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How NYLS Trains 21st-Century Prosecutors
IN THIS ISSUE

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SPOTLIGHT ON RECENT PROGRESS AND RECOGNITION

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• Meet NYLS’s Newest Alumni Leaders
Marcy L. Grigsby ’06 and Pam Foster ’00
With our campus in the heart of Manhattan’s civic center, it’s not surprising that New York Law School graduates are highly represented in the public service sector.

This issue of New York Law School Magazine focuses on our leadership in prosecution—a field whose national spotlight continues to grow. Prosecutors, in exercising the sovereign power of the state and working on behalf of “the people,” hold a fundamentally unique role in our society and exert a great deal of influence in our justice system. They must continually balance concerns about safety, justice, and ethics. Talk to career prosecutors, and they’ll tell you that the role is not so much a job as a calling.

NYLS’s approach to teaching prosecution is, in many ways, emblematic of our overall philosophy. Our coursework is modern, practical, grounded in ethics, and connected to the dense urban environment in which we operate. Yet, prosecution is also a field in which we stand out among our peers. We offer not one, but two prosecution clinics, connect students to the latest innovators through uncommon partnerships, provide specialized ethics training, and much more. And it doesn’t hurt that we’re the only law school in lower Manhattan.

I invite you to read more about our latest offerings and to meet some of the many NYLS graduates who are shaping 21st-century prosecution.

Anthony W. Crowell
Dean and President
Professor of Law
For as long as she can remember, Professor Tamara Belinfanti has been rankled by injustice.

“I’m very worried anytime I see someone’s voice being silenced, even if I disagree with them,” she says. “I’m driven by protecting and creating a path for those who may not have a voice.”

Her latest work—a new book titled Citizen Capitalism: How a Universal Fund Can Provide Influence and Income to All and the Ethical Shareholder Initiative, a nonprofit project she co-created—reflects the close eye Professor Belinfanti keeps on justice and representation, and the creative ways she’s applying those passions to her expertise in corporate governance.

In Citizen Capitalism, Professor Belinfanti and her co-authors (Cornell law professors Sergio Gramitto and the late Lynn Stout) lay out their proposal for a national fund that would be similar to a mega mutual fund and open to all Americans ages 18 and up. Called the Universal Fund, it would offer every citizen a single share, a proportion of returns generated by the fund, and shareholder voting rights. The book suggests establishing the fund with donations from corporations and ultra-wealthy individuals.

In a recent conversation with New York Law School Magazine, Professor Belinfanti shared details on the book’s Universal Fund proposal and the Ethical Shareholder Initiative. The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.
Universal basic income isn’t a new idea—some trace it all the way back to Thomas More’s *Utopia* from the 16th Century—but the Universal Fund takes a different tack. Can you talk about how the Universal Fund is different and why you believe it’s a better approach?

Universal basic income proposals tend to either rely on government funding or government-directed redistribution of wealth. The Universal Fund does not rely on either. You can think of it as a private solution to a civic problem. Rather than just giving people money, we’re giving citizens a financial incentive to participate in our shareholder system, and through that, to address issues that impact every citizen. We view it as a win-win. It’s a win in terms of this income source, which could be very significant for some people, and the second win is broad participation in corporate governance.

You bring up the income element. How large would the fund need to be to make a significant difference in people’s finances?

Like any financial incentive, most of the impact will be felt by the people who have the least. We give a fair amount of space in the book to running some numbers to explain what we view as the potential. [See sidebar on page 4.]

Also, the fund is designed to grow over time because you’re not allowed to sell, divest, bequeath, or put a lien on your share. A good comparison is the Alaska Permanent Fund. When it started off in 1977, it was fairly minimal. Today, each citizen is getting somewhere between $1,000 to $2,000 annually. To me, that’s a significant amount. Examples like that show the potential of a Universal Fund.

Your sample scenarios rely on a starting fund with trillions of dollars. That means you would need major donations from corporations or ultra-wealthy individuals. How would you sell them on putting up that kind of money to establish the fund?

In the book, we talk a lot about why we believe the private money is there. On the corporate side, S&P 500 companies are spending between $400 billion and $650 billion on share repurchases annually, and those shares are just sitting on their books. They could easily be donated to the Universal Fund. That’s a simple way to start.

Then when you look at something like the Giving Pledge—people who are pledging to give away some percentage of their wealth—those numbers are significant, and they’re growing every day. In a way, we are leveraging the natural incentive that people already have to give. Wealth inequality is on people’s radars, but they’re not sure how best to address it. We’ve done the heavy lifting of constructing a framework.

Let’s shift to the Ethical Shareholder Initiative (ESI). What are the goals behind that project and how does it relate to *Citizen Capitalism*?

ESI is an independent nonprofit project started by myself and Professor Lynn Stout, with the belief that shareholders can be a positive force for both business and social concerns. Lynn passed away in April 2018. She was an internationally recognized expert in corporate governance and business ethics. At ESI, we’re building a platform for shareholders to make voting decisions with ethical, social, and environmental concerns in mind. While the book lays out a theoretical framework for the types of proxy advisory services that would serve the true long-term interests of a shareholder, ESI is exploring how we could provide those services in practice. We’re funded by the Ford Foundation, and we’ll be based on NYLS’s campus as part of the new Social Justice Organization Incubator.

In general, what concerns you most about our current corporate climate?

What I see is a doubling down by those who hold the traditional view that it’s about profits and financials—and that questions about sustainability are tangential. I understand from a human nature perspective why you would double down if this is what you built your career on, but I worry that it’s shortsighted. Somebody called me, at a conference, “part of the progressive corporate law group.” I’d never heard the term before. I said, “I didn’t even know that’s a thing, but what’s so bad about being progressive?”
This brave book, coming on the heels of the first author’s equally bold The Shareholder Value Myth, takes on an even bigger challenge. Its goal is to bring together civil engagement and corporate governance, free enterprise and cooperative participation, through the creation of a universal shareholder fund. Based on a mutual fund model, the proposal would broaden access, bend income distribution, and shift the leverage points in our political system away from oligarchic elites. Citizen Capitalism will contribute to the debate about the responsibility of the corporation for contributing to the public good as well as private profit.

—Sidney Tarrow, Emeritus Professor of Government, Cornell University and author of Power in Movement

This book offers a transformative plan to make corporate ownership and governance more inclusive. It attempts to harness corporate power and resources in the tackling of the challenges of poverty and empowerment. At the heart of the book is the relationship between corporations and society. Through their proposal, the authors strive for a synergic relationship benefiting society. With clinical precision and an extraordinary grasp of history, the book offers a brilliant diagnosis of critical issues facing the world in the field of corporate governance. This is an important and valuable book. It reminds us that the only legitimate end of corporate governance is the well-being of society.

—Muna Ndulo, Professor of Law; Elizabeth and Arthur Reich Director, Leo and Arvilla Berger International Legal Studies Program; and Director of the Institute for African Development

Corporations—like governments—play an essential role in the lives of every American. But most Americans have an extremely limited ability to influence corporate decision-making, and we all live with the consequences. Stout, Gramitto, and Belinfanti offer a bold and creative alternative: What if we had a tool that gave every American a say in how corporations are run—like a superpowered pension fund that made corporations accountable to more than the bottom line? This is a powerful and timely idea, and Citizen Capitalism makes the case extraordinarily well.

—Deborah N. Archer, Associate Professor of Clinical Law, New York University School of Law and former Professor of Law, NYLS

Citizen Capitalism offers fresh thinking at a critical point in our understanding of the effects of shareholder capitalism—from scholars who effectively bridge theory and the practical world of investment, markets, and citizen communities. This book offers an audacious plan on how to use the rules of capitalism to address inequality. I strongly recommend it.

—Judy Samuelson, Executive Director, Business and Society Program, The Aspen Institute

The very bold plan to democratize corporate governance detailed by Stout, Gramitto, and Belinfanti in Citizen Capitalism is sure to be controversial in some circles, but it will also catalyze long-overdue discussions about the role of business in our society. Read this book.

—Alice Korngold, Author of A Better World, Inc. and President and CEO, Korngold Consulting, LLC

ECONOMIES OF SCALE

225 million people

2.25-percent dividend rate

A fund in the trillions

Annual dividends of $100+

“As a starting point, we take the current census estimates of how many U.S. citizens age 18-plus we currently have. That comes out to 227 million adults over age 18. We don’t expect everybody to sign up to become a citizen shareholder. Let’s assume the max who sign up is 225 million.

“We take the average dividend rate for the past few years. We assume 2.25 percent for stocks in the fund portfolio. Assuming 225 million people sign up, a $1 trillion fund generates $100 per person annually; $10 trillion: $1,000; $30 trillion: $3,000.

“Depending on where you sit on the financial ladder, $100 may not make a difference to you. But when you look at the literature—people who are living on the edge, particularly the working poor—it becomes significant.”

—Professor Tamara Belinfanti
In September 2018, NYLS held its Alumni Reunion, honoring classes ending in 3 and 8. The celebration brought 60 years of alumni back to campus, from the Class of 1958 to the Class of 2018. Attendees enjoyed a full day of opportunities to learn and network, from a CLE on fostering diversity in the legal profession to a discussion with Dean Anthony W. Crowell and administrative staff on the School’s progress and planning and a forum on the Post-Kennedy Supreme Court. Reunion ended with a popular rooftop reception, and, for those who weren’t yet done catching up, an Alumni Association after-party. The following morning, NYLS held its Third Annual Hall of Judges Ceremony, honoring alumni who serve at all levels of the judiciary and across all jurisdictions. The day included a tribute to the Honorable Nicholas Tsoucalas ’51. Judge Tsoucalas, who passed away on March 22, 2018, served as a jurist for 50 years, including 18 as a New York City and New York State Supreme Court Judge, and 32 years on the U.S. Court of International Trade. Dean Crowell, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Marcey L. Grigsby ’06, Judge Tsoucalas’s daughters and grandchildren, and his former colleagues reflected on his extraordinary contributions to the legal profession and NYLS. In his memory, and with the support of alumni and friends, NYLS established the Judge Nicholas Tsoucalas ’51 Scholarship Fund to benefit future NYLS students.

The next NYLS Alumni Celebration is May 3, 2019. All alumni are invited, and the School will honor classes ending in 4 and 9. Visit www.nyls.edu/celebration for more.
In July 2018, NYLS announced its Business of Law Institute. The new Institute focuses on the 21st-century technical and operational skills that will help NYLS graduates excel at law firms, corporations, and in government and public interest roles. Its development was guided by insights and recommendations from more than 100 leaders at major law firms and in the legal departments of global corporations. In its first semester, its programming included a technology learning lab with the e-discovery software provider Relativity, as well as master classes in cyber incident response plans, artificial intelligence and smart contracts, and more. NYLS’s legal-tech initiatives have been highlighted in Above the Law, Bloomberg Big Law, The National Law Journal, and the blog What Great Law Schools Do.

In September 2018, Dean Anthony W. Crowell co-hosted a webinar, “Redefining the Relationship Between Law School and Legal Practice,” presented by the American Bar Association Law Practice Division, along with Steven R. Harber ’92, head of legal partnerships at Seal Software; Ari Kaplan, Principal at Ari Kaplan Advisors; and Charles Post ’10, Managing Counsel and Director, as well as Head of Legal Data Management & Advisory, at BNY Mellon. In the fall 2018 issue of preLaw magazine, the School was ranked eighth among the “Top 30 Law Schools for Legal Technology.” The Institute will continue to grow its offerings throughout 2019.

NYLS Adds New Resources for Academic Success and Bar Support

During the summer of 2018, NYLS welcomed a new Assistant Dean for Academic Success, Paulina Davis, and promoted Visiting Professor Cynara McQuillan ’03 to Assistant Dean for Bar Success. Deans Davis and McQuillan are focused on building a seamless continuum of academic support for all day and evening students that spans from the summer before the 1L year through the bar exam. In their first semester, they’ve already added new workshops for students, expanded early outreach to student bar takers, collaborated closely with the NYLS administration and faculty, and directed NYLS’s existing academic and bar support activities, including use of the industry-leading bar support software, AdaptiBar. A generous gift from Arthur Metzler ’94 will fund the tool for all Evening Division bar takers in 2019. Dean Davis is an experienced educator and mentor who previously served as Acting Assistant Professor in the New York University School of Law Lawyering Program. Dean McQuillan brings many years of exceptional teaching experience at NYLS, including as Interim Director of NYLS’s Academic Success Program. She also served as Assistant Director of Bar Programs and Academic Development at another New York City-area law school.

New Clinic Provides Free Transactional Legal Services to Local Businesses and Nonprofits

NYLS’s new Nonprofit and Small Business Clinic has been remarkably busy since its fall 2018 launch. The clinic provides free transactional legal services to groups that serve, or are run by, traditionally marginalized people. Associate Professor Gowri Krishna, an expert in community economic development and worker-owned cooperatives, guides the clinic’s six students in their field work. Operating in pairs, students advise two to three client organizations on projects such as developing employment policies and handbooks, making decisions about governance, evaluating tax exemptions, and negotiating leases and other contracts. The clinic also engages students in the broader racial and economic disparities their clients seek to address and includes seminar courses on ethics, counseling, and interviewing. As of the fall 2018 semester, clients included Emma’s Torch, which trains refugees in culinary skills and operates a Brooklyn restaurant; DREAM!, a Bronx-based group that teaches young people mediation and conflict-resolution skills; the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development, a coalition that advocates for affordable housing; Brooklyn Kindergarten Society, an early education provider to young children living in public housing; Coopportunity, a franchisor of worker-owned cleaning businesses; La Fortaleza Community Development Corporation, an organization that protects and amplifies arts in Harlem; a nonprofit that helps people transition out of homelessness; and a women-run collective of food caterers.
In a Tribeca penthouse, surrounded by 360-degree views of Manhattan, hundreds of leaders in law, business, and public service celebrated four powerhouse NYLS alumni.

The School’s 2018 Gala—themed “NYLS Powers Our Business and Civic Communities”—honored Karen Artz Ash ’80, John D. McMahon ’76, Julie Muniz ’97, and James Tricarico Jr. ’77 for their leadership in law and embodiment of NYLS’s core values. The four distinguished alumni were joined by colleagues, clients, family, and friends at the celebration, held on November 15, 2018.

Ash, McMahon, Muniz, and Tricarico have made names for themselves as influential leaders in industries that are critical to the New York City and global economies. Ash is a renowned intellectual property expert in the fashion industry, McMahon has led the region’s most critical energy infrastructure companies, Muniz provides sought-after business immigration counsel to companies building diverse global workforces, and Tricarico guided the financial services sector through unprecedented periods of change. All four have played equally vital roles as supporters of NYLS and its students.

The honorees shared touching accounts of how NYLS was instrumental in their professional success and why they decided to invest in its students and programs. Dean Anthony W. Crowell reflected on the values NYLS instills in all of its graduates, including civic engagement and service to those in need.

The speakers included Thomas Falcone, CEO of the Long Island Power Authority; Christopher Lewis, Principal and General Counsel at Edward Jones; other distinguished members of the legal profession; and student leaders Ehi Borha 4L Evening, Ally Simels 3L, and Barbie Melendez 4L Evening.

NYLS’s annual Gala raises funds for career-changing student scholarships, innovative academic programs and legal clinics, and cutting-edge faculty research. Alumni who would like to create opportunities for the next generation of leaders can join NYLS’s giving community at www.nyls.edu/give.
“When I walked in the door, I felt at home. I loved law school. I still love law school. I come back and teach every spring. … Tonight is about letting others have their dream.”

—Karen Artz Ash ’80

“The Law School gave me access to legal education, and then the Law School gave me an opportunity at Con Edison. … New York Law School is a center of opportunity.”

—John D. McMahon ’76

“Thank you, New York Law School. Thank you for the education. Thank you for the opportunity. Thank you for the platform from which to launch my career.”

—James Tricarico Jr. ’77

“I remember feeling like all of the professors, the staff, and the administrators had one goal in mind: to help us succeed. During my second year, I had the honor of meeting the incomparable Lenni Benson. I took her immigration class, and I continue to be inspired by her every day.”

—Julie Muniz ’97
In spring 2018, NYLS was ranked No. 4 nationally in preLaw magazine’s top law schools for “Public Service—Public Defender/Prosecutor”
It’s a unique moment to be a prosecutor.

Headline-generating figures like Robert Mueller, Rod Rosenstein, Sally Yates, and Preet Bharara—NYLS’s 2017 Commencement speaker—have drawn national attention to the role of prosecutors and to intricate questions about prosecutorial independence and ethics, topics that rarely otherwise make their way onto cable news.

Meanwhile, individual prosecutors, including many at the local level, are reshaping their profession. In recent years, dozens of District Attorney’s offices around the country, including several in New York State, established conviction review units. Reform-minded prosecutors dedicated to addressing mass incarceration and racial inequities have been elected. Many prosecutors’ offices now take a public health approach to cases involving mental illness and drug misuse. And community courts, once considered experimental, have expanded in New York City and beyond. In short, it’s a fascinating time to join the field.

NYLS has long attracted and developed future prosecutors, as evidenced by its deep bench of alumni in the field. Today, from its campus in the heart of Manhattan’s Civic Center—and through its inventive practical training, focus on social justice, and exciting new partnerships, the School is securing its place as a premier training ground for 21st-century prosecutors.

A PUBLIC INTEREST FOCUS

At NYLS, prosecution-track and defense-track students affiliate with the same academic center: the Impact Center for Public Interest Law. As a result, future prosecutors take common courses with future defense attorneys, including a required Professional Responsibility course specially tailored to criminal lawyers.

The shared experience “creates a really good conversation,” says Professor Rebecca Roiphe, a former Manhattan prosecutor, who teaches the ethics class. “Students tell me years later that those conversations stay with them throughout their careers.”

