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Dean’s message
Looking Back and Forging Ahead
By Anthony W. Crowell

At the start of a new year, it’s always meaningful to look back on the year that has passed and take stock. 2012 marked the year I started as Dean of New York Law School and a period of tremendous change for both me and the Law School. I have had the opportunity to meet so many alumni and listen to the issues that concern you and the successes that energize you. With your input, I’ve launched efforts to tackle our most pressing challenges and celebrate our greatest strengths. We have implemented many new initiatives at the School, including additional career services programs designed to better serve our students and alumni in securing jobs, expanded resources for students preparing for the bar exam, and new programs aimed at supporting faculty scholarship. We have also conducted a comprehensive review of all of the School’s operations and are developing strategies for how to deliver our services more efficiently. All of these changes will allow us to better prepare our students for success.

2012 also brought with it the devastating impact that Hurricane Sandy has had on the New York Metro area, including so many of our students and alums who have suffered losses of property or were temporarily displaced from their homes. As we have always done, the New York Law School community came together in a show of strength and compassion, helping those who have lost so much. I am incredibly grateful for, and proud of, the efforts our administration, faculty, and staff took in the immediate aftermath of the storm, springing into action to help our students, especially those who were most affected, in every way possible.

This issue of New York Law School Magazine looks back on the spring 2012 semester, highlighting projects, events, and accomplishments from many corners of our community. We highlight the Racial Justice Project’s report on food deserts and their impact on communities of color, and the report’s call to action for change. And we hear about the tireless efforts of faculty members like Lenni Benson, who has rallied alumni to join the Safe Passage Project in serving immigrant children who need representation. We also check in on a group of alumni who graduated in the 1990s to see how far they have come in the fields they have pursued. We are happy to share their success stories with you and encourage you to share yours with all of us—in this magazine and in other forums designed to connect you with the Law School.

Inspired by these stories and many more, we look ahead at this New Year with optimism and with dedication to making 2013 an even stronger year for our school. Thank you for your support and please continue to give us your input as we shape the future of New York Law School.
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Unshared Bounty: The Racial Justice Project Reports on Food Deserts

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A New York Law School report on urban neighborhoods devoid of convenient access to grocery shopping taken for granted by white, middle-class Americans documents a link between destructive social practices and health problems endemic to low-income, heavily minority communities.

The report, *Unshared Bounty: How Structural Racism Contributes to the Creation and Persistence of Food Deserts*, is the product of the Racial Justice Project at NYLS, directed by Associate Dean Deborah N. Archer, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The topic of “food deserts”—districts with little or no access to healthy food options—is a hot one of late among academics, municipal officials, and others, including First Lady Michelle Obama, who has spearheaded a campaign to encourage healthy eating habits for children. But “what hasn’t been part of the discussion is that the situation didn’t get this way on its own,” says Dean Archer. “It didn’t just happen.”

She adds, “You can’t really solve the problem if you don’t think about how it started.”

In a forceful eloquence unusual in academic writing, the opening sentences of *Unshared Bounty* define both the way in which neighborhoods should properly serve the first human need—sustenance—and indicts society at large for devastating consequences when that need goes unmet:

Food is life. It is necessity and pleasure, family and community, culture and power. When plentiful and freely shared, food creates healthy communities and strong societies; when scarce or unfairly distributed, it damages and, in time, kills spirit, body, family, community. Food touches everything, and is never just food.

Professor Aderson Bellegarde François of Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C., crafted that introductory statement during his time last year as a visiting professor at NYLS. He was invited by Dean Archer to participate in the report’s preparation, along with NYLS students, staff members, and interns of the ACLU’s Racial Justice Program.

“This is a clear explanation of how food deserts are the result of forces that occurred 30, 40, and 50 years ago,” Professor François says of the 49-page report. “Even five years back, people didn’t realize the connection. So this is new.”

The report cites statistics on so-called food deserts that are bleak, shocking, and all too familiar:

- Some 23.5 million Americans currently live in food deserts, in majority African American and Latino neighborhoods “with no access or severely limited regular access to healthy and affordable food”—where bodegas, fast-food outlets, greasy take-out restaurants, pizza parlors, and liquor stores with packaged food sections vastly outnumber the green grocers, farmer’s markets, and chain supermarkets plentiful in adjacent, predominantly white neighborhoods.
In Central Brooklyn, whose low-income residents are overwhelmingly African American and Latino, 96 percent of the population does not consume a sufficient diet of fresh fruits and vegetables recommended by the U.S. Health Department—New York City’s highest proportion of undernourished citizens.

In Washington, the District’s two lowest income, majority African American neighborhoods have one supermarket for every 70,000 residents, compared to one supermarket for every 12,000 residents in two of the highest income, predominantly white neighborhoods.

Last October, Mrs. Obama addressed a community group in Chicago. If people in that city’s poor and working-class minority neighborhoods “want to buy a head of lettuce or salad or some fruit for their kid’s lunch,” she said during a press conference, “they have to take two or three buses, maybe pay for a taxicab, in order to do it.”

Eighty-three percent of Detroit’s more than 700,000 residents are African American. For them, there are no supermarkets within the city limits.

“Above all,” the report notes, “food marks social differences, boundaries, bonds, and contradictions.”

Further, according to the report:

African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans living in [food deserts] travel farther, have fewer choices, and pay more than their counterparts... They find higher priced food, less fresh produce, and more processed food. The inner-city minority diet... is more likely to contain processed food loaded with fat, sugar, and salt [resulting in their being] vulnerable to obesity, heart disease, hypertension, and all manner of chronic illnesses... Among other things, a poor diet can [negatively] influence cognitive development in early childhood... The lack of supermarkets in a community can also affect employment, as supermarkets are a source of jobs for employees with a variety of skills.

As Dean Archer and Professor François contend, none of the foregoing is happenstance. Nor is the documented fact that decades of limited food environments in poor minority districts have genetic implications for succeeding generations. The report found that in Chicago in 2003, for instance, the death rate from cardiovascular disease for African American neighborhoods was twice that of white neighborhoods, with diabetes deaths at triple the rate.

“The segregated landscape of Chicago’s neighborhoods, and the accompanying disparities of food resources... is not a coincidence of geography but a consequence of... government policies and discrimination,” according to the report.

Following the Supreme Court’s dismissal in 1926 of Corrigan v. Buckley, U.S. 323, a case challenging judicial enforcement of restrictive racial covenants, such real estate agreements flourished from coast to coast—especially in the Windy City. Even before the new decade dawned, “almost 85 percent of Chicago was covered by racial covenants...
When African American families attempted to move into predominantly white neighborhoods, they suffered violent consequences,” the report found.

Racial covenants failed to disappear in America despite being declared unconstitutional in 1948 in Shelly v. Kraemer, 334 U.S. 1. Under the Redevelopment and Relocation Acts of the late 1940s, the municipal government of Chicago green-lighted the wholesale razing of “houses in ‘blighted’ areas, predominantly African American neighborhoods [and] replaced by luxury apartments unaffordable to the area’s original residents,” the report says. Thus, racial segregation was preserved for decades more.

“As poor blacks were concentrated within the city, upper and middle income whites moved out of Chicago to the suburbs,” the report continues. “Supermarkets developed alongside the newly arrived population. . . . The suburbs’ cheaper land enabled supermarkets to expand. . . . [C]ompetition from the suburban chains caused some city grocers to close, and other grocers moved out of predominantly African American communities, identifying them as declining markets.”

The history of government-authorized discrimination is much the same in Los Angeles, with the Supreme Court’s 1926 dismissal of Corrigan v. Buckley, 271 U.S. 323. The decision effectively validated California law allowing racial occupancy restrictions.

Emboldened by the high court ruling, “[T]he National Association of Real Estate Boards [began advising] its affiliates on how to promote segregation,” the report states. “Zoning ordinances were also used to restrict the character of a neighborhood and ‘protect’ . . . districts from perceived ‘nuisances.’”

Passage of the federal Fair Housing Act of 1964 “did little to alleviate rising tensions” in Los Angeles because the new law was “significantly limited by amendments” that kept working class African Americans crowded into rundown neighborhoods on the south side, which became a food desert. The grim legacy, according to the report: residents of South L.A. are at a 68 percent higher risk of developing coronary heart disease compared to virtually all-white West Los Angeles.

Two NYLS alumni who contributed to Unshared Bounty—Christopher Binns ’12 and Charlene Barker ’10—are Brooklynites long accustomed to much revealed by the report.

“I can relate,” says Binns, who grew up in Crown Heights and now clerks for Magistrate Judge Ronald L. Ellis of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Binns remembers storefront check-cashing operators and corner shops where “the meat was rotten.” He bristles at the commonly-held notion that poor black people choose inferior food over wholesome meals. He is a strong proponent of efforts by New York officials and citizen advocacy groups to find ways of attracting well-stocked supermarkets to Central Brooklyn—ways that include an often difficult task: persuading commercial real estate developers that supermarkets are economically viable in low-income areas.

“If you build it, they will come,” Binns says, referencing the 1989 movie Field of Dreams.

He added, “We worked hard on this report. And, truly, this is a matter of social justice and racial justice. I have a passion for justice. It’s why I went to law school, to become a civil rights attorney.”

Charlene Barker, a John Marshall Harlan Scholar at NYLS and recipient of the Alfred L. Rose Award for Excellence, counts Mill Basin and Flatbush as her stomping grounds. She can describe every detail about the corner of East 21st Street and Ditmas Avenue.

“When the opportunity for this [research work] came up, I jumped at the chance,” says Barker, an associate with the Manhattan firm Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP. She says the project involved something that “really affected my life when I was growing up.”

During a period of downtime between a court clerkship in Pennsylvania and starting at Fried Frank’s corporate law practice area, Barker reconnected with the Racial Justice Project, where she had been in the first class of fellows.

Barker volunteered research time for Unshared Bounty because, she explains, “I’m glad to help advance causes that are important to our society, and dear to my heart.”

Now that the report is in the hands of government policy makers, community organizations, and food industry leaders in New York and elsewhere, Barker says she would like to see “a conscientious effort to decrease obstacles and red tape that makes it arguably difficult for [supermarkets] to come in and do business.”

Besides better food choices, she adds, “supermarkets bring money into a neighborhood, increasing the economic state of people who live there. You start to chop away at the food desert itself, then it’s good business for all.”

Matthew Hellman ’12, a Racial Justice Project fellow last year, now works as an assistant prosecutor with the Bronx District Attorney’s Office. He says “regressive racial beliefs” play a part in rubrics about minority preferences for junk over nutrition
and a minority unwillingness to budget for fresh fruits and vegetables. Supermarkets can become economic anchors in neighborhoods suffering what he calls “food destitution.”

“Supermarkets aren’t the only solution, but in some neighborhoods they’re a great start,” says Hellman.

Indeed, other solutions in effect mentioned in the report include:

- New York’s Food Retail Expansion to Support Health program, or FRESH, which has begun providing zoning and financial incentives to establish and maintain grocery stores in underserved neighborhoods.
- Pennsylvania’s Fresh Food Financing Initiative, a public-private program providing grants and loans for fresh-food retail projects ranging from $25,000 to $7.5 million.
- President Obama’s Healthy Food Financing Initiative, a multi-agency partnership allocating $400 million aimed at ridding the country of food deserts.
- The “Youthmarkets Program” launched by the Children’s Aid Society of New York, where young students in East Harlem, Washington Heights, and the South Bronx bring fresh produce into the schools.
- Detroit’s “Peaches and Greens” program that has trucks full of farm harvests rolling into neighborhoods whose residents had only corner shops and liquor stores as grocery sources.

Other NYLS students who contributed research and editing to the report include Mariko Gaines ’11, Raj Lapsiwala ’11, Jill Gottfred ’11, Winnie Lai ’11, Felicia Reid ’12, Bijal Soni ’11, John Almberg ’11, and Rachel Newman ’11. Dennis D. Parker, Director of the ACLU’s Racial Justice Program, assisted by ACLU intern Swati Prakash, provided production service and further editing. The report was underwritten by the Warner Fund.

Principal authors of the report were Dean Archer and Professor François and the ACLU’s Rachel Goodman and Effat Hussain.

“This project provided an outlet for students interested in social and racial justice,” says Dean Archer. “One of my personal goals is to train the next generation. You don’t just need people with passion, you need people with skills and abilities they’ll use as advocates.”

A former staff attorney with both the ACLU and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Dean Archer says the project bonus for students was collaborating with working lawyers on a civil rights issue.

Professor François, who teaches constitutional and civil rights law at Howard, says of the NYLS students who worked on the report, “They made an important contribution to this [food desert] problem. They accomplished the hard work of stepping back to see why, and that to solve the problem you have to understand and address the roots of the problem.”

He adds, “You know, there are certain young people you meet who make it easy to understand that you’ll be hearing about them later.”

Dean Archer says the report was forwarded to "specific individuals" among state legislatures and the Congress, corporate executives, civic groups, and the nonprofit sector—persons “engaged in these issues, or in a position to have a positive impact or influence” on bringing an end to food deserts in both urban and rural communities.

The Law School’s Racial Justice Project, she says, will organize conferences in the near future as an opportunity to draft solutions.

Rachel Goodman of the ACLU explains: “Our mission was to help people think about how structural racism plays into all kinds of issues, including nutrition. To help people think about fixing the problem—as an obligation of a society that has created policies that perpetuate the problem.”

The report’s penultimate section is an excerpt from a James Baldwin essay from 60 years ago, “The Harlem Ghetto,” in which the late author revisited his boyhood surroundings:

Now as then, the buildings are old and in desperate need of repair, the streets are crowded and dirty, there are too many human beings per square block. Rents are 10 to 58 percent higher than anywhere else in the city; food, expensive everywhere, is more expensive here, and of an inferior quality . . .

In conclusion, Unshared Bounty states:

What Baldwin identified in Harlem so long ago and what scientists, scholars, and politicians are only now beginning to confront is that the root causes of food deserts lie in structural racism and class inequality . . . We must, in short, admit that no less than the lack of access to fair housing and equal employment opportunities the lack of access to healthy food is a mark of inequality, a violation of basic civil rights, and a denial of fundamental human dignity.
They started out on common ground: New York Law School in the 1990s. From there, they developed divergent interests and pursued varying career paths. Some set goals as students that they have seen fulfilled. Some found fulfillment serendipitously. But they have all built on their NYLS education and connections to again arrive on common ground, as successful lawyers who are now establishing themselves as leaders in their fields.

We caught up with five graduates from the 1990s to discuss their experiences at NYLS and their career trajectories, and to see where they are today, 15 to 20 years after graduation. Hon. Anthony Cannataro '96 is a family court judge. Keith Yung '97 is a solo real estate practitioner. Matilde Roman '98 and Elisa Velazquez '92 work in different departments in the New York City Mayor's Office. And Michael Tiliakos '96 is a partner at Duane Morris.

Though they have had markedly different experiences, they all spoke of the importance of maintaining the relationships they established in law school, whether with professors or with friends who have since become their colleagues in the law.

“Sometimes what we don’t emphasize enough is the importance of making sure we’re connected,” says Roman, whose career in immigration law has led to a close working relationship with Professor Lenni B. Benson, an expert in the field.

Roman’s career choices were influenced by an immigration law clinic taken in her last year of law school. That sparked an interest that shifted her plans. Similarly, Velazquez pointed to the mind-opening experience of taking seminar courses. “It expands your universe for when you get out of law school,” she says. “You know there are so many things out there you can be doing.”

These graduates also agreed on the value and reward of helping others and emphasized the importance of giving back to the community. Yung, for example, finds personal and professional satisfaction in serving immigrants from China who might otherwise find language barriers overwhelming. And Cannataro notes how his dedication to public service has been richly rewarded. “I’ve always had a sort of karmic view of life, and that includes my professional life,” he says. “So I feel that what you put out in the world you get back.”

Tiliakos echoed that view in sharing the professional blueprint that has worked for him: “Keep open the lines of communication. Be honest and fair, and help other people. And . . . good things will happen.”

For these five graduates, good things have indeed happened. Although their paths have differed, all of them have had careers as New York City attorneys—and worked with Dean Anthony W. Crowell, former Counselor to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, somewhere along the way. Their stories of success demonstrate that NYLS continues to be New York’s law school.
As a student, Keith Yung could already envision the solo real estate practice he runs in Queens today. “I always wanted to have my own business,” he says. “Of course practicing law is not just a business.”

For Yung, it is not just a law practice, either: it is an opportunity to serve a Chinese immigrant community that speaks the Wenzhou dialect. “I’m the only attorney in Flushing who speaks this dialect,” he says, adding that being able to help fellow immigrants is one of the greatest rewards of his work. “They have a good professional trust in me, and in the legal profession you need trust from the client in order to represent them well.”

Yung, who is celebrating the 10th anniversary of his practice this year, started his career working for the New York City Law Department while still in law school. The department gave him meaningful assignments, even allowing him to argue motions while he was a student. After graduation, he spent five years at the department as a litigator. He credits the Law Department with giving him the practical experience necessary to start his real estate practice.

But he credits NYLS with making his career possible. “I really appreciate that New York Law School gave me a chance—a second chance, really,” says Yung, who had a degree in engineering but found he was not interested in pursuing a career in that field. “New York Law School gave me a chance to do something I enjoy more.”

That enjoyment comes from the challenge of running his practice, much of which focuses on real estate closings. And of course, aside from the legal work, he has the business responsibilities: managing his staff, handling payroll, seeing that the bills are paid. That all adds up to long hours and significant stress, but he has no regrets about pursuing his goal of becoming his own boss.

