

Brooklyn Law Notes

THE MAGAZINE OF BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL | SPRING 2019



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Dean's Message



IT HAS BEEN AN EXTRAORDINARY HONOR to lead Brooklyn Law School as interim dean during the past year and guide the school in an important time of transition in its 118-year history. On July 1, we will welcome our new dean and president, Michael T. Cahill, who is returning to Brooklyn Law School after serving as co-dean at Rutgers Law School. He is familiar to many in our community, having spent 13 years on the faculty and as vice dean and associate dean for academic affairs. He is a beloved colleague, noted scholar, skilled administrator, and wise counselor. We are delighted that he is coming back to Brooklyn.

As interim dean, I have had the unparalleled opportunity to view our Law School from a new vantage point and see the significant impact of our alumni, students, faculty, and staff in a fuller way. It has been heartwarming to hear from my former students and have their support and goodwill. I enjoyed meeting with scores of alumni in New York and around the country at events and special gatherings. Your accomplishments and leadership are tremendously impressive, as is your commitment to giving back to Brooklyn Law School and being there for our students. We are grateful for all you do: from helping to recruit prospective students; to mentoring, hiring, and recommending our students for internships and jobs; and providing generous philanthropic support. Please continue to be deeply involved—your enthusiasm and generosity propel us forward.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know our students outside the classroom, helping them navigate the challenges of law school and to seize opportunities for their future. Whether at my weekly office hours, during lunches with student groups and leaders, or at town halls and campus meetings, I have been impressed by our students, by their care for one another, and by their passion to use their law degrees to make a positive difference. I am thrilled to preside at Commencement on May 17 and launch the graduating Class of 2019 into successful careers.

As a longtime member of the faculty, I have found it gratifying to help advance the work of my colleagues and to support initiatives that strengthen the academic program. In this issue of *Brooklyn Law Notes*, you will read about some of this year's initiatives, including the Dean's Law and Policy series (*see page 6*), a monthly program with our faculty experts that highlights contemporary issues in law and policy and displays the real-world impact of their scholarship. I had the pleasure to moderate these discussions, which prompted lively Q&As on topics as wide-ranging as reform of the U.S. electoral system, international trade, sex crimes in the #MeToo era, and mental health and well-being in the legal profession.

The transformative curriculum initiative that will launch this fall (*see page 20*) is a prime example of a project that came to fruition thanks to the vision and hard work of our faculty and the strong support of our Board of Trustees. This innovative program will greatly enhance students' legal research and writing skills, which will be critical to their success. It will simultaneously help them develop their professional identities and envision their career paths. The new curriculum will enable students to see the trajectory of their legal education while they are immersed in it and guide them to make informed choices about their post-law school opportunities.

Serving as interim dean has reinforced my abiding belief in the mission of Brooklyn Law School. Our graduates, faculty, and students truly make a positive difference in a wide range of traditional and emerging legal fields—and well beyond. As I look forward to returning to my teaching and scholarship, I am confident that I am leaving the school in good hands with incoming Dean Cahill, and that Brooklyn Law School will continue to flourish in the years ahead.

Maryellen Fullerton
Maryellen Fullerton
Interim Dean and Professor of Law

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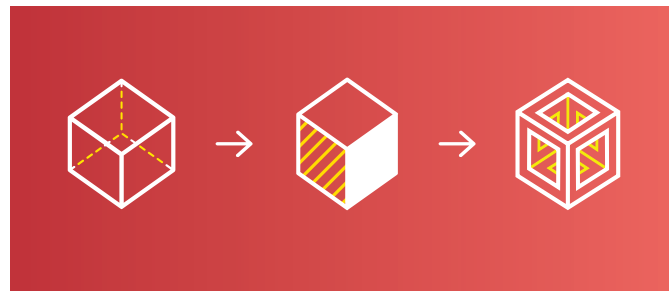
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NEWS



Michael T. Cahill Named Next President and Dean of Brooklyn Law School

MICHAEL T. CAHILL, former co-dean at Rutgers Law School and a prominent criminal law scholar, has been named Brooklyn Law School's next president and Joseph Crea dean. He will begin his leadership role on July 1 and also will serve as a tenured professor of law. Cahill previously was a faculty member at Brooklyn Law School for 13 years, and he served as vice dean from 2013 to 2015 and as associate dean for academic affairs from 2010 to 2013.

"We are very excited to welcome Michael to lead our great Law School," said Stuart Subotnick '68, chair of the Board of Trustees. "His wealth of experience in legal academia, his deep knowledge of the Law School, and his vision to advance the school's academic excellence while maintaining

financial strength made him the clear choice among a field of exceptionally strong candidates."

"I am honored and grateful to have received the support of the board, faculty, and administration," said Cahill, "and I am determined to make good on the investment this school has made in me. I greatly look forward to working with the board and faculty to ensure that Brooklyn Law School's profile and reputation reflect its true value, and that its future will respond to a dynamic legal landscape while respecting its proud history."

Cahill received a bachelor's degree from Yale University, and J.D. (*magna cum laude*) and master in public policy degrees from the University of Michigan. After graduating from law school, where he was a note editor for the *Michigan Law Review*, Cahill served as a law clerk to Hon. James B. Loken of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He was then involved as staff director and consultant, respectively, for major criminal-code reform projects in the states of Illinois and Kentucky. Before joining the Brooklyn Law School faculty in 2003, he taught at Chicago-Kent College of Law as a visiting assistant professor. He was appointed Rutgers Law School co-dean in 2016.

Cahill was chosen following an extensive national search with outreach to almost a thousand potential candidates. The Dean Search Committee conducted 10 first-round interviews with candidates and invited four outstanding finalists to campus for full days of interviews and presentations in late November and early December 2018.

Look for more about the Law School's new dean in the fall issue of *Brooklyn Law Notes*.

"I am honored and grateful to have received the support of the board, faculty, and administration, and I am determined to make good on the investment this school has made in me."

Ribbon Cutting and Theater Performance Open New Moot Court Room

INTERIM DEAN MARYELLEN FULLERTON cut the ribbon on the newly renovated Moot Court Room with Trustees Hon. Claire Kelly '93 and Anna Ashurov '12, and members of the Moot Court Honor Society, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Honor Society, and the Student Bar Association.

The opening celebration featured a performance of the off-Broadway play *De Novo*, presented with the Houses on the Moon Theater Company. The documentary play, crafted entirely from immigration court transcripts, interviews, and letters, tells the gripping true story of 14-year-old Edgar Chocoy and his legal struggle to be allowed to stay in the United States.



A talkback with the cast of *De Novo* and Associate Dean Stacy Caplow and Professor Carmen Maria Rey '06 followed the performance.



Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton (center) cuts the ribbon, flanked by Hon. Claire Kelly '93, member of the Board of Trustees (L) and recent graduate Trustee Anna Ashurov '12 (R).



L-R: Team members Michael Neville '19, Joshua Sycoff '20, Montené Speight '19, Nikolai Wolfe '19, and Michael Marando '19.

ADR Honor Society Hosts Regional Competition

THE ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION HONOR SOCIETY (ADRHS) hosted 13 law school teams from across the country this fall for the regional round of the ABA Law Student Division Arbitration Competition. The Brooklyn Law School team was one of the four finalists and placed third overall.

"Some form of ADR is inherently a part of every litigation these days," said Thomas White '19, ADRHS president, who organized the event with Sabrina Woods '19, vice president of administrative affairs. "ADRHS provides a valuable experience to its members because every lawyer will eventually engage in ADR at some point in their career." More than 50 alumni and other practitioners served as judges for the competition.

Hon. Ramon E. Reyes Jr. '92 Joins Board of Trustees

THE BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES recently appointed the Hon. Ramon E. Reyes Jr. '92, U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of New York, to the board.

“Brooklyn Law School was instrumental in getting me started in my legal career,” Judge Reyes said, “and I look forward to working with the board to continue the Law School’s great tradition of preparing the next generation of leaders in the legal profession.”

Judge Reyes entered service as a U.S. magistrate judge in the Eastern District of New York in February 2006. At the time of his appointment, he was an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York, serving as deputy chief of civil appeals. Previously, he was an associate in the New York office of O’Melveny & Myers and served as a law clerk to the late Hon. David G. Trager, former dean of Brooklyn Law School. Judge Reyes also served as a legislative attorney for the New York City Council and as an adjunct professor of clinical law at the Law School for

10 years. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and a master of laws degree from New York University School of Law.

Today, Judge Reyes serves as president of the Federal Magistrate Judges Association. Considered by many to be a role model, particularly in the Hispanic community, he is also a member of the Latino Judges Association, Hispanic National Bar Association, Puerto Rican Bar Association, Federal Bar Council, and Federal Bar Association. In 2005, he received the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service from the Department of the Army, and the Federal Bar Association honored him with the inaugural Jack B. Weinstein Mediation Settlement Award in 2016. He was also honored by Brooklyn Law School with an Alumni of the Year award in 2012.

Judge Reyes has employed countless Brooklyn Law School students and graduates as his interns and law clerks. He is married to Jane Landry-Reyes '93, a deputy director of the Tenant Rights Coalition of Brooklyn Legal Services.



And the Honor Goes to... Brooklyn Law School

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL has once again been named one of 50 “Go-To Law Schools” for its percentage of graduates hired at the nation’s top 100 law firms in an annual ranking that appeared on Law.com, the online arm of the *National Law Journal* and *New York Law Journal*. The Law School also placed 27th in the nation for number of alumni promoted to partner in 2018.

For the fourth consecutive year, Brooklyn Law School has been named to *Billboard* magazine’s list of top music law schools. *Billboard* highlighted the school’s entertainment law offerings and noted prominent graduates, including Nicole Wyskoarko '04, Interscope Geffen A&M executive vice president of urban operations, who was profiled in the fall 2018 *Brooklyn Law Notes*.

Students, Alumni Gear Up for Boot Camp

THE LAW SCHOOL held its seventh annual Business Boot Camp during the January break. Nearly 100 students and 80 alumni participated in the popular “mini MBA” winter session course, led by Professor Michael Gerber, an internationally recognized expert in bankruptcy law. The program was presented in collaboration with Deloitte Financial Advisory Services and John P. Oswald '84, president and chief executive officer, Capital Trust Group, and a member of the Law School’s Board of Trustees. The program provides students an opportunity to learn from alumni business leaders and entrepreneurs who serve as speakers, panelists, and participants in breakout sessions.



L-R: John P. Oswald '84, Andrew Goldman '92, Andrea Gildea '05, and Stacy Katner '84 discuss cybersecurity.

Dean Launches Law and Policy Series

INTERIM DEAN MARYELLEN FULLERTON launched the Dean’s Law and Policy Series last fall, a monthly program for the Law School community. The programs showcased faculty expertise on critical issues and engaged audiences in lively Q&As.

- International economic law expert Professor **Julian Arato** discussed trade policy and the politics of trade.
- Professor **Jocelyn Simonson**, co-director of the Center for Criminal Justice, analyzed bail reform at the state and national level.
- Professor **K. Sabeel Rahman**, a widely published constitutional and administrative law scholar and president of Demos, spoke on structural inequality and social movements.
- On the eve of the midterm elections in November, Professor **Susan Herman**, president of the ACLU, examined the framework of our electoral system.
- Family and criminal law expert Professor **Cynthia Godsoe** discussed sex crimes in the #MeToo era.
- Professor **Heidi Brown**, director of the Legal Writing Program, addressed mental health and well-being in the legal profession.



Professor Julian Arato



Professor Jocelyn Simonson

Book Festival @ Brooklyn Law School



It was a packed house at the Law School for the Brooklyn Book Festival panel “War on Truth and Journalism,” moderated by Susan Herman, Centennial Professor of Law and president of the ACLU. The panel featured Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists Linda Greenhouse and Eli Saslow, and CNN political analyst April Ryan.

The Law School is a host location for the annual festival, which draws thousands of book lovers to Downtown Brooklyn.

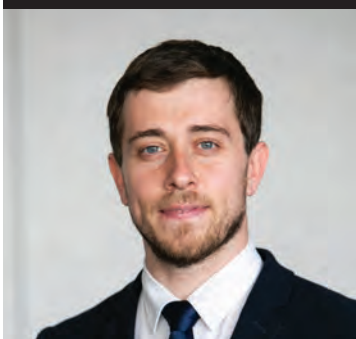
Chloe Gordils '19 Honored with Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award

CHLOE GORDILS '19, executive articles editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review*, was one of 10 law school students nationally to receive the Burton Distinguished Legal Writing Award. She was recognized for her note "Google, Charlottesville, and the Need to Protect Private Employees' Political Speech," 84 *Brooklyn Law Review* 189 (2018).

"It is an incredible honor to receive praise for my note, especially if such recognition brings any attention to important employment and free speech issues," said Gordils.

"Chloe's note on protecting the free speech rights of private employees carefully analyzes the very real problem of trying to protect free speech when the First Amendment does not apply because it is not government doing the censorship," said Professor Joel Gora, who advised Gordils on her note. "Her strong personal commitment to free speech and her fine lawyerly skills have combined to produce an extremely persuasive case for free speech protection and a very promising statutory proposal to try to achieve it."

The Burton Awards were created in 1999 to honor effective legal writing, and this is the second year in a row that a Brooklyn Law School student has won. Last year, Alexa Bordner '18, who was also executive articles editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review*, was selected for her note "How New York Drinks: If and How Third-Party Providers Can Integrate with the Three-Tier System," 83 *Brooklyn Law Review* 251 (2017).



John Jozkowski '19 Wins Immigrant Justice Corps Fellowship

John Jozkowski '19 has been selected as a two-year postgraduate Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC) Fellow. After he graduates, he will be doing his fellowship work at Safe Horizon in New York

City—providing support and pursuing immigration relief for victims of crime and abuse, both in the United States and in their home countries.

"IJC is the perfect way for me, as a new lawyer, to access the advocate community and help as many people as possible," said Jozkowski, who has already worked with several organizations

advocating for immigrants, including Lutheran Social Services, the Safe Passage Project, and New York Legal Assistance Group.

Launched in 2014, the IJC is the country's first fellowship program dedicated to meeting the need for high-quality legal assistance for immigrants. The idea for its creation came from Chief Judge Robert Katzmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, who spoke at Brooklyn Law School's Convocation ceremony last year.