In addition, NYLS’s Brooklyn Prosecution Clinic partners with its Criminal Defense Clinic, which assists on Legal Aid Society cases. Students from the two clinics attend a joint three-week boot camp at the beginning of the clinics and an ongoing seminar about high-profile issues in the criminal justice system. One topic likely to generate discussion this year is New York’s “Sealing Law,” which took effect in October 2017 and allows people who have been convicted in no more than two cases (and no more than one felony) to apply to have their criminal convictions sealed. The Criminal Defense Clinic will begin assisting clients with these applications in spring 2019.

Professor Anna Cominsky ’05, who teaches the Criminal Defense Clinic, sees value in the dialogue. “Prosecutors have so much power,” she says. “They have the ability to change lives. Understanding the impact of a conviction and that there are alternatives to incarceration is vitally important.”

A STAND-OUT SIMULATION COURSE

Nearly any conversation about NYLS’s prosecution coursework includes mention of Advocacy of Criminal Cases. And it’s hard to imagine a simulation course more ambitious. The course manages to fit 6 credits and an entire simulated felony case into a single spring semester.
Students are divided into teams of four, two prosecutors and two defense attorneys, and are told that an arrest has been made. Based on their roles, they interview either a “police officer” or a “defendant,” played by actors, and begin to pursue an investigation or mount a defense.

Because most students take Advocacy of Criminal Cases in their 2L year, it has become a cornerstone in future prosecutors’ training. It comes after foundational criminal law and procedure courses, Trial Advocacy (a simulation course on basic trial skills), and Professional Responsibility: Criminal Practice. And it’s a pre-cursor to the Criminal Prosecution and Defense clinics, as well as NYLS’s robust array of criminal justice externships. As a result, it’s a crucial bridge for students contemplating criminal justice careers, at a stage when they have both a solid foundation and the flexibility to pivot.

“Advocacy of Criminal Courses takes the silos we teach—Evidence, Crim Pro, Crim Law—and forces students to cut across all of those silos,” says Professor Frank Bress. He developed the course in 2003 and still teaches it.

The course “teaches students the fundamentals they need to try a criminal case and helps them decide which clinic they might take in their 3L year,” says Professor Anna Cominsky ’05, who also teaches it.

The simulated post-arrest interview is only the beginning. Students also draft a complaint, appear at the arraignment and bail hearing, prepare a grand jury presentation and grand jury charge, draft and file an indictment, conduct an investigation, make and respond to motions, conduct a suppression hearing, and work through an entire jury trial, including jury selection, with high school students playing jurors—all in a single semester.

“The whole course is built around teaching students to actively investigate the case through their own efforts,” Professor Bress says. “If the student prosecutors don’t do a good job, they can’t bring charges. It emulates reality.”

“Advocacy of Criminal Cases is a rich experience,” says Professor Mariana Hogan, who supervises a section of the course. “It becomes real to the students.”

“Not One, But Two Prosecution Clinics”

Many schools have a prosecution clinic. NYLS has two, a boon for future prosecutors. One clinic partners with the Kings County (Brooklyn) DA’s Office, the other with the New York County (Manhattan) DA’s Office.

Adjunct Professor Charles Guria ’86, a longtime prosecutor in the Kings County DA’s Office, helped start the Brooklyn clinic in 2009 and was the first person to teach it.

“Our students work in the busiest part in criminal court, where they handle all manner of criminal cases,” he says. “By the end of the clinic, they’ve prosecuted between 20 and 25 cases. That kind of experience is invaluable when they go to a job interview.”

In the Manhattan clinic, every student handles their own caseload of quality-of-life offenses, working in a separate part of court from the Criminal Defense Clinic to avoid a conflict of interest. Three days a week, they’re in court, where they appear on the record all morning. Each fall, they undergo the same six-week orientation boot camp as rookie Manhattan Assistant District Attorneys.

Larken Kade, an experienced Manhattan ADA now teaching the fieldwork portion of the clinic for her third year, says that the student ADAs are treated as if they were first-year ADAs.

“They have to think about their impact on the community, the victims, and those we prosecute,” she says. “They are student ADAs for the people.”

Kade’s background includes prosecution of street crimes and sex crimes. This year, she’s co-teaching the fieldwork portion of the clinic with Wesley Cheng, a fellow ADA with experience in identity theft prosecutions who has worked at the New York State Attorney General’s Office.

Professor Lynn Su, a former Bronx ADA, co-teaches the seminar portion of the Manhattan Clinic with Kade and Cheng. The seminar complements the fieldwork and covers ethics, professionalism, and timely issues relating to the criminal justice system.

“There is a strong mentoring aspect to the clinic because the supervising attorneys work closely with the students on a regular basis and serve as role models,” Professor Su says. “In the seminar, we discuss case preparation and strategy. We also explore broad topics, such as prosecutors’ obligation to promote justice and the responsible exercise of prosecutorial discretion.”
ROBUST PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

In October 2018, NYLS launched its Office of Public Service and Pro Bono Initiatives, a single-stop resource for public service academic and career advising. Experienced public interest career advisor Swati Parikh is the office’s inaugural Executive Director.

Parikh runs targeted professional development sessions for future prosecutors, including mock interview programs that teach essential skills, like fielding criminal hypotheticals. She also brings in full-time prosecutors, often alumni, to meet with students and share advice.

“This is a really good community to come into if you want to be a prosecutor,” Parikh says. “Every year our students get hired at all of the prosecutors’ offices in the city, as well as in Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk, and New Jersey.”

The Office of Public Service and Pro Bono Initiatives is part of NYLS’s new Social Justice Hub, dedicated space on campus that houses both NYLS programming and external nonprofits. One is Fair and Just Prosecution, a leading national nonprofit that has built a network of newly-elected local prosecutors committed to fairness, equity, compassion, and fiscal responsibility. Another national organization, the Fines & Fees Justice Center, advocates to eliminate the harmful and unjust impacts of criminal justice system fines and fees.

Staff from both nonprofits operate out of NYLS’s campus, allowing students to work side-by-side with dynamic change-makers in the field.

An Experienced Prosecutor Joins NYLS’s Faculty

Alvin L. Bragg Jr. brings a wealth of public service expertise to his new role as Visiting Professor of Law at NYLS. Professor Bragg, who joined the School in January 2019, teaches criminal law courses and is Co-Director of NYLS’s Racial Justice Project.

He most recently served as Chief Deputy Attorney General for the New York State Attorney General’s Office, where he reported directly to the Attorney General and helped run the office of more than 1,500 people.

“One of the things I love most about government is that you get a lot of responsibility from a junior level and beyond,” he says. “Joining NYLS is a wonderful opportunity to help students navigate the beginning of their public service careers.”

Before he was appointed Chief Deputy Attorney General, Professor Bragg led the office’s Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit, founded in 2015 to investigate law enforcement conduct resulting in the death of unarmed civilians. He joined the Attorney General’s Office in 2013 as Executive Deputy Attorney General for Social Justice, where he oversaw bureaus focused on charities, civil rights, environmental protection, health care, and labor issues.

His career before the Attorney General’s Office included the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, where he prosecuted white-collar and street crimes, and the New York City Council, where he oversaw the City Council’s litigation and investigations.

Professor Bragg has always been drawn to issues of government accountability.

“Whether it’s a bribery case involving midlevel public servants, excessive use of force by a police officer, or corruption by the former majority leader of the state Senate, it’s about protecting public integrity,” he says.

He’s excited about NYLS’s emphasis on practical training. The School currently houses more than 20 clinics and experiential learning courses in The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity.

“Any law school would present the opportunity to develop new public service lawyers, but there are very few law schools with the same practical, real-world focus that NYLS has,” he says. “That’s what drew me to the School.”
A 360-DEGREE APPROACH

Increasingly, students who plan to become prosecutors are enrolling in NYLS’s Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic, which gives critical perspective on the outsized influence prosecutors exert.

“In our clinic, future prosecutors can learn how prosecutions go awry, how evidence can be distorted, and which reforms reduce the prevalence of wrongful convictions,” says Distinguished Adjunct Professor Adele Bernhard, who teaches the clinic.

The Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic has worked with Conviction Review Bureaus recently created by New York DAs, including in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Suffolk County.

“Coursework in wrongful convictions is incredibly important,” says Professor Hogan, who began her career as a public defender.

Some NYLS students gravitate toward juvenile prosecutions, which are fundamentally rehabilitative and adjudicated in Family Court instead of Criminal Court. Professor Lisa Grumet teaches family law courses and leads NYLS’s Diane Abbey Law Institute for Children and Families.

“The juvenile justice system emphasizes both community safety and the best interest of the child,” Professor Grumet says. “There is a focus on alternative programs to help with the underlying issues that might have contributed to the child’s actions and to prevent future involvement in the adult criminal justice system.”

Students in NYLS’s new Children and the Law simulation course, which Professor Grumet co-teaches with Professor Samantha Pownall ’11, work through a mock juvenile delinquency hearing and study the juvenile system’s important distinctions in terminology, process, and outcomes. They also learn about attorneys’ roles in the education and child welfare systems.

Five graduates of the Class of 2018 joined the New York City Law Department’s Family Court Division, which oversees juvenile prosecutions in the five boroughs and expanded its staff dramatically following the passage of New York’s “Raise the Age” law. By October 2019, most 16-year-olds and 17-year-olds will be considered juvenile, not adult, offenders. The development is a watershed moment for the state and has dramatically increased the demand for family law attorneys.

NYLS is also involved in the growing area of restorative justice. Restorative justice techniques include youth courts and community courts, which use problemsolving to resolve nonviolent cases and often engage victims, as well as those

Staten Island District Attorney Michael McMahon ’85 Speaks About Combatting the Opioid Crisis

“Recognizing the significant challenges facing Staten Island as an epicenter in the heroin and prescription drug epidemic, I made this issue a central focus of my administration upon taking office as District Attorney in 2016. Since that time, my office has developed and deployed a multi-pronged plan that includes greater collaboration between law enforcement and the health care community in order to address both the supply and demand sides of the drug crisis.

“Working closely with the NYPD, we created New York City’s first Overdose Response Initiative to investigate overdose deaths as criminal investigations, which has led to the arrest and prosecution of Staten Island’s most dangerous drug dealers—individuals responsible for peddling deadly poison in our communities and preying on those suffering from addiction.

“At the same time, to address the substance abuse issue, my office created, then launched, several anti-drug initiatives, including the Heroin Overdose Prevention & Education (HOPE) program to expand treatment options and facilitate innovative early diversion opportunities for those suffering from addiction who find themselves in the criminal justice system. As we continue to fight every day against the scourge of heroin and opioids, I am proud to say that our combined efforts have helped save lives and hold criminals more accountable.”
Prime Time for Prosecutorial Ethics

Professor Rebecca Roiphe has been speaking and writing about prosecutorial ethics for more than 15 years. Now, as a contributing legal analyst at CBS News, she also appears regularly on national TV to unpack complex ethics questions about the President, the Department of Justice, and the FBI.

How has the way people think about prosecutors changed in the past couple of years?

In recent years, many people were learning about how problematic prosecutors could be, and it brought a great deal of attention to the criminal justice system and the reforms needed. But in the last two years, we’ve also seen how fundamentally important prosecutors are to American democracy and the rule of law.

As you’ve noted, the Supreme Court has never weighed in on the tradition of separation between U.S. Presidents and their Departments of Justice. Should it?

It’s a question that doesn’t come before the Supreme Court very frequently. President Nixon argued that he didn’t have to comply with the subpoena from the Department of Justice for his White House tapes because he controls the Department. But the Supreme Court didn’t address that question and instead ruled on narrower grounds that the tapes were not subject to executive privilege. Congress has, at times, also tried to weigh in on this question, and it hasn’t worked out well. When they created the position that ended up being Ken Starr, they made his role so independent that it was problematic. Ultimately, I think it would be helpful for the Court to weigh in.

You’re part of a robust network of fellow criminal justice professors. Why is scholarly exchange on these issues so vital?

I think it’s particularly important in this field. Aside from the major issues we see in the news, questions about prosecutorial norms, traditions, and cultures reach down to all levels of federal and state prosecution. That includes questions about how we can redirect prosecutors who’ve been too focused on convictions to think about the social justice issues and civil liberties of defendants in a more nuanced way. I’m proud to be among the scholars who have explored these questions for a long time.

As not only a former prosecutor but also a historian, what is your impression of watching people analyze these issues on a platform like Twitter, where immediacy is king?

Twitter places a premium on being incendiary and, of course, pithy. I like that it forces people to say things succinctly and that it brings a lot more voices into the conversation. But academics can lend critical perspective. When people are saying, “This never happened before!” we know that it did happen before and can provide nuance.

Are you seeing a rising interest in this field among students?

Yes, I think a lot of people are excited about prosecution and about public service in general right now. What’s great about NYLS is that so many of our graduates work at the local level of the criminal justice system, and their jobs affect many, many people. That adds to the excitement of both teaching and being NYLS students at this moment.
Profiles of Alumni Leaders and Innovators

Suzanne Bettis ’14
Sherene Crawford ’09
Charles Guria ’86
Lawrence Piergrossi ’98
Aimee Sklar-Calogero ’04
Karen Varriale ’97
While she’s on “beeper duty” for the Queens District Attorney’s Office, Suzanne Bettis never knows when she’ll be summoned to an active crime scene or what she’ll find there: gunshot victims, fatal car crashes, suspicious deaths.

Those aren’t scenes that most lawyers ever see firsthand. But Bettis is an Assistant District Attorney in the Homicide Investigations Bureau, and a major part of her work is responding whenever an incident occurs in Queens County during one of her shifts. Often, it’s the middle of the night. Once at the scene, she might be tasked with writing search warrants or subpoenas, interviewing suspects or witnesses, drafting criminal charges, arraigning defendants, and generally ensuring that “everything is done within the letter of the law,” she says.

“I have a strong stomach,” she says. “I can go out to any scene and encounter anything, because I’ve already seen worse.”

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Bettis and her family moved to the United States in the early 1990s. She enlisted in the Marines straight out of high school—but her long-term dream was law school. After her first deployment in 2006, she became a corrections officer, seeking to understand how her work as a future prosecutor could impact people’s lives. When her final deployment ended in 2007, she turned her focus to academics.

As a student at NYLS, Bettis started the School’s first Military Justice and Veterans Association to help other veterans and their dependents take full advantage of their Veterans Affairs educational benefits. She credits a 3L externship at the Manhattan DA’s Office with teaching her to think on her feet, balance a caseload, interview witnesses, and run a court calendar.

“In Queens looked at that and expected that I’d be able to hit the ground running,” she says.

In her current role, Bettis finds deep satisfaction in helping those who have lost a loved one find justice and, she hopes, closure. It’s something that frustrated her as a Marine, where she couldn’t reveal specifics to families because details of combat operations are classified.

“They tell you in law school to find your niche,” Bettis adds. “Not everybody can withstand what I’m observing daily while also working efficiently as a lawyer. I’m just thankful that my work allows me to merge my experiences in the military with what I do now. Some people aren’t that lucky.”

As a rookie prosecutor in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office, Sherene Crawford did shifts at Midtown Community Court, one of the country’s first “problem-solving” courts. Today, as the court’s Director, she trains new prosecutors on its unique approach to resolving low-level crimes.

In 1993, when the court opened in Midtown Manhattan, it was dubbed “a much-debated experiment” by The New York Times and met with criticism from prosecutors and defense attorneys alike. Twenty-five years later, groups from around the world visit to observe its model of restorative justice.

“The climate has changed over the past 25 years, but Midtown has always focused on our community and the individuals we work with,” Crawford says.

The court is operated by the Center for Court Innovation, a nonprofit. Its programs target common low-level offenses in Midtown, including prostitution and drug charges. The court arraigns cases for four local precincts and takes on borough-wide cases related to its specialty areas. Crawford’s team connects offenders to drug treatment, counseling, community service, and programs for sex trafficking victims.

In September 2018, Midtown launched an overdose avoidance and recovery part, in response to New York City’s opioid abuse epidemic. Participants can enter treatment without having to take a guilty plea.

Crawford wears many hats at the court, from...
long-range planning and strategy to overseeing
the more than 30 staff who operate Midtown’s
social services, community service, and early
diversion projects. To ensure Midtown is
responding to the neighborhood’s concerns,
she meets regularly with local police, other
city agencies, nonprofit groups, and business
leaders.

“We’re always asking, how can we continually
adjust services to meet new needs?”
Crawford says.

Her experience with domestic violence and
trafficking victims shapes her approach. As an
evening student at NYLS, she worked full-
time at the Brooklyn Family Justice Center,
operated by the Mayor’s Office to Combat
Domestic Violence. Before law school, she
served at the victim services nonprofit Safe
Horizon. Yet, her experience as a Manhattan
prosecutor is equally relevant to her current
role.

“Working in the DA’s office was one of the
best jobs I ever had,” she says. “It taught
me how to understand the interests and
priorities of the prosecutor when it comes
to public safety. It also allowed me to hold
people accountable while remaining aware of
the impact of crime on individuals, families,
and communities.”

After the District Attorney’s Office,
Crawford helped launch an institute at John
Jay College of Criminal Justice committed
to rethinking measures of success for
prosecutors.

She says that NYLS exposed her to
professional pathways beyond litigation,
particularly through the Mediation Clinic,
in which students resolve low-level cases in
Small Claims Court.

“The clinic taught me that
there were different ways to
solve problems than through
confrontation,” she says. “It
was one of the first times I
had thought about the law
as something other than an
adversarial tool.”

Charles Guria is a successful prosecutor
who began his career on the other side of
the table, as a staff attorney at The Legal Aid
Society. That perspective has guided him
since.