Yung urges students and recent graduates to seek out ways to gain practical work experience and to keep an open mind about the value of opportunities that fall short of a dream job. “You have to start from somewhere,” he says. “If you don’t get the best job you want, if you try your best, you will get a promotion or find something else. Even if it’s doing something not related to law, it might lead you to something you like.”

When Anthony Cannataro was taking his last law school exams, he did not imagine that 16 years later he would be issuing orders as a family court judge. “I don’t know if anyone envisions this kind of career for themselves,” he says.

Cannataro was elected to a 10-year civil court term last year but was immediately designated to serve in family court. He expected such an assignment, given the shortage of judges in New York City’s family and criminal courts, but it did present a challenge. “It’s not an area I consider myself expert at, or even very proficient at, so I had to come here and learn a new area of law very quickly,” he says.

Cannataro’s path began at the New York City Law Department while he was still a student. He stayed on after graduation, trying tort cases and rising to the rank of senior counsel. Still, he did not want to pursue a career as a trial lawyer. A decision about his next step turned out to be an easy one when the Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick asked him to clerk for her on the New York Court of Appeals. He jumped at the chance to work with Judge Ciparick, “one of the most respected and most intelligent jurists out there.”

“It was the greatest job I’ve ever had,” he says, noting that his current job may lead him to someday revise that judgment. “I think at the end of my career, this will be my proudest achievement, but because I’m so new to this, those were the greatest professional days of my life.”

After three years at the Court of Appeals, Cannataro clerked for the Honorable Lottie E. Wilkins in New York State Supreme Court for eight years before taking the bench himself this year.

Cannataro points to NYLS connections as an important element in his success. His job at the Court of Appeals came through a recommendation from a fellow NYLS graduate, and he maintains relationships with many people he met in law school. “A lot were involved in my campaign. A lot were supportive,” he says. “There were connections there that have lasted 16 years, and I expect they’ll last for the rest of my life.”

And Cannataro is still making NYLS connections. As a law clerk, he encouraged the hiring of NYLS students, and he turned to the Law School this year when hiring his own summer intern, Aubrey Bowermaster 3L. “He kind of just let me in on everything,” Bowermaster says. “I was able to observe the court proceedings. He was very personable and made me feel comfortable asking questions. Also, he was very open about the judicial process.”
Bowermaster, who has an interest in family law, says she came away from the internship with a better understanding of what it would be like to practice in that area as well as a greater confidence to reach out to people established in their careers as she starts her own. And she is inspired to follow Cannataro’s example. “I could tell he is still very connected to NYLS, and I think that is important, especially if you’re in a position to help or give back in any way,” she says. “I will definitely think about that when I become an alum.”

Cannataro offered a bit of advice for Bowermaster and others looking forward to the start of their careers: “Keep yourself open to all the possibilities, because life rarely takes you where you think it’s going to. There’s a lot to be enjoyed and a lot to learn by letting it develop for you.”

In law school, Elisa Velazquez learned a lot about what she didn’t want to do: “I knew that I would never work at a law firm. I knew that I would never prosecute. I wasn’t sure that I wanted to be a typical commercial lawyer.”

She also learned that law school did not offer the most conducive environment for her talents. “I was not the greatest student,” she says. “I wasn’t on law review. I didn’t have an A average.”

The key lesson from that, she says, is that success can come by thinking outside of the law school box. “You can not really know what you want, but you have a degree and there are so many ways you can leverage that education and have a fulfilling career path.”

Velazquez has certainly found effective ways to apply her education in her chief areas of interest, which involve politics and social policy issues. After a short stint working for a family law center for the working poor in California, she got her first real position as the program director for a domestic violence program based in criminal court in Brooklyn. “I wasn’t acting in the capacity of a lawyer at all, but it was a really good job to have,” she says. “It gave me really good insight into working with clients and working with people to get what you need.”

Those are exactly the kinds of skills she needed to excel in a series of public service jobs, as Assistant Counsel to Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger, Deputy Counsel to Public Advocate Mark Green, and Legislative Counsel for the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

“Government work was something I enjoyed, and I understood the work and the pitfalls of working for an elected official and the politicking you have to do,” she says.

In 2003, she joined the NYC Mayor’s Office of Contract Services, where she is General Counsel. Her office oversees the purchasing process for all of the city’s agencies. That adds up to contracts worth $10 billion to $18 billion a year, and to a lot of legal issues. “All the agencies are required to follow a lot of different rules and regulations,” Velazquez says. “My job is to give a lot of legal advice to the agencies and to the staff here on all facets of that process.”

It is a complicated process, and one that comes under a lot of scrutiny. “It’s a high-profile office, and you don’t want your mistake to end up in the newspaper,” she says. Despite the pressure, the job has definite rewards. “Working in government, you learn to juggle many balls and to sometimes drop a few,” Velazquez says. “But you always manage to feel like you finished something.”

Michael Tiliakos sees a direct correlation between skills learned in law school and success afterward. “Law school at its core teaches the importance of preparation, the importance of putting in your time to achieve a certain result,” he says. “Taking that skill set, that discipline, to stay on top of your work really does translate.”

Tiliakos is in a position to know. He has translated that lesson into success in a number of positions, starting at the New York City Law Department. “The Corporation Counsel was very much the springboard into my career,” he says. There, he learned how to juggle multiple cases and how to handle a case from depositions to trial. That prepared him for private practice, first at Seyfarth Shaw LLP, and then in his own practice.

Now, he is a partner at Duane Morris LLP in Manhattan, where he focuses on management-side labor and employment work. The work ranges from advising companies and providing management training and counseling to litigation on employment matters in forums from administrative tribunals to state and federal court.

“What I find most rewarding is when you help a company or business, small or large, navigate the many employment laws so they can reach a fair decision and the right decision...
according to the law,” he says. “Clients are really appreciative when you engage in that preventive work, saving them time and money.”

When prevention doesn’t work, however, Tiliakos is up for the challenge. “There’s also nothing like winning in litigation—when the client believes they did right, and you believe they did right, and you prove that ultimately in court.”

Another lesson Tiliakos took away from law school was the importance of networking and establishing relationships. “There are people from law school I continue to stay in touch with,” he says, “and my life has been enriched from it both personally and professionally.”

Tiliakos says he is grateful to the mentors and professors who helped him along the way. “I certainly learned the importance of helping other people, so I try to pay it forward,” he says. He has been active in mentoring NYLS students, and encourages students to focus on building connections. “Never underestimate the importance of your relationships with your fellow classmates,” he says. “Sometimes law school breeds competitiveness, but relationships are a constant work in progress.”

**MATILDE ROMAN ’98**

An immigration law clinic in the last year of law school planted a seed of interest for Matilde Roman that has blossomed into a fulfilling career.

Roman thought she would become a criminal prosecutor, but in the immigration clinic, she found a visit to immigration court and asylum work intriguing. That interest grew in her first job, working on criminal defense and immigration cases.

“So not only did I defend clients in their criminal proceedings,” she says, “but then I provided assistance in their defense from removal from the United States.” From there, she segued into business immigration work in the entertainment industry.

“After several years of working on business immigration cases, I had an opportunity to come and work for the City of New York on a city program that helped individuals apply for naturalization, and then played an integral role in establishing the Office of Immigrant Initiatives within the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, which funds organizations that serve immigrant New Yorkers,” she says.

That work led her to the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, which she joined as General Counsel in 2006. She gained the title of Deputy Commissioner in 2009. “It is a charter-mandated office that promotes the well-being of immigrants through policies and programs that support their successful integration into the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our city,” she says. That includes making sure that immigrants have access to information in a language they understand and enforcing a privacy policy that ensures that those who seek services are not intimidated by questions about their immigration status.

Roman enjoys “being part of an administration that really understands that immigrants are assets” as well as “being able to help not just on an individual level, but create policies that bring about positive change to large segments of the population.”

That is especially important in New York City, she says, where 37 percent of the population is foreign-born. Once the children of those immigrants are counted, Roman’s office provides services for 60 percent of the city’s residents. “I think the greatest challenge for us is just the complexity of serving such a large and diverse immigrant population,” she says.

Roman has turned to NYLS to help meet that challenge. “The success I have been able to achieve in this job has been due to the support I’ve received from several key people,” she says. “I have had the pleasure to collaborate with both Professor [Lenni] Benson and Dean [Anthony] Crowell over the years and regard them as mentors.”

Professor Benson’s knowledge in the field and her enthusiastic efforts to provide connections to helpful people and information have been a real asset, Roman says. Professor Benson says the benefits of this connection are mutual. “Over the years we have had a great relationship and one that has bloomed where Matilde is frequently my professor, educating me on various issues such as language access or the complex workings of city government,” she says. “She is an outstanding professional, dedicated to public service and helping bring legal services and community development support to immigrant communities.”

She is also a great asset to the Law School, Professor Benson says. “Matilde exemplifies the best of NYLS as well, for she is always reaching back and contributing to the School with her mentoring, presentations, and working with our students.”

Those kinds of links are important to Roman. “What we sometimes fail to do because we’re so entrenched in the day to day is to continue to keep and build our networks,” she says. “We all have different perspectives that bring added value to a conversation.”
Before there was LinkedIn, there was Lenni Benson. Of all the professors at New York Law School, few have managed to create connections and inspire passions on quite the same scale. Eighteen years after joining the Law School, Professor Benson is as famous for the network she has created as she is for the drive she projects and inspires in others. Many alumni owe a job or a professional achievement to her vision and commitment, and without her, many current students would still be searching for a career path.

“Lenni has an uncanny way of helping alumni enter the field of immigration law and allowing and encouraging them to stay involved in all that NYLS has to offer,” notes Susan Henner ’94. “She helps employers to find attorneys and students to find jobs. She has a way of connecting people.”

But her ability to help people connect, as any who have studied under her, worked alongside her, or simply had an elevator-ride conversation with her can attest, comes second to Professor Benson’s passion for the subject she teaches. “She is very passionate about immigration law. She doesn’t just teach it and go home; she lives it every day,” says Viviana Salcedo ’12.

Professor Benson’s path to immigration law began in 1986 when, as an associate at the Phoenix, Arizona, firm of Sacks Tierney, P.A., she was assigned to a few immigration cases by an immigration law veteran, Roxana Bacon. For Professor Benson, the experience was life-changing, setting her on the path that would define her career for the next 20 years. “That’s when I realized that this was what I wanted to do with my life,” she says.

Gradually, Bacon and Professor Benson expanded their immigration practice, working on applications for corporate clients during the day and doing pro bono work for refugees and other low-income immigrants at night.

Professor Benson credits her ability to take on such a wide variety of cases to law firm mentalities of those days. “I think it was in part because I was willing to put in the pro bono hours,” she says, “but also because I was educated and trained at a time when the people I worked with did both, so they just expected me to do both.”

But it was also indicative of the incredible commitment she was ready to make to the field of immigration law, which continues to this day.

As her knowledge of immigration law grew, so did her commitment to the subject. In 1984, Professor Benson joined the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). She served as the Arizona Chapter Chair and, in 1991, as the National Conference Chair.

From 1988 to 1993, she edited the two-volume treatise “Immigration Law and Defense” for the National Lawyer’s Guild Immigration Defense Project. With Bacon, Professor Benson also began teaching immigration law at her alma mater, Arizona State University’s College of Law. “I was an unusual corporate immigration lawyer because in addition to doing all of the usual business and family immigration petitions, I did a lot of teaching, writing, lecturing, training, and treatise writing on the defense side,” Professor Benson says.

In 1986, Sacks Tierney merged into the international firm Bryan Cave LLP. In 1989, Professor Benson moved to Los Angeles, where she started an immigration practice group for the L.A. office of Bryan Cave and, eventually, became partner. She left private practice in 1994 to move to New York and begin teaching at New York Law School.

Professor Benson had a specific idea in mind. She was essentially a self-taught immigration lawyer, with no law school coursework or alumni network to rely on. “That is one of the reasons why I’m so passionate about [creating
an immigration law program] for New York Law School people.” She relied on the experiences she had accumulated over the last 11 years to shape her teaching style.

“Through AILA, I came to New York Law School with a model, with an idea in my head of building a community because I’d seen AILA grow from 800 members when I joined to 11,000 today…. There was a kind of ‘we’re all in this together’ [mentality] against a very difficult, obscure, hard to understand, set of agencies . . . with very little transparency.”

Beyond providing students with access to shared expertise, Professor Benson wanted to help her students enter the workforce with a ready-made network of colleagues to fall back on. “You need to build relationships of trust, and you need to be able to rely on these professional colleagues. I wanted to help my students use connections that I had built over the years and across the country,” she says.

From the start, Professor Benson’s teachings extended far beyond doctrine, with an emphasis on strategic thinking and practical problem solving.

“I’m giving [students] a foundation in the doctrinal and constitutional law, but we’re not forgetting our clients and institutional roles, and whether [they’re] going to work for the government or have individual clients, my goal is to teach . . . not only black letter law or constitutional theory, but to see how it all fits together.” To achieve this, Professor Benson frequently invites alumni to guest lecture during her survey immigration law course and advanced level seminar and workshop.

But the trademark of Professor Benson’s teachings remains the amount of work she does outside the classroom.

In 2006, Professor Benson was on her way to a training on asylum law at Kaye Scholer LLP with New York Immigration Judge Patricia Rohan when the seeds for New York Law School’s hallmark immigration law project, “Safe Passage,” were planted. While riding the New York City subway to the firm’s midtown offices, Judge Rohan spoke about the large number of unrepresented children she saw every month at her newly-created juvenile docket. Afterwards, Professor Benson began looking for law firms that might want to start representing immigrant juveniles. But several firms feared they lacked the necessary expertise.

Far from being deterred, Professor Benson hit on an idea: “What if we used our expertise and networks to train and mentor attorneys willing to represent juveniles?”

Professor Benson recruited the help of alumna Filomena Lepore ’04 and volunteers from children’s advocacy organization The Door, and threw herself into the project with characteristic energy.

“She led the whole process,” remembers Lepore, “from forging connections with partner firms to writing up sample retainer agreements with volunteer attorneys.”

Over the last six years, Safe Passage has produced training materials and put on a yearly CLE training for attorneys wishing to represent juvenile immigrants. After receiving training, attorneys are assigned a pro bono case and paired with students to file Special Immigrant Juvenile Status petitions for these children.

Professor Benson also recruited Adjunct Professor Lindsay Curcio, who co-directs Safe Passage and mentors the pro bono attorneys. The two co-teach the advanced immigration law seminar and workshop, in which students complete field placements, conduct advanced research, and develop successful case strategies.

This year, Safe Passage has expanded even further. In fall 2012, the program assumed full responsibility for Judge Rohan’s juvenile docket. Professor Benson launched a project-based learning course with eight students who, one morning per month, screen juveniles appearing before Judge Rohan’s court. Students then write comprehensive assessments of each case, outlining what legal options they have identified, to assist non-immigration attorneys who accept the case pro bono in devising a strategy to represent the child. Finally, students call potential pro bono attorneys to place the case with alumni. Most of these pro bono attorneys are either not immigration lawyers or are attorneys focusing on business immigration only and are not comfortable doing such cases without a mentor.

The need for these services, remarks Professor Benson, is overwhelming. But, she notes, “It’s also really meaningful to help identify children who need legal representation and then find pro bono lawyers and change a life.”

Several NYLS alumni have already gotten involved, and she hopes more will be inspired to do so. Bethany Ow ’09 helps teach the project-based learning class that conducts screenings at the immigration court. Susan Henner ’94 serves as a volunteer adjunct professor, and Sandra Nichols ’95 helps mentor the students during the screenings. And dozens more have come forward to accept direct representation of an immigrant juvenile. Attorneys who wish to volunteer or watch training videos can visit the project website at www.nyls.edu/safepassage.

Another collaboration that exemplifies the success of Professor Benson’s NYLS network is her ongoing work with Fernando Bohorquez Jr. ’99. Professor Benson and Bohorquez, now a partner at Baker & Hostetler LLP, met while he was enrolled in a class on Federal Courts and Habeas Corpus, which Professor Benson was auditing.
As he has grown as a commercial litigator, Bohorquez has continued to work on pro bono immigration cases on the side. At the outset of each case, he calls Professor Benson, who helps him identify issues and work on strategy. She continues to act as a mentor though the life of the case. With her help, Bohorquez says, he has yet to lose a pro bono case.

After the June 15, 2012, announcement by President Obama that his administration would begin granting deferred action and work authorization to immigrants brought to the United States as children (DACA), Professor Benson immediately began mobilizing students and alumni to volunteer. She was quickly contacted by Bohorquez, who is working with New York State Secretary of State Cesar Perales to devise strategies to protect these young applicants from falling victim to immigration fraud.

With Professor Benson’s help, they designed training materials that could be used for bar association trainings anywhere and started training law students and non-immigration attorneys to volunteer at DACA clinics. Professor Benson also coached several attorneys during video recordings of their materials at the NYLS audiovisual studio.

However, assisting young New Yorkers with current legal problems is not the only way in which Professor Benson has sought to help. In 2010, following the example of the Law School’s Street Law project, which brings legal education and Know Your Rights presentations to middle and high school students throughout the city, Professor Benson and her students teamed up with Brooklyn SCO Family of Services to hold Know Your Immigration Rights sessions for undocumented youth.

In 2011, Viviana Salcedo, with help from Professor Benson, worked with the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs, including Deputy Commissioner for Immigrant Affairs Matilde Roman ’98, to go into New York City public schools and conduct Know Your Rights presentations for immigrant youth. The presentations included information on how to obtain identity documents, how to get immigration help, as well as basic training on what it means to be a U.S. citizen versus a permanent resident.

For Professor Benson, the purpose of these visits is not only to help children understand their rights, but also to perform needs assessments in the communities to better tailor upcoming programs. In the future, she hopes to organize more citizenship days, with free application assistance and other needed programs. Professors Curcio and Benson held several of these events in the past.