Jozkowski and the other 2019 IJC fellows will serve for two years at top legal services agencies across the country. Host organizations are located in California, Connecticut, Florida, Maryland, Nevada, New York, Texas, and Virginia.

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Spencer Smith '19 Powers Through Challenges

AS A MEMBER of the Pro Bono Scholars Program, Spencer Smith '19 has already taken the bar exam—and passed. He also participated in the Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic. He then spent his spring semester working at Youth Represent, assisting clients between the ages of 16 and 24 who may have faced discrimination for having criminal records, clearing and fixing their records when possible. Smith previously worked with the organization in his second year of law school through the Youth Reentry and Legal Services Clinic.

In other words, Smith is clearly making the most of his law school experience, and he hasn't let anything stop him—including his wheelchair. He was diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), a rare neuromuscular condition, as a child, and he said that his clients' initial judgments about his use of a wheelchair change when they see his confidence in his work.

In fact, he recently shared his passion for social justice and his dream of becoming a public defender with *Brain @ Life*, a publication of the American Academy of Neurology.

"My experiences at Brooklyn Law School, particularly in the clinics, have shown me that working with issues around incarceration is truly what I want to be doing," he said. "I want to be a public defender so I can be at the front end of that

problem, making sure clients walk away without a criminal record or adding to one." After graduation, Smith will be working as a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society in New York City.

"I am thrilled that Spencer has chosen to pursue defender work and already consider myself fortunate to call him a colleague," said Professor Kate Mogulescu, who directs the Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic.

Smith credits his parents, his community, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, college, and friends with helping him overcome

his challenges. He is involved with the New York chapter of the Muscular Dystrophy Association and volunteers his time to speak to donors, the community, and teenagers with SMA who are beginning to navigate the challenges of college and work. He hopes that one day he and his wife, Krystnell Storr, can raise their children much as his own parents did.

"My parents didn't let anything stop me," he said, "and they raised me to be an advocate for myself. I've been fortunate to have received tremendous support throughout my life, and that's inspired me to give back."

Smith is clearly making the most of his law school experience, and he hasn't let anything stop him.



Smith was elected by the graduating class to be the 2019 Commencement speaker.

Jared Riser '18 Featured in U.S. News Story about Legal Assistance to Low-Income Tenant

JARED RISER '18 was featured in a *U.S. News* story Jan. 22, 2019, highlighting the stubbornly high number of eviction cases across the country and the increasing number of cities offering free legal services to low-income tenants facing eviction as a promising solution. Riser, a Public Interest/Public Service (PipS) Fellow at the Law School who is working with the New York Legal Assistance Group as part of the fellowship program, is representing Shawn Johnson, a low-income tenant whose story is the focus of the article.

PipS is a two-year fellowship program offered in cooperation with government agencies and nonprofit organizations that encompasses students' last year of law school and first postgraduate year. The mission of PipS is to improve the practical skills of new lawyers while expanding the ability of nonprofit organizations and government agencies to provide legal services. Brooklyn Law School is the first law school on the East Coast to offer this unique program, which launched in fall 2014.

BLIP Clinic Leads Activities with the NYC Innovation/Startup Community

THE BROOKLYN LAW INCUBATOR & POLICY (BLIP) Clinic continues to be at the forefront of exploring legal tech issues with New York City startup companies and other groups around the city.

For example, BLIP clinic members are exploring new models for globally distributed blockchain-based ventures, which do not fit neatly into existing corporate structures. Working with one of its many clients, Seafood Commons, a collaborative social enterprise, BLIP is developing a global code of conduct for the environmentally sound, sustainable, and ethical production and distribution of fish and seafood.

In concert with the MIT Media Lab, the BLIP Clinic and the BLS Chapter of Legal Hackers ran the Global Computational Law and Blockchain Festival and the Open Media Hack in Bushwick, Brooklyn, designed to empower independent musicians, videographers, and other artists to control the production and distribution of their

product and content and to remove intermediaries, such as large media companies, from the production and distribution process.



“The type of work that BLIP pursues changes from year to year as the most relevant issues of interest to law students at the intersection of law and technology evolve with the times,” said Professor Jonathan Askin, founder and director of the BLIP Clinic. “This year, the students are moving more and more into concepts surrounding artificial intelligence and computation law and their effects on society.”

The BLIP Clinic also helped organize and run multiple other community events on issues at the intersection of law and innovation, including panels on artificial intelligence, blockchain, and related legal technology issues for startups at various locations around NYC, including Flatiron School, FMW Media Works, and the fourth annual Legal Hackers Global Summit.

Asylum Relief Project at the Border



“The reality at the border is that these migrants are mostly men, women, and children escaping gangs and cartels, even students who have been tortured for speaking out against oppressive regimes. They are the hopeful, the resilient, those that have not given up their dreams in the face of unimaginable violence,” said Carmen Maria Rey '06, assistant professor of clinical law at Brooklyn Law School's Safe Harbor Clinic, who assisted clients at the U.S./Mexico border in Nogales with students over winter break. The trip was organized by Jessica Olive '20 and Ramsha Ansari '20, not pictured.

L-R: Professor Carmen Maria Rey, Gisette Paez '20, Layla Noriega '21, Diego Gomez '20, and Catherine Perez '21

Spotlight on Intellectual Life

Each semester, the Law School offers a robust calendar of intellectually rich and dynamic programs sponsored by its centers and institutes, fellowship programs, and journals. Led by our nationally recognized faculty, the programs feature leading scholars and practitioners exploring critical topics in diverse areas of the law and policy.

Considering the Ethics of Genomic Knowledge

SCIENTISTS, SCHOLARS, AND PRACTITIONERS convened at the Law School for a two-day symposium that explored important ethical issues raised by genomic knowledge. Today, access to genetic information has become so commonplace that anyone can pay a genetic testing company, such as 23andMe, for detailed information about their genetic makeup. However, as 23andMe warns prospective customers: “This knowledge is irrevocable.” On the one hand, genomic knowledge is a gift, offering insights into genetic diseases and the paths of our ancestors. On the other, it is a weight, creating new obligations, new forms of social classification, and new forms of surveillance.

The Gift and Weight of Genomic Knowledge—In Search of the

Good Biocitizen, sponsored by the Center for Health, Science, and Public Policy, was presented in collaboration with the Hastings Center and cosponsored by Columbia University’s Department of Medical Humanities and Ethics and Harvard Medical School’s Center for Bioethics. Since the center was founded in 2002, it has become a leading resource for interdisciplinary dialogue among theoreticians and practitioners.

“We strive to offer programs that inform the public and encourage scholarship and research to improve the integrity of science,” said Professor Karen Porter, executive director of the center. “Together we hope to advance technology and clarify the duties and obligations of our healthcare system.”



Misdemeanorland Author Explores the Effects of Expanded Policing

ISSA KOHLER-HAUSMANN, associate professor of law at Yale Law School and associate professor of sociology at Yale University, discussed her new book, *Misdemeanorland: Criminal Courts and Social Control in an Age of Broken Windows Policing* (Princeton University Press, 2018), with students, faculty, and alumni at a recent event sponsored by the Center for Criminal Justice. The book takes an in-depth look at the consequences of New York City’s dramatically expanded policing of low-level offenses. The discussion was moderated by Kate Mogulescu, assistant professor of clinical law, who serves as the center’s co-director as well as the director of the Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic. “The book has particular relevance for our Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic, where students navigate *Misdemeanorland* in their own casework,” said Mogulescu. “We use Professor Kohler-Hausmann’s theoretical framework to make sense of what we observe and experience.”



Block Center Programs Engage Practitioners, Scholars, and Law Students on Global Issues

“OUR PRESENTERS ARE HIGH-PROFILE, and the feedback from speakers is that our students, along with practitioners, are right there in the mix of discussion,” says Professor Robin Effron, co-director of the Dennis J. Block Center for International Business Law (IBL).

The Center’s commitment to spearheading community events, such as the Brooklyn Colloquium on International Economic Law, IBL Brown Bag Lunches, and Scholars Roundtable, furthers its mission to shape global business law and policy. Last fall, legal scholars and industry experts discussed their research and highlighted impactful and emerging issues including international tax policy, global corporate and private law governance issues, and multilateralization.



Professor Tsilly Dagan of Bar-Ilan University addressed the challenges of an international tax system.

Center for Law, Language, and Cognition Examines the Meritocracy Ideal



Professor Daniel Markovits of Yale Law School presented The Meritocracy Trap, critiquing the idea that social and economic rewards should track achievement, in a program sponsored by the Center for Law, Language, and Cognition.

CUBE Panel Highlights Critical Role of Attorneys in Product Development

IN THE EMERGING ROLE OF ATTORNEYS IN PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT, a panel discussion sponsored by the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE), top practitioners discussed how attorneys across industries, such as technology and consumer goods, have become instrumental in their companies’ product development processes.

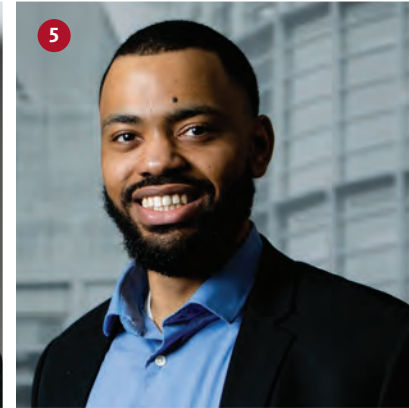
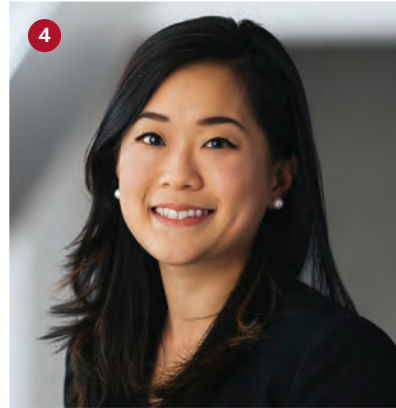
Andrew Rausa '13 (L), senior product & privacy counsel at Facebook, moderated the program. Rausa was honored as a Rising Star at last year’s Alumni Association Luncheon. The panel included, L–R: Anna Rudawski '13, associate at Norton Rose Fulbright; Farah Zaman '13, senior global data privacy counsel at Colgate-Palmolive; Rachel Vargo, corporate counsel at Ultimate Software; and Andy Roth, partner at Cooley.



John Rudikoff '06 (R), CUBE CEO and managing director, with the panelists.



FELLOWSHIPS LAUNCH CAREERS, OPEN DOORS



BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL STUDENTS COMPETE FOR AN ARRAY OF PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIPS THAT PROVIDE CAREER AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES IN NEW YORK CITY—AND FAR BEYOND.

By Jen Swetzoff



BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS—offering enriching opportunities for law students to prepare for and lead in their chosen career fields—are highly competitive and span a wide range of disciplines, including social and criminal justice, international business, and trade secrets. The Law School has a long tradition of creating fellowships that address critical and emerging areas of the law, stimulate intellectual growth, and advance the research agendas and training of outstanding scholars and professionals.

For **Jean Paul Stefan '19**, the International Human Rights Fellowship was a pivotal experience that changed his career trajectory. Growing up in Boca Raton, Fla., he planned to join the military after high school. At 18, he even filled out the paperwork to enlist. But his parents, both physicians who served as combat medics in Colombia after they completed their medical degrees, insisted that he go to college first.

1. Trade Secret Institute (TSI) fellows, L–R, Kelsie Kelly '19, Thomas Landman '19, and Samuel Goodstein '19, with Professor Christopher Beauchamp
2. Lili Rogowsky '16, Nancy and Stanley Grossman '67 CUBE Innovators fellow
3. Professor Cynthia Godsoe (L) with Marsha Garrison Family Law and Policy fellows, L–R, Caitlyn Garcia '20, Whitney Gulden '20, and Elizabeth Ildefonso '19
4. Judy Kim '17, TSI fellow
5. Terry Frederic '19, International Business Law (IBL) fellow
6. Craig McAllister '18, IBL fellow
7. Connie Raffa '76 Health Law and Policy fellows, L–R, Tino Illiparambil '20, Rashmini Sookraj '20, Madeline Huang '20, Reuben Gottlieb '20, Matthew Gagliotti '19, Professor Karen Porter, Veronica Mishkind '19, Bailee Brown '19, Hayley Bava '19, and Max Ezoory '18

“What I wanted most was to help people,” Stefan recalled. “And I wanted to see more of the world. My parents were role models to me. But I saw, through their professional experience, how tough it was to work in medicine. So, for me, I thought the law would be a better way to make a difference and reach the most people.”

After graduating from Nova Southeastern University, Stefan was thrilled to receive a scholarship from Brooklyn Law School. Although he found the first two years of law school harder than he expected, he focused on his work and making connections with professors.

His extra effort paid off. Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton, who taught Refugee Law, recognized Stefan’s achievements and his interest in international law. She encouraged him to apply for the International Human Rights Fellowship.

“The International Human Rights Fellowship funds students to work abroad at organizations promoting human and civil rights,” explained Professor Stacy Caplow,

associate dean of experiential education, who serves with Fullerton as co-director of the fellowship. “For a student with the goal of working in international law, the experience of working and living in another country is a huge asset. It demonstrates a high level of adaptability and capacity to deal with challenging situations.”

Stefan spent the summer before his third year of law school working in the special investigations unit at the General Prosecutor’s Office in Bogota, Colombia. He focused on researching past precedents in international law, supporting the prosecutors during the country’s peaceful government transition. Another Brooklyn Law School student, **Alec Nelson ’19**, was also recognized with the International Human Rights Fellowship and worked with the Malaysia U.N. High Commission for Refugees in Kuala Lumpur.

“Going to work in another country was an incredibly powerful experience,” Stefan said. “I met so many smart and inspiring people. I explored a new culture. I learned

how to work with minimal supervision and dig deep into research, even when some of what I read was incredibly upsetting—horrific incidents of terrorism, rape, and other atrocities. Most important, I left Colombia feeling more fulfilled by what I had accomplished and much more like a citizen of the world.”