“As a defense attorney, I saw
firsthand that a prosecutor
wields tremendous power,”
he says. “In my opinion,
some wielded that power
appropriately, and others
didn’t. That was not lost on me
when I came to prosecution
work.”

After nearly three decades at the Kings
County District Attorney’s Office, he is
still highly attuned to the influence of his
position.

“There are prosecutions I’m very proud of,
but it’s just as important to me that I cleared
people who weren’t guilty,” he says.

Today, Guria is a Senior Assistant District
Attorney working in parts of Central and
South Brooklyn, in one of five trial zones his
office has established. The zones are effective,
Guria says, because ADAs get to know
local police and the unique needs of each
community.

“We focus on solutions that fit the
neighborhood instead of blanket policies,”
Guria says.
For Lawrence Piergrossi, a successful career as a prosecutor began with a random act of violence. In August 1993, Piergrossi, a lifelong New Yorker and then a senior in college, was shot in the neck by a stranger. He nearly died, and the perpetrator was never identified.

Nearly 25 years later, in December 2017, Piergrossi won the prestigious Thomas E. Dewey Medal, given to a member of each New York City District Attorney’s office who has performed with excellence. In a speech at the award ceremony, he called the Bronx District Attorney’s Office, where he has spent the past two decades, “the only place I ever wanted to work.”

Piergrossi enrolled at NYLS the year after the shooting, intent on pursuing justice for other victims. He credits the School with helping him secure a position in the Bronx DA’s office before he graduated. Today, he is Chief of Trial Bureau 50, where he supervises around 40 Assistant District Attorneys of all levels and handles his own high-profile caseload. He also oversees annual training programs for dozens of junior prosecutors.

Piergrossi has watched the office evolve over time, and he’s enthusiastic about the new initiatives DA Darcel Clark has implemented. In 2016, the office launched a special unit on Rikers Island to respond quickly to violent incidents with inmates. The same year, it shifted from a horizontal model of prosecution, in which different ADAs work on individual phases of the same case, to a vertical model, in which a single ADA handles the case from initiation to resolution.

“The vertical model lends itself to swifter and more effective prosecutions, and the ADAs who handle each case know it inside and out,” Piergrossi says. “There’s a much more holistic approach to being a prosecutor now, and that’s how it should be.”

Over the course of his career, he’s worked in the office’s Investigations, Special Victims, and Trial Divisions. As a result, he’s conducted pre-arrest investigations on offenses ranging from public corruption to gun trafficking; taken on cases of domestic violence, sex crimes, and crimes against children; and tried more than 50 cases to verdict, including homicides, violent felonies, and some of the office’s most politically-charged public corruption prosecutions.

One 2016 case involved the cover-up of an inmate beating by senior officials at the Department of Corrections, including a Chief. The three-and-a-half-month trial involved 10 defendants. Piergrossi landed convictions for nine. The pressure, he says, was intense.

“I had two veteran prosecutors sitting with me,” he says. “And we were facing off against a group of more than 10 defense and union lawyers, plus 50 to 60 members of the union in the courtroom daily.”

Winning the Dewey Medal has brought his remarkable career into perspective.

“I grew up in this office,” he says. “There was always a pantheon of senior ADAs I looked up to. When I was notified about the medal, I said, really? Me? It was hard to wrap my mind around it, but I guess it’s my time.”

When Aimee Sklar-Calogero began law school, she wasn’t sure which field she would pursue, but she was certain that it wouldn’t involve litigation.

“It’s funny because now that’s what I do,” she says. But Sklar-Calogero isn’t a traditional litigator, or even a traditional prosecutor. Her role as Deputy Chief of the New York City Law Department’s Family Court Division involves responding to offenses—from shoplifting to homicide—committed by children and teenagers.

New York City’s juvenile justice system is wholly separate from the adult criminal justice system and uses distinct terminology. Acts that would be crimes if committed by adults are prosecuted by Law Department attorneys in Family Court, instead of by Assistant District Attorneys in Criminal Court.

“It’s a high-volume, fast-moving field, and some of the cases involve young people with extreme needs,” Sklar-Calogero says, referring to both the accused and the victims, who are often children themselves. “We have to determine how best to meet their needs while protecting the community.”

Sklar-Calogero joined the Family Court Division upon graduating from NYLS and served as a supervisor in Brooklyn and
Queens, before becoming Chief of Staff. Now, as Deputy Chief of the Division, she oversees its administration, operations, and planning. Even though she doesn’t have her own caseload, she stays closely plugged into citywide case outcomes and helps ensure that the Division’s approach emphasizes rehabilitation over punishment.

“We’re constantly looking at available diversion programs, from youth court to mediation,” she says. She’s overseen the hiring of social workers, a psychologist, and staff who research new diversion programs.

In October 2018, Sklar-Calogero’s work changed substantially when New York City passed its long-anticipated “Raise the Age” legislation. The law changes the maximum age of juvenile delinquents from 15 to 16 for all misdemeanors and some felonies, removing some of the youngest defendants from the adult criminal justice system. In October 2019, the age will again raise to 17.

Sklar-Calogero played a central role in helping her team recruit, hire, and train a high volume of legal and support staff quickly to meet the increased need.

The daughter of New York City civil servants, Sklar-Calogero credits NYLS with exposing her to a wide variety of public service career options, and she was inspired by taking Professor Lenni Benson’s Civil Procedure class as a 1L.

“As a longtime prosecutor, Karen Varriale is used to hearing “like on Law & Order?” anytime she tells someone what she does for a living—and for many years, the answer was yes. But as of late 2017, Varriale has a different response. Now she explains that while she used to prosecute drug cases, robberies, sex crimes, and homicides, her new job is to keep low-level offenders out of the criminal justice system.

Based out of the Brooklyn DA’s Office, where she is a Senior Assistant District Attorney, Varriale runs Brooklyn CLEAR (Collaborative Legal Engagement Assistance Response). The program allows people who are arrested on a misdemeanor drug possession charge to avoid court and jail time simply by accepting help.

Through a peer assessment, they’re encouraged to pinpoint which services would make the biggest impact on their lives. It may be inpatient detox or outpatient methadone access, or it could just be help reworking a resume—leading to fresh job options—or obtaining a new ID card in order to secure Medicaid benefits.

“In our office, now the alternative is incarceration, and the mainstream is finding a solution,” Varriale says.

It’s a substantial shift from when she became a prosecutor in the late 1990s. She remembers when narcotics officers would sweep an entire housing project and bring in dozens of people in a single night for minor drug offenses. As a young prosecutor, it was Varriale’s job to help process, charge, and arraign them.

“Drug courts and problem-solving courts just didn’t exist in the early ’90s,” she says. “At the misdemeanor level, you didn’t offer treatment.”

Though she couldn’t have predicted the turn her career has taken, Varriale says she did know, from the time she first thought about law school, that she wanted to become a prosecutor. At NYLS, she found a mentor in Professor Robert Blecker—“I took every class he taught,” she says—and interned at the Brooklyn DA’s office and for a New York State Supreme Court Criminal Term Judge.

NYLS’s core criminal law classes “gave me a great foundation,” she says. Her experiences launched her straight into the Staten Island DA’s Office after graduation. She stayed there in various roles until 2017.

In 2015, Varriale won the Thomas E. Dewey Medal, which honors an outstanding ADA in each New York City District Attorney’s office. Soon after, she started work on Staten Island’s Overdose Response Initiative and its Heroin Overdose Prevention and Education (HOPE) Program. Like CLEAR, the HOPE program diverts low-level drug offenders into treatment rather than sending them through the criminal justice system.

Varriale says she’s come to see substance misuse disorder as a health issue rather than a crime—best treated with assistance, not punishment. “In our office, under DA Eric Gonzalez, our definition of success is saving lives and strengthening the community’s trust in the criminal justice system,” she says.
FULL-TIME FACULTY ACTIVITIES

The following items represent a sampling of the recent activities of our full-time faculty.

Susan J. Abraham

Appointments
Joined the Restorative Justice Initiative’s Board of Directors and Advisors (2018).

Presentations
Served as a final-round judge in NYLS’s Charles W. Froessel Intramural Moot Court Competition (September 2018).


Awards and Recognition
Received advanced Service Law School (June 2018).

Presentations

Alan I. Appel ’76

Appointments
Joined the Restorative Justice Initiative’s Board of Directors and Advisors (2018).

Presentations
Served as a final-round judge in NYLS’s Charles W. Froessel Intramural Moot Court Competition (September 2018).


Awards and Recognition
Received advanced Service Law School (June 2018). 

Presentations

Tamara C. Belinfanti

Appointments
Panelist at a joint meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Taxation and ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law in Austin, Texas. His panel was titled “Hiding the Ball” (September 2017). 

Delivered a lecture for HAB Bank titled “FATCA: Beyond GIIN” (August 2017).

Publications

Lenni B. Benson

Awards and Recognition
Received the Kobak Prize from the New York County Lawyers Association for her role in developing a November 2017 program on sanctuary cities (June 2018).

Honored with the 2018 Candlelight Award by the James Jay Dudley Luce Foundation for her work with young immigrants through the Safe Passage Project, a nonprofit she founded at NYLS (March 2018).

Publications

Co-authored a critique of immigration hearings posted in the Yale Journal on Regulation’s blog, Notice & Comment, titled “Fair Process in Name Only” (October 2017).

Advocacy
Co-authored a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions expressing alarm about new case completion quotas for immigration judges (August 2018).

Media References and Appearances

Presentations
Presented at a joint meeting of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Taxation and ABA Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law in Austin, Texas. His panel was titled “Hiding the Ball” (September 2017). 

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Advocacy
Co-authored a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions expressing alarm about new case completion quotas for immigration judges (August 2018).

Media References and Appearances
Robert Blecker

Media References and Appearances
Featured prominently in the “Deflategate” documentary, *Four Games in Fall* (spring 2018).

Lloyd Bonfield

Appointments
Visiting Professor of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he taught a course (largely remotely) for students participating in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria (2017–18).

Camille Broussard

Appointments
With NYLS Professor David Chang, led NYLS’s Academic Support Curriculum Committee in a successful search to fill two newly created positions—the Assistant Dean for Academic Success and the Assistant Dean for Bar Success—in the ongoing effort to design and implement a continuum of academic support programming and services from First Week through the bar exam (2017–18).

Kirk D. Burkhalter ’04

Awards and Recognition
Winner of the Class of 2018 Teaching Award (June 2018).

David Chang

Appointments
With NYLS Professor Camille Broussard, led NYLS’s Academic Support Curriculum Committee in a successful search to fill two newly created positions—the Assistant Dean for Academic Success and the Assistant Dean for Bar Success—in the ongoing effort to design and implement a continuum of academic support programming and services from First Week through the bar exam (2017–18).

Richard Chused

Publications

John Crowell

Appointments
Appointed to work with the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Deans’ Forum Steering Committee to design programs for the 2019 Deans’ Forum at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, and to moderate a panel at the 2019 meeting (February 2018).

Elected to the Board of The Congressional Award Foundation in Washington, D.C. The Congressional Award is awarded to youth through age 23 who have demonstrated exceptional community service and other achievements. Dean Crowell was a Congressional Award recipient in 1987 (October 2017).

Robert Blecker

Presentations
Hosted a symposium with the *New York Law School Law Review* titled “What Can Law Teach Sport and Sport Teach Law (yers)?” As part of this day-long symposium, an idea he conceived, he held an in-depth discussion with Marc Lasry ’84, CEO and Co-Founder of Avenue Capital Group and Co-Owner of the NBA’s Milwaukee Bucks, as well as the world’s leading thinkers in the philosophy of sport (October 2017).

Publications

Lloyd Bonfield

Presentations
Participated in a seminar for Argentine judges organized by Judge Leo M. Gordon of the U.S. Court of International Trade. His lectures include “An Introduction to American Law” and European Union Directives Regarding Shareholders’ Rights” (September 2018). Participated in a session on “W idows in European Economy and Society, 1600–1920,” at the 42nd Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association in Montreal, Canada. His paper discussed what he has called the “Inheritance Conundrum,” how families created intergenerational succession strategies that protected the interests of widows while providing portions for their children (November 2017).

Publications
Presentations
Gave welcome remarks at the Personal Democracy Forum (PDF) 2018 held at NYLS. PDF is the world’s longest ongoing conference on how technology is changing politics, government, and civic life (June 2018).
Panelist at ALM’s Legaltech Legalweek. Spoke on a panel titled “The Evolution of the Legal Services Business Model.” Other panelists included CEOs, General Counsels, and Chief Strategy Officers of tech and industrial firms in and around the legal tech space (January 2018).
Featured speaker at the induction ceremony for Justice Anthony Cannataro ’96, who was elected to New York State Supreme Court and is also the Administrative Judge of the Civil Court of the City of New York (December 2017).
Co-hosted the Public Pension Trustees Fiduciary Conference in conjunction with the New York City Mayor’s Office of Pensions and Investments and the Initiative for Responsible Investment. He was the luncheon speaker and spoke about New York City’s efforts to enhance trustees’ exercise of fiduciary responsibilities over the past 15 years (October 2017).
Attended the National Association for Law Placement Summit on Emerging Careers for Law Grads in Washington, D.C. He was a featured speaker on the topic of “Informed and Engaged Outreach for Emerging Legal Jobs: A Template for Law Schools” (October 2017).

Catharine Du Bois
Presentations
Spoke at the Western Regional Legal Writing Conference 2018 at the University of California, Irvine School of Law on preparing effectively for the face-to-face interactions junior lawyers have with supervisors and clients and how to best convey professionalism and legal acumen (September 2018).

Stephen J. Ellmann
Awards and Recognition
Received the President’s Medal, given at NYLS’s 126th Commencement, for his exceptional and lasting contributions to the NYLS community, including through his advocacy for the rule of law at home and overseas (June 2018).

Stacy-Ann Elvy
Awards and Recognition
Article, “Paying for Privacy and the Personal Data Economy,” published in the Columbia Law Review, was identified as one of the best works of recent scholarship relating to commercial law and privacy law in a peer review published in Justweli: The Journal of Things We Like (JOTS) (January 2018).

Appointments
Appointed an advisor on the American Law Institute’s Principles for a Data Economy, a new joint project with the prestigious European Law Institute (June 2018). One of 15 legal experts from across the country selected to participate in a roundtable held by the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., evaluating the Internet of Things, privacy, security, and liability issues (October 2017).
Appointed Vice Chair of the American Bar Association’s Article 2 UCC Committee (September 2017).

Awards and Recognition
Honored for having of the best panels at the Annual Spring Meeting of the American Bar Association’s International Financial Products & Services Committee. He moderated a panel that analyzed the 2008 financial crisis titled, “Financial Crisis Reform ... or a Financial Crisis/ Missed Opportunity?” (October 2017).

Appointments
Elected a public representative of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee of the National Futures Association, the derivatives industry’s principal self-regulatory organization (February 2018).

Publications
Spoke at international conferences and programs in Cape Town and Pretoria, South Africa, Mexico, and Peru, focusing on how derivatives are regulated in the United States and their comparisons with the laws and regulations outside the United States (August 2018, October 2017, and August 2017).

Publications
“Ask the Professor—What Is the Impact of the Recent Second Circuit Decision in Tower Research Capital on the Global Futures Markets?,” Futures &
Awards and Recognition

Kris Franklin

was a member of a group chosen as a finalist for the Leading Edge Prize for Educational Innovation given by Wolters Kluwer Legal Education (September 2018).

Doni Gewirtzman

Presentations

Gave an “Impact Today!” presentation at NYLS on the Judge Brett Kavanaugh confirmation hearings that was co-sponsored by the Impact Center for Public Interest Law and the NYLS chapter of the American Constitution Society (September 2018).

Awards and Recognition

Anne Goldstein

Winner of a 2018 Diversity Champion award from NYLS’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion for her efforts to support a diverse and inclusive campus (March 2018).

Presentations

With NYLS Professor Lynn Boepple Su, presented at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The theme of the conference was “Wellness for You, Your Students, and Your Career.” Professors Goldstein and Su’s presentation, “Getting Them at Hello: Creative Techniques and Exercises to Engage and Energize New Law Students,” focused on classroom activities that demystify the law school experience and introduce essential lawyering skills (March 2018).

Jeffrey J. Haas

Publications


Litigation

Successfully defended the auction house, Gotta Have Rock & Roll’, in litigation brought by Madonna Ciccone (a.k.a. “Madonna”) in connection with Madonna-related memorabilia consigned to the auction house by Madonna’s former art consultant, Darlene Lutz. Included in the memorabilia was a letter.
hand-written by rapper Tupak Shakur, valued at over $300,000 and sent to Madonna while Shakur was serving time at the Clinton Correctional Facility in upstate New York. As part of the litigation, Professor Haas personally deposed Madonna at the offices of Proskauer Rose LLP in Manhattan.

**Gerald Korngold**

**Presentations**

Addressed the opening plenary session of the American Planning Association (APA) 2018 Policy and Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. His topic was “Infrastructure Finance: The Legal Calculus” (September 2018).


Spoke at The University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy on “Land Value Capture as a Revenue Raising Tool for State and Local Governments.” His remarks were part of a program on public finance for urban planners (March 2018).

Gave a speech to the Government Finance Officers Association meeting in Washington, D.C., on “Value Capture as a Revenue Raising Tool for State and Local Governments” (December 2017).

Spoke at an International Land Value Capture Research Symposium in Cambridge, Massachusetts. His topic was “Legal Foundations and Regulatory Frameworks for Value Capture in the U.S.” Law professors from Brazil, Spain, and Israel also addressed these issues under their respective legal systems (August 2017).

**Publications**


**William P. LaPiana**

**Presentations**

Gave a CLE presentation on the proposed New York Trust Code to the Surrogate’s Court Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association (September 2017).