Professor Benson’s unrelenting efforts to create a network of students and alumni that can help immigrant communities throughout New York have not gone unnoticed. In 2008, the Safe Passage Project was awarded the New York State Bar Association’s President’s Award for Pro Bono Service. And in April 2012, the immigration law program at New York Law School—in particular, Safe Passage, the Immigration Law Seminar and Workshop, and the Refugee Rights Clinic with Catholic Charities—were recognized by the New York City Council for the services they provide to the city’s immigration communities. In 1998, Professor Benson was named the Outstanding Professor in Immigration Law by the AILA, and in 2011, she was a finalist being considered for inclusion in a book about the teaching practices of the best law professors in the United States. For the next three years, Professor Benson will serve as the Chair of the Immigration and Nationality Law Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York.

In addition to this official recognition of her efforts, there are also the unofficial and unending streams of praise that come from current and former students, no matter how long ago they may have graduated.

“She is so busy, you would think she doesn’t have time. She always does. She is always thinking of you in the back of her mind. It’s nice to know that there is always someone at the School that you can go to for help,” notes Salcedo.

“She is one of the great forces in the city,” adds Bohorquez. “She is an inspiration in every way. She can somehow excel at her profession while giving back to the community.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Camille Mackler obtained her J.D. from New York Law School in 2006 and has been in private immigration practice ever since. In 2010, she started her own practice with a focus on family-based immigration, deportation defense, asylum and refugee law, and federal litigation. Previously, as a third-year associate, Mackler successfully argued and won her first case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. She credits the immigration law program at New York Law School and the ongoing mentorship and support of Professor Benson for her professional success. Mackler is the co-chair of the advocacy and media committee for the New York Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and the founder of the photo blog Immigration in Pictures™. She continues to work on pro bono cases with Professor Benson, as well as hosting NYLS student externs every year.
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The Honorable John F. Kerry, Senior Senator from Massachusetts, Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, and President Obama’s nominee for Secretary of State at this writing, delivered the 2012 Sidney Shainwald Public Interest Lecture at the Law School on March 2, 2012. Senator Kerry spoke to an audience of distinguished guests about the most critical challenges facing the United States today.

In an impassioned and at times sobering speech, the senator expressed his concern about the “political and ideological gridlock” in Congress and asserted the need to “put America back on track” in terms of foreign policy, infrastructure, energy, education, and reducing the national deficit.

“We are holding ourselves back on many different fronts at a time when America is ready to burst out and go out in a resurgence of entrepreneurial energy and possibility and take the world by storm,” he said. “We're standing in our own way.”

Senator Kerry described a number of obstacles to our nation’s progress including “ideological extremism” and a lack of confidence among Americans in the marketplace and in the ability of government leaders to make wise decisions in spending. He explained that the United States is currently only spending 2 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on infrastructure, despite expert advice that much more must be spent even just to maintain existing roads, bridges, and other structures. In contrast, China, Brazil, and other nations with thriving economies are spending much more—up to 9 percent of GDP in China’s case—on infrastructure.

“W e're not investing in our future,” he concluded. But, on a more optimistic note, he noted: “That’s not our destiny.” He transitioned to describing the solutions needed, arguing that Americans must engage in the political process in order to “fight back” and change the course of the nation.

He challenged the audience to get involved, especially with the presidential election, which was months ahead at the time. “W e’ve got to make this year a moment of enormous accountability and we’ve got to change what we’re doing and bring this accountability to the table,” he said. Referencing the late Sidney Shainwald, for whom the Public Interest Lecture is named, he added: “And I think it’s appropriate in the context of Sidney’s life and what it stood for in terms of consumer empowerment because really, we have the power.”

Following his remarks, Senator Kerry took questions from the audience. When asked what he would tell New York Law School students and other young people to inspire them to get involved, he referenced the impact young Americans have historically had on the environmental movement, the women’s movement, and the peace movement. “There isn’t any campaign I have ever been a part of in America where young people haven’t made the difference . . . and the important thing is to remind [them] how much power they in fact have.”

Opening remarks were delivered by New York Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney and distinguished alumna Sybil Shainwald ’76, who established the lecture in honor of her late husband. Board Chairman Arthur N. Abbey ’59 kicked off the event, and introduced Dean Anthony W. Crowell, whose welcome was his first address at the Law School since being named Dean a few days earlier in February 2012. 📝
A common gripe about the law school experience is that while often stimulating and intellectually challenging, it typically doesn't offer a lot of practical training on what it's actually like to practice law. A notable exception is Professor Ruti G. Teitel's International Human Rights: Theory and Practice course, which combines the theory of international human rights law with hands-on internships at organizations like Human Rights Watch and the Global Justice Center. Students do research on major issues, sit in on United Nations meetings, and write position papers—which are sometimes presented to international forums and governments in hopes of making substantive changes in all manner of human rights.

Professor Teitel specializes in transitional justice, an area of law that focuses on what happens to the legal system of a country when there's conflict followed by regime change. Born in Argentina to a family that had escaped the Holocaust in Germany, she developed an interest in human rights that was fueled by her native country's years of repressive dictatorship. At NYLS, she felt the need for a course that explored the various systems, methods, and remedies for dealing with human rights violations of all sorts—showcasing real-world issues and how they could be solved.

“Since we’re in New York, students in the course get access to the top international human rights organizations and firms in the country,” says Professor Teitel. “These experiences are transformative—the course helps students understand the connection between the classroom and what they can do in the field.”

An early disciple was Jayni Edelstein Alegria ’92, who studied human rights with Professor Teitel and leveraged the resulting mentoring relationship into her first job—being part of a UN human rights mission to El Salvador, where she investigated war crimes and human rights abuses committed there during the civil war. Following more UN missions to Haiti, where she addressed human rights abuses, and South Africa, where she worked on electoral monitoring during Nelson Mandela’s first campaign, Alegria returned to New York and now works as an NYLS adjunct professor matching the eight to 10 students from Professor Teitel’s class each year in internships with various NGOs. “For the students,” Professor Alegria says, “it’s a flavor for what real-world experience is all about.”

For alumna Elisa Gerontianos ’02, Professor Teitel’s course was transformational. “The intensity was passionate,” she recalls. “It made something that we knew in theory come alive.” Gerontianos is now Senior Program Executive at the ARCUS Foundation, which provides grants to organizations around the world that work to protect LGBT rights and to organizations that work to conserve and protect the world’s endangered population of great apes. As the habitats of these creatures are imperiled by deforestation and mining, so too are those of the people who share their environments.
Last year Gerontianos selected Jasmine Dickerson ‘12 from Professor Teitel’s class to study how the extractive metals industry endangers these habitats. Dickerson researched the economics of the business, who the major players are, and what international treaties and laws exist in different countries to protect endangered species.

Among her conclusions: Indonesia doesn’t have sufficient enforcement measures to protect the great apes that live there. For example, there are no specialized environmental law courts in the country, and government officials don’t have the power to investigate or prosecute environmental violations. Dickerson’s research will be used as part of a larger report by the foundation that will call for companies and governments to be more accountable for habitat destruction. “It’s good to know the work I did is going to be used to help change policy,” she says.

After graduating from Providence College in 2009, Ryan Todd ‘13 got hooked on human rights issues during a one-year research assistant internship at Harvard’s Program on Humanitarian Policy and Conflict Research, in its School of Public Health. Her supervisors told her about Professor Teitel when they learned Todd was going to NYLS. The international human rights workshop led to Todd’s being placed at the Global Justice Center (GJC) in Manhattan, an internship that’s given her new confidence. “It’s pushed my comfort zone and pulled me out of my shell,” she says. “They gave me so much responsibility and treated me just like staff.” Todd has been researching the rights of women who have been raped in armed conflict. Under the Geneva Convention, these women are entitled to an abortion, but various restrictions, including limits imposed by the U.S. government on what foreign aid can cover, make the procedure difficult if not impossible to obtain in many jurisdictions.

Working on the same project was Lisabeth Jorgensen ‘12, whose externship at GJC coincided with the New York City Bar Association’s letter to President Obama urging that the administration lift the abortion prohibitions put on all U.S. humanitarian aid for survivors of rape “used as a weapon of war”—an argument previously advanced in a GJC report published in 2011. The denial of the “full range of medically appropriate care to victims,” the letter said, “constituted a violation of their rights under applicable international law.”

For Jorgensen, now in an 11-month program as an Albany legislative fellow working with a New York state senator, Professor Teitel “seamlessly organized the course to relate to real-world issues,” and demonstrated “how important it is to motivate governments to effect change.”

And it can be particularly rewarding if the internship involves something topical. Suzy Gaber ‘13, for instance, was born in Cairo, Egypt, and is fluent in Arabic. She was a perfect fit for a Human Rights Watch assignment analyzing what was going on in Libya right after Muammar Gaddafi’s death in fall 2011. Gaber monitored social media commentary, translated some documents taken from Gaddafi’s house, and helped gather evidence of torture. All of it was meant to pressure the transitional council to investigate human rights abuses. “It was in the news every day,” she says. “It was very current.”

Similarly, Russian-speaking Olga Zagika ‘12 worked at Human Rights Watch’s Eastern and Central Asian Division. Among other issues, she looked into what coverage the Russian press has given to the Syrian conflict. The answer: Not much. She also researched the media harassment that occurs in Russia when journalists write things the government doesn’t like. She detailed how blogs and newspaper websites that reported on irregularities last December in the elections to the Duma (Russia’s law-making body) were shut down by repeated “denial of service” hacker attacks—and how several newspapers were audited, illegally searched, or fined for their coverage. Zagika characterizes the work as the “practical component” of her study of international law.

Christian Triantaphyllis ‘11 interned at the Open Society Institute in New York, part of a group of foundations started by billionaire philanthropist and investor George Soros. Triantaphyllis helped draft a manual distributed to various human rights groups on how to seek assistance when dealing with victims of "torture in health care." This involves people with AIDS, mental disabilities, or other conditions often triggering stigma and discrimination who face forced sterilizations, denial of essential pain medication, or detention as a "treatment." That work led directly to an internship at one of The Hague’s criminal courts, which gave him new insight into how various injustices and causes can be addressed by the legal system.

Today, Triantaphyllis works for a Houston law firm that specializes in immigration issues. He looks forward to applying what he’s learned—motivated in large part by what he first experienced in the human rights workshop—to helping people who face deportation or seek asylum.
New York Law School is pleased to announce new leadership in its Academic Affairs and Admissions and Financial Aid offices. In August 2012, Professor Deborah N. Archer was appointed Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and in September, Adam W. Barrett was appointed Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid.

As Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Archer will work with faculty and administrators to develop the curriculum and help drive the Law School’s efforts at innovation in legal education.

“We are pleased that Deborah has accepted this new challenge at the Law School,” said Dean and President Anthony W. Crowell. “She has distinguished herself as both a scholar and clinician at NYLS since 2003 and will bring great leadership, vision, and tenacity to a demanding and rewarding position.”

Dean Archer directs the School’s Racial Justice Project, which works to protect the constitutional and civil rights of people of color and increase public awareness of racism, racial injustice, and structural racial inequality. She has participated as amicus counsel in several cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and U.S. Court of Appeals, including Rucci v. DeStefano, Fisher v. University of Texas, and Hishon v. Tyson Foods. She has served as an assistant counsel at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., where she litigated at the trial and appellate levels in cases involving affirmative action in higher education, employment discrimination, school desegregation, and voting rights. She was also a Marvin H. Karpatkin Fellow with the American Civil Liberties Union. Prior to joining NYLS, Dean Archer was an associate at Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett LLP.

“I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the Law School,” Dean Archer said. “The School’s motto—Learn law. Take action.—perfectly reflects the spirit of this institution, and I am proud of the role I have played in helping our students engage with the world as legal professionals. I look forward to advancing this mission in my new role, and working with Dean Crowell, the faculty, administration, and students to continue to advance our mission.”

Dean Archer succeeds Professor Carol A. Buckler, who served as Associate Dean for five years and will return to the faculty.

Adam W. Barrett joined the School as Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid on September 10 and will spearhead its efforts to attract and retain a talented, diverse, and dynamic student body.

“We are happy to welcome Adam to the Law School,” Dean Crowell said. “His wealth of experience as an admissions executive and background as an attorney make him ideally suited to lead our admissions and financial aid functions and provide top-notch student service in this very competitive admissions market. He has a proven track record of creating innovative recruitment initiatives and will do a stellar job of communicating the Law School’s strengths, including our innovative curriculum, distinguished faculty, and outstanding facilities, to our future alumni.”

Dean Barrett’s most recent admissions role was as Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management and Special Advisor to the Dean at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. In that capacity, he led all admissions-related activities including the development and implementation of student-centered enrollment plans to support the law school’s enrollment goals for quality and diversity. He has also held leadership roles in the admissions offices of Texas Wesleyan University School of Law and Ohio Northern University Claude W. Pettit College of Law.

“I am honored to be named Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid at New York Law School. This is a very exciting time to be joining the Law School as Anthony Crowell begins his tenure as Dean and President. I look forward to playing a key role on his senior management team,” Dean Barrett said.
On February 23, 2012, the Center on Business Law & Policy hosted a master class that provided students with a unique opportunity to learn about the increasingly important field of white-collar defense. Marc Mukasey, a partner with Bracewell & Giuliani LLP in Manhattan and the son of former U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey, spoke about his extensive experience and answered questions from students about how to break into the field.

Mukasey is a leader of his firm’s white-collar criminal defense and special investigations practice. He specializes in crisis management and has represented corporate and individual clients in some of the most high-profile and complex cases of recent times, including the Deepwater Horizon explosion, the Madoff matter, the CIA tapes investigation, and a variety of political matters. Before joining Bracewell & Giuliani, he served as Deputy Chief Appellate Attorney and Chief of the Narcotics Unit for the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. He has also served as a staff attorney at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, where he prosecuted a range of securities law violations.

In describing his current position and the path that has led him there, Mukasey stressed the importance of networking and connecting with mentors in the field who can give students tailored career advice. The event was well attended, with many students eager to learn about the everyday experience of a successful white-collar defense lawyer.

The 2011–12 academic year was another productive one for the Center on Financial Services Law. More than 50 New York Law School students are now affiliated with the Center. In the spring 2012 semester, the Center obtained approval from FINRA, the securities industry self-regulatory organization, to allow the Center to publish the findings of every FINRA arbitration award issued over the past five years. Led by Nicholas Turner ’12 and assisted by Steven Schneider 3L, Kavi-Yuvraj Ramkissoon 3L, and other New York Law School students, the Center will soon start to publish the most current FINRA arbitration awards, starting with January 2011 through the present, on its website. Then, working with other NYLS students, the Center will publish all other FINRA arbitration awards between 2007 and 2010 and then keep the arbitration awards current on an ongoing basis. The Center is aiming to have the website up and working sometime in early 2013.

According to Professor Ronald Filler, the Center’s Director, “To the best of our knowledge, New York Law School will be the first U.S. law school to make these FINRA arbitration awards available to everyone without any charge.” The website will become a valuable resource and tool for the securities bar and the general public. The project has been a tremendous learning opportunity for many Center students who have expressed a strong interest in working in the financial services industry.
On April 18, 2012, the NYLS Fine Arts & Culture Law Association and the Center for International Law co-hosted a lecture called “Art in the Time of Chaos,” where panelists discussed how international law protects art and cultural antiquities during times of civil unrest, such as the Arab Spring protests throughout the Middle East.

Panelist Lauren Ebin, an art history scholar, noted that these protests prevented many governments from securing cultural sites and gave looters opportunities to steal from and damage them. “The act of looking for something [illegally] is just as destructive as finding something [illegally] and selling it,” she said.

Panelist Leila Amineddoleh, Legal Chair of Saving Antiquities for Everyone, argued that while existing treaties have established standards for governments to protect antiquities during times of conflict, “greater responsibility should be placed on buyers to ensure that the works were not looted.” She added that other parties involved in the antiquities market must stay vigilant to avoid dealing in stolen art. “Auction houses and dealers should complete due diligence, and purchasers should be subject to greater penalties when acting in bad faith.”

But even with these efforts, panelist Victor Wiener, a noted art appraiser and professor at NYU, believes that no mechanism will completely stop stolen antiquities from entering the art market. “Auction house people do not have the staff or the time” to check all of their items, he said. “It’s not going to happen.”

The Center for New York City Law’s Breakfast event on March 20, 2012 featured a discussion on New York City’s efforts to combat police corruption. Federal District Court Judge Harold Baer Jr. described the 1993 Mollen Commission to Investigate Police Corruption, appointed by Mayor David N. Dinkins, on which he had served as Vice Chair. One of the results from the Mollen Commission was Mayor Rudolph Giuliani’s establishment of a permanent Commission to Combat Police Corruption.

Richard J. Davis, who had led the Commission, continued the discussion by detailing the results of the Commission’s work and its relationship with the New York City Police Department. The current head of the Commission is Michael Armstrong, who had spoken at an earlier CityLaw Breakfast on February 10, 2012. Armstrong had served as Counsel to the 1972 Knapp Commission, which had also investigated police corruption.

All of the event participants agreed that the type and intensity of police corruption that existed in prior decades in New York City is no longer tolerated, and that the current administration has done a good job of investigating and preventing police corruption. Video footage of the event is available on the Center’s website at www.nyls.edu/citylaw.
CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE STUDIES

On February 28, 2012, the Center for Real Estate Studies hosted a Breakfast Forum on “The Future of Residential Real Estate in NYC.” The keynote speakers included Jonathan Miller, CEO & President, Miller Samuel, Inc.; Diane Ramirez, President, Halstead Property; Stuart Saft, Partner and Chairman, Dewey & LeBoeuf’s Real Estate Group; and Lockhart Steele, President and Co-founder, Curbed Network. Professor Andrew R. Berman, the Center’s Founding Director, moderated this panel of industry leaders.