A LONG TRADITION OF FELLOWSHIPS

Some fellowships, such as the Pretrial Justice Fellowship and the Nancy and Stanley Grossman ’67 CUBE Innovators Fellowship, were established in the last several years. Others, such as the Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellowship and the International Business Law Fellowship, were created more than 30 years ago.

The Sparer Fellowship, established in 1985, provides a 10-week summer internship with a public interest organization overseas or in the United States. Named for Edward Sparer ’59, a prominent lawyer and teacher whose focus



JUDY KIM '17

Trade Secrets Institute Fellow

Intellectual Property Associate at Venable

“The TSI fellowship provided an opportunity to formulate scholarly research and develop strong mentoring relationships with faculty and alumni. Tracking and covering trade secret cases in real time to provide a platform for discussion prepared me well for the research required to handle constantly evolving case law and legal research questions.”



PHILIP M. GUFFY '15

Barry L. Zaretsky Bankruptcy and Commercial Law Fellow

Bankruptcy and Restructuring Associate at Blank Rome

“Preparing materials for the Zaretsky Roundtable gave me a chance to work on legal issues that were timely and relevant to the bankruptcy community. The best part was meeting current practitioners in bankruptcy, including judges and scholars. Being recognized as a Zaretsky Fellow gave me the opportunity to meet and engage with people who are at the cutting edge of bankruptcy law.”



VERONICA MISHKIND '19

Connie Raffa '76 Health Law and Policy Fellow

Associate at Aaronson Rappaport Feinstein & Deutsch

“Entering law school as a registered nurse, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in health law. My fellowship gave me the ability to work with incredible professors who mentored me, exposed me to the expansive breadth of the health law field, and provided a platform for excellent networking opportunities.”

“TSI FELLOWS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DELVE DEEPER WITH EXPERTS ACROSS THE TRADE SECRETS FIELD. HAVING STUDENTS FRONT AND CENTER SHOWS THE LAW SCHOOL IN A GREAT LIGHT.” — Professor Christopher Beauchamp



on the rights of those in poverty changed social welfare policy during the 1960s, the fellowship was developed to help students carry on Sparer’s legacy. It was one of the first public interest programs at any U.S. law school.

“Sparer, today a nationally recognized program in public interest law, is intended to build a community for public interest legal advocacy at Brooklyn Law School,” said Professor Elizabeth M. Schneider, who founded and has directed the program since its inception. “The program carries a great deal of weight in the public interest world, because potential employers know how thoroughly our fellows are vetted.” Schneider also leads the Sparer Fellowship

Committee, an outstanding group of faculty with a strong commitment to public interest law.

Students in the Sparer Leadership Group plan programming for the academic year, including the annual Sparer Forum, which brings public interest lawyers and advocates together to explore a topic of current interest. Many Sparer alumni attend the forum to reconnect with one another and to meet current fellows. Students also hold a summer Sparer Legal Theory/Practice program.

While Sparer Fellows learn and practice lawyering skills over the course of their summer internships, they also get an inside look at building and developing a

public interest legal organization, and they network with mentors and potential employers.

“I had candid discussions with practitioners regarding their practice and how best to approach legal issues and hone my writing,” said **Marvin Espana '18**, a Sparer Fellowship recipient. “I developed skills and learned the intricacies of immigration practice, preparing me to reason as an attorney from the beginning of my career. Ultimately, the fellowship helped me create lasting bonds that provide ongoing guidance and support.” Espana is currently an immigration staff attorney for the New York Immigrant Family Unity Project at the Bronx Defenders.

HIGHLY COVETED EXPERIENCES

The Law School’s highly coveted fellowship programs are a huge draw for students. “Brooklyn Law School provides many opportunities that allow students to engage in hands-on work that gives real context to their law school learning and real skills to take with them out into the world of lawyering,” said Professor Jocelyn Simonson, co-director of the Center for Criminal Justice, who launched the Pretrial Justice Fellowship program in 2016. Students in this innovative fellowship program engage deeply with on-the-ground issues of criminal



Lili Rogowsky '16

procedure in New York City and the state of New York.

“Students are not just learning about policy,” said Simonson. “They are changing policy by, for example, investigating fraud committed by bail bondsmen or writing reports after court-watching in criminal court.”

In addition to the public-sector fellowships, the Law School offers programs that provide industry experience to students in for-profit sectors.

The CUBE Fellowship at the Law School’s Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship provides students a training ground for legal work with startup entities, an evolving field where the legal landscape is continually adapting to the marketplace.

“The CUBE Fellowship was a big factor in my decision to attend Brooklyn Law,” said **Lili Rogowsky '16**. “Law school was a time of exponential growth for me, and the CUBE Innovators competition

was paramount in that experience.”

Rogowsky participated in the CUBE Innovators Invitational as a student competitor and fellowship recipient in 2016, as a speaker in 2017, and as a judge in 2018.

“The competition was full of important ‘firsts’ for me,” Rogowsky said. “What stands out was finding my voice as a public speaker. CUBE was the first time I felt comfortable pitching an idea to a critical audience. This has been imperative to my success at various times in my career.”

Rogowsky, who calls herself “innately entrepreneurial,” left her job as in-house counsel at a tech company to start her own law firm, just one year after graduating from the Law School. Now, Rogowsky is the chief experience officer at Whistler Partners, a legal recruiting firm specializing in the tech/media space. She credits the CUBE Fellowship for furthering her network and approach to her career. “I have always been a creative thinker, but receiving the



TERRY FREDERIC '19
International Business Law Fellow

“This fellowship has been a highlight of my law school experience. I now have a much stronger grasp of the ‘big picture’ of international economic law, and the global implications of current events. Professors Robin Effron and Julian Arato challenged us to think critically about the reading material and to write our responses with clarity and concision. These are transferable skills that will serve me well throughout my legal career.”

Frederic will clerk at the U.S. Court of International Trade this fall.



ALEX PETKANAS '20
Pretrial Justice Fellow

“My fellowship has not only exposed me to passionate and hardworking attorneys in our city, but it has also given me a chance to learn from Professor Simonson about criminal procedure and to connect with like-minded students who want to change the system. There is an impressive network of attorneys dedicated to working against systems of oppression, and I am eager to officially join that team.”

This summer Petkanas will serve as an intern at the New York Legal Assistance Group Public Benefits Unit.



MARIO FITZGERALD '19
Brooklyn Law Students for the Public Interest Fellow

“My fellowship funded my internship at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, which combines grassroots movement building with legal direct services for transgender and gender nonconforming individuals. The experience shaped my ideas regarding what it means to be a community lawyer and solidified my decision to pursue public interest law immediately after law school.”

Fitzgerald will join Brooklyn Legal Services as a housing staff attorney this fall.

“FOR A STUDENT WITH THE GOAL OF WORKING IN INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE EXPERIENCE OF WORKING AND LIVING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY IS A HUGE ASSET.” — Professor Stacy Caplow



Craig McAllister '18

CUBE Fellowship was the first time I felt empowered to bring an idea to life. That experience has been crucial in developing self-awareness of my capabilities and has stayed with me through every challenge I have encountered since,” she said.

STUDENTS FRONT AND CENTER

The Trade Secrets Institute (TSI), which provides neutral coverage of key trade secret cases and legislation via its website, annually awards fellowships to students. TSI connects users to summaries of filed and decided cases and to supporting documents such as

briefs and motions. TSI Fellows, who are tasked with maintaining the website and organizing the annual TSI symposium, are given a unique opportunity to engage with trade secrets subject matter in real time. The Fellows work with faculty and practitioners to compile case law, legislation, and regulatory initiatives to include on the website.

TSI’s annual symposium is entirely student-run. Fellows determine the topics, select noteworthy speakers, and work with the speakers to develop in-depth discussions for an audience of students, faculty, alumni, and other professionals. Recent fellows have led panel discussions on issues such as trade secrets in government algorithms, labor mobility and noncompete agreements, state-sponsored economic espionage, cybercrime, and international trade.

“Our TSI Fellows are able to engage professionals we don’t have preexisting relationships with,” said Professor Christopher Beauchamp, faculty advisor to TSI. “They have the opportunity to drill down with experts across the trade secrets field, and having the students front and center in that effort shows the Law School in a great light.”

The International Business Law (IBL) Fellowship provides students opportunities to develop specialized knowledge and contacts across a wide variety of fields—for example, cross-border transactions, transnational litigation, and international economic law. Fellows attend programs

of the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law and take a wide assortment of courses in the international and business fields to provide the necessary background for successful practice. Fellows also participate in a variety of mentoring and enrichment experiences that prepare them to launch fulfilling careers.

“The program is designed to balance exposure and depth. Through participating actively in the colloquium and the annual lecture, fellows come into contact with a broad array of ideas and career paths relating to the pursuit and regulation of business beyond the state,” said Professor Julian Arato, director of the IBL Fellowship and co-director of the Block Center. “At the same time, students are expected to produce scholarly works digging deeply into specialized questions of their choosing, requiring sustained study of particular complex international legal problems. Our students leave the fellowship with a sense of both the expansiveness of international business law and an understanding of how to methodically chart their own paths within the field.”

“Through my fellowship, I developed lasting relationships with practitioners and scholars, and it presented me with professional opportunities that I wouldn’t have known about otherwise,” said **Craig McAllister '18**, who is a clerk for Hon. Claire Kelly '93 at the U.S. Court of International Trade. ■

BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS

ARTHUR PINTO PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIP FOR LGBTQ RIGHTS

Created by Professor of Law Emeritus Arthur Pinto, this fellowship supports a summer internship for a current student at a nonprofit or government agency that works on behalf of LGBTQ rights or represents LGBTQ individuals.

BARRY L. ZARETSKY BANKRUPTCY AND COMMERCIAL LAW FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship offers a select path of study for a student who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement in either bankruptcy or commercial law, and is interested in pursuing a career in either of those fields. The fellow works closely with faculty members and alumni on scholarly and community activities, including the noted Zaretsky Roundtable series.

BROOKLYN LAW STUDENTS FOR THE PUBLIC INTEREST (BLSPI) FELLOWSHIP

Fellowships are awarded by BLSPI, an entirely student-run nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting public service. Fellows work during the summer at nonprofit organizations and government agencies in New York City, nationally, and internationally.

CONNIE RAFFA '76 HEALTH LAW AND POLICY FELLOWSHIP

This one-year fellowship with the option of an additional year includes mentorship, events, and a research project on a legal or policy issue related to medicine, healthcare, public health, science, or biotechnology.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

Students work to support the activities of the Center for Criminal Justice, including assisting with the Professor Robert M. Pitler Program on Criminal Law, Procedure, Evidence, and Ethics.

DENNIS J. BLOCK JUDICIAL INTERN FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship supports the summer public service program for students who work as interns for federal judges. The program was established by Dennis J. Block '67, a member of the Board of Trustees.

EDWARD V. SPARER PUBLIC INTEREST LAW FELLOWSHIP

This program includes a 10-week summer internship with a public interest organization in the United States or abroad, mentorship, and regularly held events that highlight current public interest issues.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS LAW FELLOWSHIP

Fellows are provided with mentorship and enrichment activities through the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law. Fellows are invited to attend all programs of the Block Center, including special programs to introduce them to the many facets of international business law.



International Business Law Fellows (L-R) Anna Chan '19, Terry Frederic '19, and William Ognibene '19 engage in a lively discussion at the Block Center's International Economic Law Colloquium. IBL Fellows attend Block Center programs and take an array of courses in the international and business fields.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

This summer fellowship allows students to engage in 10 weeks of legal work overseas under the supervision of an attorney for a nongovernmental or intergovernmental organization concerned with international human rights.

MARSHA GARRISON FAMILY LAW AND POLICY FELLOWSHIP

The fellowship is designed to give students interested in family law an opportunity to engage in a significant research project, as well as to interact with other students, faculty, and alumni in this field.

NANCY AND STANLEY GROSSMAN '67 CUBE INNOVATORS FELLOWSHIP

Student fellows with the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship participate in and contribute to CUBE's work through leadership positions, scholarship, event planning, and public programming, including the CUBE Consultation Center and the CUBE Innovators Invitational.

PAUL WINDELS JR. FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship supports students who work as interns at the Securities and Exchange Commission or at the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York or the Southern District of New York.

PRETRIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP

Students in this innovative fellowship program engage deeply with on-the-ground issues of criminal procedure, such as fraud committed by bail bondsmen, in New York City and the state of New York.

TRADE SECRETS INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP

TSI fellows manage the TSI website, which provides timely, in-depth coverage and critical analysis of key trade secret cases and legislation. The fellows assume full responsibility for organizing the annual trade secrets symposium.

VETERANS' RIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

This summer fellowship offered through the Public Service Law Center supports students who are working with veterans and veterans' issues.

THE LAW SCHOOL ALSO OFFERS FELLOWSHIPS THAT EXTEND BEYOND GRADUATION

PUBLIC INTEREST/PUBLIC SERVICE FELLOWSHIPS (PIPS)

This two-year program starts during students' last year of law school and continues with work experience at nonprofits and government agencies during their first postgraduate year.

ROBERT M. PITLER POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP

This program, designed to help reduce student loan debt, is open to graduates who have worked at public criminal justice organizations for at least five years and who commit to remain working in the public service sector for at least two additional years.

“BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL PROVIDES NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO ENGAGE IN HANDS-ON WORK THAT GIVES REAL CONTEXT TO THEIR LAW SCHOOL LEARNING AND PRACTICAL SKILLS TO TAKE WITH THEM INTO THE WORLD OF LAWYERING.” — Professor Jocelyn Simonson



PREPARING THE

LAWYERS OF TOMORROW

Brooklyn Law School will roll out an innovative new curriculum—with practical opportunities for new students to research, write, and build their professional identity.

By Jen Swetzo

“BY THE TIME OUR STUDENTS GRADUATE,” said Maryellen Fullerton, interim dean and professor of law at Brooklyn Law School, “they should all be able to tell a clear story about who they want to be as a lawyer. That conviction is really how the idea for our new curriculum started.”

The art of storytelling is influencing all industries today, including the legal industry. As law school enrollment continues to rise, the job market for lawyers has become increasingly competitive. Candidates who effectively communicate a narrative about their interests, goals, and motivations will stand out.