**Arthur S. Leonard**

**Presentations**

Addressed the New York Society for Ethical Culture on a range of labor topics. He was invited by Dr. Richard Koral ’78, a leader in the organization, titled “A Battle Over Statutory Interpretation: Title VII and Claims of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination” (February 2018).

Spoke as part of LeGaL’s LGBT Law 2017 Year in Review CLE Annual Program (January 2018).

**Publications**


Chronicled the latest legal developments affecting LGBTQ rights through his monthly scholarly newsletter, “LGBT Law Notes,” its accompanying podcast, and his frequent legal analysis and coverage in *Gay City News* (2017–18).

**Advocacy**

Co-authored an amicus brief in support of a gay inmate who was beaten and subjected to homophobic slurs by other inmates in a Florida prison (July 2018).

**Molly Manning**

**Awards and Recognition**

That Helped Us Win World War II, was selected for Laconia, New Hampshire’s “One City, One Book” reading program at the New Hampshire State Library (September 2018).

Presentations

Publications

Awards and Recognition
Remained in the top 10 percent of authors on SSRN by all-time downloads, with 2,000 downloads of his articles as of September 2018 (2017–18).

Presentations

Publications

Appointments
Appointed Assistant Dean for Bar Success and Visiting Professor at NYLS (August 2018).

Presentations
Co-presented on her work teaching critical reading and thinking with the Ron Brown Prep Program Foundation at the AccessLex Legal Education Research Symposium in Clearwater Beach, Florida (November 2017).

Edward A. Purcell Jr.

Presentations
Appeared at high-profile book events at NYLS and in Washington, D.C., with Dean and Professor Emeritus James F. Simon on Professor Simon’s new book, Eisenhower vs. Warren: The Battle for Civil Rights and Liberties. At both events he interviewed Professor Simon on the constitutional law and legal history themes in the book. The NYLS event was broadcast on C-SPAN 2 (May and April 2018).

Presented a paper and served as a panelist at a symposium held at New York University School of Law titled “A Decision for the Ages: A Symposium Marking the Centenary of Masses Publishing Co. v. Patten” (October 2017).

Advocacy
Led NYLS’s Securities Arbitration Clinic in an especially active academic year. The clinic filed its first first-ever Whistleblower Complaint with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, successfully negotiated a settlement on behalf of an elderly couple whose former brokers had misled them, and protected other clients’ savings and investments (2017–18).

Michael Roffer ’03

Publications

Appointments
Appointed a Subject Matter Expert for the Multistate Professional Responsibility Examination (MPRE). She will join a group of scholars and practitioners in drafting and reviewing MPRE questions (May 2018).

Awards and Recognition
Named the liaison between the Association of American Law Schools and the American Bar Association Standing Committee for Ethics and Professional Responsibility (October 2017).

Presentations

Publications
“May Prosecutors Take Direction From the President?” Fordham Law Review (October 2018) (with B. Green).


Op-ed, “Pardoning Paul Manafort might not be such a bad idea if Donald Trump wants to take a risk,” USA Today (August 2018).

“Can the President Control the Department of Justice?” accepted in the Alabama Law Review (February 2018) (with B. Green).

Ross Sandler

Presentations
Participated in a ceremony at the New
York City Council where the Council adopted a proclamation honoring the 25th anniversary of the Sports & Arts in Schools Foundation (SASF). He co-founded SASF with two others in 1992 and served as chair of its board from 2012 to 2015 (October 2017).

Presentations
As Director of the Center for New York City Law at NYLS, introduced public officials and delivered remarks at the Center’s high-profile CityLaw Breakfast Series (2017–18).

Publications
“Holding Congress Accountable: A New Deal-era proposal would produce more effective, less burdensome regulation,” The Regulatory Review (February 2018) (with NYLS Trustee Professor D. Schoenbrod).

Media References and Appearances
Quoted in “Why Trump’s Name Could Be Hurting His N.Y.C. Golf Course and Other City Concessions,” The New York Times (September 2018).

Quoted in “Bill de Blasio is reportedly looking for a way to tear up the city’s contracts with the Trump Organization after Michael Cohen’s guilty plea,” Business Insider (September 2018).

Andrew Scherer

Appointments
Named Co-Chair of the Civil Right to Counsel Task Force of the New York City Bar Association (May 2018).

Presentations
Attended the Equal Justice Conference sponsored by the American Bar Association and the National Legal Aid & Defender Association in San Diego, California, where he moderated a panel, “New York City’s Groundbreaking New Right to Counsel in Evictions: A Critical Piece in the Struggle for Housing Justice,” and spoke on a panel, “Civil Right to Counsel in the Trump Era: Protecting Vulnerable Communities from Fees/Fines, Deportation, Increased Inequity, and More” (May 2018). Attended the Seventh Annual Law School Access to Justice Conference at Pace Law School, where he was a co-facilitator of the working group on “Optimizing Law School Instruction and the Hiring Process to meet the Challenge of the Universal Access to Legal Services Law in New York City Housing Court” and moderated the panel “How Law Schools Can Strengthen the Pipeline: Best Practices in Preparing Law Students for Public Interest and Housing Lawyering” (May 2018).

SPEAKING AT THE 2017 EMERGING LEGAL TECHNOLOGY FORUM IN TORONTO, CANADA.

Houman B. Shadab

Presentations
Spoke at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank Group’s Spring Meeting in Washington, D.C. on the panel “Smart Contracts: Are They Really Contracts and Are They Really Smart?” The panel was part of the IMF and World Bank’s New Economy Forum and FinTech Exchange (April 2018). Led a workshop on smart contracts and blockchain. The workshop was a prelude to the 2018 Computational Law & Blockchain Festival, co-sponsored by NYLS, in which Professor Shadab and NYLS students participated (March 2018). Moderated a panel on smart contracts at the annual Wall Street Blockchain Alliance event held at NYLS (November 2017). Gave a presentation on contract digitization at the annual Clio Cloud Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference included over 1,200 attendees from 20 countries and keynote speakers such as former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Preet Bharara (September 2017). Spoke on the panel “Data & Analytics in the Law” hosted by Evolve Law in New York City (September 2017).

Jacob S. Sherkow

Appointments
Appointed to the National Academy of Medicine for a three-year term, as part of a group of Emerging Leaders in Health and Medicine (July 2018). Named a permanent visiting professor, at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Biomedical Innovation Law at the University of Copenhagen, the largest current grant in the field (January 2018).

Presentations

Publications


FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS 29
Richard K. Sherwin

Appointments
Completed six-month dual fellowships at the University of Cambridge. He served as Visiting Fellow at Fitzwilliam College and Research Scholar at CRASSH, the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (January to June 2018).

Presentations
Delivered the invited lecture "Eschilus’s Dream: Re-Imagining Shakespeare’s States" at the CRASSH conference "Law and Poetics in Early Modern England and Beyond," University of Cambridge (July 2018).

Faith Stevelman

Presentations
Presented a paper, “What Corporate Boards Should Do,” to kick off a conference at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law (September 2018).

Nadine Strossen

Appointments
Appointed to the Advisory Board of the Heterodox Academy, a collaboration among professors who want to advance and promote viewpoint diversity in the academy (August 2017).

Presentations
Delivered the keynote address at the “Forum on Free Speech in Higher Education” held by the U.S. Department of Justice. Other speakers included Attorney General Jeff Sessions and U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander. The event was carried by C-SPAN2 (September 2018).
Spoke at a forum sponsored by the National Constitution Center on “The First Amendment and Hate Speech” at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston, Massachusetts. The other participants included U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen G. Breyer (March 2018).
Testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions in a hearing titled “Exploring Freedom of Speech on Campus,” which was covered by C-SPAN (October 2017).
Spoke and interviewed nonstop, throughout the United States and internationally, averaging one talk per day, to promote the ideas in her new book, HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship (2017–18).

Publications
Edited and contributed to Volume 6: A Cultural History of Law in the Modern Age in A Cultural History of Law series (Bloomsbury Academic, 2018) (with D. Celermajer, ed.).

Publications
Edited and contributed to Volume 6: A Cultural History of Law in the Modern Age in A Cultural History of Law series (Bloomsbury Academic, 2018) (with D. Celermajer, ed.).

Publications

Media References and Appearances
Did a multitude of interviews to discuss her new book, HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship, along with other free speech topics, including appearances on PBS, CBS, NPR, C-SPAN, Fox News, and many other outlets (2017–18).

Lynn Boepple Su

Presentations
Panelist at the Mindfulness in Law Society Southeastern Association of Law Schools 2018 Conference held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The topic of her panel was “Mindfulness and Professional Identity: Creating Calm and Confidence by Overcoming the Imposter Syndrome” (August 2018).
Attended the New York State 2018 High School Mock Trial Tournament semi-finals held at the James T. Foley U.S. Courthouse in Albany, New York and served as a bailiff in one of the rounds. Professor Su is a member of New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Law, Youth & Citizenship, which runs the annual event (May 2018).
With NYLS Professor Anne Goldstein, presented at the Rocky Mountain Legal Writing Conference at the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. The theme of the conference was “Wellness for You, Your Students, and Your Career.” Professors Su and Goldstein’s presentation, “Getting Them at Hello: Creative Techniques and Exercises to Engage and Energize New Law Students,” focused on classroom activities that demystify the law school experience and introduce essential lawyering skills (March 2018).
Presented at the Teachers’ Orientation for the New York City High School Mock Trial Tournament. The tournament is sponsored by the New York State Bar Association, New York City Department of Education, Justice Resource Center, and New York County Lawyers Association’s Law Related Education Committee (December 2017).
Participated as a workshop leader in the Bronx District Attorney’s Orientation Training Program for new assistant district attorneys (September 2017).


Media References and Appearances
Interviewed extensively about the CRISPR patent appeal decision in dozens of national media outlets including NPR, Nature, Gizmodo, and Wired (September 2018).

Appointments
Completed six-month dual fellowships at the University of Cambridge. He served as Visiting Fellow at Fitzwilliam College and Research Scholar at CRASSH, the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (January to June 2018).

Presentations
Delivered the invited lecture “Eschilus’s Dream: Re-Imagining Shakespeare’s States” at the CRASSH conference “Law and Poetics in Early Modern England and Beyond,” University of Cambridge (July 2018).

Ruti G. Teitel

Awards and Recognition
Ranked in SSRN’s Top 10 percent of authors and reached 4,000 paper downloads (August 2018).

Her book, Transitional Justice, was named one of top five books on the subject of transitional justice on the website Five Books (August 2018).

Publications
Her groundbreaking book, Transitional Justice, was translated and published in Chinese and in Spanish (October and September 2017).

Presentations
Gave a lecture, “Transitional Justice as Narrative,” at the Faculty of Law, Hebrew University of Jerusalem (June 2018).

Gave a talk at the International Peace Institute on “Negotiating Peace After Wars of Atrocity” to an audience of hundreds of diplomats and policy analysts (April 2018).


Ann F. Thomas

Awards and Recognition
NYLS’s Graduate Tax Program, which she directs, was voted first in the “Best Banking/Bankruptcy/Tax LL.M. Program” category for the ninth year in a row by readers of the New York Law Journal (September 2018).

Presentations
Testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee on, respectively, “The State of Intellectual Freedom in America” and “Filtering Practices of Social Media Platforms” (September 2018 and April 2018).

Ari Ezra Waldman

Publications
Privacy as Trust: Information Privacy for an Information Age (Cambridge University Press, March 2018).


“Safe Social Spaces,” accepted for publication in the Washington University Law Review (August 2018).

“Love, Privacy, and Online Dating,” accepted for publication in Law and Social Inquiry (August 2018).

Find more faculty activities at www.nyls.edu/FacultyNews

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BARry Appleton  
**Media References and Appearances**  
Quoted in “Key Changes To The New NAFTA’s Disputes Mechanisms,” Law360 (October 2018).

ADELE Bernhard  
**Advocacy**  
With students from NYLS’s Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic, persuaded the New York State Parole Board to grant parole to a man who had served 22 years for his alleged involvement in a shooting and had maintained his innocence throughout (January 2018).  
With Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic students, is actively working with Conviction Review Bureaus recently created by various District Attorneys in New York. The clinic has cases pending with the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Suffolk County District Attorney’s Offices (2018).

Berkwin Cohen ’99  
**Litigation**  

HEATHER Cucolo ’03  
**Awards and Recognition**  

Presentations  
Guest speaker at the New York University Silver School of Social Work’s “Evolving Justice, Session VI: Social Work and Sex Offenses” event (April 2018).  
Guest lecturer at New York University School of Medicine’s Legal Literature series (2018).

Publications  
“‘The Strings in the Books Ain’t Pulled and Persuaded’: How the Use of Improper Statistics and Unverified Data Corrupts the Judicial Process in Sex Offender Cases” was listed in the SSRN top downloads accepted for publication in the Case Western Reserve Law Review (September 2018).  

JOANNE Doroshov  
**Presentations**  
Featured speaker at the Loyola Consumer Law Review 2018 Symposium at Loyola University Chicago School of Law. The conference theme was “Class Action Effectiveness as a Consumer Protection Tool,” and the topic of her remarks was “Federal Reform and the Legislative Fight” (March 2018).

Advocacy  
In her role as Executive Director of the Center for Justice & Democracy, wrote and/or organized coalition or group letters to Congress on a range of bills, to advance the Center’s civil justice and consumer advocacy goals (2017–18).

Media Recognition and Appearances  
Interviewed by the syndicated radio show CounterSpin in “An Employer Can Unilaterally Force Employees Into Secret Arbitration Systems” (June 2018).  

RICHARD FRIEDMAN  
**Appointments**  
Appointed, by the New Jersey Supreme Court, to an attorney ethics committee in New Jersey, where he is serving a four-year term (September 2017).

KIMBERLY Maynard  
**Awards and Recognition**  

Presentations  
Participated in numerous panels for the American Cheese Society that focused on trademark issues faced by the cheese industry (December 2017 to February 2018).  
Led a presentation on “Using and Protecting Intellectual Property in Performance” at the Association for Performing Arts Professionals New York City Conference (January 2018).  
Moderated a panel for the International Trademark Association titled “From Creation to Console—Understanding IP in a Video Game World” (November 2017).

Publications  
Published two articles on intellectual property issues faced by dance professionals in Jerome Robbins, News From the Jerome Robbins Foundation (June 2018 and November 2017).  
Published an article discussing contractual issues in the dance industry in Dance Magazine (December 2017).
Johanna Miller ’08

Appointments
Named inaugural Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) and American Civil Liberties Union’s joint Education Policy Center (October 2018).

Publications

Advocacy
Co-produced the Museum of Broken Windows, a pop-up art exhibit in Greenwich Village exploring the legacy of NYPD profiling and the “broken windows” crime-control strategy. The museum was open for nine days, featured four panel discussions and a documentary screening, and received more than 11,500 visitors. It was featured in The New York Times, The Guardian, NY1, Time Out New York, amNewYork, NowThis News, Sirius XM, and others (September 2018).

Media References and Appearances

F. Peter Phillips ’87

Awards and Recognition
Honored by the New Jersey State Bar Association’s Dispute Resolution Section as the recipient of the 2018 James B. Boskey Award for ADR Practitioner of the Year. The award is widely recognized as the highest honor an individual can achieve in the development and practice of ADR in New Jersey (September 2018).

Publications

Lawrence P. Schnapf

Publications
Article, “Shades of Superfund,” about proposed Superfund reforms, in the newsletter of the American Bar Association Environmental Transactions and Brownfields Committee (July 2018).

John Scordo

Presentations
Presented the lecture “GDPR [General Data Protection Regulation] and Data Privacy: What You Need to Know” to the Association of Corporate Counsel of New Jersey (May 2018).

Publications

Claire R. Thomas ’11

Awards and Recognition
Received the Outstanding Service Award from John Jay College of Criminal Justice’s Latin American and Latino/a Studies Department for her work with the NYLS Asylum Clinic to provide legal immigration screenings to John Jay students, friends, and family (May 2018).

Presentations
Faculty presenter at “Ethical Issues for the Immigration Practitioners,” a CLE sponsored by the Practising Law Institute as part of the 50th Annual Immigration and Naturalization Institute (December 2017).

Publications


Advocacy
With four other advocates—brought together by the Feerick Center for Social Justice at Fordham University School of Law—worked with New York City’s Human Resources Administration, Department of Homeless Services, and the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs to develop a procedure to protect the privacy of asylum-seekers and survivors of trafficking when seeking shelter in New York City and conducted trainings to ensure its effective implementation (October 2017 to July 2018).

Media References and Appearances
Featured on the Voice of America Persian edition’s live broadcast discussing the Rubin v. Islamic Republic of Iran case. This case involves the commercial activity exception to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and the possibility of the attachment of ancient Persian tablets, on scholarly loan from Iran to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, to satisfy a judgment against Iran (December 2017).

Lynne M. Fischman Uniman

Awards and Recognition
Honored by the New York County Lawyers Association as an Outstanding Woman in the Legal Profession (December 2017).
ADJUNCT ALUMNI

NYLS GRADUATES COME BACK TO THE CLASSROOM

Dozens of NYLS adjunct faculty members are not only accomplished practitioners—they’re also devoted alumni. A selection of alumni adjuncts shared their approach to teaching the next generation of NYLS graduates.

CHRISTOPHER BINNS ’12

Associate, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
Course: Advanced Legal Methodology

“I was once in my students’ shoes: a first-year law student trying to adjust to the demands of law school while learning how to speak and write about the law with authority. As a practicing attorney, I understand what is expected of students once they graduate. With these expectations in mind, I try to help my students determine an approach to solving legal problems that makes the most sense for them and will best serve them throughout their law school careers and beyond.”