The lively discussion repeatedly touched on the historically low interest rates. Ramirez discussed the current inventory of residential real estate and encouraged attendees to take full advantage of the low interest rates. Her message to the audience was: “Buy, buy, buy!” Miller, president of a well-known real estate appraisal and consultancy firm, warned that the low interest rates were not sustainable. Steele shared his vision for the growth of his website, Curbed.com. As one of the nation’s most popular blogs on real estate, it is credited for providing potential buyers with more information about neighborhoods, specific properties, and trends than many brokers can offer. Steele suggested that brokers could use his website and others focused on real estate to boost their own preparation and business development. Saft, a leading expert in condominium and co-op law, shared some of his favorite issues arising in contracts of sale. He also noted that prospective buyers are still cautious because they fear another dip in the real estate market.

DIANE ABBEY LAW CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

On March 2, 2012 the Diane Abbey Law Center for Children and Families, along with the Center for Adoption Policy and Harvard Law School’s Child Advocacy Program, sponsored the Ninth Annual Adoption Policy Conference, focused on “International Adoption: The Evolving Terrain.” The daylong forum included a keynote presentation followed by four panel discussions focused on different topics in international adoption.

Among the speakers on the “Where Do We Go Now” panel was economist Christopher Balding of Peking University. He presented compelling statistics on the number of women in the U.S. seeking to adopt (approximately 750,000 per year) compared to the number of international adoptions in the U.S. (only about 10,000). He also revealed that countries with the highest numbers of vulnerable and orphaned children—primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa—are not among those most favored by U.S. adoptive parents, who tend to adopt from Asian, European, and Latin American countries.

On the panel focused on “Differing Perspectives on International Adoption,” Amanda Baden, an associate professor at Montclair State University, psychologist, and adult adoptee, discussed the need for better training for adoptive families to address cultural differences, as well as the psychological challenges faced by adoptees. Nyanja Nzabamwita, Founder of ISHAMI Advocacy for Children, spoke about her experience in the U.S. foster care system and the work she does in her birth country, Rwanda. She stressed the importance of providing developing countries with sound advice and open communication at every stage of the international adoption process.
INSTITUTE FOR INFORMATION LAW & POLICY

On April 9, 2012, the Institute for Information Law & Policy and the NYLS Fine Arts & Culture Law Association co-hosted “Right to Remix: Appropriation Art in the Digital Age.” Two panels of artists, attorneys, and academics discussed how today’s ever-changing technologies have both facilitated the spread of creative work and sparked new debate over the state of the Copyright Act.

Although the Copyright Act attempts to balance culture and commerce through exclusive incentive models and fair use defenses, it isn’t keeping up with the way end users, developers, and content creators operate in the digital sphere. Attributing the original creator can be difficult with so much information on the Web—much of it built off of preexisting works. The influx of innovative technologies brings new opportunities for artists and creators to earn a living, but often on the fringes of traditional copyright laws. The first panel examined how the law operates within these new business models, where the confusion sets in, and what needs to be done moving forward.

The second panel focused on *Cariou v. Prince*, a copyright case in which an appropriation artist was sued by a photographer after using some of the photographer’s images without permission in a series of works. Before the case, most copyright infringement claims associated with appropriated works were settled out of court. But after the ruling in favor of the plaintiff, the debate in the art community over copyright law became heated. The panel discussed the subjective nature of fair use determinations and their effects on the art community.

*CityLand Newsletter Now Online*

*CityLand*, the Center for New York City Law’s monthly newsletter covering NYC land use news and legal research, is now available online at www.cityland.org. Providing in-depth coverage of land use applications undergoing public review, the newsletter focuses on the major players, including the City Council, City Planning Commission, Board of Standards & Appeals, and Landmarks Preservation Commission, and reports on related legal challenges. Articles highlight the most newsworthy actions, and include relevant public testimony and comments from elected officials and commissioners.

Check out the newsletter online at www.cityland.org.
Meet the authors

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PROFESSOR WILLIAM P. LAPIANA
Demystifies Wills and Trusts
After a legal career working in bank regulation and conducting security fraud investigations, Susan Cragin ’85 decided several years ago to devote herself to writing.

Five years ago, she wrote *Nuclear Nebraska, The Remarkable Story of the Little County That Couldn’t Be Bought* (AMACOM, 2007), which told the inspiring story of farmers in Boyd County, Nebraska, who fought state and federal governments, and Bechtel International engineers, to stop a low-level nuclear waste dump from being built on an abandoned farm.

Earlier this year, Cragin teamed up with legendary stock market analyst Walter Deemer to write her second book, *Deemer on Technical Analysis: Expert Insights on Timing the Market and Profiting in the Long Run* (McGraw-Hill, 2012). The book is aimed at beginning and intermediate-level investors, and explains technical analysis—long thought to be too complex for most—in layman’s terms, showing simple strategies that individual investors can use and examples from Deemer’s colorful past.

Deemer started working on Wall Street in 1963 at Merrill Lynch. A year later, he became a full-time technical analyst and began working with some of the best technical analysts in the business, including the celebrated Merrill Lynch strategist Bob Farrell. On his website, www.walterdeemer.com, Deemer writes that the book is neither an exhaustive treatise on technical analysis nor a complete book on investing.

“The book is about identifying patterns in the market that one can profit from and buying at the right time, not predicting the future.”

Deemer writes that the book is neither an exhaustive treatise on technical analysis nor a complete guide to investing. He adds: “I was very, very lucky to have had Susan to work with; without her, there would be no book.”

Cragin, who is based in Concord, New Hampshire, spent a good deal of time talking with Deemer about momentum trading, an investment strategy that aims to capitalize on the continuance of existing trends in the stock market. While big brokerages using complex algorithms have employed this strategy to take advantage of very short-term swings in the market, Deemer says, smaller investors should be leery of the temptation.

“So much of it is beyond their ability—to out-perform somebody who uses a very fast computer located right next to the trading computer in Chicago,” she says. “So Walter recommends that people who want to do momentum trading concentrate on intermediate swings; evaluate their portfolio less than once a day, maybe once a week. Look at longer-term swings and ignore day-to-day market noise.”

One good way to do that is to use the four-year market cycle and take advantage of areas in the cycle where there might be a potential low, Cragin explains. While this cycle is somewhat off-kilter due to the Federal Reserve keeping interest rates artificially low in an effort to boost the economy, she says, its past reliability indicates it will get back on track.

Describing the writing process, Cragin says she particularly enjoyed listening to stories from the 1960s, in the days before personal computers, when Deemer, equipped with an acute visual sense, would assemble enormous charts and various moving panels to mimic the abilities of a computer. More than 40 years later, Deemer could still recall these charts right down to the pencil marks.

“Walter had the capacity to make me believe I was there,” Cragin says.
Tackles “Excesses of Time” in the Civil Justice System

By Diana Barnes-Brown

Tony Curto '60 knows a great deal about the civil justice system, but that wasn’t always the case. “My first experience in trial was disastrous,” he says with a laugh. “I had no idea what I was in for.” Now, the author of The Time for Justice: How the Excesses of Time Have Broken Our Civil Justice System (Onward Publishing, 2012) looks back on that frustration as a source of inspiration.

How did a terrible court experience lead to a book? Shortly after Curto graduated from NYLS, a landscaper his parents had hired used the wrong kind of seed, resulting in a dead lawn—and no payment. When the landscaper sued, Curto volunteered to represent his parents. The landscaper’s lawyer was granted three adjournments. The judge, who had promised a peremptory ruling in the case of a fourth, issued no such ruling. And so it went, stretching a simple civil case into a labyrinth of excuses and delays.

Curto further cultivated his interest in the workings of the civil justice system as a recent NYLS graduate following James v. Powell, a civil case that made headlines for its controversial details and its complicated resolution, which highlighted many ways the civil justice system can fall short. In the landmark case, constituent Esther James sued Congressman Adam Clayton Powell Jr. for defamation after he alleged that she served as a “bag woman” who collected police graft money. She was awarded $211,000 in 1963, only to have Powell avoid payment for years, dodging every attempt made by the court to intervene. Over his years spent as a partner of Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP, Curto represented high-profile clients including Paula Abdul and the Yoo-hoo soft drink company in legal matters big and small. Though he practiced commercial law, he worked closely with trial lawyers and was involved in multiple civil justice proceedings. And he never forgot that first day in court.

In The Time for Justice, Curto explores the issue of inefficiency in the civil justice system. He is particularly concerned with unnecessary delays leading up to trial; it can take years from the time a suit is filed to the time of the trial itself, exhausting clients psychologically and financially and taxing the courts. He calls for cutting short endless administrative proceedings and stalling tactics, arguing that expedient trials will greatly improve the functioning of the system and increase participants’ sense that justice has been served. Updating archaic systems with current technologies and relying on judges to set firm limits on postponements and other client-side delays are two ways to facilitate this shift.

Speaking about his book and the psychology of civil trials, Curto points to the work of a fellow NYLS graduate, the Honorable Judith Sheindlin ’65—or, as she is known to many, television’s Judge Judy. While Curto recognizes that not all civil suits fit into a half-hour programming slot, he believes that the ability to cut through irrelevant information and move to the point of resolution is vital to a successful civil justice system. He also notes that pretrial processes such as depositions can complicate proceedings, creating pages of additional documents, and even blurring parties’ recollections through over-repetition and fatigue. “When you have a close trial date, people get reasonable. They know a conclusion is near,” he remarks.

In conclusion, Curto writes, “when deciding complex legal issues that could shape the fate of society, we should continue to allow cases to climb deliberately through the Appellate Court system. But let the cases of commerce—monetary and proprietary rights—be decided in a system more like the marketplace in which these disputes arose: with quick and businesslike resolutions.”
As he considered material for his new book, *Inside Wills and Trusts: What Matters and Why* (Wolters Kluwer Law & Business, 2012), Professor William P. LaPiana realized that his publisher would have to understand that a concise book on the subject was probably out of the question. As it turned out, he would need 432 pages to provide a thorough overview of the basics of the extraordinarily complex subject that has taken Professor LaPiana his entire career to fully understand.

“One thing that I discovered was that it really took almost 30 years in teaching to do this,” says LaPiana, the Rita and Joseph Solomon Professor of Wills, Trusts, and Estates, and Director of Estate Planning in the Law School’s Graduate Tax Program. “Because after all this experience—and it’s been an awful lot of experience—I really do think that I finally have come to an understanding of what students have the most difficult time comprehending, what they need the most help to understand, and the best way to give that help.”

The very concept of a trust, for instance, is anything but intuitive, says Professor LaPiana, who has been active with the trusts and estates sections of both the New York State and the American Bar Associations. He is also an academic fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, serving on its committees on state laws and legal education.

When you first study what trusts are and what they do, particularly the responsibilities of a trustee, he explains, you really need to be led carefully, slowly, and thoroughly to an understanding of exactly what’s going on.

“It’s so basic to the way our system of transmission of wealth works that we tend to forget that when you start out learning about it, you have absolutely no idea what it’s all about,” he says. “People might as well be speaking a foreign language.”

Having read a lot of student handbooks and study aids in the past, Professor LaPiana says most of them spend too much time on obsolete and esoteric questions that don’t have much relevance when dealing with the way trusts are structured today. After carefully weighing decisions about what to cover and how deeply to explain certain topics in the book, Professor LaPiana feels much better about so much of what he teaches.

“Even the most basic stuff is strongly related to what lawyers have to do for their clients,” he says. “So a basic understanding of the laws is unquestionably necessary if you’re going to get done for the client what the client wants to accomplish.”

One of his challenges was dealing with the wide variety of state laws. While laws are more uniform now than in the past, Professor LaPiana says, educators have to work hard to avoid saying things that would confuse rather than help a student’s understanding of the law. Many students take the course simply because of its prominence on every state’s bar examination, he says, so it’s important to remind them to check what the laws in their particular states say. As Professor LaPiana has learned, no matter what you think you may know about the law, chances are that another jurisdiction has a slightly different take on it due to its policy choices.

“No matter how proficient you are, and inclined to think, ‘Well, this is how we do it in New York,’ someone else does it differently,” he says. “That works fine here, but if you cross the Hudson or if you take Metro-North and get off in Greenwich, it’s different.”
Full-Time Faculty Activities 30

Adjunct Faculty Activities 40
Full-Time Faculty Activities
Compiled by Melissa Pentangelo

The following items represent a sampling of the activities of our full-time faculty from the spring 2012 semester.

Susan J. Abraham
Publications

Media References and Appearances
Guilty, NBC Nightly News (March 2012).

Deborah N. Archer
Publications

Jodi S. Balsam
Appointments
Member, Advisory Committee on Local Rules to the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit (January 2012).

Richard C.E. Beck
Publications


Tamara C. Belinfanti
Publications

Lenni B. Benson
Media References and Appearances
Feds Try to Streamline Immigration Case Backlog, The Real Deal (June 2012) (also appeared in the Yuma Sun, the Arizona Daily Star, and the Boston Herald).

Andrew R. Berman
Media References and Appearances
Where’s the Homebuyer Boom?, The Real Deal (February 2012).
Robert Blecker
Publications
When We Can’t Kill Those Who Deserve to Die: Can We Abolish Death Penalty and Do Justice to Their Victims?, Hartford Courant (April 2012).

Media References and Appearances
Murderers Laugh in State ‘Play’ Pen, New York Post (June 2012).


Death Penalty Advocate Speaks, The Prague Post (May 2012).

Elise C. Boddie
Awards and Recognition

Michael Botein
Appointments
Taught a course on “Comparative Media-Telecommunications Law: European Union, United States, and Eastern Europe,” as a visiting professor under a Fulbright Fellowship at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Ukraine (April–May 2012).

Served on the New York Civil Court Independent Judicial Election Qualification Commission for Manhattan (March 2012).

Member, Alumni Board, Collegiate School, New York (2012).

Heidi K. Brown
 Scholarly Presentations

Lecturer, “Overcoming Public Speaking Anxiety,” a five-part workshop series for students, at New York Law School (March–April, 2012) (with Professor C. Hermes ’03).


Publications


Kirk D. Burkhalter ’04
 Scholarly Presentations

Elizabeth Chambliss
 Scholarly Presentations

Thought Leader, “What’s Wrong (and Not So Wrong) with Law?” Plenary Session at the 2012 KickOff Conference for LawWithoutWalls at the University of St. Gallen, Switzerland (January 2012).

Publications


Richard H. Chused
 Scholarly Presentations
Anthony W. Crowell

**Appointments**

Member, Citizens Union Foundation Board of Directors (December 2012).

Member, Task Force on New Lawyers in a Changing Profession, New York City Bar Association (July 2012).

Member, Board of Directors, New York City Economic Development Corporation (July 2012).

Dean and President, New York Law School (February 2012).

**Media References and Appearances**

As Bloomberg’s Third Term Winds Down, Unusually Loyal Aides Begin to Eye Exits, The New York Times (June 2012).


Former Oceanport Resident Heads to Law School, Asbury Park Press (March 2012).


David M. Epstein

**Scholarly Presentations**


Ronald H. Filler

**Scholarly Presentations**

Panel Moderator, “Soup to Nuts” and “The Clearing of OTC Swaps,” at the FIA’s 34th Annual Law & Compliance Division Conference on the Regulation of Futures, Derivatives and OTC Products, Baltimore, Maryland (May 2012).

Speaker on Dodd-Frank and its impact on Mexican financial institutions, at a program presented by RiskMetrics in Mexico City, Mexico (May 2012).


Speaker, “Three Years after Lehman: Assessing the Regulatory Reforms of the Next Financial Crisis,” at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law, Salt Lake City, Utah (February 2012).


**Publications**


Kris Franklin

**Appointments**

Treasurer, Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Teaching Methods (January 2012).

**Scholarly Presentations**

“Teaching the ‘Hardest Questions’,” presented at the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning conference at Gonzaga
University School of Law, Spokane, Washington (June 2012).

“Empathy: A Cognitive Legal Reasoning Skill,” keynote address presented at “The Cognitive & Emotional Aspects of Law Learning and Practice” conference at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Memphis, Tennessee (February 2012).

**Doni Gewirtzman**

**Scholarly Presentations**


**Publications**


**Media References and Appearances**

Sunday Evening Review: Constitutionalism Beyond SCOTUS, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW PROF BLOG (May 2012).

Gewirtzman on Lower Court Constitutionalism, LEGAL THEORY BLOG (April 2012).

**Mercer Givhan**

**Scholarly Presentations**

Faculty Member Participant, trainings at the Southern Public Defender Training Center in Atlanta, Georgia (June 2012) and Birmingham, Alabama (August 2012).

“Why Schools Should Be Required to Provide Discovery and Turn Over Exculpatory Evidence in School Suspension Hearings,” presented at the biannual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Criminal Law Research Collective, Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut (May 2012).

**Publications**

*Death of a Data Haven: Cypherpunks, WikiLeaks, and the World’s Smallest Nation*, ARS TECHNICA (March 2012).

*The Orphan Wars*, 47 EDUCAUSE REVIEW 48–49 (January/February 2012).


Three Theories of Copyright in Ratings, 14 VANDERBILT JOURNAL OF ENTERTAINMENT & TECHNOLOGY LAW 851–887 (2012).

**Lawrence M. Grosberg**

**Projects**

As part of the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, worked with the director of Tunisia’s post-graduate institute governing bar admission (Institut Supérieur de la Profession d’Avocat) as part of an ongoing post-revolution effort to reform the curriculum of the required course for admission to the Tunisian bar (Spring 2012).

