online marketplace for small business funding, which has arranged more than \$2 billion in funding for thousands of companies throughout the United States. Today, he is involved with all aspects of the company including handling regulatory matters, managing in-house and outside counsel, and even litigating matters in court when possible.

Outside of the office, Awan is an active member of the Alternative Finance Bar Association, where he serves as a journal co-editor.



Awan credits his success to the Law School's strong experiential learning focus—in particular, his clinic placement with then Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Capers (later promoted to serve as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York from 2016 to 2017). Today, Awan is an active member of the Law School's robust alumni network, and he recently hired Nicole Klingler '16 to work on his team at Biz2Credit.

"I was once hired by an alumnus, and it was a real pleasure to now hire an alumna myself," says Awan. "In addition to being a great academic environment, Brooklyn Law School gives students practical skills. They learn how to think outside the box and problem solve. And that gives them an edge in the marketplace." ■

—Kaitlin Ugolik Phillips

# Giving

## New Philip Silverman '51 Scholarship Helps Students Reach New Heights

Ellen Elias and her brother Michael Silverman have endowed the Philip Silverman Scholarship in honor of their father, who graduated from the Law School in 1951 and became one of the nation's leading aviation attorneys. To create a legacy that would honor a father they remember as a man of integrity, compassion, and great humor, Ellen and Michael endowed a scholarship to be given annually to a student based on academic merit and financial need.

"My father was such a big proponent of education," Ellen says, "and I never want him to be forgotten. It was my dream to give to somebody who is bright and ambitious and loves the law, but who just couldn't go to law school without some financial help. Endowing this scholarship means everything to us."

Silverman, who was born to Russian immigrants living in Brooklyn, attended Erasmus High School and then served in World War II, where he learned to fly and developed a lifelong passion for aviation. After the war, Silverman attended Brooklyn Law School on the GI Bill. He started out in private practice, then joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York, where he became chief of the newly formed Aviation



Philip Silverman

Litigation Unit. Ten years later, he became a partner at Speiser, Krause, and Medole, a major law firm representing plaintiffs in aviation disasters including Eastern Airlines Flight 401, Turkish Airlines Flight 981, Pan Am Flight 103, and the crash of an Army helicopter in Mannheim, West Germany.

Ellen and Michael look forward to meeting their first Philip Silverman Scholar next year.

"We will welcome the Philip Silverman Scholars into our family," says Michael. "To be able to meet these students is just amazing. This is our father's legacy being lived out." ■

## CUBE Consultation Center Named in Honor of Sidney Azriliant '63

Evan Azriliant '92, a longtime supporter of the Law School and the treasurer of the Alumni Association, has been drawn to the work of Brooklyn Law School's pioneering Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE) since its inception, providing critical funding for its launch. Now he and his wife Debbie have made another generous gift to the Law School, this time naming the CUBE Consultation Center in honor of his father Sidney Azriliant '63, who died last year at the age of 83. Evan and Sidney worked together for decades as partners at the firm S&E Azriliant.

CUBE offers essential legal services to startups through the CUBE Consultation Center (CCC), in which founders and startups can receive free consultations from practicing attorneys, faculty, and participating students. In addition, CUBE engages the startup community through panel discussions, lunchtime programming, and networking events open to the public. The experience is invaluable not only for students but for clients, who are not yet at a stage where they can afford legal counsel.

"My dad will be forever remembered as a wonderful,



Sidney and Evan Azriliant

loving, kind, brilliant, and decent man who was a terrific father, grandfather, husband, father-in-law, uncle, brother, brother-in-law, and son," Evan says. "He was also a great friend, attorney, and business partner to countless people who cherished and trusted his advice and confidences."

Evan says the ability to make another significant gift to CUBE in memory of his father is incredibly important to him and his family.