JUDITH BRESLER ’74

Of Counsel, Withers Bergman LLP and co-author of Art Law: The Guide for Collectors, Investors, Dealers and Artists
Course: Art Law

“Having taught Art Law at NYLS for more than 20 years, I am impressed by my students’ level of engagement with this course. A number of them have decided to pursue Art Law as a field of practice, and it is particularly gratifying to me to come across one of them in later years on the opposite side of a negotiation!”

BERWIN COHEN ’99

Partner and Head of the New York Office, Wolffers Cohen & Edderai LLP

“Lawyers today must take a holistic general counsel approach in every engagement. NYLS’s tax courses focus on developing that approach, at a very high academic level, through inductive case-study, real-world application, and the creation of marketable skills to jump-start careers and professional advancement. In addition, teaching is an expression of gratitude for the quality education I received at NYLS and a chance to further promote the School’s prestige in the international business community.”

HEATHER ELLIS CUCOLO ’03

Owner and Partner, Mental Disability Law and Policy Associates, LLC
Courses: Criminal Procedure, Adjudication; Criminal Procedure, Investigation; Mental Disability Law and Criminal Law; Professional Responsibility for the Criminal Lawyer; and Sex Offenders

“My approach to teaching closely follows what I experienced as an NYLS student: a focus on the real-life application of legal principles, a push to think critically and analytically, and the importance of treating future clients with compassion and respect—even if society deems them to be the lowest of its members. I also share my stories and personal experiences as a trial attorney representing people labeled mentally ill and sexual predators. My hope is that every student leaves my courses feeling empowered and inspired to take on whatever lies ahead in their legal journey.”
A VITAL NEW LINK BETWEEN NYLS AND ADJUNCT FACULTY

Professor Howard S. Meyers was recently named Dean of Adjunct Faculty Engagement at NYLS. In the role—a newly created position—he’s forging deeper connections between NYLS and its community of accomplished adjunct faculty members. His work includes coordinating the appointment of new adjunct faculty members, ensuring they receive institutional training, counseling them on developing appropriate goals and outcome assessments for their courses, serving as a mentor, and linking them to other full-time faculty mentors based on subject matter. And Dean Meyers has already hit the ground running, with a survey of the adjunct faculty, undertaken as part of NYLS’s new five-year strategic plan. Its results will guide additional steps in 2019 and beyond.

DAVID FISH ’96
Counselor and Attorney at Law, David M. Fish P.C.; Athlete Manager
Courses: Drafting Contracts and Drafting General Principles

“I run my own solo practice law firm, where I practice employment law, commercial litigation, and criminal defense, among other areas. I also operate my combat sports management agency, MMA Fighter Management. Of the many things I do, teaching my students, acting as the NYLS Sports Law Society advisor, and staying connected to NYLS are the most rewarding. I cherish my ongoing relationship with NYLS, and my students keep me sharp and on my toes.”

JOHANNA MILLER ’08
Advocacy Director, New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU)
Course: Legislative Advocacy Clinic

“When I was a law student, it was challenging to find mentors and experience doing non-litigation policy advocacy. So in my teaching, I focus on exposing NYLS students to the entire spectrum of public interest lawyering beyond impact litigation. My work at NYCLU includes legislative advocacy, public education, community organizing, and media strategy, and I want my students to have access to all of those tools.”

JASMIN ELENA TORRES ’14
Housing Unit Staff Attorney, Manhattan Legal Services
Course: Housing Rights Clinic

“As an alum, it has always been important for me to give back to the community that gave me the tools necessary to shape the practitioner I am today. The Housing Rights Clinic is a wonderful opportunity for students interested in housing law to immerse themselves in the practice and gain invaluable hands-on experience. As someone who has always aspired to teach, it has been an honor to not only participate in the pilot year of this amazing clinic but to also say that one of my former clinic students is now my colleague!”

JUSTIN XENITELIS ’06
General Counsel and Vice President of Legal, Thor Equities, LLC
Courses: Commercial Leasing and Drafting Real Estate Documents

“As an NYLS student, some of my most memorable moments were when professors shared their real-world experiences from practice. Now, as a full-time attorney immersed in New York City’s fast-paced real estate sector, I strive to bring this same practical approach to my class by treating students as if they are associates in my legal department and by sharing my day-to-day challenges and lessons from the field.”
SEND US YOUR NEWS!

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1950

Leon H. Gildin’s novel, *The Polski Trilogy*, was published by Dorrance Publishing Co. in September 2017.

Maurice R. (Hank) Greenberg received the Crain Lifetime Achievement Award from Starr Companies for his outstanding accomplishments in the insurance and risk management sector. The award was presented to Greenberg, current Chairman and CEO of C.V. Starr & Co., Inc., at the Business Insurance U.S. Insurance Awards in March 2018. He is former Chairman and CEO of American International Group, Inc. (AIG), a member of the NYLS Board of Trustees since 1969, and Trustee Emeritus since 1984.

1957

Hon. Edward G. McCabe was honored by the Nassau County Bar Association and the Town of Hempstead at its 119th Annual Dinner Dance in May 2018. The event recognized his 60 years of service in the New York State Bar. Fellow alums Jeffrey Halbreich ’66 and Robert Young ’66 were in attendance and honored for their 50 years of service. Judge McCabe is Special Counsel at the firm Sahn Ward Coschignano, PLLC.

1966

Joel Ackerman writes that he and his wife Ruth have moved to Tel Aviv, Israel, and anyone who knows them is welcome to visit.

1966

Robert Young was honored by the Nassau County Bar Association and the Town of Hempstead at its 119th Annual Dinner Dance in May 2018 for his 50 years of service in the New York State Bar. Jeffrey Halbreich and Hon. Edward G. McCabe ’57 were also honored.

1972

Marvin Ray Raskin has been appointed to the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct by Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie—for a four-year term ending March 31, 2022—as reported by the *New York Law Journal* in “Marvin Ray Raskin Appointed to the NY Commission on Judicial Conduct,” in April 2018. He is an attorney with offices in the Bronx and Yorktown Heights. He previously served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx and has been a member of the Bronx County Bar Association for over 35 years, was elected president in 1994, and since 1996 serves as Chair of its Criminal Courts Committee. He is a member of the New York City Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary and Vice Chair of the Central Screening Committee, Assigned Counsel Plan, for the Appellate Division, First Department.

1974

Hon. John J. Brunetti was appointed Legislative Counsel to New York State Senator John A. DeFrancisco, as reported in December 2017. Judge Brunetti previously served as Counsel to DeFrancisco from 1993 to 1995. He is in private practice in Syracuse, New York, serves as a judge on the Oneida Indian Nation Court, and is a retired Superior Criminal Court Judge.

1975

**Hon. Douglas McKeon** was appointed new Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court, First Department as of January 2018, as featured in the November 2017 *New York Law Journal* article “NY Names New Presiding Justice of Appellate Term of Supreme Court, First Department.”

**Marianne Spraggins** was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the New York City Campaign Finance Board in April 2018. A former member of the NYLS Board of Trustees, while working at Smith Barney, she became the first African American female Managing Director on Wall Street. She also served as Senior Counsel to the Congressional Oversight Panel, a body created by Congress to oversee the U.S. Treasury’s implementation of the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program. She is currently an associate broker at Mont Sky Real Estate and Director of GrowNYC, promoting sustainability in New York City.

1976

**Robert Gaulin** writes that, in addition to owning his own practice since 1993, he and his family, including wife **Patti (née Kallman) ’79**, have opened Brookfield Indian Motorcycle (BIM) in Connecticut. He notes that after BIM’s first full calendar year in business, it was recognized as a “Diamond Signature Dealer” among nearly 200 Indian Motorcycle dealers. He writes, “Will I ever retire from either ‘job’? Maybe, but not before exploring the feasibility of creating one or more other motorcycle stores!”

**Benjamin Ostrer** was appointed one of the 14 members of the Commission on Forensic Science by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo in May 2018. He was also honored at the New York State Bar Association’s annual meeting and Justice for All luncheon in January 2018 for having received one of two New York State Bar Association 2017 Outstanding Pro Bono Volunteer Awards as an Empire State Counsel honoree. He won based on his hundreds of hours of exemplary pro bono work. This is the second time in three years Ostrer has received this award. He is founder and Senior Partner at Ostrer & Associates, P.C. in Chester, New York.

**Gail S. Port** was named to the 2017 *New York Metro Super Lawyers* “Top 100” and “Top 50 Women” lists. She is Senior Partner at Proskauer Rose LLP where she is head of its interdepartmental Environmental Group.

1977

**Gregory Lasak**, who was born and raised in Woodside, Queens, and retired from his role as a Queens Supreme Court Justice in September 2018, announced that he will run for Queens District Attorney in 2019. His decision was covered by the press, including in “Judge and former prosecutor born and bred in Woodside announces run for Queens district attorney” in the *New York Daily News*.

**Christina M. Storm** received the President’s Medal at NYLS’s 126th Commencement ceremony in June 2018, for her work as the founder and executive director of Lawyers Without Borders. She was also named to the “2018 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America” list alongside fellow alums **David N. Kelley ’86**, a partner at Dechert LLP, and NYLS Trustee **Errol B. Taylor ’87**, a partner at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP.

1978

**Marcy Cohen** was featured in “Meet These Women GCs Who Are Transforming the Legal World” in *Corporate Counsel* in January 2018. She was also honored at the New York County Lawyers Association celebration of “Outstanding Women in the Legal Profession” in December 2017. Cohen is Managing Director and General Counsel of ING Financial Holdings Corporation and Chief Legal Officer and Managing Director of ING Americas, as well as a member of ING Americas Regional Management Team and its risk and compliance committees.

**Scott A. Weiner** was named Partner and head of the energy practice at Florio Perrucci Steinhardt and Cappelli LLC in February 2018. The firm is led by former New Jersey Governor James Florio.

1979

**Hon. Joan Marie Azrack** was featured in “Judge on Mangano case described as fair, ‘brilliant’ and tough” in *Newsday* in March 2018. 

**Renée R. Chernus** is the incoming President of the Northern California Chapter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is a family law attorney in Marin County, California where she is certified by the California State Bar as a family law specialist.

1980

**Hon. Vincent Del Giudice**, a Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice, was honored by the Columbia Association of U.S. Customs and Affiliated Federal Agents at its October 2017 Italian Heritage Day Luncheon Celebration in Howard Beach. The story was featured in “Justice Del Giudice honored by Columbia Association of U.S. Customs,” in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.

**Mianne Spraggins** was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to the New York City Campaign Finance Board in April 2018. A former member of the NYLS Board of Trustees, while working at Smith Barney, she became the first African American female Managing Director on Wall Street. She also served as Senior Counsel to the Congressional Oversight Panel, a body created by Congress to oversee the U.S. Treasury’s implementation of the $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program. She is currently an associate broker at Mont Sky Real Estate and Director of GrowNYC, promoting sustainability in New York City.

**Neldra M. Zeigler** was a recipient of the Kathleen Grimm Medal for Distinguished Public Service at NYLS’s 126th Commencement ceremony in June 2018, alongside her spouse, **Douglas Zeigler ’81** (also pictured), and fellow alumn **Monique Baptist ’18**.

**Hon. Jonia I. Tricbwater**, a judge in the Town and Village Courts of Red Hook, New York, was elected as a representative to the New York State Bar Association’s House of Delegates for the 9th Judicial District in 2018. The House of Delegates is the State Bar’s policymaking body. The 9th Judicial District encompasses the Hudson Valley counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester.

**Amirali Y. Haidri** was appointed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey to be Vice Chair of its Committee on Attorney Advertising with regulatory and enforcement powers for the 2018 term. Haidri also writes that his article, “Limitations of Action that Govern Insurance Claims” in *N.J. Lawyer Magazine* (August 2012), is a reference that appears in the Annotations to New Jersey Statutes. He adds that he “succeeded in reestablishing the sparingly applied doctrine of estoppel...
against New York state agencies,” citing his representation for the appellant in *Konner v. NY. City Transit Authority*, decided in 2016, by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department.

Hon. Robert C. Mulvey, Associate Justice of the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, Third Department, reports that he “sat as an Associate Judge of the New York State Court of Appeals by designation under Article 6, Section 2 of the New York State Constitution,” on October 11, 2017.

1981

Henry Cornell was elected to the Board of Directors of MRC Global Inc. in June 2018. He is the founder and Senior Partner of the private investment firm, Cornell Capital LLC, with offices in New York and Asia.

Saul Fishman was reelected to a third three-year term as Civil Service Bar Association President in May 2018. His reelection was featured in *The Chief-Leader.*

Norman J. Radow, a real estate entrepreneur, CEO of The RADCO Companies, and a member of NYLS’s Board of Trustees and Center for Real Estate Studies Advisory Board, was named to the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*’s “Most Admired CEO” list and featured in “Q&A with Norman Radow, 2018 Most Admired CEO” in July 2018. He was also featured in “Q&A with Norman Radow, CEO at RADCO” in *Multi-Housing News Online* and “Hurricane Harvey May Accelerate Multifamily Absorption in Houston, Says RADCO CEO Norman Radow” in *Rebusiness Online* in September 2017.

John Wynn, Chair of the Montclair Planning Board, was featured in “Who’s Who on the Montclair Planning Board” in the *Montclair Local* in August 2017. He serves as Senior Counsel at LG Electronics USA, Inc. in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

Douglas Zeigler was a recipient of the Kathleen Grimm Medal for Distinguished Public Service at NYLS’s 126th Commencement ceremony in June 2018, alongside his spouse, Neldra M. Zeigler ’79, and fellow alum Monique Baptist ’18.

Robert J.A. Zito is happy to announce that he was appointed Assistant Professor of Business Law at Marist College School of Management in August 2017. He is Senior Counsel and Chair of the Financial Institutions Regulatory and Enforcement Practice Group at Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP in New York City.

1982


Steven G. Gaebler was honored by Schneps Communications, publishers of the *Courier* chain of newspapers, as one of the 2017 Kings of Queens at an awards and networking event in Flushing, Queens in October 2017. The awards are given to top businessmen in Queens. Gaebler is a partner in the Banking and Finance practice group and Real Estate practice group at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP in Uniondale, New York.

Christine T. Lepera, a partner at Mitchell Silberberg & Knupp LLP, was named to *Billboard* magazine’s 2018 “Top Music Lawyers” list.

George Russo was appointed to the Queens Library Board of Trustees by Borough President Melinda Katz in March 2018. His appointment was reported by the *Queens Chronicle.*

Ronald V. Zezima was elected President of the New Rochelle Bar Association in 2018.

1983

Vincent Viola was named to the *Forbes 400 List*, published in October 2018. Viola, who owns the Florida Panthers Hockey Club, was also honored as “Sportsman of the Year” by the National Italian American Sports Hall of Fame at its 40th Annual Induction and Awards Gala in Chicago, Illinois in November 2017.

Meryl Dewey (née Fishman) published a new book, *Parenting Teen Girls 24/7*, under her maiden name, Meryl Fishman, in February 2018. She reports, “Ten percent of all royalties will go to not-for-profits helping to prevent and/or treat teen drug addiction in memory of Dr. Jack Fishman, the developer of Naloxone.”


Michael Miller published the *New York Law Journal* op-eds “Now More Than Ever, Lawyers Need to be Leaders” in November 2018 and “Lawyers Have a Special Obligation to Our Democracy” in August 2018. He has served as President of the New York State Bar Association since June 2018. He was previously President of the New York County Lawyers Association from 2002 to 2004 and has received numerous honors for pro bono service.

Michael Selverne, Principal at Selverne & Co., was named to *Billboard* magazine’s 2018 “Top Music Lawyers” list.

1984

William B. Stock announced the opening of his solo practice, which focuses on appellate law and legal research, in March 2018. His practice includes drafting appellate briefs, motions, and oral arguments and research. He is building on his more than 15 years of experience with appellate-related matters and “more than 150 reported decisions from the Appellate Division and the Appellate Term,” his announcement noted. Stock was previously an appellate attorney at Cheven, Keely & Hatzis.

Paul A. Friedman is the Executive Director of VTV Family Outreach Foundation, the nonprofit created by the families of the victims and the survivors of the Virginia Tech mass shooting on April 16, 2007. He worked with the City of Alexandria, Virginia and students from the Virginia Tech Landscape...
Consulting firm, and a strategic
of Alchemy Capital Planning LLC,
in March 2018 and is a member
Counsel to the law firm Dentons
was named Senior
Jeffrey Scheine
on YouTube by the Risk Group LLC
and Cyber-Law Challenges” published
“Emerging Trends in Cyber-Crime
Risk Roundup Webcast to discuss
Tokyo, Japan. She participated in the
Security Research Institute based in
policy worldwide. She is founder
cybercrime, and data privacy law and
commentary on cybersecurity,
white papers, legislation, case law,
of new material per year, including
which produces about 1,200 pages
by Thomson Reuters/West/Westlaw),
is General Editor
Pauline C. Reich
is an
Dr. Curtis F.J. Doebbler
is an
M. Kelley ’86

In addition to my full-time duties as an
elected Supreme Court Justice sitting
in the 11th Judicial District, I have
been appointed to the Committee on
Pattern Jury Instructions, Civil
and reappointed to the New York State
Continuing Education Board.” Judge
Siegel was also named Associate
Justice of the Appellate Term of the
Supreme Court for the Second
Department, and the New York Law Journal featured her appointment in
January 2018.

Joseph Fields is a principal at Ofitic Kurman, Attorneys At Law in the
time New York office. He joined
the firm in February 2018 and was formerly Counsel at McCarter &
English LLP.

Selwyn B. Goldberg, a Silicon
Valley technology transactions and
intellectual property specialist,
joined the New York office of
Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in
its Corporate Department in March
2018. He was previously a partner at
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, California.