Cynara Hermes ’03

**Scholarly Presentations**


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Dan Hunter

**Media References and Appearances**

Delay Ratifying ACTA until 2013: Committee, ZDNet (June 2012).

ACTA, TPP Limit Scope of Copyright Review, ZDNet (June 2012).


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Chaumtoli Huq

**Scholarly Presentations**


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Gerald Korngold

**Scholarly Presentations**


Publications


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Molly Land

**Scholarly Presentations**


Publications


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William P. LaPiana

**Appointments**

Director, American College of Trust and Estate Counsel (ACTEC) Foundation (March 2012).

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Arthur S. Leonard

**Scholarly Presentations**

Presentation to the fiduciary income tax committee on the application of IRC section 1001(e) to the commutation of charitable remainder annuity trusts, at the ACTEC 2012 Annual Meeting, Miami, Florida (March 2012).

Publications

Publications


Media References and Appearances

Same-Sex Marriage Cases Loom for Supreme Court, Reuters (June 2012).


Tim Sweeney, in Return NYC Visit, Fêted by GMHC, Gay City News (April 2012).

Discussed the Proposition Eight Ruling in the Ninth Circuit, The Michelangelo Signorile Show (February 2012).

NOM Pledges $500,000 in All-Out Effort to Kill NJ Marriage Equality, Queerty (January 2012).

MOSC to Present “The Planets” at Wagner Noel, MyWestTexas (January 2012).

Jethro K. Lieberman

Publications


Media References and Appearances

Here’s Why Thomas F. O’Mara and Dean Murray Want to Ban Anonymous Online Speech, The Village Voice (May 2012).

Carlin Meyer

Scholarly Presentations

Delivered introductory remarks at the New York County Lawyers’ Association (NYCLA) Women’s Rights Committee’s 15th Annual Edith I. Spivack Award presentation to Donna Lieberman, Executive Director, NYCLU, New York (April 2012).

Howard S. Meyers

Scholarly Presentations

Panelist, Securities Arbitration Clinic Roundtable, Fordham University School of Law, New York (June 2012).


Media References and Appearances


White House Launches Education.Data.gov, TechPresident (January 2012).


Rudolph J.R. Peritz

Scholarly Presentations


Stephen A. Newman

Publications


Media References and Appearances

Patents and Payoffs or How Generics Are Kept off the Market, FTC: WATCH (Op Ed) June 2012, reprinted on the American Antitrust Institute website (June 2012).

Beth Simone Noveck

Publications


Media References and Appearances


Expert Labs: Putting the “Public” into Public Policy Wasn’t Easy, TechPresident (March 2012).

White House Launches Education.Data.gov, TechPresident (January 2012).

Massachusetts Open Checkbook: Running through the Ledger of Choices and Challenges in Open Government, O’Reilly Radar (January 2012).


Rudolph J.R. Peritz

Scholarly Presentations


Publications

Patents and Payoffs or How Generics Are Kept off the Market, FTC: WATCH (Op Ed) June 2012, reprinted on the American Antitrust Institute website (June 2012).
Michael L. Perlin

Awards and Recognition

Appointments
Fulbright Senior Specialist at the Islamic University of Indonesia, Yogyakarta, where he worked to create a disability rights law clinic, developed advocacy strategies in international human rights law cases, and lectured on mental disability law/interational human rights law topics (forthcoming, October 2012).

Scholarly Presentations
“Sexuality and Mental Disability: American and International Human Rights Perspectives,” keynote address delivered (remotely) to a human rights law conference co-sponsored by the Taiwan Alliance of People with Disabilities and the Eden Social Welfare Foundation, Taiwan (June 2012).

“The Need for a Disability Rights Tribunal to Give Life to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” presented at the Pacific Rim International Forum, and “Advocating for the Rights of Persons with Mental Disabilities: Lessons Learned and New Challenges” presented at the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity, hosted by the Center on Disability Studies at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu (March 2012).

Publications


Rebecca Roiphe

Scholarly Presentations

Media References and Appearances

Ross Sandler

Publications

Testimonies and Legal Consultation
How EPA Uses “Sue and Settle” Agreements to Steal Power from the States (and What the Congress Is Doing to Stop It), GLOBAL WARMING (April 2012).

David Schoenbrod

Media References and Appearances
McMahon: Here Come New School-Funding Suits, NEWSDAY (June 2012).

Global Warming (April 2012).

Critics Warn House Bills Could Undermine Consent Decrees on EPA Rules, INSIDE EPA (February 2012).

Testimonies and Legal Consultation
Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act and Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act, statement before the House Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Commercial, and Administrative Law (February 2012).

Houman B. Shadab

Appointments
Funding Suits, Newsday (June 2012).

Scholarly Presentations
“Hedge Fund Governance,” presented at the Third Annual National Business Law Scholars Conference, hosted by the University of Cincinnati College of Law, Cincinnati, Ohio (June 2012).


Publications

Media References and Appearances
Dondero Still Slays Bears at Highland with New Leveraged Loans, BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK (February 2012).

Testimonies and Legal Consultation

Citations

Governmental address on “Hedge Fund Regulation” by Gareth Murphy, Director of Markets Supervision, Central Bank of Ireland, InvestoRegulation Conference, London, England (January 2012).

Richard K. Sherwin
Scholarly Presentations
Presented a paper on law as performance at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Université Paris Ouest-Nanterre (EHESS), Paris (May 2012).

Panel Chair, “Visualizing Law in the Age of the Digital Baroque: Arabesques & Entanglements,” at the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, & the Humanities’ 15th Annual Conference at the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas (March 2012).


James F. Simon
Scholarly Presentations

Publications
Chief Justice Roberts: The Decider, CNN (June 2012).

Faith Stevelman
Scholarly Presentations


Participant, Aspen Institute Roundtable on "Rethinking Shareholder Value and the Purpose of the Firm," held at NYU Stern School of Business, New York (March 2012).

Spoke about the excessive influence of corporate money on the current political environment, in conjunction with a presentation by author Jeff Clements (Corporations Are Not People), Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington (February 2012).

Media References and Appearances
Obama, Roberts Legacies Linked, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL (June 2012).
Health Care Decision Hinges on a Crucial Clause, NPR (June 2012).
5-4 and 50-50, NATIONAL JOURNAL (April 2012).

The Supreme Court Takes on Healthcare, KCRW: TO THE POINT (March 2012).
FDR and Chief Justice Hughes: The President, the Supreme Court, and the Epic Battle Over the New Deal, C-SPAN Book TV (March 2012).
Health Care Act Offers Roberts a Signature Case, THE NEW YORK TIMES (March 2012).

Panel Chair, “Visualizing Law in the Age of the Digital Baroque: Arabesques & Entanglements,” at the Association for the Study of Law, Culture, & the Humanities’ 15th Annual Conference at the Texas Wesleyan University School of Law, Fort Worth, Texas (March 2012).


Publications
LAW, CULTURE AND VISUAL STUDIES. (Springer, forthcoming, 2013) (Editor, with A. Wagner).

Projects
Doctoral committee evaluator for a dissertation on law and popular culture, Performance Studies Department, New York University, New York (2012).

Media References and Appearances

Faith Stevelman
Scholarly Presentations


Participant, Aspen Institute Roundtable on "Rethinking Shareholder Value and the Purpose of the Firm," held at NYU Stern School of Business, New York (March 2012).

Spoke about the excessive influence of corporate money on the current political environment, in conjunction with a presentation by author Jeff Clements (Corporations Are Not People), Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, Washington (February 2012).
Media References and Appearances

Halos Can Turn to Horns, Corporate Donors Find, NPR (February 2012).

Nadine Strossen

Scholarly Presentations


“The U.S. Constitutional Law and International Human Rights Aspects of the U.S. Targeted Killing Policy,” keynote address delivered at the Annual Ethics Conference, hosted by the U.S. Naval War College (USNWC), Newport, Rhode Island (February 2012) (with USNWC Professor M. Schmitt).

Publications

“Winning the Battle, but Losing the War (for Expansive Federal Government Power)?,” “A Rose, or a Tax, by Any Other Name,” “It’s Not About Individual Liberty,” and “A Civil Libertarian Defense of the Minimum Coverage Provision,” as guest blogger for POINT OF LAW, Manhattan Institute (March–April 2012).

Media References and Appearances

Interviewed by WINS 1010 radio, THE FISCAL TIMES ("Why the Health Care Mandate 'Tax' Is a Paper Tiger"), James R. Copland of the Manhattan Institute for Public Policy (podcast), and BLOOMBERG LAW radio show (with Georgetown Law Professor Randy Barnett), about the Supreme Court’s health care decision (June 2012).

The ACLU, Civil Liberties and Religion: What Are the Issues?, TEI RADIO: THE POWER TO LOVE HARD QUESTIONS (sponsored by the Theological Education Institute) & WSDK 1550 AM (June 2012).

Interviewed by BLOOMBERG LAW radio show about recent 7th Circuit decision upholding constitutional challenge to law restricting citizens from videorecording police encounters (May 2012).

Interviewed by BLOOMBERG LAW radio show (with Georgetown Law Professor Randy Barnett) about the pending health care litigation and Supreme Court oral arguments (March 2012).

Interviewed by BLOOMBERG TV for a series of programs about the pending health care litigation in the Supreme Court (March 2012).

Ruti G. Teitel

Awards and Recognition


American Society of International Law honorable mention for best book in a specialized area of international law, for HUMANITY’S LAW. (Oxford University Press, 2011).

Appointments

Member, International Law Association’s International Human Rights Law Committee (2012).

Scholarly Presentations

Participant, International Studies Association, International Human Rights Committee, Meeting in Bellagio, Italy (June 2012) to draft Report on National Compliance with International Law.


Publications


Human Rights, Political not Metaphysical, Opinio Juris (May 2012).


Media References and Appearances


Marshall Tracht

Scholarly Presentations

Panelist, “Welcome to My Counterparty: Risks in Any Economy (Even This One),” The Rooftops Conference presented by the Center for Real Estate Studies, New York Law School (April 2012).


“Pre-Bankruptcy Planning and Commencement of a Case,” presented at the ABA Community Outreach Program, New York (January 2012).


Publications

Can a Secured Creditor Be Denied the Right to Credit Bid When the Creditor’s Collateral Is Sold Pursuant to a Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization?, 39 ABA Supreme Court Preview 248–250 (2012).


Freeman v. Quicken Loans, Inc., 39 ABA Supreme Court Preview 202 (February 2012).

Media References and Appearances

Registering Ex-Inmates to Vote, KNPR-Nevada Public Radio (May 2012).

Erika L. Wood

Scholarly Presentations


Publications


Media References and Appearances

Registering Ex-Inmates to Vote, KNPR-Nevada Public Radio (May 2012).
Adjunct Faculty Activities
Compiled by Melissa Pentangelo

The following items represent a sampling of the activities of our adjunct faculty from the spring 2012 semester.

**Brigitte Amiri**

**Scholarly Presentations**

**Media References and Appearances**

**Testimonies and Legal Consultation**
Won a decisive victory in the case *American Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts v. Kathleen Sebelius*, 821 F. Supp. 2d 474 (D. Mass. 2012), challenging the constitutionality of a multi-million dollar contract between the federal government and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to provide services to trafficking victims. The bishops prohibited the use of any federal funds to provide abortion or contraception referrals and services because of their religious beliefs.

**Karen Artz Ash ’80**

**Appointments**

**Awards and Recognition**

**Publications**


**Steven Bennett**

**Publications**


EU Privacy vs. U.S. Discovery: Practical Responses to the Conflict, 58 The Practical Lawyer 31–37 (February 2012).

Sedona Conference Issues Principles for Addressing the Preservation and Discovery of Protected Data in U.S. Litigation, 12 The Privacy Advisor (IAAP) 1 (February 2012).

**R.B. Bernstein**

**Scholarly Presentations**


**Anne Marie Bowler**

**Media References and Appearances**


**Jean Marie Brescia**

**Appointments**

**Mark A. Conrad ’81**

**Scholarly Presentations**

“The Broadcast Indecency Rules—Sports Broadcasts Await a Second Supreme Court Showdown” and “The 2009 Tobacco Act—Does a Ban on Sports Sponsorships Violate...”
the First Amendment?" presented at the Sport and Recreation Law Association’s (SRLA) 25th Annual Conference, Greensboro, North Carolina (March 2012).

Lindsay A. Curcio
Awards and Recognition
Along with NYLS alumna Camille Mackler ’06, selected by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) as one of 11 entrants to compete in a contest using social media to promote the annual AILA conference to be held in June 2013 in Nashville, Tennessee (February 2012).

Lucas A. Ferrara
Media References and Appearances

Merrie Frankel
Scholarly Presentations
Moderator, panel discussion on the experiences and views of women board directors, at the 2012 Financial Women’s Association (FWA) Directors’ Dinner, New York (April 2012).

James Hagy
Awards and Recognition
Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by Magicana, an international performing arts charity, at its 43rd Magic Collectors Weekend, in recognition of 50 years of research and writing about the history and theory of performance magic, Chicago (May 2012).

Scholarly Presentations

Jay Kogan
Scholarly Presentations

Kathryn LaFortune
Appointments
Member, Criminal Law Section Committee, Oklahoma Bar Association (2012).

Scholarly Presentations
Speaker, “Juvenile Competency in Oklahoma,” at the Seventh Annual Oklahoma Forensic Academy, sponsored by the Criminal Law Section of the Oklahoma Bar Association, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (April 2012).
Gary Mandel

Scholarly Presentations

John Meringolo ’99

Testimonies and Legal Consultation
In The Estate of Joseph P. Graffagnino v. Bovis Lend Lease, et al, arbitrated a $10 million settlement for the family of Joseph Graffagnino, a firefighter who lost his life in the 2007 Deutsche Bank fire. The settlement is the largest in U.S. history for a firefighter wrongful death case. Professor Meringolo gave more than $1 million of his fee to the children of Mr. Graffagnino (May 2012).

In United States v. Frank DiMattina, I I Cr. 705, represented Frank DiMattina, who was acquitted after trial on two counts of conspiracy to commit extortion and one count of extortion (January 2012).

In United States v. Godwin Okpomo, 10-3981, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals granted an appeal based on an improper sentence imposed by the District Court Judge for an incorrect sentencing enhancement. Accordingly, Mr. Okpomo was resentenced, which resulted in a 13-month reduction (2012).

David T. Moldenhauer

Publications

Brian Murphy

Media References and Appearances
Should Children’s TV Selections and Use Be Controlled, Eureka-Wildwood Patch (June 2012).

Udi Ofer

Publications


Steven E. Pegalis ’65

Scholarly Presentations


Sherry Ramsey ’98

Scholarly Presentations
Speaker, Animal Cruelty and Fighting Seminar, presented to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), Newark division, Newark, New Jersey (June 2012).


F. Peter Phillips ’87

Appointments
Chair, Dispute Resolution Committee, American Bar Association’s Business Law Section (2012).

Scholarly Presentations
Presented on the use of mediation in resolving disputes between corporations and communities that are disrupted by their operations, at the Centre for Effective Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in London, England. Presentation featured films made by the Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of the Harvard Kennedy School that he wrote and co-directed (May 2012).

“Using ADR to Defuse Corporate-Community Tensions,” presented at the International Association of Lawyers (UIA) World Forum of Mediation Centres, Lisbon, Portugal. Presentation also included films mentioned in the previous item (January 2012).

Luis Rodriguez Jr. ’99

Appointments
Adjunct Professor of Law at New York Law School, co-teaching Federal Taxation of Financial Instruments (June 2012).

Member, IRS Taxpayer Advocacy Panel, representing Forest Hills, New York (January 2012).
Publications

Mitchell Rubinstein
Publications

Media References and Appearances
Can Your School Suspend You for a Facebook Post?, JD Supra (June 2012).

Richard J. Sobelsohn
Scholarly Presentations

Publications
Sustainable Healthcare Contracting and Expansion Issues, MEDICAL TOURISM (January 2012).

Gary L. Tidwell
Scholarly Presentations
Presenter, SEBI-OECD International Conference on Investor Education, co-hosted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and OECD, Goa, India (February 2012).

Benjamin Weinstock
Scholarly Presentations
Program Chair and Lecturer, “Glitz, Glamour and Gucci: High-End Retail Leasing,” at the Real Property Law Section 2012 Summer Meeting, sponsored by the New York State Bar Association, Hamburg, New Jersey (July 2012).
Program Chair and Lecturer, “Purchases and Sales of Homes,” a CLE program co-sponsored by the Real Property Law Section and the Committee on Continuing Legal Education of the New York State Bar Association, Rochester, New York (April 2012).

Lecturer, “Glitz, Glamour, and Gucci: High-End Retail Leasing,” at the American College of Real Estate Attorneys 2012 Mid-Year Meeting, Las Vegas (March 2012).

Publications

Robert W. Wien ’76
Projects
Mid-Market Securities LLC, of which Professor Wien is Founder, President, and CEO, continues to grow as a FINRA/SIPC Member Broker Dealer investment banking boutique with 24 bankers in OSJ offices in California, Florida, and New York; a presence in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania; and licenses in seven states.
Trumpeter, Don DuPont Big Band, a 16-piece jazz/dance band.
ALUMNI BENEFITS & SERVICES

New York Law School is proud of its alumni. We honor and take great pride in your accomplishments, and we are pleased to provide a variety of alumni benefits and services:

Connect with the Alumni Community

NetConnect is the Law School’s online alumni community. Register with NetConnect for a wide variety of benefits by visiting www.nyls.edu/alumni and clicking “Net Community Log In/Register” in the right-hand bar.