"It's really special for me to have this legacy in honor of my dad," he says. "It would be meaningful to him to have this recognition. I am very certain that he would be looking down and smiling." ■



## In Memoriam

### Richard T. Farrell '64

Professor Emeritus Richard T. Farrell '64, a leading authority on New York civil practice law and rules, died on February 7 at age 80. Revered by generations of students and faculty, he taught Evidence and New York Civil Practice at the Law School for 50 years until his retirement in 2014.

Farrell was well known at the Law School for his “lifetime guarantee.” He invited all his students to consult him “anytime, anywhere” if they thought he could help them solve some legal problem—and many graduates took him up on his offer. For his many contributions to legal education, the Law School honored him with the Wilbur A. Levin Award as Distinguished Service Professor of Law in 2005 and as an icon of Brooklyn Law School in 2015.

“As I look back on this iconic law professor, it is with a powerful sense that he was, as Lou Gehrig noted that hot afternoon in Yankee Stadium up in the Bronx when retiring due to illness, undoubtedly the luckiest man on the face of the earth,” said Roger Bennet '70, a former student and a solo practitioner specializing in appeals. “Dick Farrell lived an active life doing what he did best—teaching lawyers. He did it with both skill and flair.”

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Farrell received his B.A. from St. John's University and his L.L.B. from Brooklyn Law School. While a student at the Law School, he served as editor in chief of the *Brooklyn Law Review*. Upon graduating, he joined the faculty in 1964.

During a short leave from teaching, Farrell served as a law clerk to Court of Appeals Judge John F. Scileppi from 1965 to 1967. Farrell argued more than three dozen cases before the New York State Court of Appeals and numerous appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court. He represented the prevailing party at the U.S. Supreme Court in *Morales v. New York* (1969), a Fourth Amendment case in which the Court overturned a decision by the New York Court of Appeals because a confession may have been the product of an illegal detention; and *Grady v. Corbin* (1990), in which the Court ruled that the Fifth Amendment's double jeopardy clause did not permit prosecution for vehicular homicide after the defendant had pleaded guilty to driving while intoxicated.



Farrell's influence extended beyond the courtroom and the Law School's classrooms. For more than 40 years, he was a noted advisor to lawyers and judges on matters of evidence and New York civil practice. He lectured in continuing legal education programs throughout the state for the New York bench and bar. From 1977 to 1992, Farrell served as the reporter for the New York Pattern Jury Instructions Committee. He was the author of *Prince, Richardson on Evidence* (11th ed.), the preeminent text on the New York Law of Evidence. This treatise is in virtually every courtroom in New York State, and it continues to be one of the most-cited texts in the New York courts.

For his longtime service to the legal community, Farrell was recognized with awards including the 2007 President's Award from the Catholic Lawyers Guild and the 2012 New York State Bar Association Criminal Justice Section Award for Outstanding Contribution in the Field of Criminal Law Education.

“Dick Farrell was one of a kind, and during his 50 years on the faculty he became, in many ways, synonymous with Brooklyn Law School,” said Dean Nick Allard.

“Stories about him from his legions of students, fellow members of the faculty, and a vast army of friends and Damon Runyonesque characters in the community would fill many books on an entire library shelf. I know that everyone in our extended Brooklyn Law School community extends our deepest sympathy to his entire family.”

Professor Jayne Ressler recalled him as a trusted mentor and friend. “There are two things that he said over and over that are ingrained in my brain and in my teaching,” she said. “One is ‘the power of the pen.’ He always emphasized that lawyers should think outside the strict confines of the rules and use the ‘power of the pen’ to draft their own procedures for resolving a future problem, before having to resort to the Civil Practice Law and Rules. He was funny, kind, and full of rich life stories. He was very generous with his time with me, and I feel his absence.”

He is survived by his wife, Carol, and his sons Christopher, Thomas, Richard (class of '92), and Sean.