With this in mind, several faculty members began talking about how they might reimagine legal education. In 2017, Fullerton, a longtime advocate for curricular reform, offered to lead the group as they explored possibilities for change. The group—comprising faculty members and the registrar—has spent the last two years brainstorming creative ways to transform the traditional 1L teaching model. Now the Law School is ready to implement their vision. The new curriculum will be rolled out to 1L students beginning in the 2019–20 academic year. It will enhance both the basics—Building the Foundation in the 1L Year – and the advanced goals—Developing a Professional Identity in the 2L Year and Specializing and Transitioning to Practice in the 3L Year. It features many more writing and research opportunities, more robust academic

curriculum. I’m appreciative of Dean Fullerton’s forward-thinking vision and of the board’s support on this initiative.”

In spring 2020, the Law School will launch what is perhaps the most ambitious component of the revised J.D. program. The current legal writing requirement will become the new four-credit Gateway to Lawyering course, in which students dive deeper into one of four areas of law to help them focus their studies and potential area of career interest. The course will feature intensive research and writing as well as more engagement with statutory materials. Students will have the option to concentrate in one of four areas:

- Law and business
- Law and information
- Law and social change
- Law and individual life

“Becoming a lawyer is about acquiring both substantive academic and practical knowledge,” said K. Sabeel Rahman, associate professor of law and the president of Demos, a public policy organization focused on ensuring equality in the American democratic process and economy. “The Gateway series is a great opportunity for students to start making choices and exploring their various interests. No matter what subject matter they study, they will get a taste of something new, and they can start considering if it’s the right professional path for them or not.”



“New lawyers need to be able to research and write well starting on day one of their legal careers” — Professor Heidi K. Brown

advising, more exposure to the types of law practice that are available, and more intellectual stimulation in 3L seminars and faculty-led reading groups.

Starting this fall, the Law School will increase its legal writing requirement in the first semester of the 1L year from two to three credits. The additional credit will boost the research component and will incorporate opportunities for students to draft professional correspondence to clients and supervisors, a form of legal writing not currently taught in the program.

“New lawyers need to be able to research and write well starting on day one of their legal careers,” said Heidi K. Brown, director of the legal writing program and associate professor of law. “We need all our students to emerge from law school already knowing how to research and write well. Students have access to so many digital grammar and citation tools now, but the foundation for good written analysis starts with us, with the faculty teaching the

Each of the new Gateway courses will focus on a statutory framework in that particular subject area. This curriculum is designed to expose students to a wider range of legal writing competencies than the Law School’s previous traditional legal writing courses. Students will complete three types of written assignments:

- A descriptive piece of writing, answering a client’s legal question through reading, parsing, and applying a complex statutory framework
- A transactional document, such as a contract or settlement agreement related to a hypothetical client scenario
- A substantial, persuasive advocacy piece, such as a brief or a position paper, using case law to further interpret the statutory rule.

PROPOSED 2020 CURRICULUM

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION



Legal Writing,
Gateway to Lawyering

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY



Legal Research/Writing,
Personal Portfolio Checklist

SPECIALIZING & BROADENING



Legal Research/Writing,
Thesis, Reading Groups

Students will learn oral communication skills as well. The class sessions and assignments will explore professional ethics issues and involve simulations and other forms of skills training and interactive learning. Alumni practitioner panels will be integral to the courses as well to educate students about the practical aspects of the Gateway areas and provide networking opportunities.

The faculty also enhanced 2L and 3L students' upper-level writing requirements and experiences; students must complete a legal writing requirement in both the 2L and 3L academic years. Traditionally, the Law School required only one upper-level writing requirement—a faculty-supervised assignment.

"We cannot wait until the third year to assess our students' writing skills again," Brown explained. "Students need to be writing during each year of law school. One main goal is to help students take charge of their own legal education—from the beginning and then continuing through the arc of their multiyear experience at Brooklyn Law School. Exposing them to various types of writing in each year of their law school journey builds a foundation of skills. Students can continue developing professional skills in their second year as they evolve as legal writers. They can take upper-level drafting courses and seminar courses or write an independent research paper. Alternatively, they might satisfy the additional upper-level writing requirement through written work performed in summer jobs, with the approval of their supervisors and faculty. Our goal is to make sure that all Brooklyn Law students walk into their first job feeling confident about their research and writing skills."

ROAD MAP TO THE FUTURE

Beginning with the class entering the Law School in fall 2020, students will develop a comprehensive online portfolio checklist. Although this aspect of curriculum reform is still in development, students will eventually be able to access a checklist that will help them track the development of their strengths, competencies, and values in five categories:

- Effective communications
- Information gathering
- Problem solving
- Building a professional identity and a career plan
- Technological proficiency

Starting in their 1L year, students can use this road map to track their progress as they navigate their personal journey through law school—ensuring that they garner the skills necessary to provide effective, ethical, and responsible legal services in everyday practice. When students are applying for admission to the New York State Bar, this checklist also will help them demonstrate they have satisfied all their requirements.

"This portfolio will be an essential tool to engage all students, mobilize our resources, and build a stronger legal community," said Fullerton. "It also puts the arc of legal education directly into the student's hands. Each student will see an array of opportunities to learn doctrine, develop skills, and delve into

specialized areas, as well as lists of all requirements, so the students can make intentional choices as they choose their courses and externships each semester.”

In time, the checklist likely will include more than coursework and will incorporate lawyering skills and activities. Brown hopes it eventually will be used as a holistic guide for students to navigate law school, with a framework for well-being initiatives, professional development, and networking experiences in addition to academics. Fullerton noted that optional reading groups led by faculty members may be included in the future.

“This initiative,” said Brown, “is, first and foremost, a way to help students structure their academic life. But we also see it potentially as a way to help structure their extracurricular life, their career pursuits, their interpersonal skills, and development of their lawyer personas, which includes categories like well-being that have not been traditionally emphasized or focused on in legal education. We want students to ask themselves, do I have the

resources I need to make sure I can be a healthy lawyer, and not just a successful but stressed-out lawyer?”

In addition, students following the new curriculum will have an array of opportunities to create a portfolio of high-quality writing samples that dovetail with their academic and professional interests. This process will help students better articulate their experiences and the strengths they will bring to their career, whether in the private, public interest, public service, or business sector—and give them a solid collection of writing samples to share with potential employers.

“As teachers,” said Rahman, “it’s our job to set students up for a successful trajectory in law school—and beyond law school. This new curriculum is meant to do that, and it’s very exciting. I think it’s a real testament to the values and the creativity of the faculty and the administration at Brooklyn Law School. We want to do everything we can to make sure that students leave fully prepared.”



SUPPORT CURRICULAR INNOVATION

To ensure that the goals of this comprehensive curriculum initiative will be achieved, Brooklyn Law School has created a Fund for Curricular Innovation, which will provide the necessary support and resources to implement the plan. Strong supporters of the Law School and student success, Denise Faltischek '00 and Kenny Faltischek '00 are investing in this initiative as inaugural donors.

“When Interim Dean Fullerton came to speak about her vision for curriculum reform, it was clear to us that this was something we wanted to support,” said Denise Faltischek. “These changes will differentiate the Law School as an innovative leader in the legal market. We are proud to be affiliated with such an important endeavor.”

To learn more about becoming an investor in the Fund for Curricular Innovation, please contact Sean Moriarty, chief advancement officer, at 718-780-7505.

FACULTY

Professors Mulligan, Janger, and Caplow Lead in Key Dean Posts

IN JANUARY, the Law School named Professor **Christina Mulligan** as vice dean for academic and student affairs and Professor **Edward Janger** as associate dean for faculty research and scholarship. Professor **Stacy Caplow** continues to serve as associate dean for experiential education.

Mulligan, who focuses her scholarship on efforts to adapt intellectual property law for the digital age, the relationship between law and technology, and theories of constitutional interpretation, oversees the Law School’s academic programs and new curriculum initiative (*see page 20*).

Janger, the David M. Barse Professor of Law and co-director of the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation, is a nationally recognized scholar on bankruptcy and commercial law. In his new role, Janger focuses on facilitating and raising

public awareness of faculty and student scholarship.

“Brooklyn Law School is a true community of scholars. We challenge each other, support each other, and make each other better,” he said. “Faculty and student writing serves the community and enriches the life of the Law School. I look forward to supporting that work and helping it to reach a broader audience.”

Caplow, who has served as associate dean for five years, supervises experiential learning throughout the Law School, in classrooms, in clinics, in externships, in simulation courses, and in workshops. In addition, she advises the Moot Court and ADR Honor Societies and the Public Service Law Center. She supervises the Pro Bono Scholars, co-directs the Safe Harbor Project, and recently co-founded the Center for Criminal Justice.

“Brooklyn Law School is a true community of scholars. We challenge each other, support each other, and make each other better.”



Christina Mulligan



Stacy Caplow



Edward Janger



Professor Flora Midwood Named Assistant Director of Academic Success

IN JANUARY, Professor Flora Midwood joined the Law School as assistant director of Academic Success. She will work closely with Professor Shane Dizon, who directs the program, to assess, build, and oversee programs and courses aimed at enhancing students’ academic experience, intellectual engagement, and bar preparedness. She will also direct postgraduate bar preparation and teach the Pre-Bar Review course for 3Ls.

Previously, Midwood was an adjunct professor at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law for three years. Before that, she trained as a musician and singer, and worked with the Center for Art Law, an art and cultural heritage law research nonprofit in Brooklyn.



Professor Julian Arato Elected to Executive Council of American Society of International Law

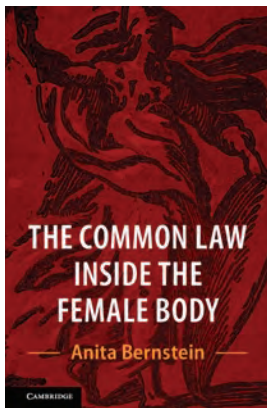
PROFESSOR JULIAN ARATO has been elected to the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) for a three-year term. ASIL, founded in 1906, was chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1950 to foster the study of international law and to promote the establishment and maintenance of international relations on the basis of law and justice.

In early April, Arato served as an ASIL observer delegate to the United Nations Commission of International Trade Law, Working Group III, on Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) reform. ISDS is a system through which investors can directly sue nation states in international fora for alleged breaches of their treaty rights.

Arato also has been instrumental in bringing ASIL's high-profile Midyear Meeting to Brooklyn Law School Nov. 7-9, 2019.

"What's amazing is that our partnership allows us to bring a number of Brooklyn Law School students each year to ASIL's annual meeting in Washington, D.C.," he said. "They are exposed to areas of practice and career opportunities well beyond the ordinary."

Professor Anita Bernstein Examines How Common Law Can Advance Gender Justice

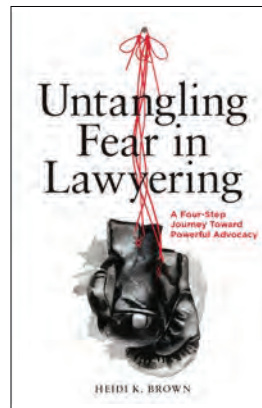


PROFESSOR ANITA BERNSTEIN, a nationally recognized authority on tort law, feminist jurisprudence, professional responsibility, and products liability, has authored a new book, *The Common Law Inside the Female Body* (Cambridge University Press, 2019). Bernstein breaks new ground with her in-depth exploration of U.S. common law through history—focusing on

crimes, contracts, torts and property—as a fertile source for strengthening women's rights and freedoms.

Bernstein turns the popular perception of the common law as a hoary enclave of jurisprudence supporting conservatism, oppression, and the patriarchy on its head. Because the common law supports beneficial transactions and relationships by maintaining safeguards and countering threats against them, "negative liberty" applies equally to women, and, according to the author, "women too may say no to what they don't want." Bernstein makes the evocative and persuasive case that women possess the right via common law to refuse unprotected and unwanted sex, unplanned pregnancies, and other unwelcome invasions.

Professor Heidi Brown Helps Practitioners Cope with Fear in Lawyering



PROFESSOR HEIDI BROWN, director of the Legal Writing Program and prolific scholar on the importance of legal writing, has penned a new book, *Untangling Fear in Lawyering: A Four-Step Journey Toward Powerful Advocacy* (American Bar Association, 2019). Brown examines the saturated climate of anxiety, stress, and fear in the legal profession. Drawing on her own experience, she presents a thoroughly researched process to

reframe fear into fortitude when facing performance pressures in a multitude of contexts, such as getting cold-called in class, negotiating a deal, presenting to clients, or arguing a motion.

"Law students and lawyers can practice self-awareness, channel adverse physical reactions into strength in these moments, and have the confidence to step into the performance space in a powerful way," Brown said.

Brown is also the author of *The Introverted Lawyer: A Seven-Step Journey Toward Authentically Empowered Advocacy* (American Bar Association, 2017), which outlines ways in which lawyers and law students who considered themselves introverted can succeed in a profession dominated by extroverts.

Faculty Influence New York City and State Law and Policymaking

CITY AND STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS frequently tap Brooklyn Law School faculty members for their knowledge, insight, and guidance, as well as the passion they have for the issues they care about most.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio appointed Professor **David Reiss**, an expert in real estate finance and consumer finance law and founding director of the Law School's Community Development Clinic, as chair of the New York City Rent Guidelines Board. Reiss will lead the nine-member board, which is mandated to establish rent adjustments for the approximately 1 million dwelling units subject to the Rent Stabilization Law in New York City. The Board holds an annual series of public meetings and hearings to consider research from staff and testimony from owners, tenants, advocacy groups, and industry experts. Reiss, who is the author of the forthcoming book *Paying for the American Dream: How to Reform the Market for Mortgages* (Oxford University Press, 2019), was appointed to the board in 2017.

"The Rent Guidelines Board is integral to the health of the New York City housing stock, and I am honored to continue serving on it in my new capacity as chair," said Reiss.

Professor **Minna Kotkin**, an expert on issues of employment discrimination and sexual harassment and director of the Law School's Employment Law Clinic, testified before the New York State Legislature on Feb. 13 in a joint Senate and Assembly Public Hearing on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. This was the first public hearing on harassment held by New York lawmakers in nearly 30 years, prompted by an increase in reported incidences of sexual harassment in the workplace as well as social media and high-profile news reports of sexual harassment claims that have garnered national attention.