Access Library Services

Alumni have access to the Mendik Library’s extensive print collection, professional research help from expert librarians, onsite training sessions in practice-oriented research skills, and an incredible collection of online subscription databases integral to legal research. For more information, visit www.nyls.edu/library.

Get Career Advice for Life

Alumni are encouraged to utilize the Office of Career Planning throughout your various career transitions: from law school to practice, from one employer to another, or when changing your practice altogether. NYLS has two counselors dedicated specifically to serving alumni. To make an appointment with a counselor, visit your Symplicity homepage or call 212.431.2346.

Request Transcripts

Free transcripts are available to alumni. To obtain a copy of the transcript request form, please visit www.nyls.edu/alumnibenefits or call the Office of the Registrar at 212.431.2300.

Attend NYLS Events and CLE Programs at No Cost or Minimal Charge

NYLS offers a wide variety of Continuing Legal Education courses that can help alumni meet their CLE requirements. Visit www.nyls.edu/academics/cle for a list of upcoming CLE courses at the Law School. Please join us for Spotlight Luncheons, Regional Receptions, and a large array of events throughout the year. Check your inbox and visit www.nyls.edu/alumni regularly for updated details.

Take on Student Externs

Alumni judges and lawyers may enjoy participating in the Law School’s Externship Programs, in which eager students assist you with your work on a volunteer basis while gaining valuable knowledge, skills, and experience. Go to www.nyls.edu/externshipprograms for more information.

Join the Ask-an-Alum Network

Alumni who are interested in providing NYLS students with information and advice without the obligation of maintaining an ongoing relationship are invited to join the Ask-an-Alum Program. Students contact these alumni with questions about careers in their chosen fields. For more details, call the Office of Career Planning at 212.431.2345.

Learn about Loan Forgiveness

Find out more about loan forgiveness and reduction through our Public Service Career Recognition Program and the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007. For an application form, visit www.nyls.edu/alumnibenefits.

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Alumni are entitled to a 10 percent discount on items purchased in-person at the NYLS bookstore, and also receive discounted rates at selected retailers including Brooks Brothers, Dollar Rent A Car, and Zipcar. Visit www.nyls.edu/alumnibenefits for more information.

We hope you will make use of all of these opportunities. For a full listing of benefits, please visit www.nyls.edu/alumnibenefits.
Congratulations to the Class of 2012
New York Law School Recognizes Kenneth R. Feinberg, Students, and Faculty at 120th Commencement

By LaToya Jordan

This year’s commencement exercises included a number of New York Law School firsts: the first ceremony held at Radio City Music Hall, the first time a guide dog walked across the stage donned in regalia, and the first graduation address by the Law School’s new Dean and President, Anthony W. Crowell.

On May 21, 2012, family and friends arrived at Radio City amidst a torrential rainstorm to find the Law School’s name in flashing lights on the hall’s marquee, which added to the excitement of the day.

The Class of 2012 included 520 candidates for the Juris Doctor (J.D.), 41 candidates for the Master of Laws (LL.M.), and one candidate for the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Mental Disability Law Studies. A special member joined the class this year: Ellis, a black Labrador retriever seeing-eye dog, accompanied graduate Amanda Davis to the ceremony. Ellis was a constant companion to Davis during her studies at New York Law School, so it was fitting that the School provided him with a special gown as well. The pair garnered lots of media attention and were featured in the Daily News, Jezebel, and JDJournal, among other outlets.

Addressing the graduates this year was Kenneth R. Feinberg, one of the nation’s leading experts in mediation and alternative dispute resolution. He told the class: “As new members of our profession, you have the duty . . . and the obligation to do what you can to make the rule of law and the cost of justice more accessible and meaningful to our fellow citizens. The honor, the individual satisfaction that you have earned today carries with it an obligation and commitment to advance the cause of your client and in so doing, vindicate the rule of law thereby promoting the public interest.”

Feinberg is the Founder and Managing Partner of Feinberg Rozen, LLP. He has been a Court-Appointed Special Settlement Master, mediator, and arbitrator in thousands of disputes and served as Special Master of the Federal September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the Law School.

The graduates also heard from the Law School’s new Dean, Anthony W. Crowell, who officially assumed his new position the day after commencement. In his closing remarks, he told the graduates: “I understand that the transition from law student to lawyer may feel a bit daunting right now but just remember: to succeed as a lawyer it will take the same tenacity, drive, and commitment to justice that led you to New York Law School in the first place, and it will be a great adventure.”

Two graduates at the beginning of that great adventure, Christopher G. Binns of the Day Division and Joshua David Brookstein of the Evening Division, delivered inspirational remarks to their classmates.

Binns said, “Every time we walk outside of 185 West Broadway, we refuse to let others tell us what we are capable of. We show them time and time again that we are smart and the hardest working students out here. We understand the struggle, the grit, and innovation needed to thrive in this profession. We define our own capabilities and write our own stories, and we do this every single day.”

Brookstein added, “Our breadth of experiences, our deep sense of collegiality, and our shared experience of conquering law school at night has given us a competitive advantage to be reckoned with. Regardless of whether we practice law in a judicial sense, we are prepared to leverage our degree, our experience, and our relationships that deepen our impact on the world. A host of economic, social, and political challenges await us, and as the next generation of doers and decision-makers and now law school graduates, we say ‘Bring it.’”

The ceremony also featured awards given to faculty and students, as well as the President’s Medal of Honor, given to the Law School’s most outstanding and accomplished alumni and those who have made the most significant contributions to the history of the Law School by their exemplary professional lives and their generosity. It was awarded to two recipients: the Honorable Roger J. Miner ’56 (posthumously) and James F. Simon, Martin Professor of Law Emeritus and Dean Emeritus of New York Law School.

Hon. Roger J. Miner ’56 (1934–2012), Trustee Emeritus and Former Adjunct Professor of Law at New York Law School, was a widely respected senior judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit who graduated cum laude from the Law School in 1956 and served as the first Managing Editor of the Law Review. Professor James F. Simon is a nationally recognized scholar of constitutional law and award-winning author of eight books on American history, law, and politics, including his most recent book, FDR and Chief Justice Hughes: The President, the Supreme Court, and the Epic Battle Over the New Deal.

Video of this year’s commencement ceremony can be viewed on the Law School’s YouTube channel at: www.youtube.com/user/newyorklawschool, and photos of the ceremony can be viewed on the Law School’s Flickr page at: www.flickr.com/photos/nylawschool.
We are pleased to present a snapshot of some of the many alumni events that took place throughout the spring 2012 semester.
Spring 2012 offered the New York Law School community the opportunity to hear from some of our most distinguished alumni through our Career Connections series. Featuring a diverse mix of speakers, each gathering provided alumni with a platform for sharing how the legal training they received at New York Law School prepared them for success in their careers, and for offering students insights into how to build their own careers.

On February 8, the Law School welcomed back alumni working in the fields of finance; real estate; complex litigation; business ownership; and oil and mineral exploration and financing in the Middle East, Russia, and Liberia. Guest speakers included Lawrence Huntington ’64, Chairman Emeritus of Fiduciary Trust Company International; Paulette Long ’75, President and CEO of UNCO United Oil Holdings, LLC, Founder and Owner of Luminesa Cellulite & Slimming Medi-Spa, and Founder and President of Not-For-Profit Grant Writers; and Ron Gitter ’76, Founder of coopandcondo.com.

On March 14, the focus turned to graduates of the evening program, at the Marvin L. Frank Spotlight on Evening event. Guest speakers included Jeffrey L. Dodes ’03, Executive Vice President, Marketing and Digital Media Strategy at St. Martin’s Press; Marvin L. Frank ’91, Managing Partner of Murray Frank LLP; Philip T. Miller ’10, Founding Partner of Miller Miraglia LLP; and Robert P. Miraglia ’10, Founding Partner of Miller Miraglia LLP.

The Spotlight on Women event took place on April 19 and featured Karen Artz Ash ’80, Co-head of the Intellectual Property and Trademark Practice at Katten Muchin LLP; Julie Muniz ’97, Partner at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy LLP; and Christina M. Storm ’78, Founder and Executive Director of Lawyers Without Borders.
New York Law School welcomed back nearly 200 alumni at its annual Reunion and Alumni Weekend held on Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21, 2012.

The weekend commenced Friday evening with the Dean’s Cocktail Party, where alumni from class years ending in “2” and “7” convened in the Grand Gallery of 185 West Broadway to reunite and reminisce with old friends and classmates and to meet Anthony W. Crowell, then-Incoming Dean.

On Saturday, alumni from all classes came to the Law School for an array of events. The Alumni Association held its Annual Meeting, which was followed by programs covering a broad range of interests: the Dean’s State of the Law School Brunch, one CLE panel on politics in this election year, and another on sports and entertainment law. Speakers on the first panel were 12-term Congressman Eliot Engel ’87 (D-NY) and New York State Assemblyman Charles Lavine ’72. The second panel featured Susan Cohig ’02, Senior Vice President, Integrated Marketing for the National Hockey League; Robert W. Erb ’92, Chief Executive Officer for Shutt Sports, Inc., a major manufacturer of sports apparel including football helmets used by the NFL; and Eric Zone ’92, Vice President of Business Affairs for William Morris Endeavor Entertainment, one of the leading global talent agencies.

Toward the end of the day, there was a special talk and book signing by James F. Simon, Dean Emeritus and Martin Professor of Law Emeritus, who read from his latest book, FDR and Chief Justice Hughes: The President, the Supreme Court, and the Epic Battle Over the New Deal (Simon & Schuster, 2012). The Law School also had the opportunity to recognize alumni and friends who have contributed to the Breaking New Ground capital campaign, as well as those giving $2,500 and above, at a champagne reception with Dean Crowell.

The weekend culminated on Saturday night with an all-alumni dinner that included gambling for great raffle prizes, such as a weekend getaway to Canyon Ranch Hotel and Spa in Miami Beach, grandstand seating to the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, an iPad2, Yankees and Mets tickets, and more.

Save the dates for Reunion and Alumni Weekend 2013, when the Law School will welcome back reunion classes ending in “3” and “8” on Friday, April 12, and all classes on Saturday, April 13.

Save the Dates for Reunion and Alumni Weekend 2013:
Friday, April 12 (Reunion Only) and Saturday, April 13 (All Alumni), 2013

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations is in need of a few good volunteers from reunion classes ending in “3” and “8.” If you are interested in reunion leadership opportunities, please contact Travis Fraser, Assistant Vice President of Development, at 212.431.2808 or travis.fraser@nyls.edu.
February 15, 2012:
John Marshall Harlan Fellowship Cocktail Reception
Members of the John Marshall Harlan Fellowship gathered on February 15, 2012 in the private home and gallery of Dr. Michael Cohn for cocktails and conversation among his collection of Asian and contemporary art. Dr. Cohn also gave a brief history of the artworks on display. The John Marshall Harlan Fellowship recognizes generous alumni and friends who contribute $1,000 or more to the Annual Fund. To learn more about becoming a member, please contact Tara Tomlinson, Assistant Vice President of Development, at 212.431.2808 or tara.tomlinson@nyls.edu.

March 8, 2012:
Mid-Year Graduates Reception
On March 8, approximately 25 Evening Division students celebrated the completion of their law degrees with their family and friends at the Mid-Year Graduates Reception. One by one, graduates were called to the podium and gave thanks to those who supported them throughout law school. Then-Interim Dean Carol A. Buckler congratulated the graduates and gave them their first-ever New York Law School Alumni Card. Attendees also had the opportunity to meet Dean Anthony W. Crowell, who was Incoming Dean at the time.

May 22, 2012:
Dean’s Council Dinner
Approximately 60 Dean’s Council members and their guests came together to meet Dean Crowell at a special dinner and reception on May 22, 2012. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and the expansive view from the Law School’s terrace before sitting down to dinner and remarks from the new dean. The Dean’s Council recognizes generous alumni and friends who contribute $5,000 or more to the Annual Fund. To learn more about becoming a member, please contact Tara Tomlinson, Assistant Vice President of Development, at 212.431.2808 or tara.tomlinson@nyls.edu.
New York Law School graduates have had a hand in the energy field since the 1970s, when the country faced its first oil shortage and woke up to a new world of mile-long lines at the pump. In California, Robert Freeman ’55 supplied companies with energy savings, while John D. McMahon ’76 began work at Con Ed in New York City, during a turbulent era when a blackout in July of 1977 ignited riots.

Now, energy issues are again making front-page news—from questions about the environmental impact of fracking to President Obama’s urging Congress to invest in clean energy by expanding tax credits that support clean energy manufacturing. Along with new technology comes the need for an ever more skilled workforce, sharply increased capital investment, and sophisticated, vigilant regulation, says McMahon.

But Jeremy Susac ’01 says developing energy policy is difficult because of term limits on governors, legislators, and agency heads. The turnover creates a need to educate key policymakers on the economic and environmental impacts of new technologies and fuels.

Whether more, less, or different regulation is needed, one thing is clear. Doing the job properly means ensuring that highly-qualified people regulate complex industries, and lawyers play a huge role, says McMahon.

“The number of stakeholders in the industry, including consumers, suppliers, regulators, and investors is growing. The dollar amounts at stake are large and growing and technology is pushing change,” he says. “Lawyers thrive on complexity and are essential to make sense of all these moving parts.”

*New York Law School Magazine* caught up with Freeman, McMahon, Susac, and other alumni working in the energy field; their stories are on the following pages.
ROBERT FREEMAN ’55
President, Concord Energy Consultants

Robert Freeman will be the first person to tell you he’s a lucky man. In 1981, when Freeman told his wife, Suzy, that he wanted to launch a business in the new field of energy conservation—and move the family of eight across the country—he was thrilled.

“Suzy loved the idea of energy conservation,” he recalls. “She was on board from the start.”

Freeman began his career as a New York corporate tax attorney and later served as a real estate financier. But he was drawn to the energy field after meeting David Dworsky at a conference. The two hit it off and decided to form a work partnership in the emerging field of energy conservation. The clincher: whoever sold the first product or idea to a company would follow the other person to his home state. Dworsky, a California native, won.

Their timing couldn’t have been better. Freeman joined Dworsky in California just in time to join an energy conservation revolution galvanized by the nation’s first oil shortage. California was ahead of the rest of the country in energy conservation, Freeman notes, thanks in part to Governor Edmund Gerald “Jerry” Brown (serving his first term as governor), a committed environmentalist.

The business plan of Freeman’s company, Co-Energy Group, was to save clients a percentage of their energy bills by changing and maintaining the equipment in a particular building and splitting the savings—a “shared savings contract” that required no client investment but had an infinite rate of return. For a ceramics company, that meant recapturing the heat from ovens used to dry the ceramics, and for a school that meant replacing standard bulbs with energy efficient lighting—simple modifications that saved big dollars.

The idea was a great one, and the business—along with plentiful government, school system, business, and corporate contracts—followed.

Now president of his own “business to business consultancy,” Concord Energy Consultants, Freeman offers expert advice on energy efficiency and conservation to companies. As for retiring, the lively, 83-year-old Freeman can’t imagine keeping his hand out of the energy industry. On the other hand, he jokes, “Suzy will kill me if I don’t retire.”

SHEREE JEANES ’96
Business Development Manager, Clean Energy Fuels

“It’s an exciting time to be working in the natural gas industry,” Sheree Jeanes says. “It’s an ever-evolving, ever-changing field.”

Jeanes is a Northeast manager of business development at Clean Energy Fuels, a provider of compressed natural gas (CNG) for transportation. She is working to “shrink the delta” between diesel and natural gas usage in transportation by helping her company develop business opportunities to bid on the engineering, construction, and operation/maintenance of CNG fueling stations for transit and paratransit fleets throughout the Northeast.
Jeanes both educates her potential customers and learns from them about how Clean Energy Fuels can help their business make the change from diesel to natural gas.

“My goal is to learn how a customer does business and tailor a solution to fit their needs,” she says, “whether that’s replacing one diesel-fueled truck or bus or an entire fleet.”

Jeanes says her job is “different every day.” She attends board meetings and regional conferences, with “promoting change” as her driving force. A board member of the Long Island Clean Cities Coalition, she works with the Coalition to disseminate information about alternative fuels for vehicles.

She describes her time at New York Law School as “a great experience” that taught her key skills that she uses every day at her job. Public speaking, advocacy, and reviewing contracts are all part and parcel of her daily work.

Why make the switch to natural gas? For several reasons, explains Jeanes. One is that it’s 30 percent cleaner than petroleum, producing fewer greenhouse gases and less soot. It’s also cheaper than petroleum by between $1.00 and $1.50 a gallon. Although natural gas trucks are more expensive at the outset, companies can recoup their investments quickly and save money overall because of lower fuel costs.

The Long Island Towns of Smithtown, Brookhaven, Huntington, and Oyster Bay have made the switch, with Babylon soon to follow. Many independent trucking lines are also using natural gas vehicles, Jeanes says, while the MTA and Nassau County’s bus company have been running CNG buses for more than a decade.

And what does Jeanes drive?

“A CNG vehicle. Best car I’ve ever owned.”

JOHN D. MCMAHON ’76
Senior Advisor, Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets, Inc.

Reasonable cost and clean, adequate service. That, says John D. McMahon, is what energy customers wanted 35 years ago when he began a career at Con Edison as an attorney in the rate proceedings department. It was true when he returned to Con Edison as Executive Vice President from 2009 to 2011, and it’s still true in his new position as an investment advisor at Macquarie Infrastructure.