## In Memoriam

### Howard S. Finkelstein '59

Howard S. Finkelstein '59, who founded Finkelstein & Partners, died on December 27 after a lengthy illness. Born and raised in Brooklyn, Finkelstein attended Tilden High School and earned his B.A. at Brooklyn College. After service in the Korean War, he attended Brooklyn Law School with the help of the G.I. Bill. Just two years after graduation, he started his own law practice in Newburgh, N.Y., and ultimately grew it into a larger company with offices in New York and New Jersey. He ran the firm with his son Andrew Finkelstein '91.

Finkelstein dedicated his career to helping others, taking on extensive pro bono work. He represented several families of victims in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and, more recently, veterans of the armed services.

A longtime community leader, Finkelstein served as president of the Greater Newburgh Bar Association, president of the Orange County Bar Association, and governor of the New York State Association of Plaintiffs Trial Lawyers. He also served on the Board of Directors of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, on the Advisory Board of the Bank of New York, and as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

A dedicated philanthropist and loyal supporter of the Law School, Finkelstein served as a member of Brooklyn Law School's President's Advisory Council. He endowed two scholarships, the Class of 1959 Scholarship and the Howard S. Finkelstein Scholarship. He also played a role in creating a scholarship in memory of his classmate, Ronald Jacobson. In 2010, the Law School honored him as one of the Alumni of the Year.

While his professional accomplishments were many, Finkelstein will most be remembered for always being a loving father and grandfather with a great sense of humor.

"Just after the love he had for his wife, kids, and grandkids came his love for the practice of law," said his son Andrew. "He frequently told us how the training he received at Brooklyn Law School enabled him to achieve any success he was fortunate enough to attain. One of my fondest memories was the honor of him handing me my Law School diploma."

Finkelstein was predeceased by his wife Diane. He is survived by his wife Lola Trocino; sons Joel (Bonna), Ronald, and Andrew (Lisa) Finkelstein; grandchildren Alex, Doug, Max, Jesse, Zoe, Sydney, and Emma; stepdaughters Deena and Corrine; and step-grandchildren Jake, Aidan, and Riley. He also leaves a brother Jay, sister Ellen, and brother-in-law Arnold Pearlstone, along with many nieces and nephews.

### Albert Tomei '64

Judge Albert Tomei '64, a pillar of the legal community who served as a judge in Brooklyn for 37 years, died on September 22 at age 77. Tomei was best known for his rejection in 1997 of a murder defendant's plea bargain that crippled New York State's recently revived death penalty. In large part because of his ruling, no inmate has been executed in New York since 1963.

Tomei, a Brooklyn native, worked as a criminal defense attorney before being elected to the Civil Court bench in 1978. In 1994, he was elected to the New York State Supreme Court, where he served in the Criminal Term for 21 years. He also spent time as an interim Surrogate Court judge in 2005.

"Judge Tomei was the total package," said Michael Farkas '94, a criminal defense attorney who honored the judge at a ceremony at the Kings County Criminal Bar Association upon his retirement in 2015. "A great judge and an even greater person."

He is survived by his wife, Lynda Sumner; his sisters, Arlene Bianchi and Barbara Arkin; a brother, Gary; a stepdaughter, Hayley Sumner; and his niece, actress Marisa Tomei. He was predeceased by his daughter, Elisa.

### Joseph Smolinsky '88

Joseph Smolinsky '88, a partner at Weil Gotshal & Manges and a director on the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association Board, died on November 30, at age 54. Smolinsky played an active role in helping to advance the Law School and in the lives and careers of many students. He was a vital part of the Barry L. Zaretsky Fellowship program and the Barry L. Zaretsky Roundtable Steering Committee, which advances the scholarship and legacy of the late professor, a luminary in bankruptcy and commercial law.

Smolinsky was known as a giant in the bankruptcy world. At Weil Gotshal & Manges, he focused on restructuring and strategy for borrowers, lenders, investors, and creditors. His clients included General Motors during its historic Chapter 11 bankruptcy case, Reader's Digest Association, Uno Restaurant Holdings Corporation, Harvard Industries, Inc., Orange County, Calif., Days Inns of America Inc., Vanguard Natural Resources, Ultra Petroleum, and Emerald Oil.