Kotkin—who has been a frequent commentator in the media about sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement—focused her remarks on two issues: confidentiality agreements that "protect serial harassers, allow companies to shield themselves from public scrutiny, and silence women who should have every right to discuss their experiences as they see fit," and the need to recognize that sex discrimination in the workplace can also take many different forms that do not involve sexual harassment.

Assistant Professor of Clinical Law **Kate Mogulescu**, a national expert on human trafficking issues and director of the Criminal Defense and Advocacy Clinic, has co-authored a report, *State Report Cards: Grading Criminal Record Relief Laws for*

Survivors of Human Trafficking, that rates all 50 states and Washington, D.C., on the effectiveness of their criminal record relief laws for survivors of human trafficking. The report was released jointly by the American Bar Association's Survivor Reentry Project, which Mogulescu leads, the University of Baltimore School of Law, and the Polaris Project. Mogulescu also assisted in drafting legislation now pending in New York to expand the criminal record relief law for trafficking survivors by allowing vacatur of all convictions when the offense was a result of being a trafficking victim. The bill also corrects an important oversight by ensuring that all court documents filed by survivors are kept confidential and allows cases from multiple counties to be consolidated into one proceeding. Mogulescu has also consulted on legislative efforts in Kansas, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Nevada.

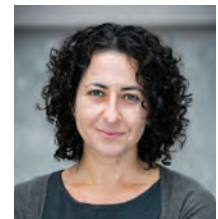
"Criminalized trafficking survivors need the ability to shed the heavy burden of their criminal records," Mogulescu said. "Many have carried this weight for years, if not decades."



David Reiss



Minna Kotkin



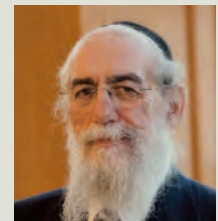
Kate Mogulescu

Professor Aaron Twerski Receives Lifetime Achievement Award from Marquette Law School

PROFESSOR **AARON TWERKSI**, the Irwin and Jill Cohen Professor of Law and preeminent authority in the areas of products liability and tort law, was honored by Marquette Law School with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Twerski is a graduate of the law school.

Among the many honors he has received throughout his career are the prestigious William L. Prosser Award from the Association of American Law School's Torts and Compensation System Section and the American Bar Association's Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Section's Robert B. McKay Law Professor Award, which recognizes law professors who are committed to the advancement of justice, scholarship, and the legal profession in tort and insurance law.

Twerski joined the Law School faculty in 1986. He was co-reporter for the American Law Institute's *Restatement of the Law (Third) Torts: Products Liability* (with J. A. Henderson Jr.), and for his distinguished performance, the institute named him the R. Ammi Cutter Reporter. He is the author of the leading textbook *Products Liability: Problems and Process* (Wolters Kluwer, 8th ed., 2016). He was appointed as a special master in the federal 9/11 cases dealing with the injuries claimed by those involved in the cleanup of the World Trade Center site.



The following are selected highlights and excerpts of recent faculty scholarship. To learn more, visit brooklaw.edu/faculty-scholarship.

Miriam Baer
Professor of Law

Sorting Out White-Collar Crime, 97 *Texas Law Review* 255 (2019)

DRAWING EXAMPLES from federal and state criminal codes, Baer analyzes the ways in which ungraded statutory regimes generate problematic and self-destructive expressive gaps. 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 and of the will to discern those factors that separate the worst frauds from the merely bad ones.

Christopher Beauchamp
Professor of Law

Repealing Patents, 72 *Vanderbilt Law Review* 647 (2019)

BEAUCHAMP USES new archival sources to uncover the history of patent cancellation during the first half century of American patent law. These sources suggest that the early statutory provisions for repealing patents were more widely used and more broadly construed than has previously been realized. They also show that 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—though not straightforward answers—for the new constitutional questions surrounding patent cancellation.

Dana Brakman Reiser
Professor of Law

Disruptive Philanthropy: Chan-Zuckerberg, the Limited Liability Company, and the Millionaire Next Door, 70 *Florida Law Review* 921 (2018)

“GROWTH OF PHILANTHROPY LLCs will impact the philanthropic sector and influence society at large. Some of these effects should be cause for celebration; others are causes for concern. Although current law offers few tools to impede the growth of philanthropy LLCs, it remains important to identify the trend’s benefits and drawbacks. Greater clarity will enable adopters and their counsel to understand the import of individual decisions to utilize philanthropy LLCs more fully, and can guide policy makers as they develop responses.”

I. Bennett Capers
Stanley A. August Professor of Law

Afrofuturism, Critical Race Theory, and Policing in the Year 2044, 94 *New York University Law Review* 1 (2019)

“A CORE TENET OF AFROFUTURISM is that we embrace technology, especially technology that can disrupt hierarchies and contribute a public good. Critical Race Theory’s commitment to substantive equality and to radical interventions provides further support for the conclusion that, in a majority-minority future, technology will be put to good use.”

Robin Effron
Professor of Law

The Lost Story of Notice and Personal Jurisdiction, 74 *New York University Annual Survey of American Law* __ (forthcoming 2019)

NOTICE AND PERSONAL JURISDICTION have long been fellow procedural law travelers because of their common origins in the mechanics of service of process and their shared due process ancestor in *Pennoyer v. Neff*. Effron writes that restoring notice to personal jurisdiction might be a small yet helpful part of a strategy to impose normative and doctrinal order on personal jurisdiction chaos.

Cynthia Godsoe
Associate Professor of Law

Parental Love and Purposeful Violence, in *The Politicization of Safety: Critical Perspectives on Domestic Violence Responses* (Jane Stoeber, ed.) (NYU Press, 2019)

THE PARENTAL DISCIPLINE PRIVILEGE is a robust exception to the modern rule that punishes all violence, including intrafamilial violence. But it can evolve into serious child abuse, and renders its victims more likely to hit their partners and children as adults, perpetuating the cycle of abuse. Godsoe argues that the underlying *mens rea* of the parental discipline privilege exception perpetuates this violence and warps the criminal law’s standard approach to punishment, which ordinarily matches culpability with control.

Andrew Gold
Professor of Law

Fiduciary Government (edited with Evan J. Criddle, et al.) (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

THIS BOOK OFFERS a collection of chapters by leading experts on topics related to public fiduciary. These authors develop new accounts of how fiduciary principles apply to representation, to officials and judges, to problems of legitimacy and political obligation, to positive rights, to the state itself, and to the history of ideas.

Roberta Karmel
Centennial Professor of Law

Will Fifty Years of the SEC’s Disgorgement Remedy Be Abolished? 71 *SMU Law Review* 799 (2018)

KARMEL ADDRESSES THE ISSUE left open in the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision *Kokesh v. SEC*, in which the Court held disgorgement, the repayment of ill-gotten gains that is imposed on wrongdoers by the courts, to be a penalty for purposes of the federal statute of limitations. She argues that in SEC injunctive actions, the federal courts have authority to order disgorgement to prevent unjust enrichment by wrongdoers and to deter future violations of the law.

Alice Ristroph
Professor of Law

Farewell to the Felony, 53 *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review* 563 (2018)

“THE TERMS FELONY AND FELON are distinctively harmful, but burying them is only one step toward meaningful reform. Much of the theory and discourse of criminal law, including the discourse of ‘reform,’ reproduces or simply takes for granted the ideological structures that make existing law seem moral and necessary.”

Jocelyn Simonson
Associate Professor of Law

The Place of “the People” in Criminal Procedure, 119 *Columbia Law Review* 249 (2019)

SIMONSON, co-director of the Center for Criminal Justice, examines the use of the term “the People” as synonymous with the prosecution in a criminal case, e.g., *The People of the State of X v. John Doe*. The term, which is used in many jurisdictions, she argues, is problematic because it implies that the prosecution is the neutral party, while defendants are marginalized and excluded.

Alumni Events

Distinguished Graduates Honored at Annual Alumni Association Luncheon

IN FEBRUARY, more than 350 alumni, faculty, trustees, and guests gathered at the Mandarin Oriental, New York, for the annual Alumni Association luncheon. Brooklyn Law School honored two Alumni of the Year: Hon. Rosalyn Richter '79, associate justice of the Appellate Division, First Department, and Professor Linda Feldman '83, founder and former director of Brooklyn Law School's Academic Success Program. Leslie (Lee) Wellington '13, executive director at Urban Manufacturing Alliance, was also recognized with the Rising Star award.

"We are incredibly proud to honor our distinguished graduates," said Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton, who was herself recognized at the event for her leadership this year by Stuart Subotnick '68, chair of the Board of Trustees. "Their work has tremendous impact and influence on nearly every aspect of our modern world—and on our lives. They embody the very best of our Law School."

At the awards ceremony, Professor Elizabeth Schneider introduced Judge Richter, a pioneering member of the bench who was one of the first "out" LGBT appellate judges in the country.

After a standing ovation, Richter dedicated her award to her spouse, Janet, who had recently passed away. "It will be 40 years this June since I graduated from law school," she said. "No one then would have thought it possible that I would become a judge. There were no 'out' lesbian or gay judges anywhere in the United States. There were very few women judges then, and no woman on the Appellate Division, First Department, where I currently sit. And then there was the issue of my being visibly disabled. I'm glad to say that in many ways, times have changed. But in other ways, to my disappointment, things have not changed."

Richter said that the legal profession still has a long way to go, noting that when big commercial cases come before her, the lack of diversity remains very noticeable. "We have to ask ourselves what we can do differently," she said. "It has to start in law school, if not at the high school and college level. So, when the email comes asking you to sponsor or mentor a diverse student, including a high school or college student, please consider answering yes!"

Fullerton introduced Feldman, saying: "Linda is lauded by thousands of students as a teacher, an ally, a mentor, and a friend. Colleagues have praised her dedication to Brooklyn Law School, her generosity of spirit, her wise counsel, and her clear-eyed perspective, and former students often recall her as the faculty member who had the most influence on their law school career."

Feldman recalled the moment when then Dean David Trager called her to discuss the problem of some students struggling academically, and asked that she "do something." So Feldman returned to the school she had graduated from only five years earlier, founded the Academic Success Program, and ran it for the next 30 years. Of that decision, she said, "I had the privilege of seeing nervous 1Ls become confident 3Ls who passed the bar and went on to great professional lives. I have often said that I had the best job, at the best law school, in the best borough in New York City, and I am deeply grateful to Brooklyn Law School for that."

Alumni Association President Michael Grohman '83, a partner at Duane Morris, concluded the program with a nod to the Law School's heritage: "It takes events like this to remind us that no one would be here without those who came before," he said. "And we should think about what we'd like to do to give back."



L-R: Hon. Rosalyn Richter '79, Professor Linda Feldman '83, and Lee Wellington '13



L-R: Sherry Carr '79, Maida Asofsky '79, Susan Bloom '79, Anthea Bruffee '79, Maria Marinello '79, and Elaine Nissen '79



L-R: Colin Hedrick '13, Megan Dubatowka '13, Jared Axelrod '13, and Duane Allen Thomas '13



L-R: Mimi Goldstein '83, David Tannenbaum '83, Wendy Schmeier Sanders '83, Michael Grohman '83, Dennis Block '67, Fred Cohen '67, and Jose Aquino '93



L-R: Roland Riopelle, Leslie Kanter '87, Eric Kornblau '84, Stacy Kanter '84, and Elise Greenspan '84

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Smart Self-Promotion: Balancing Teamwork and Recognition

IN NOVEMBER, the Women's Leadership Network held another successful event: Smart Self-Promotion. Moderated by Professor Heidi Brown, panelists discussed ways to wrestle with the challenge of being a team player while also seeking professional recognition. The panelists, Meeka Bondy '94, senior vice president of legal affairs

at HBO; Anne Marie Bowler '00, founding partner of Gabay & Bowler; Debbie Epstein Henry '94, founder of DEH Consulting, Speaking, Writing and co-founder of Bliss Lawyers; and Timothy Oberweger '05, vice president and senior business development office at Stewart Title, also identified techniques to demonstrate how to gain visibility.



1. Debbie Epstein Henry '94 moderates the Q&A 2. Andrea Anderson '04 leads a roundtable discussion 3. Anne Marie Bowler '00 heads a breakout section

Mentoring Circles: Building Networks of Support

IN JANUARY, the Women's Leadership Network launched a Mentoring Circle pilot program. Composed of groups of 10–15 graduates, the groups met informally with facilitators from the Women's Leadership Circle to discuss current trends in the workplace as well as challenges in building and maintaining

a successful and fulfilling career. In the Mentoring Circle model, in contrast to the one-on-one mentoring model, mentees benefit from multiple mentoring relationships: between the facilitators and the mentees as well as the peer mentoring relationships developed among the mentees themselves.



Members of the In-house Counsel Mentoring Circle, facilitated by Women's Leadership Circle members Sasha Linney '11 (center), Susan Posen '78 (center right), and Bev Wilson '12 (not pictured)

ON THE ROAD

Washington, D.C., and Supreme Court Admissions Ceremony

IN NOVEMBER, the Law School held an alumni reception for Washington, D.C., area graduates. John Oswald '84, a member of the Board of Trustees, helped to organize the event at the newly opened Poca Madre. Guests enjoyed delicious Mexican specialties and cocktails while hearing news about the Law School and catching up with each other. The next day, Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton and a group of 15 alumni from across the United States were moved for admission to the U.S. Supreme Court.



L-R: Scott Stuart '87, John Oswald '84, Professor Michael Gerber, and Hannah Cao '03



Newly admitted alumni to the U.S. Supreme Court with Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton and Professor Michael Gerber



Making Connections with Mentors

IN OCTOBER, Colleen Caden '99, a member of the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association Board of Directors, and her firm, Pryor Cashman, where she is chair of the immigration group, hosted this year's kick-off reception for the Law School's Mentor Program. The program provides a valuable link between the law school experience and the practicalities of a legal career by creating one-on-one relationships for students with experienced alumni.

ON THE ROAD New York City

STARTING LAST FALL, the Law School launched a series of get-togethers at law firms and other organizations with graduates and friends, Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton, and members of the faculty. At these events, guests had an opportunity to hear news about the Law School, meet current faculty members and learn about their field of expertise, and network with each other.