But the energy industry itself has become more complex and dynamic, with many more choices for consumers to consider. Public trust is key in developing and distributing new sources of energy and addressing consumer concerns about a range of issues, he notes. One example is natural gas fracking, the process of drilling and injecting fluid into the ground at a high pressure to fracture shale rocks and release natural gas inside. Despite public controversy, McMahon believes it to be a low-carbon substitute for coal that can alleviate dependence on foreign oil.
Developing a smart grid is also important, he says, with "energy consumption, delivery, and production synched and transparent so that we waste significantly less energy and increase our ability to deploy new energy sources more widely and more efficiently."

But developing a grid also depends on consumer trust that monitoring of energy usage and fee assessment by utilities is honest and fair.

McMahon finds the issues of his career exciting and says New York Law School was key to kickstarting it.

“It was the best educational experience I ever had,” he notes. Fortunate, too, was the fact that John V. Thornton, then-CFO of Con Edison, was chairman of NYLS’s board. An introduction was made, which led to McMahon getting his first job at Con Edison.

Now a senior advisor with Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets Inc., McMahon is helping investors locate investment opportunities in the energy field. He also acts as a mentor at Macquarie, sharing his knowledge of legal, regulatory, managerial, operational, and corporate governance issues.

Of his new role, he says, “I love the people, the issues, and the work and hope to do my part to help make America’s energy future brighter for all.”

STEVEN M. SHPARBER ’10
Associate, Energy and Environmental Department, McGuireWoods, LLP

Not many law school graduates, two years out, have laid down the tracks for a career that allows them to do exactly what they want.

Then again, Steven M. Shparber—a magna cum laude graduate, John Marshall Harlan scholar, and former Notes & Comments Editor on Law Review—is no ordinary graduate. Shparber knew in college what he wanted and how he planned to get there. The goal was to make a difference in the world—especially in joining a growing movement to create a cleaner environment and grow energy technologies. The path was law school.

Now an associate at McGuireWoods, LLP, in Washington, D.C., Shparber is doing just that as a member of the firm’s regulatory and compliance department and energy and climate change group.

“I like the law but I love the energy sector, so when I entered law school I took any available classes.”

He also interned with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) Division of Enforcement in law school and landed a clerkship there after graduation in the Office of Administrative Law Judges. FERC is an independent federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of natural gas, oil, and electricity. Its mission, Shparber explains, is to assist consumers in obtaining reliable, efficient, and sustainable energy services at a reasonable cost.

There he gained experience in the regulation of the interstate commerce of energy sources such as natural gas and oil. The experience at FERC led to his current position in private practice. His understanding of regulations enables him to help energy companies comply with intricate and ever-changing rules regarding energy use.
Shparber loves his work because “it’s not just about closing deals.” He’s excited to be part of economic and environmental change—by creating an infrastructure using existing and new energy technologies. That, he notes, means more jobs and a cleaner environment.

“What drives me, what gets me up in the morning, is the challenge of getting things built—of overhauling an outdated energy system and creating clean, sustainable, and affordable energy sources. It’s an exciting time, and I feel that I lucked out to be a part of it.”

JEREMY SUSAC ’01
President, Real Energy Strategies Group

Turn on your AC with your iPhone? Have a pizza delivered from an electric truck powered by clean coal? Fuel your car at a natural gas station?

If there’s a question about the present—and the future—of energy use in Florida, Jeremy Susac is the man with the answer. President of the Real Energy Strategies Group, a Palm Beach-based consulting company, Susac advises businesses on energy-related matters.

His depth of experience comes from a range of positions in the public sector. After practicing law in New York, Susac returned to his home state of Florida to practice telecommunications law at the Florida Public Service Commission. Since then, he’s served in a variety of capacities in Florida’s public sector.

“I have been extremely fortunate to work with dedicated, like-minded policy makers who are focused on making Florida a better place to live, work, and play,” Susac says.

During the passage of Florida’s most comprehensive energy bill, House Bill 7135, Susac served as Technical Advisor at Florida’s Department of Environmental Protection. The bill streamlined the permitting of advanced new nuclear facilities in Florida and put forth a renewable fuel standard that required 10 percent of Florida’s transportation fuel to be comprised of biofuel.

“It still amazes me how our testimony before legislative committees and written narrative submitted in the form of a bill turned into bricks and mortar at the stroke of a governor’s pen,” Susac says.

He is also Director of Smart Grid and Innovation with Citizens for Clean Energy—among many commitments to energy organizations. A smart grid, he explains, allows the utility to accurately bill for exact consumption and informs the utility when the consumer has lost power—key in a state with extreme heat and sometimes volatile summer weather.

Susac credits much of his success to his decision to attend NYLS. The Law School taught him to be more analytical, a better speaker, and a better writer—tools that he uses every day.

“Moving to New York and attending New York Law School was the best decision I’ve ever made. The faculty and the city are second to none. I met a lot of great people, and some classmates have become lifelong friends.”
The Art of Emilio Sanchez at NYLS
By Harry Althaus

Cuban-born artist Emilio Sanchez was a “man of solar energy,” writes Ann Koll, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Emilio Sanchez Foundation, in the preface to Hard Light: The Work of Emilio Sanchez (Prestel Publishing, 2011). It is fitting then, that New York Law School’s sunlit academic building is now the proud home of more than 80 of Sanchez’s paintings, watercolors, drawings, and lithographs. Through the tremendous generosity of the Sanchez Foundation, and the vision of Linda J. Sosnowitz ’73, the Law School is now among more than 70 public and private institutions across the United States, South America, the Caribbean, and Australia to enjoy the color, light, and joy of the work of Emilio Sanchez (1921–99).
Sosnowitz and her husband, A.J. Alexis Gelinas, introduced Dr. Koll and the Foundation to Board of Trustees Chair Arthur N. Abbey ’59; his wife, Diane Abbey; Associate Dean of Development and Alumni Relations Suzanne Davidson; and Dean Emeritus Richard A. Matasar in the spring of 2011. Sosnowitz presented Sanchez’s painting of the twin towers of the World Trade Center as a gift to the Law School. The painting, in shades of gray and white, depicts the towers capped by a mass of advancing cloud cover. Sosnowitz selected it as an acknowledgment of “the Law School’s proximity to ground zero and its resilient recovery from the 9/11 events.” It is a stirring image, serene but ominous, although it was painted years before those tragic days of 2001. And it is different in tone and personality from most of Sanchez’s work, which is more often filled with the bright colors of the Caribbean, and the energy and movement of New York City.

Born in Cuba in 1921, Sanchez was a child of privilege—his family can be traced back to 17th century Spanish settlers. In fact, Sanchez retained a number of Spanish aristocratic titles until relinquishing them when he became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1968. After his parents divorced, and as Cuban political instability continued, young Emilio moved to Miami with his mother, and joined the other expat members of his extended family. When his mother married noted art historian Felipe Cossio del Pomar and moved to Mexico, Sanchez began to divide his time among American boarding schools, his father’s family in Cuba, and his mother’s home in San Miguel de Allende. It was Sanchez’s stepfather who introduced him to some of the most important Latin American artistic and intellectual figures of the time. He later attended Yale and the University of Virginia, before moving to New York City in 1944.

Sanchez had expressed his desire to pursue an artistic career early on, and he began his formal artistic training at the Art Students League in New York, with the support and encouragement of his family. By 1952, he established himself as a permanent New Yorker, and spent the rest of his life in the city he had come to appreciate for its extraordinary light, supportive artistic community, and the energy he characterized as unmatched by any other city in the world. In fact, Sanchez became a dedicated West Sider, particularly smitten with views of the Hudson River and its spectacular sunsets. His beautiful paintings of the Hudson, crosstown cityscapes, and New York skies all attest to his attachment to New York, which became his home for more than 40 years.

For much of his career, Sanchez’s work was something of an anomaly for the world of galleries and art dealers. “He was pigeonholed early on,” says Dr. Koll, “as a specifically Latin American artist,” and his work was marketed as such. His New York works held little interest for gallery owners, even those managing the ACA Galleries in Chelsea, which became Sanchez’s home base in the 1980s. Dr. Koll believes that, while Sanchez’s work was never marketed effectively in the context of American art, it is precisely his American sensibility that is especially appealing to the institutions eager to house parts of the collection.

Sanchez’s artistic legacy reflects the complexity of the artist and the diversity of his background and experience. His life and interests could appear to be a series of contradictions—he was a gay Cuban émigré, educated in elite American schools, partly raised in Mexico, smitten by New York City, but forever bound to the color and spirit of the Caribbean. And yet, rather than being constrained by what may seem to be conflicting influences, Sanchez exemplified the complex but cooperative personality that is so uniquely American, and so much a part of New York City—the great melting pot. Scholars have drawn comparisons between Sanchez’s work and the work of such quintessentially American artists as Georgia O’Keeffe and Edward Hopper. It is Sanchez’s “New York-ness,” along with the color and celebratory nature of his work, that make him a natural fit for New York Law School—a fixture of New York City and an institution with a rich history of diversity in all of its forms.
The Sanchez Foundation was formed in 1999, as stipulated in Sanchez’s will, for the dual purposes of funding ophthalmologic research and art scholarships. Sanchez was diagnosed with congenital cataracts at birth, and although he had access to the finest vision care available, he recognized that many others were not so lucky. He specified that the sale of his art be designated, in part, toward funding advanced care for the visually impaired.

Less than a year after Sanchez’s death, Dr. Koll was hired by the Foundation, and consulted with sole trustee Erik J. Stapper, of Stapper and Van Doren (and Sosnowitz’s law partner), on beginning the job of fulfilling the Foundation’s mission. The initial task of taking inventory of 7,000 pieces of art was daunting; most of the work had never been cataloged before. Dr. Koll, who began the job unfamiliar with Sanchez’s work, moved from a completely objective view of the undertaking to finding herself enchanted by his images. “I realized that I would leave the Foundation’s office each day with a sense of joy that was palpable,” Dr. Koll says. “I firmly believe that sense arose from the positive, optimistic flavor of Emilio’s work. And I’ve become aware that his work has that effect on many people.”

Still, New York Law School is an unusual place for a collection of this magnitude. According to Dr. Koll, the Law School is the only recipient institution that is not a museum or library. The motivation of the Foundation to place so many pieces at NYLS, she says, came from that first meeting initiated by Linda Sosnowitz with Arthur and Diane Abbey, Suzanne Davidson, and the former dean. “It was an exciting meeting,” Dr. Koll recounts. “I knew they had an understanding and appreciation of the work, along with the willingness—and space—to consider a large collection. Emilio’s work would be such a good fit with the Law School’s architecture and current art collection, and this would be a wonderful opportunity to have a collection on permanent display in a non-museum setting.” The group also recognized that the School’s hardworking students would welcome being surrounded by colorful, upbeat images.

Coincidentally, there is a component of legal study related to this project, as well. Artist-endowed foundations like the Sanchez Foundation are a small but rapidly-growing group in the world of private foundations. And their growth creates a corresponding need for legal expertise specific to private foundation law, as opposed to art law, in order to provide effective counsel to these foundations. Special expertise in trusts and estates, tax, and intellectual property law is especially important. Opinions about conflict of interest laws, for example, can be critical when foundation board members own, sell, or license an artist’s works, providing potential financial benefit to those individuals from the foundation’s activities. Similarly, artist-endowed foundations that are established during the artist’s lifetime can inadvertently breach laws prohibiting private benefit and self-dealing.

But, while the Sanchez collection could engender stimulating discussion on these topics, its role at NYLS is simpler. The beauty of Sanchez’s work, and the pleasure it provides, enhance the striking surroundings of the Law School’s expansive academic building. And there is no doubt the artist would be pleased to give law students in his lifelong home of New York City opportunities to pause and escape the pressures and pace of study into the relaxing images of an expanding sky or sunlit doorway.
Send us your news!

New York Law School Magazine would like to hear from you! Please let us know about your professional accomplishments, personal milestones, and/or any other news you would like to share with the New York Law School community. Send us your news via e-mail to magazine@nyls.edu or via the Web at www.nyls.edu/magazine.
Class Notes
Compiled by Melissa Pentangelo

1950
Albie S. Ferrucci writes that he was awarded three medals for his service in the Navy in World War II by New York State Senator Hugh Farley in August 2012. At a presentation at his law office in Schenectady, New York, Ferrucci received the New York State Medal for Merit, the New York State Conspicuous Service Star, and the State Senate’s Liberty Medal. He practices law in Schenectady with his two children, Sheila and Brian. His late wife, Mary Louise Corrigan, was also a member of the Class of 1950 and graduated with Honorable Mention.

1963
Neil M. Frank writes that he was recently elected to the Board of Directors of The Jewish Academy of Suffolk County in East Northport, New York. He is the Founding Partner of Frank & Associates, P.C., an employment law practice based in Farmingdale, New York. His firm recently settled a federal wage/hour overtime claim on behalf of more than 230 employees for an amount in excess of $4,300,000 plus legal fees.

1965
Hon. Judith Sheindlin, family court judge and star of the reality court room show Judge Judy, was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University at Albany-State University of New York at the school’s undergraduate commencement ceremony on May 20, 2012. She presented the commencement address to more than 2,000 graduates. (University at Albany–SUNY)

1970
Hon. Francis A. Nicolai was named Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees of the Westchester Italian Cultural Center (WICC) in Tuckahoe, New York, in May 2012. He also serves as Chairman of the center’s Board of Advisors. He is a justice of the Putnam County Supreme Court in the 9th Judicial District of New York and is the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term for the 9th and 10th Judicial Districts. (Westchester Italian Cultural Center)

1974
Carl Wisotsky writes that he recently celebrated his 15th year in private practice in Manhattan, specializing in personal injury litigation. He also celebrated the birth of his seventh grandchild, Dana Brielle Wisotsky, in March 2012.

1975
James Pagano has been appointed Co-chair of the Bankruptcy Committee of the New York County Lawyers’ Association (NYCLA). On October 1, 2012, he was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He is a non-voting member of the New York Law School Alumni Association and practices law in New York City.

1978
Alan Rosenberg was named the Managing Attorney of Brooklyn Defender Services, a 102-lawyer public defender office in Brooklyn, New York.

1979
Michael Gaffney was elected Vice President of the 13th Judicial District on the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) in June 2012. He is a solo practitioner in civil litigation based in Staten Island. (NYSBA)

1980
Andrew J. Franklin writes from Nairobi, Kenya, that he participated in the “Structured Finance Seminar for Public Private Partnerships” and a conference on “Increasing U.S. Trade and Investment Ties with the East African Community,” both sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Kenya and the U.S. Department of Commerce, in May 2012. He also attended a cocktail reception for Michael C. Camuñez, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Market Access and Compliance, U.S. Department of Commerce, who was visiting. Also in May, Franklin attended a stakeholders’ forum hosted by the Commission for the Implementation of the Constitution (CIC) to review The Kenya Defence Forces Bill, 2012, where he distributed copies of a memorandum he wrote that later appeared in the Nairobi Law Monthly. Franklin is the Managing Director of Franklin Management Consultants Ltd. in Nairobi.

1981
Saul Fishman was elected President of the Civil Service Bar Association (CSBA) in July 2012. He is an attorney at the New York City Department of Finance in Manhattan.
1982

Eugene Callender has published a memoir, Nobody Is a Nobody: The Story of a Harlem Ministry Hard at Work to Change America (CreateSpace, 2012). He is a clergyman, counselor, and lecturer whose career covers a broad span of social, political, and devotional activism.

1983

Babette Ceccotti and fellow NYLS alumna Jo Ann Brighton ’89 have been invited to serve on the American Bankruptcy Institute Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11. The group convened for its first meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2012. Ceccotti is a partner at Cohen, Weiss and Simon LLP in Manhattan.

Correction: In the Spring/Summer 2012 issue, New York Law School Magazine described the update from Todd Becraft inaccurately. Becraft worked with the team of lawyers representing the petitioners in Kawashima v. Holder, decided by the Supreme Court in February 2012.

1985

Brian Obergfell was appointed to the New York State Department of Financial Services’ newly formed State Charter Bank Advisory Board in March 2012. Obergfell is a senior partner in the corporate and real estate group at Emmet, Marvin & Martin, LLP in Manhattan and serves on the firm’s executive and strategic committees. (Emmet, Marvin & Martin)

1986

Rosemary Debellis writes that she has been working as an attorney in various positions with the New York City Police Department for the last 25 years and was recently promoted to Assistant Commissioner. She would be happy to hear from former classmates and can be reached at rosemary.debellis@nypd.org.

1988

Scott Cagan was included in the list of Florida Super Lawyers 2012 for Employment & Labor specialists. He is a commercial litigator in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida, office of GrayRobinson, P.A. (GrayRobinson)

Craig Sellers was appointed the 11th Head of School of Friends’ Central School, a Quaker college preparatory school for nursery through grade 12 in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, in January 2012. (Friends’ Central School)

1989

Jo Ann Brighton writes that she and NYLS alumna Babette Ceccotti ’83 have been invited to serve on the American Bankruptcy Institute Commission to Study the Reform of Chapter 11. The group convened for its first meeting in Washington, D.C., in April 2012. Brighton is a partner at K&L Gates LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina.

John M. Codd was appointed University General Counsel and Secretary of the Board of Trustees at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Madison, New Jersey, in February 2012. (Fairleigh Dickinson University)
Deirdre Dillon was reelected as a councilwoman for the Borough of Ramsey, New Jersey, in 2012. She is a chief compliance officer and counsel to a registered investment advisor. She also serves as Chair of the Borough Council’s Public Safety Committee. (The Borough of Ramsey, N.J.)

Peter Ventrice was included in the 2012 list of New Jersey Super Lawyers in the field of family law. He is a partner with Brause, Brause & Ventrice, L.L.C. in Metuchen, New Jersey, where he focuses his practice on divorce, family law, and civil litigation.