David N. Kelley, a partner at Dechert
LLP, was named to the “2018
Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America” list alongside fellow alums
Christina M. Storm ’77, founder and
Executive Director of Lawyers Without
Borders, and NYLS Trustee Errol
B. Taylor ’87, a partner at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP.

Caryn Siebert (née Golub)
joined the Carrier Practice team
goal Gallagher Bassett Services, Inc.
in December 2017. Siebert will
serve as Vice President and will
focus on business development
and strategic initiatives. She has
more than 20 years of claims, legal,
risk management, and process
improvement expertise. She was
formerly a Chief Executive Officer, Chief Claims Officer, and
General Counsel to third-party
administrators, carriers, and self-
insureds. Siebert was named the 2017
 Claims and Litigation Management
Alliance Litigation Management
Professional of the Year and the
West Coast Casualty 2017 Ollie
Award recipient. She was featured
as a “Woman to Watch 2010” by
Business Insurance magazine, which
led her to author the chapter “Hear
Me Roar,” in Words of Wisdom from
Women to Watch, published by Wiley
in 2016. In the chapter, she discusses
succession planning and mentoring
of female leaders.

Hon. Bernice D. Siegal writes, “In
addition to my full-time duties as an
elected Supreme Court Justice sitting
in the 11th Judicial District, I have
been appointed to the Committee on
Pattern Jury Instructions, Civil
and reappointed to the New York State
Continuing Education Board.” Judge
Siegal was also named Associate
Justice of the Appellate Term of the
Supreme Court for the Second
Department, and the New York Law Journal featured her appointment in
January 2018.

1986

1988

Robert Clyne is Senior Vice
President, General Counsel, and
Corporate Secretary at the American
Bureau of Shipping. In September
2017, he received the Outstanding
Professional Achievement Award from
the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.

1987

Hon. Ushir Pandit-Durant was
sworn in as the first President of the
South Asian and Indo-Caribbean
Bar Association of Queens in
January 2018. She previously
worked as an Assistant District
Attorney in the Queens District
Attorney’s office for 25 years,
and in 2015, she became the first
South Asian woman to become a
civil court judge. The inauguration
and swearing-in ceremony, led by
Congresswoman Grace Meng, took
place in Forest Hills, Queens and
included the swearing in of fellow
NYLS alums Amish Doshi ’88.

Errol B. Taylor, a partner at
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy
LLP and an NYLS Trustee, was
named to the “2018 Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America”
list alongside fellow alums David
N. Kelley ’86, a partner at Dechert
LLP, and Christina M. Storm ’77,
founder and Executive Director of
Lawyers Without Borders.

1989

Dr. Curtis F.J. Doebbler is an
international human rights lawyer,
Sherri L. Plotkin has been selected by Super Lawyers for 2007 and 2010–18, including being named to the New York Metro Super Lawyers “Top 50 Women” list for 2016–18 and the “Top 100” list in 2017. She is featured as a “Top Rated Medical Malpractice Attorney in New York, NY” by Super Lawyers. Plotkin is a partner at Rheingold Giuffra Ruffo & Plotkin LLP, where she practices in the medical malpractice and serious personal injuries areas. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association.

Kevin P. Lee was promoted to full Professor of Law at Campbell Law School in Raleigh, North Carolina in October 2018. He is a multidimensional legal scholar and teacher with advanced degrees in Christian ethics, religious studies, and philosophy and religion. He is also an emerging leader in the field of legal technology and served as the inaugural chair of the North Carolina Bar Association’s Committee on the Future of Law.


Gary Ireland received the Bella Abzug Leadership Institute Award in May 2018 for helping to advocate for, with his daughter Sydney, the opening of Boy Scouts to girls and its renaming to Scouts BSA. Their story was featured in “Boy Scouts Changing Name To Scouting BSA, As Girls Welcomed Into Program” by NPR.

Jennifer A. Manner, as Executive Producer and Director, released her first short documentary, Zebrafish: Practically People, Transforming the Study of Disease, in January 2018. The film is available at www.zebrafishfilm.org and was selected for the Mediterranean Film Festival.

James S. Oddo was re-elected Staten Island Borough President in November 2017. He has held the office since 2013.
James Nolan, a retired Director of Linguistic Services for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, reports that he has been selected as a contractor for the Court of Justice of the European Union.

1993

Craig E. Averill was named Partner at Serling Rooks Hunter McKoy Worob & Averill LLP in April 2018. He was featured in “Law Firm for LCD Soundsystem, Jason Isbell Appoints Craig Averill to Name Partner” in Billboard magazine.

Stewart G. Milch received a 2018 “Law360 Distinguished Legal Writing Award.” Known as the Burton Awards, the program is run in association with the Library of Congress, presented by lead sponsor Law360, and co-sponsored by the American Bar Association. Milch is among a handful of attorneys to be recognized, selected from nominations submitted by the 1,000 largest firms in the country. In the July 2017 article that earned him the honor, “Why You Should Argue Your Appeal,” Milch counters the conventional wisdom that oral argument in appellate practice is a mere formality. Rather, he argues, it offers a crucial opportunity to change a judge’s mind and “to build consensus around a narrower holding.” Milch is a partner at the firm Goldberg Segalla and focuses his practice on appellate advocacy. He has handled complex litigation at the state and federal levels for more than two decades, briefed over 100 appeals, and argued before all four New York Appellate Divisions, the New York Court of Appeals, and Federal Circuit Courts.

Charles E. Phillips Jr., CEO of Infor and an NYLS Trustee, was elected to serve as a Class B director of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in November 2017.

1994

Francis Pelkowski was featured in “Career US Coast Guard Officer Retiring After 38 Years” in U.S. News & World Report in May 2018.

Scott J. Wortman became a Florida Bar Board-Certified Condominium and Planned Development Law Attorney in 2018, in addition to being a Florida Bar Board-Certified Real Estate Attorney.

1995

Jeffrey A. Kimmel joined Akerman LLP’s New York-based office as a partner in its Labor and Employment Practice Group in May 2018. He was previously a partner at the firm Meister Seelig & Fein LLP.

Paul L. Porretta joined Pepper Hamilton LLP in its New York-based office as a partner in the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Practice Group in May 2018. Porretta is a member of the NYLS Board of Trustees.

1996

Hon. Anthony Cannataro was named an Administrative Judge for the New York City Civil Court by the Office of Court Administration (OCA) in December 2017. OCA’s Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence K. Marks called him, along with three other judges appointed that day, “exemplary public servants, representing a wealth of talent and expertise, and possessing the leadership, vision and collegiality for success in their critical new roles.”

John A. Curry joined the New York office of Guidepost Solutions LLC, a global leader in compliance, monitoring, and investigations, as a Managing Director in its Monitoring and Investigations practice in December 2017. Curry, who most recently served as the Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Commissioner for Legal Affairs at the New York City Business Integrity Commission, is a seasoned investigative attorney.

1997

Michael J. Lubben is a Director in the Corporate Department of Gibbons P.C. He is also a member of the Board of Directors and the Secretary of the Portugal-U.S. Chamber of Commerce in New York. In June 2018, Lubben delivered the welcome address at the Chamber’s Annual Dinner, introducing the Chamber’s President, Rodolfo Lavrador. The guest of honor was António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal (above on left).

Sheryl J. Seiden has opened her own law firm, Seiden Family Law, in Cranford, New Jersey dedicated to family law matters, including dissolution of marriages, custody and parenting time issues, alimony and child support, domestic violence, post-judgment issues after a party’s divorce, and prenuptial agreements. Seiden was sworn in as the Chair-Elect of the Family Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association in May 2018.

Eric D. Sherman has been named to the New York Metro Super Lawyers “Top 100” list every year from 2014–18. He is a partner at Pryor Cashman.

1998

Jordan Kanfer was profiled in “Jordan Kanfer — NTT America” by Vanguard magazine in February 2018. Kanfer is Executive Vice President of Global Enterprise Solutions and General Counsel for NTT America.

Stephen J. Nahley was named General Counsel for Ogden CAP Properties, LLC in April 2018. He was previously a director at Barclays Investment Bank.

Edward Chukwuemeka Okeke’s book, Jurisdictional Immunities of States and International Organizations, with a foreword by the President of the International Court of Justice, was published in May 2018.

Lorine Pendleton was elected to the Angel Capital Association Board of Directors in July 2018.

Mark Wigder writes that he launched the Greenhouse Offices in 2012, in Boca Raton, Florida, an eco-friendly office complex focused on startups and small and growing businesses. Over the last several years,
his portfolio has expanded in Boca Raton, and now includes properties in Cary, North Carolina. He is also CEO of The Wigder Companies. In 2017, Wigder received his M.B.A. from Yale University School of Management. He was also appointed to the City of Boca Raton Community Advisory Board.

1998

Lisa J. Black is a founding partner of Black Marjieh Leff & Sanford LLP, which was nationally certified as a Women Business Enterprise in June 2018.

Amish Doshi was sworn in as Vice President of Solo and Small Firms Practice of the South Asian and Indo-Caribbean Bar Association of Queens. The January 2018 inauguration and swearing-in ceremony took place in Forest Hills, Queens and included the swearing in of fellow NYLS alum Judge Ushir Pandit-Durant ’87 as the Bar Association’s President.

Hon. Stefanie A. Martinez was featured in “A Girl in the Boys’ Club: Judge Stefanie Martinez, BC ’93,” in The Heights, The Independent Student Newspaper of Boston College, in March 2018. Judge Martinez is the first Hispanic judge in Nebraska and works in the state’s Second Judicial District Court.

William Spiegel was named to the 2018 New York Metro Super Lawyers “Top 100” list. He has been selected a “Top Rated Medical Malpractice Attorney in New York, NY” by Super Lawyers for 2013–18. He is a founding partner of Spiegel Leffler PLLC.

1999

Martin S. Bloor joined Cozen O’Connor in November 2017 as a member of the Criminal Defense & Internal Investigations Practice. Bloor counsels and defends corporate clients confronting a range of issues; conducts internal investigations, including those involving the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; and advises clients in connection with public corruption matters, antitrust matters, and issues under the False Claims Act and the Anti-Kickback Statute. He also represents clients in complex commercial litigation matters.

Andy Crouppen was profiled in “Andy Crouppen, Brown & Crouppen,” by Missouri Lawyers Weekly in August 2018. He is a managing partner at Brown & Crouppen, P.C., a firm that was founded by his father Terry Crouppen.

Christie A. Cunningham completed her Masters in Social Work degree at New York University in 2018. She was a member of the Student Leadership Council and Phi Alpha National Honor Society, a presenter for the NYU Know Your Rights Project, and co-organizer of the “Mass Incarceration Conversation Series.”


2000

Alexander Berger, a member of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. and Chair of its Real Estate Department, joined the Board of Trustees of the Long Island Children’s Museum in January 2018. Berger, a resident of Oceanside, New York, was elected to a three-year term.

Mary Campbell was named the Director of Business Development at New Jersey American Water in June 2018. In the role, she leads the strategic growth plan for New Jersey American Water, including the other three states in American Water’s Eastern Division: New York, Virginia, and Maryland.

Pei Pei Cheng-de Castro, the Director of Investigation and Enforcement at the New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics, was featured in “CityLaw Profile: Pei Pei Cheng-de Castro” in CityLand, a publication of the Center for New York City Law at NYLS, in October 2017.

Amy Tenney Curren was named the Director of the National Attorneys General Training and Research Institute, a branch of the National Association of Attorneys General, in March 2018. Prior to the role, she was Assistant Dean for Academic Services and Registrar, as well as a member of the adjunct faculty, at the American University Washington College of Law.

Andrea Tsoukalas Curto was appointed to serve on the Planning Board in the Village of Roslyn Harbor, New York in April 2018. She was also profiled by the New York Real Estate Journal in “Executive of the Month: Tsoukalas Curto of FDT” in March 2018 and “2017 Women in Professional Services: Andrea Tsoukalas of Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP” in May 2017. In 2017, the Long Island Press honored her as one of the 2017 Top Women in Business. Tsoukalas Curto joined Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP in January 2005 and became partner in 2011. She concentrates her practice in zoning, land use, environmental, and municipal law matters.

Adelaide Riggi, a partner at Snyder Sarno D’Aniello Maceri & da Costa LLC, was inducted as the Chair of the Somerset County Bar Foundation in October 2018. She was recognized for her legal expertise and dedication to the Foundation and the Somerset County community at large.
2001

Hon. Marisol Martinez Alonso was appointed as an Interim Civil Court Judge in February 2018 and is serving in Criminal Court. She was featured in the February 2018 articles: “Mayor Appoints Eight New Court Judges” in The Bronx Chronicle and “De Blasio Fills 8 Vacancies on City’s Civil, Family Courts” in the New York Law Journal.

Diane Robertson was named to Take the Lead’s 2018 list “50 Women Can Change the World in Media and Entertainment.” Take the Lead is a cutting-edge nonprofit organization recognized as gender parity experts. She was featured in “Take the Lead Announces 50 Women Who Will Create a Blueprint for Gender Parity in Media & Entertainment #50WomenCan,” on Medium, an online publishing platform, in January 2018. Robertson is Vice President, Legal Affairs at CBS Television Studios.

Preethi Sckharan, a shareholder of Gunster based out of its Stuart and West Palm Beach offices, is one of two lawyers appointed by the Florida Bar Board of Governors to the American Bar Association’s House of Delegates for a two-year term commencing August 2018.

Michael A. Aluko joined Greenberg Traurig LLP in July 2018 as a shareholder in the Corporate Practice and Financial Regulatory & Compliance Group. He is based out of the firm’s New York City office.

Thomas H. Prol, a partner at Laddie Clark & Ryan LLP, was listed as a Champion of Pride 2018 by The Advocate, a national publication covering LGBT news. A Champion of Pride is chosen from each state in the United States, and Prol was chosen for New Jersey for coming out as the first gay president of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

Ricardo Vera, a partner at Newman Ferrara, LLP, was named in Real Estate Weekly’s 2018 “Rising Stars of Real Estate.” Fellow alumns William E. Baney ’11, an associate at Belkin Burden Wénig & Goldman, LLP, and Daniel Fromm ’07, Senior Managing Director at Newmark & Company Real Estate, Inc. and Vice Chairman and Co-Head of NFK Capital Markets’ Debt and Structured Finance Group, were named as well.

Alice M. Youngbar joined the New York City office of McGuireWoods LLP as a partner in the Real Estate and Land Use practice group in November 2017.

2002

Jaimee L. Nardiello, a partner at Zetlin & De Chiara LLP, was elected President of Commercial Real Estate Women New York, the region’s leading advocacy organization for professional women in real estate, in February 2018. She was also featured in City & State New York as one of 30 “Above & Beyond” New York women for 2018.

Daniel J. Parisi was presented with a national award in 2018 by the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) for his volunteer work as a mentor to other attorneys. He has been a member of AILA since 2004. He is a partner at TL Brillo Parisi in London, England, an affiliate of Tocci & Lee LLC in the United States.

Christine Calip Victor, Senior Vice President of Business Development and Business and Legal Affairs at Bravado/Universal Music Group, was named to Billboard magazine’s 2018 “Top Music Lawyers” list.

Annie Wu, Global Manager for Employee Relations at Swedish fashion retailer H&M Group, was named the company’s Global Leader for Diversity and Inclusiveness in January 2018.

Ron Lo Russo was honored at the Real Estate Board of New York’s (REBNY’s) 122nd Annual Banquet in January 2018, with The Young Real Estate Professional of the Year Award. He is President of Cushman & Wakefield’s Agency Consulting Group, which provides process-driven analyses to portfolio planning by aligning real estate platforms with operational, workforce, financial, and risk objectives to drive informed decision-making. His award was featured in the New York Post, “Meet this year’s brilliant batch of REBNY award-winners,” on January 18, 2018.

Filomena Lepore Taylor, along with fellow alum Rosanna M. Fox ’06, launched Lepore Taylor Fox LLP (LTF) in November 2017. LTF is dedicated exclusively to the practice of U.S. immigration and nationality law with an emphasis on private client and entrepreneur/startup advisory, as well as employment-based immigration. As a co-founding partner, she is also head of the firm’s Client Practice.

2003

Joseph R. McCarthy was featured in “On the Move” in the New Jersey Law Journal in March 2018, for his appointment as an equity partner with Meyner and Landis, LLP, where he is also a member of the firm’s litigation group.

2004

Lori Adams joined Sanctuary for Families as the Director of the Immigration Intervention Project in 2018. She previously served as Managing Attorney in Refugee Representation at Human Rights First.

Jeffrey Alfano was appointed Chief Court Attorney for the New York State Supreme Court, Richmond County, Staten Island in June 2018.

Linda S. Green was appointed Vice President of Facilities & Environmental Services at the Queens Library in 2017. Her appointment was featured in the November/December 2017 issue of Queens Library Magazine.

Brian Kaszuba was Assistant Panel Administrator for the 2018 Civil Court Independent Judicial Screening Panel in Manhattan. The Panel reviewed applications for Civil Court Judge and reported out the most qualified candidates in May 2018. NYLS hosted the 2018 panel meetings, candidate interviews, and deliberations. Kaszuba is Associate Director of the Center for New York City Law, Adjunct Professor, Title IX Co-Coordinator, and Communications Manager at NYLS.

Sahara G. Stone Pynes was promoted from Counsel to Partner at Fox Rothschild LLP in April 2018. She works in the firm’s Los Angeles, California office.
Lisa R. Wichter was named Partner at Barton Gilman LLP in January 2018. She is an experienced health care and medical malpractice defense litigator, representing medical professionals, hospitals, medical practices, and other healthcare-related businesses from allegations of malpractice, as well as in licensing, employment, discrimination, and wage/labor-related matters. In addition to litigating cases in the court system, she is successful in resolving malpractice and employment matters at arbitration and mediation. She devotes a portion of her practice to pro bono cases involving domestic and family-related matters through the Women’s Bar Foundation. Barton Gilman is a leading civil litigation law firm with offices in Boston, Providence, and New York.