At the gathering organized by Andrew Bochner '12 and hosted by his firm Wiggan and Dana, Interim Dean Fullerton gave updates from the Law School, and then introduced Vice Dean Christina Mulligan, who spoke on the topic "The Clash between Intellectual Property Law and Physical Property Law as the 'Internet of Things' Gets Bigger."

Other Events Included:

Sept. 14—Goldman Sachs, hosted by Anna Ashurov '12 with Professor Jonathan Askin

Nov. 7—Greenberg Traurig, hosted by Dennis Block '67 with Professors Neil Cohen, Heidi Brown, and Stacy Caplow

Dec. 4—Duane Morris, hosted by Fred Cohen '67 and Michael Grohman '83 with Professor Susan Herman

Jan. 23—Kramer Levin, hosted by Howard Rothman '71 and Robert Schmidt '89 with Professor Julian Arato

If you or your firm/organization would like to host one of these get-togethers, please contact Caitlin Monck '02, director of alumni engagement, at 718-780-0322.



Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton, center, with alumni at Wiggan and Dana. Thank you to Jim Glasser '85, Joseph Casino '96, Helen Heintz '97, Andrew Bochner '12, and Jonathan Hall '13 for hosting the event



Vice Dean Christina Mulligan discusses her latest research at the Wiggan and Dana event

April 29—Fried Frank, hosted by Steven Scheinfeld '85 with Vice Dean Christina Mulligan

May 17—New York City Law Department



L-R: Susan Weiner, Lynda Thomas, Claire Kaplan, Stanford Kaplan '68, Stuart Subotnick '68, and Alan Weiner '68

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD ON BROADWAY

ON JANUARY 9, graduates and friends spent a night out on Broadway to attend Aaron Sorkin's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Before the show, they met at famed Theater District institution Sardi's for a reception. Interim Dean Maryellen Fullerton shared with the group her experiences in Alabama serving as a clerk to civil rights icon Federal Judge Frank Johnson of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. He is known for his historic civil rights rulings that helped end segregation in the South.

Meet the Law School's Newest Alumni Board Members

LAST FALL, SIX NEW MEMBERS were elected to the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Board, a dedicated group committed to enriching the lives of alumni, engaging them in the future of the Law School, and promoting the Law School globally. With their focus on networking activities, social events, professional development, mentoring, and fundraising, Alumni Board members serve as stellar examples of philanthropy and leadership, encouraging increased participation and engagement within the entire alumni community.



SASHA LINNEY '11 is the associate general counsel at GoldenTree Asset Management, an employee-owned asset management firm that focuses on distressed products and high-yield bond opportunities. A 2002 graduate of Princeton University, Linney was a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, managing editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review*, and a recent graduate trustee. She previously served as a corporate associate at Debevoise & Plimpton and taught as a fellow at the Universiti Sains Malaysia and as a teaching assistant at the American School of Madrid.



STEPHEN POPERNICK '13 is an associate at Dontzin Nagy & Fleissig. He previously worked at Kirkland & Ellis. A 1997 graduate of Harvard University, Popernick served as an officer in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of lieutenant. He posted as a division officer aboard the guided missile cruiser *USS Shiloh* and the dock landing ship *USS Comstock*. A *magna cum laude* Law School graduate, Popernick served as a recent graduate trustee. He was a Trade Secrets Institute Fellow and winner of the American Intellectual Property Law Association Northeast Regional Moot Court Competition with Robert Levine '13.



BARBARA MACGRADY '97 is of counsel to Davidson, Dawson & Clark. She previously served as an associate at Blank Rome. She began her legal career as law clerk for Hon. Keven Nathaniel Fox, a U.S. magistrate judge in the Southern District of New York. A 1992 graduate of State University of New York at Stony Brook,

MacGrady was editor-in-chief of the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, served as research assistant to Professor Maryellen Fullerton, and taught as an adjunct professor at the Law School.



JEREMI ROUX '12 is the general counsel and chief compliance officer of Hamlin Capital Management, which serves high-net-worth individuals and institutions. He previously worked as an analyst at Satovsky Asset Management, where he served as chief compliance officer. A 2009 graduate of Pennsylvania

State University, Roux was a member of the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, and was a recipient of both the Richardson Scholarship and Centennial Grant.



SHAWN MILES '98 served most recently as executive vice president of public policy at Mastercard, where he was responsible for global advocacy, government relations, and engagement. He received Mastercard's General Counsel's Award of Distinction in 2004 and 2007. He

is a member of Operation HOPE's Northeastern board, as well as a board member of the Pro Bono Partnership. A 1992 graduate of Hampton University, Miles was a member of the *Brooklyn Journal of Law and Policy* and the Moot Court Honor Society.



AARON WARSHAW '07 is co-founder and shareholder of the New York office of Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart. He was previously an associate at Seyfarth Shaw and worked as a law clerk for Hon. Arlene R. Lindsay and Hon. Ramon E. Reyes Jr. '93 in the Eastern

District of New York. He is co-chair of the Employment Disputes Committee of the International Institute for Conflict Prevention and Resolution. A 2001 graduate of Wayne State University, Warshaw was the editor-in-chief of the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*, a member of the Moot Court Honor Society, and winner of the New York State Bar Association's Law Student Legal Ethics Award. He taught as an adjunct professor at the Law School.

To find out more about the work of the Alumni Board and its committees, please contact us at 718-780-7505 or alumni@brooklaw.edu



In Conversation

KENNETH ANAND '02

The general counsel at Kanye West's company Yeezy discusses how remaining true to his creative passions led to his dream job

BEFORE KENNETH ANAND '02 became the general counsel and head of business development at Kanye West's fashion label Yeezy Apparel LLC, a partnership with Adidas, he spent years dressing in suits at New York City law firms. Today, at a dream job in Los Angeles with the popular brand, he's kicking it in sneakers in a role that calls on his legal expertise and his passion for hip hop music and culture.

Anand, a native of Montclair, N.J., traveled creative pathways both before and after his time at Brooklyn Law School, remaining devoted to his early pursuits: sneakers, music, and computers. By middle school, he was a hip-hop fan, writing songs and freestyling with his friends and producing music, while owning Chuck Taylors in many different colors. His first pair of Air Jordans landed in his closet in the late 1980s. "I definitely became a 'sneaker head' from that point on," he says.

Anand's uncle, a computer programmer at Bell Labs, taught Anand how to build his first computer at age 7. His father brought home the Apple II computer, the first consumer product sold by Apple Computer, and Anand took it over. "When I started getting into hip-hop, I gravitated toward making software-based music. My friends and I used to make beats on a computer in high school," he recalls.

As an undergraduate at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he spent days in the music studio, learning the mixing boards. He switched his major from computer science to



communications, with a minor in music and computers. After graduation and a year of trying to break into the music industry, he decided to take the LSAT and enroll in law school. There he also met his future wife, Safia Anand '02, counsel at Olshan Frome Wolosky.

What were your early influences?

My parents used to say that my friendship circle looked like the U.N.—a bunch of Asian, black, Latino, and white kids. For as long as I can remember, I've had a soft spot for creatives. My older brother was a naturally gifted artist from age 5. So I learned how to talk to creative people and to

understand their idiosyncrasies and quirks very early in life.

My parents are academics. They met at NYU, where they both got their doctorate degrees: My dad has his dual Ph.D. in religion and philosophy, and my mother in education. Education was always important for us.

What stands out about your experience at Brooklyn Law?

My experience—from the people I met to the mental endurance I learned—has been invaluable. I met my wife Safia and some of my best friends there.

I was very social at the Law School from the beginning. In my first year, I started getting involved in the SBA (Student Bar Association). In my second and third years, I was elected SBA

president. I always tell students that networking in law school is key, because 10 or 15 years down the line all of your peers are going to be doing something interesting, and they're invaluable as friends and colleagues. The people I met in law school became my network.

What was your first job after graduation from law school?

I worked at a firm, practicing employment and labor law. That was the area I fell in love with first. I liked dealing with real human issues in the workplace.

How did you move from employment law to fashion law?

It was a bit of a bumpy path. In 2009, I was laid off from my law firm during the height of the financial crisis. My wife and I had just had our son Alex; he was six months old. It was a very challenging time. But, rather than get discouraged, I started my own law practice. I think that was the first time, despite the stress, that I saw a way to combine my expertise with my passions. I marketed myself heavily.

I immediately saw the value of my law school network. I reached out to all my classmates, offering to take on any referrals and overflow work, and their response was great. I reviewed employment agreements and severance packages. I represented fashion designers and clients in the entertainment world. I started to really understand the business of law, and how to bring in interesting work. After two years, I went back to a firm so I could offer more services to my clients. That's when I really started trying to market myself as a fashion and sneaker lawyer.

How did you get the opportunity at Yeezy?

In 2016, I was working at a California-based firm when one of my LA clients, who I knew because his brother went to Brooklyn Law with me, called and said, "I'm going to work for Kanye West. Will you help me with my executive employment agreement?" Of course, I said yes. A couple months later, when he asked me to do some more legal work, I saw an opportunity and was looking for a change. I took a leap of faith and asked him, "How about you just hire me, and I'll do all of the company's legal work?"

Two weeks later, I got the job. I flew to Los Angeles and started working as general counsel for Kanye's fashion company, Yeezy. I knew this was it—every piece of my childhood and my entire career came together in one role. The only stressful part for me was figuring out what to wear on my first day.

Did you wear "Yeezys" (as the brand's sneakers are popularly known)?

Definitely. I wore the original 350 v2 Belugas with jeans and a sweatshirt.

What's the best part of your job now?

I love that it changes all the time. You never know what the day is going to hold, and that's really exciting. Within my first year, I was able to save the company a significant amount of money

in legal fees. I put new systems and processes in place. I also started managing business development, and I help with HR and benefits.

What's the most challenging part?

Traveling back and forth between LA and New York for work can be hard, especially on my wife and our sons, Alex and Deven. They're 10 and 8 now. I just hope my kids see a father who's passionate about what he does for a living and puts his heart and soul into it. I hope that they follow their dreams the same way I was able to.

Any lasting lessons from law school that resonate today?

"Knowing your audience" is the number one skill. That's what I learned in my legal writing class, and it's been an invaluable lesson. I wouldn't talk to my designers and my creative people the same way I talk to outside counsel. I have the ability to wear many different hats and switch them at any time.

The beautiful thing about the law is you can apply it to any profession, and I've been able to do that. In my business development role and the things I do that are not legal at all, there are still legal skills that I apply, like my analytical skills, and my questioning and reasoning.

You're also blazing a new trail as co-author of a book about sneaker law. What do you mean by sneaker law?

It's the body of knowledge about the multibillion-dollar business of sneakers and footwear and the role of reselling in the industry. As high fashion is being taken over by street wear, it's important that people know more about the business of sneakers and its legal aspects—from how to protect yourself legally if you're a designer, to how to buy and sell sneakers. There's a significant number of cases in this area related to intellectual property and trade secrets.

And there's a Brooklyn Law School tie to this book project as well.

Yes, I'm co-writing the book with a recent graduate, Jared Goldstein '17 (corporate counsel at Undertone, a digital branding agency). We recently engaged a student, Rylan Brook '20, through the Law School's externship program, to help us with the book.

What's your best advice for law students and your fellow alumni?

Be ready to hustle harder than anyone else. Remember, there are different paths to success with a law degree. Whatever your passions were before law school, don't give up on them. Even if they don't intersect with your work right away, they keep you excited. And when they do eventually intersect, it's a beautiful thing. ■

This interview was conducted and edited by Jen Swetzoff.

Giving

Planned Gifts Support Future Generations

JOE PORCELLI '78 knew his celebrity status was cemented when retired Major League Baseball player Dusty Baker asked to meet him one evening when he was dining at New York City steak house Maloney & Porcelli, the restaurant named after Porcelli's law firm.

While attending Brooklyn Law School, Porcelli worked at a firm that represented restaurants and was offered a position there after graduation. In 1983 the firm became Maloney & Porcelli. So how did his law firm wind up as the name of a midtown Manhattan restaurant that is still going strong?

"In 1995, Smith & Wollensky founder Alan Stillman wanted to start a second brand, and he asked our permission to use our name," he said.

Porcelli has been a "Brooklyn guy" his whole life, and Brooklyn Law School has remained near and dear to his heart. Neither of his parents attended high school, and the Law School gave him the opportunity to move "four steps beyond" his childhood.

"We didn't know any lawyers, and we didn't have any legal background," he said.

While serving as president of the SBA, Porcelli was honored by the Italian American Law Students Association. After graduation,



he served as a junior member of the Alumni Association. His generosity to the school grew over the years, and recently, he decided to put in a bequest to the Law School in his will. "Forty years ago, I received \$2,000 in grants-in-aid to attend Brooklyn Law School, and when I thanked Assistant Dean Gerard A. Gilbride for the assistance, he said, 'We don't think of it as grants-in-aid, we think of it as a moral obligation loan.' I thought of that when I put together my estate plan."

Giving Back and Doing Good

MIRIAM R. ADELMAN '66 has also made a future commitment by naming Brooklyn Law School as a beneficiary of her estate.

She is proud of her education and the opportunities it allowed, remembering how difficult it was as a woman attending law school in the 1960s. "As a trusts and estates lawyer, I have seen firsthand the impact a planned gift can make on an institution, as well as on the donor while they are living, knowing they are supporting a cause they love. I am very fond of Brooklyn Law School, and I felt it was important for me to give back in this way."

There are a number of options for planned gifts to the Law School, including gifts by will and living trusts; life-income gifts; and real estate, insurance, and retirement assets. Most alternatives offer tax benefits, and some provide the donor with a source of

income. Donors who make planned gifts become members of the Legacy Society.

"Planned gifts are vital to the Law School, helping to build scholarship endowment, fund special programs, and advance the mission and values of the school," said Sean Moriarty, chief advancement officer at Brooklyn Law School. "All gifts have lasting impact on students."

1901 Society up on the Roof

IN OCTOBER, Brooklyn Law School held its annual 1901 Society event at the Nomad Hotel, owned by the Sydell Group, whose founder and CEO is **Andrew Zobler '87**. Members are an influential group of alumni and friends from a wide range of backgrounds and careers who commit to making a leadership gift annually to the Law School. The beautiful rooftop location with gorgeous views of the city provided a wonderful location to host this reception in appreciation of the 1901 Society.