As a student at the Law School, Smolinsky stood out thanks to his "intellect, wit, and complete grasp of material that was at times bewilderingly complex," said Professor Michael Gerber, who taught him advanced corporate restructuring.

Each year for the last 15 years, including just a few weeks before he died, he returned to the Law School with Robert Schmidt '89, a partner at Kramer Levin, to serve as a guest instructor. Smolinsky also served as a mentor to dozens of students, providing career advice and opening professional doors whenever possible.

“Inevitably, his mentees, in addition to expressing awe at his professional accomplishments, would quickly add, ‘But he’s a really nice guy,’” said Gerber. “They didn’t need to tell me—or anyone who knew Joe—that about him.”

Smolinsky is survived by his wife, Jigisha, his daughters, Shana and Alana, his mother, Suad, sister, Ellen Smolinsky Pall ’85, and her husband, Brian Pall ’85. He was predeceased by his father, Benard Smolinsky.

## Elena Sanfilippo ’36

Elena Sanfilippo ’36, one of the early female graduates of Brooklyn Law School, died November 24 at age 103. Just six months earlier, in May, she walked onto the stage of the Brooklyn



Academy of Music to present a diploma to her great-great-niece Francesca Adamo ’17.

Following her graduation from the Law School, Sanfilippo worked as an attorney at Marcela, Turkish & Perlman. She was honored by Brooklyn Law School Italian American Law Students

Association in November 2017.

Sanfilippo is survived by her children Linda E. Rossano and Dr. Joseph S. Sanfilippo, seven grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, and two nieces. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph Philip Sanfilippo.

## Ruth Goldrich Halprin ’37

Ruth Halprin ’37, who maintained a successful trust and estates practice, died December 25 at age 103.

During her time in law school, she met her future husband and law partner, who was a student at New York University Law School. Upon her graduation, Halprin worked for a solo practitioner. Shortly after that, she and her husband formed a law partnership. She focused on trusts and estates law and he on tax law. He died in the 1970s, and she continued the practice for more than another 45 years until her retirement in her 90s.

Halprin passed the love of law onto her family. Her son and two grandchildren are attorneys. According to her grandson, Peter Halprin, an associate at Anderson Kill, she was a pioneer and an inspiration to him to go into law.