2005


Stephen J. Ginsberg was named Partner at Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, with offices on Long Island and in Manhattan, in January 2018. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation matters. He has successfully resolved business-related disputes in federal and state courts involving breach of contract, fraud, business torts, fiduciary duty claims, real estate and construction claims, breach-of-restrictive covenants, and disputes between and among shareholders, members, and partners.

Eric C. Goldstein was named Partner at Goodwin in April 2018 and featured in “Goodwin Expands International Private Equity and Private Investment Funds Platform with Partner Eric Goldstein in New York” in BusinessWire.

Michael Santorelli authored the column “Art of the Deal: Merger Mania in Trumpland?” which was featured in Forbes in August 2017.

2006

Anne Peyton Bryant, a partner at Greenberg Traurig LLP as a shareholder to the Philadelphia office’s Real Estate Practice team in July 2018.

Bob Trujillo became the Trust Fund Administrator for the United Transportation Union and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Trust Fund in 2018.

Jared Zaben was named Partner in King & Spalding LLP’s Corporate, Finance, and Investments practice group in June 2018. He was featured in the GlobeNewswire announcement “Real Estate Finance Team Joins King & Spalding’s New York Office.”

Catherine A. Curcio was named a member of Norris McLaughlin, P.A. in January 2018. She had been an associate attorney in the firm’s Pennsylvania office since 2012.

2005

Shaun Ertischek was awarded the International Fellowship of Certified Collection Executives designation by ACA International (the Association of Credit and Collection Professionals) at ACA’s 2018 convention. Ertischek is General Counsel at TRAK America, an accounts receivable management organization. According to the ACA, the award recognizes “outstanding organizations and individuals who have demonstrated excellence in the accounts receivable management industry.”

John P. Schwartz joined Greenberg Traurig, LLP as a shareholder to the Philadelphia office’s Real Estate Practice team in July 2018.

Daniel Gershburg was featured in “WHO’S NEWS: Sage Realty taps DiPetrantonio, Romer Debbas hires Gershburg” in Real Estate Weekly in March 2018. He was named a partner of the firm Romer Debbas LLP. Previously, upon graduating from NYLS, he started his own firm, Gershburg Law, P.C.

Rosanna M. Fox, along with fellow alumn Filomena Lepore Taylor ’04, launched Lepore Taylor Fox LLP (LTF) in November 2017. LTF is dedicated exclusively to the practice of U.S. immigration and nationality law with an emphasis on private client and entrepreneur/startup advisory, as well as employment-based immigration. Fox, as a co-founding partner, serves as head of the firm’s Entrepreneur and Start-up Practice.

Abbey M. Horwitz was elected to a two-year term, commencing in January 2018, as a member of the Board of Trustees for P.G. Chambers School in Cedar Knolls, New Jersey. She is an associate with Norris McLaughlin, P.A. in its New Jersey office.
Camille J. Mackler, Chair of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) Committee on Immigration Representation, addressed the House of Delegates at the NYSBA Annual Meeting in January 2018, as the Association adopted recommendations for greater protections for immigrants in the courts, as well as a new domestic violence initiative that aims to enhance legal services for victims. Mackler is the Director of Immigration Legal Policy at the New York Immigration Coalition. She was also featured in “In Reversal, Immigration Agency Will Consider Delayed DACA Requests” in The New York Times in November 2017.

Etan Moskovic was named Partner at Cassin & Cassin LLP, a law firm specializing in real estate, real estate finance, and trusts and estates, in January 2018. Moskovic was featured in the BusinessWire announcement “Cassin & Cassin LLP Names Etan Moskovic Partner.”

Patrick Turner, of the CBS Corporation, received a Jeremy G. Epstein Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Service in October 2017 at the New York City Bar Association. He was featured in the New York Law Journal in “City Bar Justice Center Pro Bono Honorees.” Held at the start of National Pro Bono Week, the awards honor exemplary volunteers from each of the City Bar Justice Center’s civil justice projects.

Michael E. McMahon ‘85 by Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon ‘85 with the distinguished Robert M. Morgenthau Award. The District Attorneys Association of the State of New York presented the award during the Association’s 2018 Winter Conference. Capofari is Chief Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the District Attorney Richmond County.

Arti K. Desai became a senior associate in the Immigration and Naturalization practice group at Greenspoon Marder LLP in January 2018. She focuses her practice on U.S. immigration and nationality law.

2007

Daniel Fromm, Senior Managing Director at Newmark & Company Real Estate, Inc., and Vice Chairman and Co-Head of NFK Capital Markets’ Debt and Structured Finance Group, was named in Real Estate Weekly’s 2018 “Rising Stars of Real Estate.” Fellow alums Ricardo Vera ’02, a partner at Newman Ferrara, LLP, and William E. Baney ’11, an associate at Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, LLP were named as well.

Cyril Touchard was promoted to Special Counsel in Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP’s Real Estate Department, based in New York City, in March 2018.

Paul A. Capofari was featured in “Chief Assistant DA Capofari receives prestigious award” on silive.com in January 2018, for being honored by Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon ‘85 with the distinguished Robert M. Morgenthau Award. The District Attorneys Association of the State of New York presented the award during the Association’s 2018 Winter Conference. Capofari is Chief Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the District Attorney Richmond County.

2008

Claude Aiken was named the first full-time President and CEO of the Wireless Internet Service Providers Association, effective in March 2018.

Ryan K. Allen joined the White Plains office of Goldberg Segalla as a partner in the firm’s Workers’ Compensation practice group in January 2018. He was previously with the firm Bartlett LLP.

Josh Block won big at the American Society of Business Publication Editors 2018 Azbee Awards of Excellence: a Regional Gold Award for the podcast “Inside Jones Day: Cleveland, 1893 to Donald Trump” and a Regional Silver Award for the Video Tutorial “Big Law Jargon: A Primer” on Big Law Business, produced by Bloomberg BNA. He is the Director of Digital Content at Bloomberg Next, overseeing videos, podcasts, websites, and newsletters, and Executive Producer of the Big Law Business website.

Andrew J. Finn was promoted to Partner at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, where he is a member of the Litigation Group, in January 2018.
Desiré Hernández was featured in “#NBCLatino20: The Crusader, Desiré Hernández” by NBC in September 2017, as part of a list of 20 Latino/as making a difference. She writes that she “was proud to speak about my role in the Safe Passage Project ... and discuss the amazing support New York Law School provides to our organization.” She is currently Deputy Executive Director and Director of Legal Services at the Safe Passage Project.

Charles J. Messina was named Partner at Genova Burns in July 2018.

Jeffrey P. Nosanov reports that he is working on a children’s book, Choose Your Shoes, that relates choosing a career to the shared experience of picking shoes for the day. The book was inspired by conversations between Nosanov and his children. Nosanov is a startup founder and former NASA project manager.

2010

Michael Busi, Senior Director of International Compliance & Enterprise Risk Management at CME Group Inc., was named one of the “30 Ones to Watch 2018” by Brummell Magazine in May 2018.

Catherine L. Corey became an associate at Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. in October 2017. She focuses her practice on bankruptcy and creditors’ rights, mortgage foreclosure, loss mitigation, and litigation matters.

Stefanie M. Graham’s June 2018 promotion was featured in “Rosenberg & Estis promotes Frost to member; Floyd, Graham and Kosar elevated to of counsel” in the New York Real Estate Journal. She joined Rosenberg & Estis, P.C. in 2013 as an associate with the firm’s Transactional Department.

Nicholas T. Koumoulis was promoted from Associate to Partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Los Angeles, California in 2018. He is a member of the General Liability, Hospitality, Transportation, and Healthcare Practice Groups.

Salih A. Olgun was named a “Rising Star” of 2017 by The Bond Buyer. She is Assistant General Counsel of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Kassandra Perez-Desir was featured in “The 2018 Albany 40 Under 40” by City & State New York. She is Vice President at Bolton-St. Johns.

2011

William E. Baney, an associate at Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, LLP, was named in Real Estate Weekly’s 2018 “Rising Stars of Real Estate.” Fellow alums Ricardo Vera ’02, a partner at Newman Ferrara, LLP, and Daniel Fromm ’07, Senior Managing Director at Newmark & Company Real Estate, Inc. and Vice Chairman and Co-Head of NFK Capital Markets’ Debt and Structured Finance Group, were named as well.

L. Austin D’Souza, Principal Law Clerk to Hon. Faviola A. Soto ’78, was appointed by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore of the New York Court of Appeals to the Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission, a statewide commission that promotes racial and ethnic fairness in the courts, in June 2018.

Craig M. Goldwasser was promoted from Senior Litigation Counsel at Vigorito, Barker, Patterson, Nichols and Porter, LLP in 2018. The firm concentrates in the defense of medical malpractice, general liability, and health care law.

Steven Shparber was promoted from Associate to Of Counsel at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Washington, D.C. in January 2018. He joined the firm in 2017 and practices with the Energy & Utilities Industry Group.

2018

Benjamin R. Wilson was promoted from Associate to Partner at Holland & Knight LLP in 2018. He is a litigation attorney in the firm’s New York office.

Svetlana Rovenskaya joined Legal & Compliance, LLC as an associate in February 2018.

2009

Kris Ferranti, a partner at Shearman & Sterling in the Real Estate practice, was honored by Law360 as a 2018 “Rising Star” for the second consecutive year and by Super Lawyers for the fourth consecutive year.

Lilya Tessler joined Sidley Austin LLP as a partner and New York head of Blockchain and FinTech in the Securities & Derivatives Enforcement and Regulatory group in August 2018.

Alex J. Tolston is Executive Vice President and General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of Hemisphere Media Group, Inc. He won one of The M&A Advisor’s 9th Annual Emerging Leaders Awards in June 2018. He was also selected by The Legal 500 Series to the “GC Powerlist: US Latin America Specialists”; this list highlights the best 100 Latin America and Caribbean-focused general counsel working in the United States.

2008

Moumita Rahman was selected as one of the “2018 Rising Stars” and profiled as a “Top Rated Immigration Attorney in New York, NY” by Super Lawyers. She founded The Law Firm of Moumita Rahman, PLLC in New York City.

2007

Lawrence Metelitsa was featured in “Law Journal Honors New Leaders of the Bar” in the New Jersey Law Journal in April 2018. He is a partner at Lucecy Brookman LLP in Woodbridge, New Jersey.

Nicholas T. Koumoulis was promoted from Associate to Partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP in Los Angeles, California in 2018. He is a member of the General Liability, Hospitality, Transportation, and Healthcare Practice Groups.

Salih A. Olgun was named a “Rising Star” of 2017 by The Bond Buyer. She is Assistant General Counsel of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Kassandra Perez-Desir was featured in “The 2018 Albany 40 Under 40” by City & State New York. She is Vice President at Bolton-St. Johns.
Benjamin W. Hutten was promoted from Associate to Counsel at Buckley Sandler, LLP in January 2018.

Michele G. Madera was named Partner at Klasko Immigration Law Partners, LLP in January 2018. She is based in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania office.

Elizabeth Candido Petite joined the Westfield, New Jersey office of Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C. as an associate practicing in the areas of estate planning and administration and tax law in February 2018.

Frank Poe was featured in “On the Move” in the New Jersey Law Journal in June 2018. He joined Wong Fleming as an associate in its Princeton, New Jersey office, where he focuses in commercial litigation, corporate law, personal injury litigation, and real estate.

Nida Rizvi joined Taylor English Duma LLP as a member of the firm’s Corporate practice group in May 2018. Rizvi previously served as Associate General Counsel at Drax Biomass, a subsidiary of Drax Group plc.


Danielle E. Tricolla was featured in the New York Real Estate Journal in October 2017 for receiving the “30 Under 30 Award Class of 2017” from Long Island Business News. She is an associate at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP in the firm’s litigation group.

Nicole Wolosoff was promoted to President of Boston National Title’s New York office in October 2017.


2012

Alesha Brown joined Cranfill Sumner & Hartzog LLP in June 2018. She is an associate based in the firm’s Charlotte, North Carolina office, where she practices civil litigation. She previously practiced insurance defense at a firm in New York City and served as Counsel to the New York City Council’s Committees on Civil Rights and Contracts.

John Clare was honored by the student organization, OutLaws, at NYLS’s Spring Banquet in April 2018.

2013

Thomas Olchon was appointed Managing Director and Wealth and Fiduciary Advisor of Evercore Wealth Management in March 2018.

Adam T. Parks joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP as a corporate associate in the Investment Funds group in 2018. He works in the in Chicago, Illinois office and was previously at Jones Day and K&L Gates LLP.

Ilya Prokopets joined Sherman & Howard LLC’s Phoenix, Arizona office as a litigation associate in June 2018. He previously practiced law in New York City, where he focused on commercial litigation.

Caleb Vesey joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP as a corporate associate in the firm’s Los Angeles, California office in 2018. He was previously at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP.


2014

Julian Cordero, an entertainment lawyer, “struck gold” in 2018 when a hip-hop album produced by one of his clients sold more than 500,000 copies, earning gold certification from the Recording Industry Association of America.

Anthony K.C. Fong was selected to the 2018 New York Metro Super Lawyers “Rising Stars” list and profiled as a “Top Rated Immigration Attorney in New York, NY.” He founded the Law Office of Anthony K.C. Fong, Esq., an immigration law firm, in New York City. Fong also serves as General
Counsel of Broadway Stages and Staten Island Stages.

Thomas Howley ‘14 and Madeleine Karel ’14 were married on September 15, 2018, at the Bryant Park Grill. They met at NYLS, where they were in the same 1L section.


Ari Maas authored the op-ed “The first Amendment Doesn’t Protect Hate Speech at Rutgers” in The Algemeiner, a global independent media voice covering the Middle East, Israel, and matters of Jewish interest around the world, in December 2017.

Julie A. Nociolo joined E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy in 2017 as an associate attorney, concentrating her practice in criminal defense and medical malpractice. Prior to the role, she completed a two-year clerkship with the Honorable Gary L. Sharpe at the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

2015

Tyler Deieso joined UBS as a director in the Investment Banking division in June 2018. He advises the firm’s Capital Markets and Structured Financing businesses.

2016

Cody R. Churchill was sworn in as an Assistant District Attorney with the Queens District Attorney’s Office in September 2017 and was featured in the Queens Gazette story “DA Brown Appoints 20 New Assistant District Attorneys.”

Molly Mauck was quoted in a February 2018 Law360 story about U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s visit to NYLS, “Ginsburg Says Politicizing Court A ‘Plague On Both Houses.’”

2017


Rebecca Medina was honored by the Latin American Law Students Association at NYLS’s Spring Banquet in April 2018.

Henry Ukazu (LL.M.) published a 2017 self-help book titled Design Your Destiny: Actualizing Your Birthright to Success. The book guides readers on how to connect to their goals and purpose. Ukazu is a Legal Coordinator at New York City Department of Correction.

2018

Linnae Marita Aufiere was featured in June 2018 article “Local Chatter: Greater Pittston residents graduate, earn dean’s list honors” in the Sunday Dispatch.

Monique Baptist received the Kathleen Grimm Medal for Distinguished Public Service at NYLS’s 126th Commencement ceremony in June 2018, alongside fellow alums Neldra M. Zeigler ’79 and Douglas Zeigler ’81. She was also hired by the New York City Law Department, Family Court Division, and featured in the September 2018 New York Law Journal story “Law Department Adds 78 New Attorneys.”

Shambree Bonner was named a 2018 WX Scholar by the New York Women Executives in Real Estate—known as WX—based on her talents and interest in real estate law.

The following Class of 2018 graduates were hired by the New York City Law Department and featured in the October 2017 New York Law Journal story “City Law Department Hires 53 Recent Law School Graduates”: Hailey Barthel, Special Federal Litigation Division; Ariana Dindiya, Commercial and Real Estate Litigation Division; Allyson Guidera, Family Court Division; Justin Meeks, Family Court Division; Joshua Mitts, Tort Division; and Marissa Padovano, Family Court Division.
In November 2017, Gonzalez won a Georgia General Assembly seat in a special election. Though she was an entertainment and intellectual property lawyer who had never run for office before, she flipped her local district from Republican to Democrat and became the second Latina elected in the history of the Georgia State House. Her historic campaign won attention from documentary filmmaker Michael Moore and actress and activist Alyssa Milano.

A year later, in the general election, Gonzalez was narrowly defeated by her Republican challenger. Despite the outcome, Gonzalez is feeling inspired, optimistic, and even more eager to get involved. She spoke with New York Law School Magazine about her experience as a first-time politician—and her hopes for the future.

Why did you go into public service?
In 2016, when I went into the voting booth, there were no options for the Georgia General Assembly other than the incumbent, who I felt didn’t represent my values. In fact, across Georgia in 2016, 84 percent of seats were unopposed. Democracy is about choices, and there were no choices. I come from a military family, and my father always taught us that you have a duty to stand up if no one else is. So, I said, I’ll do it—I’ll run.

In the 2017 special election, you were out-funded four to one, but you won. How?
First of all, I wasn’t a politician. I am a regular person who saw things that needed to be fixed and wanted to do the work. That resonated with people. Also, we had an incredible group of volunteers who would knock on doors every weekend. Some people in our district said that no one had done that in 15 or more years. Finally, as a Latina, a single mother, and now a grandmother, I truly relate to the struggles of many people in my district.

What did it feel like to receive national attention during your campaign?
It was surreal. One day Michael Moore was talking about me on CNN. I thought, “What is he talking about? I’m nobody.” But I think he saw me as proof that you don’t necessarily need millions of dollars to win an election.