For more information about Planned Giving or the 1901 Society, please contact Sean Moriarty at 718-780-7505 or giving@brooklaw.edu.

ClassNotes

1959

Ruth E. Roth retired from Cuddy & Feder after 39 years at the firm. Roth specialized in land use matters, representing major real estate developers and serving on ad hoc government committees dealing with housing.

Billboard magazine named **Martin Bandier '65**, chairman and CEO, Sony/ATV Music Publishing, and **Allen Grubman '67**, senior partner, Grubman Shire Meiselas & Sacks, to the 2019 Power 100 List. Bandier also was honored with the BMI Icon Award at the 67th Annual BMI Pop Awards in May 2019.

1973

Joan B. Lefkowitz won a third 14-year term on the New York State Supreme Court in Westchester County, N.Y. Lefkowitz has served in the judiciary since 1987.

1974

Michael Sackheim is co-editor of *The Virtual Currency Regulation Review*, a legal treatise on the regulatory response to the rise of virtual currency. It was published in November by Law Business Research, Ltd., London. Sackheim is also senior counsel at Sidley Austin in New York.

1975

Lawrence Sucharow, co-chairman at Labaton Sucharow and a member of the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees, has been selected as a "Hall of Fame" inductee of the 2019 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America.

1977

Charles S. Cohen acquired Landmark Theatres' 52 locations in a deal with sellers Mark Cuban and Todd Wagner. Landmark Theatres is the largest specialized movie theater chain in the United States dedicated to exhibiting and marketing independent and foreign films.

Sean F.X. Dugan was named president of the New York City chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a New York City senior partner and trial attorney at Martin Clearwater & Bell. Dugan defends physicians, healthcare professionals, and medical groups in litigation.

1980



Larry A. Krantz was elected to the American College of Trial Lawyers' Board of Regents. Krantz is a partner at boutique litigation firm Krantz & Berman in New York City and Westchester, N.Y.

Anne Swern was elected District 1 judge of the New York City Civil Court Kings County in November 2018.

1982



Alex S. Avitabile self-published his first book of fiction, *Occupational Hazard*, about an attorney and his cousin with ties to organized crime who team up against a powerful government official in a child support case.

Leon Roday was named executive vice president and general counsel of the Lincoln Financial Group in Dec. 2018. Roday has also served as a board member of Genworth Mortgage Insurance Corp. Canada and as a board member of the Genworth Foundation (2006–2012).

1983



Frank Aquila, a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell and vice chair of the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees, is widely regarded as one of the world's leading M&A lawyers. Last December, in recognition of his many accomplishments, the *Financial Times* named him one of the "FT Top 10 Legal Innovators for North America."

1984

Rhonda E. Babb received the Florida Tech Pioneer Award, named for the first African American student to attend that school. Babb is a county court judge in Florida and has been honored for her service on the bench.

1985

Michael Peskowitz joined Blank Rome as a partner. He represents institutional lenders on mortgage-backed securities matters and other debt instruments.

1987

Michelle A. Luzio was named counsel at commercial real estate firm Cassin & Cassin. She is co-chair of the Westchester County Women's Bar Association's Real Property Committee.

1989

Elizabeth D'Aloia was named to the board of the international Supply Chain Protection Organization. She is the CEO and founder of the HR Virtuoso Company in Dallas. She is also a Lambda Legal volunteer, and a volunteer attorney at the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

1990

Gwyneth M. Eliasson is assistant professor for health policy and management at the State University of New York Downstate School of Public Health.

1991

Matthew S. Cohen was named executive vice president and general counsel of Playa Hotels and Resorts. Cohen will address legal and commercial affairs for the company, which operates Hyatt, Hilton, Jewel Resorts, and Panama Jack Resorts in Mexico and the Caribbean.

Dominic Morandi joined the Chicago Title Insurance Company as a vice president for business development in its New York office.

Margaret T. Walsh won a seat in the New York State Supreme Court's third judicial district after serving as a family court judge in Albany, N.Y.

1992

Andrea Bonina has been named chair of the grievance committee for the second, 11th, and 13th Judicial Districts by the Appellate Division, Second Department. He is a partner at Bonina & Bonina in Brooklyn. At the law firm, Bonina handles personal injury cases for plaintiffs and regularly lectures on litigation matters.

David M. Grill, partner at Rivkin Radler, was named a fellow in the Construction Lawyers Society of America, an invitation-only association for lawyers. Grill handles real estate, zoning, land use, commercial litigation, and construction issues.

1993

Michael Boyajian, retired New York administrative law judge, self-published *The New York Litigators: The Right Stuff Attorneys of the Legal Profession*, which depicts New York's attorneys as the vanguard in the field.

Deborah E. Riegel, a partner at Rosenberg & Estis, was named president of the New York Board of Jewish National Fund effective in 2018.

1994



Jeffrey Gewirtz, executive vice president of business affairs and chief legal & compliance officer at BSE Global, was named to the 2019 United States GC Powerlist (in the Sports & Media category) by the Legal 500.

1995

Devin P. Cohen won another term as justice in the New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial District.

1996

Ari J. Markenson received the 2018 Cornerstone Award from the Lawyers' Alliance for New York for his pro bono activity. The Alliance organizes pro bono support for city nonprofit and community organizations focused on the quality of life for residents. Markenson, a partner at Winston & Strawn, advises healthcare providers and payers on issues including regulation, M&A activity, and fraud issues and was appointed co-chair of the firm's health and life sciences industry group.

1998

Gail S. Ennis was sworn in as inspector general of the Social Security Administration in January 2019. Ennis will oversee programs and operations for the administration and will address fraud attempts against the Social Security system.

Joshua Losardo was elected to join the Town Council of Scotch Plains, N.J. He is the owner of Chalk Gyms in Brooklyn.

1999

Bryan Reyhani joined the board of Millennial Esports, a Toronto-based mobile app developer and publisher. In 2014, he founded a digital asset capital market firm, SolidX Partners. He is managing director, legal and business strategy, at Eastmore Group, where he also serves as executive director and general counsel.

Larry Schimmel was named general counsel to the New York State attorney general. He was formerly general counsel for investments and operations for the New York City public advocate from 2014 to 2018.

2000

Aimee R. Adler was promoted to partner at Akin Gump's New York office. Adler is a member of its executive compensation and employee benefits office and deals with tax, ERISA, securities, and accounting issues.

Debra M. Schoenberg was named partner at Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas, where she focuses on real estate law and litigation.

2001

Gina Levy Abadi became a civil judge in Brooklyn in November 2018. Levy Abadi is the first Syrian Jewish woman to join the bench of the Brooklyn civil court. She was previously a law clerk for 17 years.



Charles A. Montorio-Archer has been named president and CEO of One Hope United, a nonprofit

social care and foster care agency based in Chicago. Montorio-Archer was formerly a co-founder of the THRIVE Network, a New York nonprofit that assists individuals living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Aline Taireh was promoted to executive vice president and general counsel in the U.S. at Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield. She was also appointed to the supervisory board of WFD Unibail-Rodamco, N.V. Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield is a global developer and operator of flagship shopping destinations.

2002

Darren A. Aronow was admitted to the Esteemed Lawyers of America for his work representing clients in bankruptcy, foreclosure defense, and other matters involving lenders and creditors.

Dana Carotenuto Rico was named deputy secretary for legislative affairs in Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration. She previously served staff roles in the New York State Senate, most recently as chief of staff for the Independent Democratic Conference.

Marvin Romero is now a partner at Gerber Ciano Kelly Brady in Garden City, N.Y. He was formerly an attorney at Goldberg Segalla.

2003

Ariel D. Chesler was assigned to a family court term in the Bronx after winning a seat in the civil court in November.

Emma Gilmore, a partner at Pomerantz, was named an MVP in securities legislation by Law360; she was one of the members who led a class action case against the Brazilian state oil firm Petrobras and won a \$3 billion settlement, the fifth-largest class action settlement in the United States.

2004

John C. Ivascu was named general counsel of Forum Energy Technologies. The company manufactures and sells components and construction tools for global oil field operators.

2005

Armand Balboni has been named the first chief scientific officer at Appili, a Canadian biopharmaceutical company focused on drug development for infectious diseases.

Allison R. Barrett of Willis Towers Watson was named one of 2018's Women to Watch by Business Insurance in December for her work in the insurance brokerage field. Barrett was formerly a staff member of the U.S. House Ways and Means Committee and is currently based in the firm's FINEX Global London office.

Richard Bayer was elevated to partner at Einbinder & Dunn. Bayer manages franchise regulatory and trademark matters for the firm.

Hollywood's Legal Stars

Hollywood Reporter named **Marty Singer '77** and **Andrew Brettler '05**, both of Lavelly Singer, to the Power Lawyers 2019 Top 100 Attorneys list.

"It means so much to me that I was recognized as one of the *Hollywood Reporter's* 2019 Power Lawyers next to Marty," said Brettler. "To be able to share that honor with him is very special."

Singer is regarded as the go-to lawyer for many of Hollywood's biggest names and has been described by *Vanity Fair* as "the bane of studio chiefs and tabloid editors" and a "rabid defender of stars in trouble." Brettler met Singer when he moved to Los Angeles in 2008 and reached out to fellow alumni in the area. Singer was the first to respond, and he treated Brettler to a Dodgers game. They stayed in touch and eventually Brettler, who was working at Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, was offered a job at Singer's firm. He was named a partner in 2014.

Allen Grubman '67 was one of 17 attorneys named a Legal Legend, a lifetime award for attorneys whose impact on Hollywood is so lasting they transcend the top 100 Attorneys list.

Jared A. Kasschau was appointed county attorney in Nassau County by the legislature and county executive. He was formerly a partner at Harris Beach and a member of Jaspan Schlesinger, and served as an assistant district attorney in Brooklyn and the Bronx.



Song-Chu Lee was promoted to global trademark counsel and marketing counsel at

Colgate-Palmolive. Lee provides support on trademark and publicity counseling for the oral care, toothbrush, and Tom's of Maine portfolios.

Jessica L. Lipson was promoted to partner at Morrison Cohen. She was formerly an attorney at Proskauer Rose, Baker & McKenzie, and Morgan Lewis & Bockius.

Wesley O'Brien was promoted to special counsel at Fried Frank. O'Brien is a member of the firm's real estate department, joining the firm after serving as general counsel for the New York City Mayor's Office of Environmental Coordination and assistant counsel for the Department of City Planning.

2006

W. Peter Beardsley joined Loeb & Loeb as senior counsel in its finance department. Beardsley represents lenders and financial institutions in commercial lending and restructuring transactions. He was formerly an associate at Troutman Sanders, working in finance and restructuring.

Sean Sunik Kim was promoted to senior regulatory and safety counsel for LG Electronics USA, a subsidiary of the South Korean electronics and technology conglomerate LG.

Aaron B. Lauchheimer was promoted to partner at Morrison Cohen in the business litigation department.

Joshua S. Reisberg was made a partner at Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider. Reisberg deals with patent, copyright, and trademark issues for clients in the medical device, luxury goods, media, and pharmaceutical fields.

2007



Clara Altman was appointed deputy director of the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C., in October

2018. The center is the research and education agency of the U.S. judiciary. Altman was previously the director of its History Office.

Steven J. Auletta joined Rivkin Radler as an associate in its Albany, N.Y., office, defending clients on civil matters including breach of contract, malpractice, misconduct, and civil rights violations.

Anson B. Frelinghuysen was elevated to partner at Hughes Hubbard. Frelinghuysen is a member of its corporate reorganization and bankruptcy department and advises firms on bankruptcies, investigations, corporate activism, and other matters.

Christopher C. Gartman was named partner at Hughes Hubbard & Reed. Gartman deals with bankruptcy and commercial litigation matters on behalf of financial institutions, debtors, and creditors.

2009

William Brodsky was named a partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner. Brodsky focuses on real estate, negotiating real estate finance transactions, and advising clients on joint ventures.

Christina M. Browne was named partner at Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman. Her areas of practice are general litigation and landlord and tenant disputes.

Hayley J. Gladstone joined McDonald Hopkins in Chicago as counsel for the firm's executive compensation and governance group. Gladstone was formerly an attorney at Latham & Watkins' Chicago and New York offices, where she dealt with compensation, employee benefits, and governance matters for U.S.-based and global clients.

Kiran Nasir Gore joined the editorial board of Kluwer Arbitration Blog, a publication focusing on international arbitration, managed by global information and software provider Wolters Kluwer. She remains an adjunct professor at the George Washington University, teaching legal research and writing to foreign LL.M. students.

Andrew T. Hambelton was elevated to partner at Blank Rome. Hambelton deals with commercial litigation matters, including breach of contract, fiduciary matters, officer liability, tort, and intellectual property.

Thomas (Hsien) Kung joined the Jia Law Group, managed by Jason Jia '11, as a partner in the labor and employment field.

Joseph Lanzkron was named partner at Cleary Gottlieb. Lanzkron has been with the firm since 2009, focusing on real estate, corporate, and financial transactions.

Joseph J. “JJ” Shepherd joined Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy as an associate. Shepherd is also a chair of the American Immigration Lawyers Association’s CSC Liaison Committee and member of the SCOPS Liaison Committee.

Greg Steinberg was promoted to counsel at White and Williams. Steinberg represents foreign and domestic insurers dealing with professional liability matters.

2010

Edward D. Baker was named a vice chair of the trust and estate law committee of the New York State Bar Association. He is an associate for estate litigation in the Uniondale, N.Y., office of Farrell Fritz.

David G. Buffa was named a principal at Bressler, Amery & Ross. Buffa deals with securities issues and represents broker-dealers, investment advisors, and financial firms on regulatory compliance and investigations.

Ilana S. Glusband married Isaac Joseph Gruber, the general counsel of an investment management firm, in Jan. 2019. Glusband is a director of compliance for RBC Capital Markets.

Daniel C. Isaacs was promoted to senior counsel at Morrison Cohen, where he focuses on commercial litigation.

2011

Rimma Bukhbinder is general counsel for North America at Soho House & Co., a London-based hospitality firm that manages private members’ clubs for members in creative industries. She was formerly the general counsel of UsableNet and a compliance counsel for EducationDynamics.