Kenneth Kobylowski was named Acting Commissioner of the State of New Jersey’s Department of Banking and Insurance by Governor Chris Christie, effective February 11, 2012. (Life Health Pro)

Lawrence Reilly was certified as a member of the Multi-Million Dollar Advocates Forum of the American Association for Justice in July 2012. He is also a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. Reilly is a partner with Fogarty Cohen Selby & Nemiroff LLC and has offices in Ridgefield and Greenwich, Connecticut.


Jhilmil Ghaleb was appointed to the SUNY Delhi College Council by New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in March 2012. She is a solo practitioner in Richfield Springs, New York, where she concentrates on family law. (SUNY Delhi)

Lisa Segal joined Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, LLP as Of Counsel in the real estate department in Manhattan in June 2012. She focuses primarily on commercial leasing, including office and retail leasing. (Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman)

Theresa De Leon was elected Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Conference on Diversity, a nonprofit organization based in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in January 2012. She is a wealth management director for PNC Wealth Management in Northern New Jersey. (American Conference on Diversity)

Elura Nanos writes that she and Michele Sileo are starring in a reality television show on Oprah Winfrey’s OWN network slated to air in January 2013. The show features the friends and co-founders of Lawyer Up as legal mediators who use the law to craft creative solutions to various problems.

F. Dominic Cerrito joined the Manhattan office of Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP in June 2012 as Partner. His practice concentrates on life sciences and intellectual property litigation, with a focus on Hatch-Waxman litigation and the intersection of patent and FDA laws. (Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan)

Mark Baghdassarian was elected a partner in the Manhattan office of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP in March 2012. He specializes in intellectual property law with a focus on patent and trademark actions, as well as general commercial disputes. (Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel)

Andy Crouppen was named a partner at Brown & Crouppen, a personal injury law firm based in St. Louis, Missouri, in July 2012. (Brown & Crouppen)

Michael P. Pasquale was elected a partner at McCarter & English in January 2012. Based in the firm’s Newark, New Jersey office, he is a member of the business and financial services litigation practice group. (McCarter & English)

Theresa De Leon was elected Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Conference on Diversity, a nonprofit organization based in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in January 2012. She is a wealth management director for PNC Wealth Management in Northern New Jersey. (American Conference on Diversity)

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Frank Riccio was appointed by the Judges of the Connecticut Superior Court to be Chairman of the State of Connecticut Statewide Grievance Committee in July 2012. Based in Bridgeport, Connecticut, he practices criminal law and litigation in Connecticut state and federal courts, along with his father, Frank J. Riccio ’68.

Danielle Butler was elected to the Board of Directors of the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) in June 2012 for a two-year term. She is a shareholder with Fowler White Burnett, P.A. in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where her practice focuses on transactional and litigation matters for pleasure boats, yachts, and commercial vessels. (Fowler White Burnett)

Maribel O’Brien Aber joined CNN Newsource as a correspondent for Money Matters, a financial news service produced in conjunction with CNNMoney.com, in June 2012. She is based in New York City. (CNN Pressroom)

Willie Ellis was elected a partner in the business litigation group at Hawkins Parmell Thackston & Young LLP in July 2012. Based in Atlanta, Georgia, he focuses his practice on the representation of corporate, municipal, and individual clients in commercial and contractual disputes, in business torts, and in bad-faith, construction, employment discrimination, personal injury, and products liability matters. (Hawkins Parmell Thackston & Young)

Anthony Pacchia is a legal analyst, producer, and host at Bloomberg Law Multimedia in Manhattan. In April 2012, he interviewed fellow NYLS alum Trevor Timm ’11 on Bloomberg TV, in a discussion about the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA).

Ken Biberaj is a Democratic candidate running for City Council in 2013, representing the 6th District of New York City on the upper West Side.
Christopher Cipolla was appointed Deputy Village Attorney for the Town/ Village of Harrison, New York, in January 2012. (Harrison Daily Voice)

Dr. Salvatore Pizzuro, a graduate of the Law School's Mental Disability Law Program, has published several articles in the New Jersey Newsroom, including “N.J. Needs a Justice Center for Protection of Developmentally Disabled” on May 15, 2012, and “New Jersey’s ‘Crosswalk Law’ Needs to be Enforced” on April 23, 2012. Dr. Pizzuro is a disability policy specialist based in New Jersey. (New Jersey Newsroom)

Ryan Steinman was selected as one of the “Best LGBT Lawyers Under 40 (Class of 2012)” by the National LGBT Bar Association in July 2012. (National LGBT Bar Association)

Lacy Redwine joined the Office of the District Attorney of Oneida County, New York as an assistant district attorney in April 2012. (Utica Observer-Dispatch)

Roman Tabatchouk writes that after nearly two years working for a small general practice firm in Bayonne, New Jersey, he launched the firm Criscione, Ravala & Tabatchouk, LLP with two other attorneys in May 2012. With offices in New York, New Jersey, and Florida, the firm focuses on business law, corporate law, international law, and real estate law. The group hopes to grow the firm into a large domestic and international full service law firm in the future.

Two members of the Class of 2011 joined the Hiscock Legal Aid Society in Syracuse, New York, in spring 2012: Andrew Blancato is a law associate with the society’s civil program, and Bryce Therrien is a staff attorney with its family court program. (The Hiscock Legal Aid Society)

Elizabeth Briand is an associate in the Law Office of Stephen J. Silverberg, PC in Roslyn Heights, New York. She focuses her practice on helping seniors and special needs families. (Law Office of Stephen J. Silverberg)

Brenna Drury was admitted to the New York State Bar in February 2012 and joined Rupp, Baase, Pfalzgraf, Cunningham & Coppola LLC as an associate in the firm’s Buffalo, New York, office. She is a litigation attorney who focuses her practice on various insurance defense matters, including lead paint, automobile, premises, and products liability.

Raphael Majma is one of 18 fellows selected to participate in the White House’s Presidential Innovation Fellows Program, launched in August 2012. Fellows spend six months in Washington, D.C., working on high-impact projects aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, small businesses and the economy, while significantly improving how the Federal Government serves the American people. Majma is focusing on open data and divides his time between the Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation in the Domestic Policy Council.

Felicia A. Reid writes that she launched the online magazine, thisthatSAID, in September 2012. Featuring a collection of multicultural contributors, thisthatSAID—and its sister site, VISUS—examines social and cultural issues through essays and visual media. Reid is Founder and Editor in Chief and is joined by fellow alumni Courtney Patterson, Jens Ruiz, and Charita Walcott ’12, who are also contributors.

Trevor Timm published two articles in Foreign Policy last spring: “Obama’s Secret Hypocrisy” in June 2012 and “Down with CISPA” in April 2012. He also appeared on Bloomberg TV in April, discussing the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) with Bloomberg Law host and fellow NYLS alum Anthony Pachia ’06. Timm is a writer and activist at the Electronic Frontier Foundation in San Francisco. (Electronic Frontier Foundation)

Danielle Tricolla joined the firm of Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo, Cohn & Terrana, LLP in Uniondale, New York, in 2012. She concentrates her practice in the areas of real estate, corporate, and commercial law, as well as trust and estate planning. (Long Island Business News)

Joseph Schneiderman published “Malloy’s Chance to Shape Supreme Court,” an op-ed about impending retirements on the Connecticut Supreme Court, in the Hartford Courant’s “Fresh Talk” section (for writers under 30) on June 19, 2012.
According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan face higher unemployment rates than civilians and veterans from previous wars. Matthew Pizzo ’11, a U.S. Air Force veteran who served in Iraq from September 2004 to February 2005, experienced the lull in employment first-hand, but a trendsetting program at NYSE Euronext led him to transform an internship into a rewarding full-time position.

For eight weeks last summer, Pizzo and 14 other recent military veterans participated in the inaugural effort of NYSE Euronext’s Veteran Associate Program, an internship program that offers veterans on-the-job training in financial services combined with classroom sessions taught by the company’s senior executives. Headquartered in Manhattan, NYSE Euronext is a global financial services corporation that operates several securities exchanges. It is one of only a handful of financial services organizations that has a program designed specifically for veterans.

Pizzo was in the military from 2001 to 2005 and says there is a stigma attached to being a veteran when interviewing for jobs. “Interviewers always ask about PTSD and, ‘What’s the scariest thing you had to face?’ I try to answer in a way that calms their concerns, but despite my having a law degree and an undergraduate degree, most people just want to focus on the service and satisfy their curiosity.”

He says it has been refreshing to work for a company that provides veterans with career opportunities without focusing on negative depictions of those who served in the military. “The program in place at the NYSE should serve as an example of what organizations—big business, small business, finance, law, academia—can do to both give back to veterans and tap into the value and resources they can provide,” Pizzo says.

Among those resources, he explains, are veterans’ resilience, resourcefulness, and willingness to do whatever it takes to accomplish goals. “Veterans, especially combat vets, are able to thrive in even the most stressful of situations. We know what to do as individuals to make our team stronger.”

Pizzo learned about the NYSE internship while volunteering with a nonprofit called Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA). He attended an IAVA event where Marshall N. Carter, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NYSE Group and a Marine Corps veteran, spoke about establishing opportunities for veterans.

Pizzo spent his internship working in the Global Compliance Division, where his duties included surveillance and monitoring of NYSE technology and trading platforms to ensure that systems function within SEC and federal guidelines, as well as researching new rules and regulations. At the conclusion of the internship, he was offered a full-time position as a senior compliance associate, a similar role with more responsibility. “My eight-week internship became a really long job interview,” Pizzo says. The position puts him one step closer to his dream of one day running his own company.

Pizzo says his supervisors were impressed with his knowledge, which he attributes to his NYLS classes taught by Professor Ronald Filler.

“Matt was an outstanding student in my Derivatives Market Regulation course,” Professor Filler says. “He quickly grasped the subject matter and provided excellent commentary and discussion in the classroom. I am so proud of Matt . . . and know he will succeed now and in the future . . . ”

Pizzo is thankful to NYSE Euronext’s Veteran Associate Program, which along with his volunteer work with IAVA, has created a platform for him to discuss veterans’ issues and the benefits of hiring veterans.

“Aside from earning a full-time position, the most rewarding parts [of the internship] were the connections I made personally and knowing I was involved in one of the most innovative and successful programs ever put together for veterans.”

Veteran Matthew Pizzo ’11 Parleys an Internship into a Dream Job on Wall Street

By LaToya Jordan
SHARE NEWS WITH FELLOW ALUMNI!

At *New York Law School Magazine*, we know that one of our most popular features is the Class Notes section. That’s where alumni share news with the Law School and each other about their work, their personal milestones, and other updates. We would like to hear from you!

- Have you recently started a new job or taken on a new position?
- Have you published a book or article? Or presented at a conference?
- Have you moved to a new city or gotten married?
- Do you have other personal or professional news you would like to announce?

The Law School community is eager to hear any news you would like to share. Please send your news via e-mail to magazine@nyls.edu or via the Web at www.nyls.edu/magazine.
Class of 1934  
**Henry Denker**  
May 15, 2012  

Class of 1952  
**Ara Anooshian**  
April 20, 2012  

Class of 1952  
**Hon. Harold L. Hood**  
July 21, 2012  

Class of 1953  
**Marvin Fastenberg**  
October 8, 2012  

Class of 1953  
**Eli Robins**  
December 26, 2012  

Class of 1960  
**Socrates H. Patras**  
August 6, 2012  

Class of 1962  
**James W. MacIsaac**  
September 3, 2012  

Class of 1964  
**Herbert H. Fricke**  
June 7, 2012  

Class of 1965  
**Sylvia Kelman**  
September 1, 2012  

Class of 1968  
**Paul W. Meyers**  
June 7, 2012  

Class of 1973  
**Linda Nina Cassano**  
July 7, 2012  

Class of 1973  
**Norman I. Ross**  
January 8, 2012  

Class of 1979  
**Cecelia (Sue) Kempler**  
December 25, 2011  

Class of 2002  
**Andrew Hegt**  
June 14, 2012
HENRY DENKER ’34, prolific playwright and novelist, died at his home in Manhattan on May 15, 2012, at age 99. Denker was born in Manhattan and grew up in the Bronx. He earned his law degree at New York Law School in 1934 and after practicing law for a few years, turned his attention to writing about the drama of the courtroom. He started out writing radio scripts and went on to author many Broadway plays, television dramas, and movies, as well as more than 30 novels. Among his most well-known works are the Broadway plays *A Case of Libel* (1963), based on a real court case in which a war correspondent sued a gossip columnist, and *A Far Country* (1961), which depicts Sigmund Freud's treatment of a young female patient. He also created the award-winning Bible-themed radio show *The Greatest Story Ever Told*, which ran for almost a decade and was later used as source material for the 1965 film of the same name. Denker was predeceased by his wife, Edith, who passed away in 2005.

ARA ANOOSHIAN ’52 passed away on April 20, 2012 at his home in Port Jervis, New York, at the age of 88. After graduating from the Bronx High School of Science in 1941, Anooshian enlisted in the United States Army and went on to receive a Bronze Star for his heroic achievements in World War II in Germany. After serving his country, Anooshian resumed his education at New York University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science from the School of Commerce, Accounts, and Finance. He then pursued a law degree at New York Law School, while working at an accounting firm. He was admitted to the New York Bar in 1953, and became a certified public account in 1954. Anooshian began his own law practice soon afterwards in Port Jervis. His wife, Marion Keshian Anooshian, later joined the firm, which was renamed Anooshian & Anooshian, and he worked there until his retirement. Anooshian is survived by his son, daughter-in-law, brother, sister-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

ANDREW HEGT ’02 passed away unexpectedly on June 14, 2012 at the age of 35. Hegt lived in Morganville, New Jersey, with his wife, Deidre, and three children. He was a partner at the firm of LaRocca, Hornik, Rosen, Greenberg, & Blaha PC, in Freehold, New Jersey, where he specialized in complex litigation matters, including personal injury defense, premises liability, and family law. Hegt was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Marlboro, New Jersey. A talented athlete and devoted sports fan, he played soccer in high school as well as college. He graduated from Monmouth University in 1999 with a bachelor’s degree in political science and graduated from New York Law School in 2002. Before joining LaRocca, Hornik, Rosen, Greenberg, & Blaha, he served as the law clerk to Hon. Mark A. Sullivan Jr., J.S.C. in the Superior Court of New Jersey. He was a member of the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, and the New Jersey State Bar Association.
JUDGE BRUCE MCM. WRIGHT ’50
IS GIVEN A PLACE IN HISTORY
Go to the intersection of 138th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Boulevard in Harlem and you’ll be standing at the corner recently dedicated to Bruce McM. Wright ’50, and in his old stomping grounds. The new street sign, unveiled at a ceremony in July 2012, now reads “Judge Bruce Wright Place,” and was named for the late New York State Supreme Court Justice in recognition of his quarter-century of service on the bench.

According to Judge Wright’s New York Times obituary, his interest in justice was doubtlessly forged from his experiences as a young African American man growing up before the Civil Rights Movement. Though he excelled in his studies, Wright was discouraged from applying to Princeton University by the school’s officials, who claimed that Princeton wasn’t “discriminatory” per se, it just had “no colored students.” Wright eventually graduated from Lincoln University, a predominantly black school in Pennsylvania, in 1942.

During World War II, Wright registered for the army and served in step with segregated units. He was ultimately decorated with two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. After the war, Wright’s path turned toward the law. In 1946, he enrolled at New York Law School, where the Evening Division, the only program of its kind available at the time, afforded him the ability to work day jobs to support himself and his education.

In his last year of law school, Wright served as a clerk for the prestigious firm of Proskauer Rose Goetz & Mendelsohn. After graduating in 1950, he immediately passed the bar. The Times obituary describes Judge Wright’s recollection, years later, that when he asked Proskauer’s leaders about his future with the firm, the answer he was given was that there wasn’t one.

In 1970, after practicing for 17 years in various black law firms, Wright was appointed by Mayor John V. Lindsay to the New York City Criminal Court bench, where he immediately set the stage for a controversial judicial legacy. Judge Wright already stood out among his criminal court peers as one of the few black judges, a group that made up only 2 to 3 percent of the judiciary in the mid-1970s. Furthermore, he was very outspoken outside the courtroom concerning the unjust treatment of black defendants by his white counterparts. Judge Wright authored Black Robes, White Justice (Lyle Stuart, 1987) regarding race and the judiciary.

The polemics around Judge Wright’s tenure on the criminal court bench intensified. On the one hand, he was heralded as the advocate of “presumed innocent until proven guilty” and a foundation for anti-racism in the judiciary. On the other, he was derided as “Turn ‘Em Loose Bruce,” an alias applied by those (namely the police union, Patrolmen’s Benevolent Association) who took issue with his practice of setting low bail for minority and poor defendants, which resulted in the release of many suspects, including those charged with police-assault.

According to Judge Wright’s son, Assemblyman Keith L. T. Wright—one of the spectators at the recent street sign ceremony, Judge Wright took both of those designations as one and the same: an accolade to his adherence to the Eighth Amendment, which states that “excessive bail shall not be required.” The New York City Bar Association ruled his service on the bench “decidedly better than average,” and he was continually defended by the Legal Aid Society and civil libertarians of the time.

In the Wall Street Journal’s coverage of Judge Wright’s recent honor, Assemblyman Wright said his father wore his “Turn ‘Em Loose Bruce” nickname as “a badge of honor for the community,” and now Harlem has finally been able to return the honor.

1 Published on March 24, 2005.
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www.nyls.edu/TaxLLM

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The Online Mental Disability Law Program provides the knowledge and tools needed to represent and to bring about effective change in the lives and treatment of persons with mental disabilities.

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For more information, call the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 212.431.2800 or e-mail alumni@nyls.edu.