1939  
**Eleanor Kaplan Pecker**  
October 11, 2017

1950  
**Hon. Robert S. Kreindler**  
August 13, 2017

1951  
**Arnold Davis**  
September 4, 2017

1953  
**Sylvia Sandowsky**  
January 6, 2018

1954  
**David Durben**  
January 2, 2018

**Sheldon Meyer**  
January 16, 2018

**Hon. John T. Satriale**  
November 25, 2017

**Saul L. Victor**  
January 14, 2018

1955  
**Marvin Jacobs**  
October 10, 2017

1956  
**Carl F. Del Prete**  
December 24, 2017

**Richard Frank**  
October 6, 2017

1957  
**Jack Deitch**  
September 22, 2017

1958  
**Hon. Murray S. Axelrod**  
August 20, 2017

**Hon. Jerome D. Cohen**  
January 5, 2018

**Samuel I. Edelman**  
January 21, 2018

**Abraham N. Goodman**  
September 10, 2017

**Eugene Litman**  
January 31, 2018

**Robert B. Schwartz**  
January 20, 2018

1959  
**Joel Schonfeld**  
November 3, 2017

**Charles Snow**  
August 28, 2017

1960  
**Peter Koste**  
November 28, 2017

1966  
**Michael Pargament**  
August 21, 2017

**Laura A. Werner**  
December 12, 2017

1967  
**Richard Gordon**  
December 8, 2017

1968  
**Daniel R. Fruitbine**  
November 5, 2017

**Maxine Hershman Green**  
December 9, 2017

1973  
**Thomas C. Whitehill**  
January 25, 2018

1975  
**Gayle F. Patterson**  
January 28, 2018

1976  
**Ivan W. Hametz**  
August 12, 2017

**David J. Hollander**  
January 7, 2018

**Jack G. Russo**  
September 21, 2017

1980  
**Conrad W. Reitz**  
January 7, 2018

1983  
**Ronald I. Weiss**  
December 27, 2017

1984  
**William J. Hendrick**  
October 11, 2017

1992  
**Jessica L. Gladstone**  
January 3, 2018

1997  
**Kathleen H. Sanders**  
January 8, 2018





# The Alumni Association Welcomes All Graduates



**The Brooklyn Law School** Alumni Association membership is now completely free for all graduates—a global network of 23,000 proud alumni.

## **MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE**

- Access to the Law School library
- Access to the online alumni directory
- Discount on Brooklyn Law School apparel
- Entertainment discounts
- Rental car discounts
- Retail discounts

New benefits are continually being added, so please consult the Alumni Association's webpage for the most current information: [brooklaw.edu/alumni-association](http://brooklaw.edu/alumni-association).

If you have not yet received your personalized membership card for access to Law School buildings, please contact the Office of Development & Alumni Relations at **718-780-7505** or [alumni@brooklaw.edu](mailto:alumni@brooklaw.edu).



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



## Upcoming Events | [brooklaw.edu/newsandevents](http://brooklaw.edu/newsandevents)

- |                 |  |                       |   |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| <b>May 18</b>   | <b>117th Commencement Ceremony</b><br>Speaker: Hon. Dora L. Irizarry, Chief Judge,<br>U.S. District Court, Eastern District of<br>New York<br>Brooklyn Academy of Music  | <b>Oct. 4–5</b>       | <b>Symposium: The Gift and Weight of Genomic<br/>Knowledge—In Search of the Good Biocitizen</b><br>Sponsored by the Center for Health, Science &<br>Public Policy and the Hastings Center |
| <b>May 23</b>   | <b>Summer Session Begins</b>   | <b>Oct. 12–13</b>     | <b>Young Bankruptcy Scholars Workshop</b><br>Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Business<br>Law & Regulation and the American<br>Bankruptcy Institute                               |
| <b>Aug. 20</b>  | <b>Convocation Ceremony</b><br>U.S. District Court, Eastern District of<br>New York  | <b>Oct. 19 and 26</b> | <b>Prof. Robert M. Pitler Annual Program on<br/>Criminal Law, Procedure, Evidence, and Ethics</b><br>Sponsored by the Center for Criminal Justice   |
| <b>Aug. 27</b>  | <b>Fall Semester Begins</b>  | <b>Nov. 10–11</b>     | <b>ABA Alternative Dispute Resolution<br/>Competition</b><br>Hosted by Brooklyn Law School  |
| <b>Sept. 13</b> | <b>Book Talk and Reception</b><br><i>Misdemeanorland: Criminal Courts and Social<br/>Control in an Age of Broken Windows Policing</i><br>Prof. Issa Kohler-Hausmann, Yale Law School<br>Sponsored by the Center for Criminal Justice | <b>Nov. 13</b>        | <b>U.S. Supreme Court Admissions Ceremony</b>   |
| <b>Sept. 16</b> | <b>Brooklyn Book Festival</b>  | <b>Nov. 16–17</b>     | <b>Scholars Roundtable</b><br>Sponsored by Dennis J. Block Center for the Study<br>of International Business Law  |
| <b>Sept. 27</b> | <b>Panel Discussion: The Future of Privacy<br/>and Security</b><br>Featuring Andrew Rausa '13, Senior Product<br>& Privacy Counsel, Facebook<br>Sponsored by the Center for Urban Business<br>Entrepreneurship (CUBE)                |                       |   |