Anne del Castillo was named commissioner of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Media and

Entertainment. She was COO and general counsel for the office in late 2015 and legal affairs director from 2014 to 2015. Before joining the office, she was a longtime staff member at American Documentary, which produces the documentary series *POV* for PBS.

Paul Cossu was named partner at Pryor Cashman. Cossu has experience representing art collectors and owners on cases including forgeries, title claims, infringement, and art and cultural law matters.

Noah Doyle, senior vice president/wealth management and leader of Battery Park Financial Partners at Janney Montgomery Scott, has been named to *Forbes* magazine’s 2018 list of America’s Top 1,000 Next-Generation Wealth Advisors. This recognition honors talented advisors who were born in 1980 or later.

Evan M. Goldman joined AY Strauss as a partner in Roseland, N.J. Goldman will deal with franchise and hospitality law issues.

Leila Lucevic joined Winstead’s Dallas office as an associate in the real estate finance, default resolution, and servicing practice. She was previously an associate at New York’s Fiorentino Law Firm.

Niki Tsismenakis has been named partner at New York law firm Goldstein Hall. She focuses on affordable housing and community development, cooperative and condominium law, and real estate finance.

2012



Anna Ashurov of Goldman Sachs is one of *Business Insider*’s Rising Stars of Wall Street. She worked

full time at Goldman Sachs’ bank-debt portfolio group while earning her degree at Brooklyn Law School, where she now serves as a recent graduate trustee. Ashurov is co-founder of Diversity in Blockchain, which hosts workshops, summits, and incubators to help people break into the emerging technology.

Jacqueline K. Holmes was honored at the October Lehigh Valley’s Finest gala, which benefits the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The award is given to young volunteers who are accomplished in their professions. Holmes is a complex commercial litigation associate at Norris McLaughlin’s Pennsylvania office.

2013

Jarrett S. Kalish joined the Boca Raton, Fla., office of Proskauer Rose after two years as a transaction tax staff member for Ernst & Young/EY and a tax counsel for the New York City Department of Finance.

Adam Scavone was named general counsel for North Coast Testing Laboratories, the first licensed medical marijuana testing laboratory in the state of Ohio.

Matthew P. Strauss has joined the Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., office of Kelley Kronenberg as an attorney.

Ella Yusim joined the trusts and estates practice of Brach Eichler in New Jersey. She was formerly an associate of Connors and Sullivan in Brooklyn, where she also addressed wealth preservation, estate planning, and post-death administration issues for clients.

2014

Aaron J. Getman joined Travelex, the foreign currency exchange company, as legal counsel for payments in its New York office.

Nithin E. Jayadeva joined the JDS Development Group as assistant general counsel. She was previously with Rosenberg & Estis.

Randal J. Meyer joined McGuireWoods Consulting as senior vice president and counsel in the federal public affairs practice. He was previously legislative counsel in the office of Sen. Rand Paul.

2015

Eric J. Greenberg's article, "Don't Transfer That Interest! How the 'Mere Change Exemption' Provides Little Relief to Taxpayers" appeared in the November 2018 issue of the *Albany Law Review*. Greenberg is currently a manager at EY (Ernst & Young), advising clients on tax efficiency strategies.

Philip M. Guffy joined Blank Rome as an associate in its finance, restructuring, and bankruptcy group. He was formerly an associate at Kramer Levin, dealing with complex restructuring and bankruptcy matters.

2016

Alexi A. Knock became corporate counsel for Informa, a business intelligence and academic publishing firm based in the United Kingdom. She was formerly an associate at Ropes & Gray.

2017

Katherine A. Stewart was named an associate at Smith Sovik Kendrick & Sugnet, in Syracuse, N.Y. She was formerly an associate at Harris Beach in New York City, dealing with IP and commercial litigation issues. She will address litigation areas including construction and malpractice.

In Memoriam

Leonard Taubenblatt '50

Leonard Taubenblatt '50, who founded and ran his own Manhattan law firm for more than 60 years, died February 13, 2019, at age 93.



Born in Brooklyn's Greenpoint neighborhood to a modest, working-class family, Taubenblatt served as a U.S. Marine drill sergeant during World War II, was the first in his family to earn a college degree, and graduated second in his class at Brooklyn Law School. He dedicated his life to helping others through his service to his country, his work as an attorney, and his generous philanthropy.

He is survived by his children, Ellen Taubenblatt Harmon '79 and husband Mark Harmon '78, Lucie Taubenblatt Lapovsky and husband David Lapovsky, and Peter Taubenblatt, as well as eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 70 years, Renee Starr.

A longtime supporter of the Law School, Taubenblatt, along with Ellen and Mark Harmon, established a family scholarship to continue his powerful legacy as a man of great integrity.

Hon. William C. Thompson Sr. '54

Hon. William C. Thompson Sr. '54, a trailblazing legislator and judge, died December 24, 2018, at age 94.

A World War II veteran and significant figure in New York City politics for decades, Thompson became the first African American state senator elected from Brooklyn in 1964. After completing his four-year term, he served on the City Council, was elected to the State Supreme Court in 1974, and was named assistant administrative judge of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn and Staten Island in 1978. In 1980, he became the first African American associate justice of the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court. He retired from the bench in 2001 and returned to his law practice.



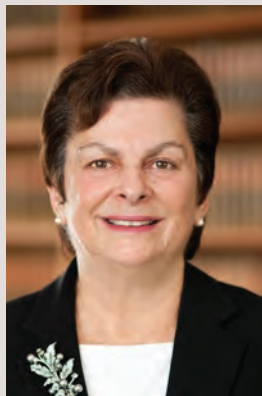
Thompson was a longtime supporter of Brooklyn Law School. He endowed the Judge William C. Thompson '54 Scholarship, awarded annually to an African American male student. He also served as president of the Law School's Alumni Association Board and as a member of the President's Advisory Council. In 2015, he was honored for helping to launch the Presidential Leadership Council, which provides mentorship and internship opportunities to college and high school students involved with their student government.

Thompson is survived by his son Bill, the former city comptroller (2002-09); his daughter Gail; and three grandchildren.

Professor Emerita Marilyn Walter

Professor Emerita Marilyn Walter, a former director of the Law School's Legal Writing Program and a faculty member for 38 years, died October 5, 2018, at age 75.

A sought-after leader and scholar in her field, Walter served as chair of the legal writing section of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) and as a member of the board of the Legal Writing Institute. She also was a member of the American Bar Association's Committee on Communication Skills and an editorial committee member of the *Journal of the Association of Legal Writing Directors*, as well as a speaker at numerous legal writing conferences.



Her book *Writing and Analysis in the Law* (Foundation Press, 7th ed., 2018), co-authored with Professor Elizabeth Fajans and Northwestern University School of Law Professor Helene Shapo, has been an essential text on effective legal writing for several generations of law students. She also co-authored *Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs* (American Bar Association, 1997), which has been used to reshape and strengthen legal research and writing programs at law schools across the country.

In 2015, Walter received the prestigious Burton Award for Outstanding Contributions to Legal Writing Education, which is presented to "the finest law school teacher who has promoted and advanced legal writing." She also was honored with the AALS Legal Writing Award in recognition of her "pioneering leadership, extraordinary vision, and outstanding service."

She is survived by her husband Ron; her daughters Alison and Amy; her sister Thelma Rosenberg; her brother Hartley Rosenberg; and her granddaughter Maya.

1953

Fred Kapatkin
February 19, 2019

Bernard Scharfstein
October 4, 2018

1957

E. George Nyberg
January 8, 2019

1959

Charles Tucker
December 28, 2018

1960

Ralph K. Kistner
February 17, 2019

Harold Klein
February 14, 2019

1962

Edward J. Shapiro
November 12, 2018

1963

John G. Hall
October 11, 2018

1966

Stuart L. Witt
December 6, 2018

Stanley J. Sanders
September 11, 2018

1967

Eugene D. Kline
March 3, 2019

1971

Robert A. Smith
October 18, 2018

1972

Richard S. Birnbaum
January 20, 2019

Theodore W. Robinson
October 28, 2018

Lawrence John Glynn
September 12, 2018

1973

Robert A. Rothstein
February 8, 2019

1974

Michael P. Weinstein
September 10, 2018

1975

Kevin S. Taylor
January 11, 2019

1980

Elaine Greenblatt
November 24, 2018

1984

Paul J. Gallagher
October 1, 2018

2001

Frank J. Santarpia
December 31, 2018

By Edward J. Janger and Aaron D. Twerski

On the Internet, Amazon Might Just Be a Dog

“ON THE INTERNET, NOBODY KNOWS YOU’RE A DOG,” runs the caption of a famous *New Yorker* cartoon. Yet in e-commerce, identity matters. And in e-commerce, nobody is bigger than Amazon—the second company in the history of the world to achieve a trillion-dollar valuation. At latest count, Amazon boasts 310 million customers, 90 million of whom are “Prime” members. That’s a lot of retail sales daily.

But who are you dealing with when you buy goods on Amazon? It is not always clear: Amazon itself? A chain store? A local merchant? A fly-by-night manufacturer of cheap goods in a foreign country? This is important because Amazon sells a lot of things; some explode, causing serious injury. Recent examples of products causing injuries are cell phone chargers, electronic cigarettes, and hoverboards. Yet courts have consistently left consumers who purchase such items through Amazon without a remedy.

In a recent case, Heather Oberdorf purchased a retractable dog leash on the Amazon website. She claimed that the leash malfunctioned and struck her in the eye, causing permanent injury. Amazon defended itself, saying that it was not the seller. It had merely facilitated the transaction for a firm called the Furry Gang, now nowhere to be found (metaphorically, the dog). A federal court sided with Amazon, saying that Oberdorf could not state a claim under products liability or contract law against Amazon because it wasn’t the seller. Further, Amazon was protected by Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which insulates internet platforms from liability for statements of third-party content providers. Taken together, these conclusions left Oberdorf utterly without recourse. Paradoxically, the same would not have been true if she had purchased the leash at PetSmart. Brick-and-mortar merchants are answerable to their customers; Amazon, apparently, is not. In the modern e-commerce environment, this distinction is untenable and, in Amazon’s case, misleading.

Expectations about rights, creditworthiness, and recourse shift with perceived identity. It matters whether one is dealing with General Motors or a used car salesman, a bank or an empty corporate shell, Amazon, or a dog. When a customer orders from Amazon, Amazon collects the shipping and payment information. Usually, the goods are stored at and shipped from Amazon’s warehouse. The box containing the purchase arrives at the customer’s home with Amazon’s name plastered all over it. If the

Amazon sells a lot of things—some explode, causing serious injury: cell phone chargers, electronic cigarettes, hoverboards

customer is dissatisfied with the product upon receipt, it is returned to Amazon. In this regard, Amazon has the discretion to retain the customer payments for an extended period in anticipation of returns and refunds. By appearance, Amazon does everything that a direct seller does, except stand behind the product if it causes injury. The great likelihood is that a majority of Amazon customers do not have the slightest notion that if the so-called true seller is bankrupt or not subject to the jurisdiction of American courts, Amazon washes its hands of them. If this is not outright fraud, it is a very close sister to it.

Amazon’s defense rests on two alternative claims about its identity: we are a communications platform, not a store; or, we are a public marketplace, not a vendor. Yet Amazon tries to have it both ways. It claims to be one (a platform/market) but acts like the other (store/vendor). It is, in fact, the largest single vendor in the history of commerce. This characterization of Amazon’s role in a consumer transaction has consequences. It determines: (1) what representations are being made and by whom for warranty purposes; (2) who is the seller for liability purposes if the product causes serious personal injury; and (3) who, if anybody, must verify that suppliers are reliable merchants.

Cases like Oberdorf’s that insulate Amazon from traditional forms of liability reward and encourage lack of transparency. They also run counter to settled rules of tort and contract law that would apply to a goods seller in “real space.” Under basic principles of honesty and fairness, Amazon should generally be treated as a seller. But, at the very least, Amazon’s customers deserve to know who they are dealing with. If Amazon does not wish to be thought the seller, it must make clear that it does not stand behind the product. If Amazon wishes to be viewed as a “conduit,” it must make clear that it does not exercise any control over who sells in its marketplace. Alternatively, if it wishes to be viewed as a trusted marketplace, Amazon should be required to stand behind the products it sells.

Transparency about identity is essential to trust in e-commerce. The law should help, instead of getting in the way. ■

Edward J. Janger is the David M. Barse Professor of Law and associate dean for faculty research and scholarship. **Aaron D. Twerski** is the Irwin and Jill Cohen Professor of Law. They specialize, respectively, in commercial law and torts. This article first appeared in the *New York Law Journal*.

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UPCOMING EVENTS | brooklaw.edu/newsandevents

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--|---|---|
| May 17 | 118TH Commencement Ceremony
Speaker: Barbara Underwood
Solicitor General, New York State
Brooklyn Academy of Music
Howard Gilman Opera House | Sept. 20–21 | Young Bankruptcy Scholars Workshop
Co-sponsored by the Center for Business Law and Regulation and the International Insolvency Institute |
| May 30 | Summer Session Begins | Sept. 24 | The Abraham L. Pomerantz Lecture
Speaker: Kara Stein
Former Commissioner of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
Sponsored by the Center for Business Law and Regulation |
| July 11 | Book Roundtable Discussion:
<i>The Right of Redress</i> , Professor Andrew Gold
Sponsored by the Center for Business Law and Regulation | Oct. 17 | Dean Michael T. Cahill Installation Ceremony |
| July 15–16 | Crimfest 2019
Hosted by the Center for Criminal Justice | Oct. 25 and Nov. 1 | Professor Robert M. Pitler Annual Program on Criminal Law, Procedure, Evidence & Ethics
Sponsored by the Center for Criminal Justice |
| Aug. 19 | Convocation Ceremony
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York | Nov. 8–9 | American Society of International Law Mid-Year Meeting
Co-hosted by the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law |
| Aug. 26 | Fall Semester Classes Begin | Check our calendar at brooklaw.edu/events for more events as they are added to the summer and fall schedules. | |
| Sept. 9 | LL.M. Alumni Reception | | |
| Sept. 15 | Brooklyn Book Festival
Brooklyn Law School and other locations | | |