What are you most proud of having accomplished as a legislator?
I’m proud of my efforts to give working families a pathway to prosperity. I co-sponsored legislation to expand Medicaid, fought for living wages and against discrimination in wages based on race and gender, and advanced a state law that would create a cause of action for sexual harassment. Georgia funds public education through a system that is over 40 years old, and I pushed to update the formula because many schools are still woefully underfunded. But I’m most proud of my constituent services work—helping people in my community resolve their issues.

How did NYLS influence your professional pathway?
I’m very appreciative of NYLS. When I was applying to law schools, NYLS was one of the few that had weekend and evening classes. I was raising two little girls and working full-time, so having that option was great. I also received a scholarship that alleviated a lot of financial pressure. I loved taking entertainment and intellectual property electives in my 2L and 3L years and engaging in dialogue in small groups. When I decided to run, I reached out to fellow alumni in New York and D.C., and they supported me, regardless of their party affiliation.

What was the biggest challenge in the role, and how did it strengthen you?
My biggest challenge was being a woman, a minority, and in the minority party for Georgia. I never apologize for who I am or my values. I learned, though, that if I can show I am good at my work, they may not like me, but they’ll respect my credibility. Here’s an example: There was a bill that would have allowed Georgia to give the fingerprint data of people who applied to state jobs to the FBI. As it happens, I’d written a book called Managing Online Risk, published by Elsevier. When I gave my speech against the bill, a colleague took out my book and showed it to the other legislators. The Republican representatives came to me afterwards and said, “You obviously know what you’re talking about.”

How did you feel on election night 2018?
We felt confident going in, but at the end of the day, there are more Republicans than Democrats in my district. Republicans were highly motivated to vote in order to flip the seat back and because our newly elected governor is from my district. Still, I’m proud of our incredible grassroots campaign. My win in 2017 inspired other Democrats to run in 2018. And we increased voter turnout in our precincts by double digits in 2018. This isn’t about just one night or one election. This is about doing the work every day.

What are your plans for 2019?
Right now, I’m taking time to reflect on this experience and evaluate a few opportunities that have come across my desk. Whether I pursue in politics again or not, I want to continue serving my country. This experience taught me so much about my local community. Many people have approached me to say that my service inspired them and that, as a result, they are reengaging with politics again after years of being disconnected. I couldn’t be prouder of that.
Get to know the two dynamic graduates leading new efforts to engage the School’s worldwide alumni base.

Marcey L. Grigsby ’06
and
Pam Foster ’00

Alumni engagement is, first and foremost, about supporting our students. It’s also about creating opportunities for alumni to tap into the truly impressive NYLS network that exists in virtually every part of law, business, and public service. I want to help make those connections through the events and programs we offer.

—Marcey L. Grigsby ’06

It’s clear to me that the more alumni help current students, the better it is for students, the School, and alumni.

—Pam Foster ’00
In March 2018, Marcey Grigsby ’06 joined NYLS as Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Chief Development Officer, where she oversees the School’s alumni relations and development efforts.

“As an alumna, I’d watched a lot of exciting things happening at NYLS, including how the School aligned its academic priorities with what’s driving activity in the legal profession,” Grigsby says. “Our new Think BIG curriculum and the phenomenal growth of our clinical program are just two examples. I’m excited to share that success with alumni and find ways for them to be part of it.”

Grigsby brings an insider’s view of the legal profession and a unique perspective on engaging alumni. She previously led business development teams at Ropes & Gray LLP and Debevoise & Plimpton LLP after leaving practice. She also remained connected to NYLS since graduating and, from 2010 to 2013, served as the New York Law School Law Review’s publisher and an adjunct professor.

“Alumni engagement is, first and foremost, about supporting our students,” she says. “It’s also about creating opportunities for alumni to tap into the truly impressive NYLS network that exists in virtually every part of law, business, and public service. I want to help make those connections through the events and programs we offer.”

Grigsby enjoys guiding alumni in identifying ways to stay connected—whether as mentors, speakers at on-campus events, by attending alumni-only events, or through gifts inspired by their own experience that will benefit current students.

“I have yet to talk to an alum where we couldn’t find a place for them to give back in a personally meaningful way,” she says.

She sees the spirit of NYLS’s student body as an enduring source of pride for all alumni.

“Our students today have the same grit and determination that has long been a hallmark of NYLS graduates,” she says. “They don’t take anything for granted. Alumni I talk to recognize those qualities in themselves and want to help students succeed. The impact of alumni involvement cannot be overstated.”

In November 2018, Grigsby expanded her team by adding another talented alumna, Elizabeth Briand ’11, as Director of Development.

Alumni can contact Marcey Grigsby at marcey.grigsby@nyls.edu.

For Pam Foster ’00, being an evening student at NYLS was an unforgettable experience.

“There’s nothing like being in a Criminal Law class and talking about the Fourth Amendment with people who are cops by day and use it in practice,” she says.

In April 2018, Foster was elected President of NYLS’s Alumni Association after having served a term as Vice President. She also joined the NYLS Board of Trustees, where she advises the School on strategic decision-making, and she remains Board Chair of the Safe Passage Project, founded by Professor Lenni Benson.

After graduating from NYLS, Foster practiced ERISA (Employee Retirement Income Security Act) and employment law at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP. After a few years at the firm, she missed the nonprofit sector, where she’d begun her career.

When The Rockefeller Foundation, where she’d worked before and during law school, recruited her back, she jumped at the chance. After returning, Foster spent more than 14 years at the Foundation in roles that blended law and operations.

Today, she is Chief Operating Officer of Co-Impact, a new global philanthropic collaborative that funds efforts in developing countries to improve outcomes in health, education, and economic opportunity.

Foster’s top goal as Alumni Association President is to increase alumni engagement with the School.

“If coming to an Alumni Association meeting isn’t for you, there are plenty of other ways to get involved,” she says. “Hiring? Make sure to include NYLS students and alumni in your applicant pool. Consider offering a student externship, mentoring a student or recent graduate, or participating in the annual Bar Exam Lunch Program, an easy way to give back.”

In working with the Alumni Association Board, Foster draws inspiration from the prior President, Hon. Marc J. Whiten ’84, who encouraged members to pursue their passions in areas that align with NYLS’s priorities. His efforts resulted in a number of active networking groups and successful CLE programs.

“It’s clear to me that the more alumni help current students, the better it is for students, the School, and alumni,” Foster says.

Alumni can contact Pam Foster at pamfoster31@gmail.com.
Interested in getting involved with the School again but unsure about next steps? Foster and Grigsby share tips:

**DROP A LINE.**
Contact the Institutional Advancement team with news of your practice area and recent accomplishments. “The first step can be a small step,” says Grigsby. “We’re always happy to share alumni achievements, and that often leads to opportunities for involvement.”

**ATTEND A CLE OR OTHER EVENT.**
Find upcoming events in NYLS’s Alumni Connections e-newsletter, by following the School’s social media accounts, or at www.nyls.edu. While on campus, introduce yourself to current students. “They really value opportunities to connect with alumni,” Grigsby says. “So do I! If you’re on campus and have a few minutes to grab coffee, let me know.”

**PLAY A LEADERSHIP ROLE.**
“Come to an Alumni Association meeting, and be part of shaping programs for students and alumni,” Foster says. “I love hearing from alumni about the best ways we can engage them.”

**MAKE A GIFT THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.**
Alumni gifts are essential to supporting student programs and provide a vote of confidence to current students. Unrestricted gifts to the Annual Fund go to NYLS’s areas of greatest need. “Gifts in any amount have an impact,” Grigsby says. “The most important thing is that alumni invest and feel invested in the School.” Employer matching programs can extend your gift’s reach, and estate giving helps ensure your NYLS legacy.

**MENTOR A STUDENT.**
Some alumni may prefer a one-on-one mentoring relationship instead of large group events. “Supporting individual students allows you to get involved in a way that fits your schedule,” Foster says.

**OUTSIDE OF NEW YORK CITY? NO PROBLEM.**
Grigsby described a Chicago-based alum who mentored a recent graduate in New York City by phone and email. When the recent graduate reached a professional juncture and needed advice, she leaned on her mentor. “In that moment, she was able to get a very helpful perspective,” Grigsby says.

**SHARE YOUR MEMORABILIA.**
The Mendik Library is not only a vast research facility for students and alumni; it’s also “where NYLS history lives on,” says Grigsby. Case in point: The family of a Class of 1916 graduate recently donated his class photo to be preserved in the School’s archives and on Digital Commons. The family of another Class of 1916 graduate has since enjoyed viewing the remarkable photo.
Alumni Reflect on the Rewards of Supporting the School

As Dean Anthony W. Crowell often says, NYLS is more than a school—it’s a “family”—a community that welcomes and supports alumni throughout their professional lives. In that spirit of personal investment, several alumni shared their reasons for supporting the School.

JOAM ALISME ’14 • Legal Fellow, Everytown for Gun Safety; Member, NYLS Alumni Association Board
“As a student, I was very involved with the Black Law Students Association, the Moot Court Association, and the Student Bar Association. I remember how it felt when alumni supported our work and made it possible for us to attend important events. Alumni support was also critical to NYLS’s Bar Exam Lunch Program, which began around the time I sat for the exam. I always wanted to emulate those examples of giving, and now, I’m proud to donate every year. When alumni invest in the School, it benefits all of us.”

SANG-KI LEE ’68 • Retired Patent Attorney
“I spent most of my career working as a patent lawyer, in locations around the world, but in recent years, it has made me very happy to reestablish a closer relationship with NYLS, my alma mater, and to attend events at the School. I recently made a gift in honor of the Class of 1968’s 50th anniversary. I hope that my gift inspires other 50th-anniversary gifts in the years to come. I myself would not have been able to attend law school without financial assistance and was fortunate to receive support from my employer. After I retired from practicing law, I helped establish Handong International Law School in South Korea. It teaches a U.S. legal curriculum and is going strong. I am proud to support legal education and NYLS students.”

ALAN LEIBOWITZ ’74 • Managing Partner, Hess & Leibowitz, PLLC
“I’m impressed by how NYLS has substantially expanded its clinical programs, and I wanted to make a gift that supports this great work. I still practice in downtown Manhattan today, along with fellow Class of 1974 graduate Steven L. Hess, whom I met during our first week of classes.”

JANET HALECKY ’93 • Managing Director, Wells Fargo & Company
“NYLS provided me with not only a strong core curriculum, but also the unmatched professional opportunities that come with attending law school in downtown Manhattan. The further I advance in my career, the more I look back and appreciate how well the School combined the academic and the practical. By supporting NYLS’s Annual Fund now, I can help ensure that today’s students also benefit from those advantages.”

DENNIS MALEN ’68 • Partner at Malen & Associates, PC; 50th Anniversary Co-Chair, 2018 Alumni Reunion
“NYLS was a defining milestone in all of our lives. Armed with our legal education, we’ve been able to succeed in law, business, and many other fields. I know how important law school is to the current generation. Because of that, I was proud to make a gift honoring the Class of 1968. I want to help ensure that today’s NYLS students have the same opportunities I received.”

SUMMANA S. ABDUL-HASIB ’13 • Senior Legal Operations Analyst, Fidelity Investments
“I remember the bar exam vividly—the adrenaline on the first day and the exhaustion on the second day. Luckily, because of NYLS’s Bar Exam Lunch Program, I also felt relief that I didn’t have to worry about lunch. This year, I supported the Program. If I can help a fellow NYLS grad feel just a little less stressed while taking the exam, I’m all for it. I’ve also served as a judge in NYLS student competitions on weekends. Giving back and staying connected to NYLS is important to me.”

Bar Exam Lunch Program Sees Record Alumni Participation
NYLS’s annual Bar Exam Lunch Program treats bar-takers to essential bar prep resources and a free lunch—with a side of encouragement—during the grueling exam days. The 2018 program, themed “#BarExamChampions,” marked an all-time high for alumni participation. The NYLS Alumni Association, spearheaded by President Pam Foster ’00 and Vice President Manny Alicandro ’12, organized alumni support. NYLS Board Chair Arthur N. Abbey ’59 matched donations from the general alumni community, and NYLS trustees made leadership gifts. On the days of the exam, Dean Anthony W. Crowell, faculty members, staff, and alumni passed out the lunches with a smile.
WHERE YOUR GIFT GOES

Your gift has the power to shape tomorrow’s leaders. Here’s what it could make possible:

- Legal clinics that prepare students for practice and help New Yorkers in need
- Memorable co-curricular activities, including the Moot Court Association and *New York Law School Law Review*
- Life-changing scholarships for deserving students without means
- Bar prep resources to support grads on two of the biggest days of their professional lives
- The School’s greatest needs and priorities (Annual Fund)

Family of Jay Watnick ’59 Honors His Legacy With a Transformative $1 Million Gift

Jay Watnick ’59, who passed away in April 2018, was so fond of intellectual discussion that friends affectionately dubbed him “the human encyclopedia.” His fierce intelligence propelled him to a highly successful career in life insurance and benefited the students he taught at Marymount College, as well as countless others he generously mentored. In honor of his remarkable legacy, his wife, Marianna Watnick, and the Watnick family made a transformative $1 million gift to NYLS.

In recognition of his lifelong love of reading, learning, and teaching, and his deep commitment to NYLS, the School will establish the Jay S. Watnick ’59 Reading Room and Legal Research Center within its Mendik Library.

The Watnick family’s gift enables life-changing scholarships by establishing the Marianna and Jay S. Watnick ’59 Scholarship Fund. The Fund will benefit high-achieving NYLS students, with preference for those who have demonstrated interest in legal research or financial services, two areas of focus in Jay Watnick’s life. A few years after he graduated from NYLS, the New York City native launched his life insurance career. He would go on to work for some of the nation’s top insurance companies—New York Life, Mutual Benefit Life, and Security Mutual Life Insurance Company—before creating his own pension administration company and leading Namco Financial Group. At Marymount, he taught financial and estate planning courses.

The gift’s timing is particularly poignant: This spring would have marked the 60th anniversary of his graduation from NYLS. The Class of 1959 numbered fewer than 100 students upon graduation, but its members have demonstrated extraordinary success and generosity. NYLS Board Chair Arthur N. Abbey ’59, one of the School’s most distinguished and dedicated graduates, is a member. The class maintains a scholarship fund that has awarded around $50,000 in the last five years to deserving NYLS students.

“I am so happy that the Watnick family has agreed to make a very generous gift to NYLS to honor Jay’s memory,” Arthur Abbey ’59 said. “Jay was my classmate, and we graduated together. He had a great mind. When called upon in class, he was always prepared, and he was a good match for some difficult professors. We stayed friendly over the years, and he told me often how much he appreciated his legal education and how helpful it was to his business success. Now he will be forever remembered, with his name prominently displayed in the Library reading room.”
IN MEMORIAM

Class of 1949
Samuel Gerard
January 6, 2018

Class of 1950
Albie S. Ferrucci
February 4, 2018

Class of 1951
Hon. Joseph N. Giamboi
September 27, 2018
Lloyd Hull
January 13, 2018
Guy Molinari
July 25, 2018
The former New York State Assembly Member, U.S. Representative, and Staten Island Borough President was an influential voice for Staten Islanders for decades.

Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas
March 22, 2018

Class of 1957
Victor Hart
September 2, 2018
Robert L. Lester
February 16, 2018

Class of 1958
Vincent DeRosa
January 20, 2018

Joseph J. Kazanchy
November 5, 2017
Ellen Reddington
February 16, 2018

Class of 1959
Arnold Kopelson
October 8, 2018
Arnold Kopelson ’59 passed away on October 8, 2018. He was an Oscar-winning film producer, whose work included the films Platoon and The Fugitive. He was also a longtime board member of CBS Corporation.
Jay Watnick
April 7, 2018

Class of 1962
Donald Jones
March 8, 2018

Class of 1963
Francis J. Reilly
October 1, 2017

Class of 1964
Jack M. deCicco
February 10, 2018

Class of 1965
Hon. Ingrid Braslow
February 27, 2018

Class of 1971
Hon. Edward J. Ryan
November 4, 2017

Class of 1973
Anthony Bergamo
September 29, 2017

Class of 1975
Mark Tepper
November 4, 2017

Class of 1978
Alison Greene
October 2, 2017

Class of 1981
Robert Leonard
December 14, 2017

Class of 1982
Deborah Lynch
October 2, 2018

Class of 1983
Arthur Heaney
April 29, 2018

Class of 1986
Kay Mackey
June 16, 2018

Class of 1988
Louisa Clark Spencer
November 19, 2017
A grandmother when she embarked on her NYLS degree, Louisa Clark Spencer went on to become an attorney at the Environmental Defense Fund and a member of NYLS’s Board of Trustees. Trustee Professor David Schoenbrod, who taught Spencer, gave remarks at her August 2018 memorial service.

Class of 1991
Audrey Lipford
November 29, 2017

Class of 1993
Eric Ross
September 9, 2018

Class of 1995
Nicole Willett
September 3, 2018

Class of 1999
Andrew Windman
February 16, 2018

Class of 2011
Martin Banks
February 27, 2018
Martin Banks passed away days after completing his J.D. and days before what would have been his 60th birthday. Humble, yet gifted with extraordinary talent and determination, he was a stand-out scholar and a beloved student leader.

Class of 2018

FRIENDS
Kate Appel
September 21, 2018
Gary Whiten
March 11, 2018
IN THIS ISSUE

NO. 8 OF 30 “Top Schools for Legal Technology” by preLaw magazine.

ONE OF 50 HONOREES—and one of 10 law schools in the nation—recognized by the Council on Legal Education Opportunity, Inc., for outstanding commitment to diversity as a legal educator.


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Marcy L. Grigsby ’06 and Pam Foster ’00

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www.nyls.edu/TaxLLM

SPOTLIGHT ON RECENT PROGRESS AND RECOGNITION

WE ARE NEW YORK’S LAW SCHOOL


VOTED #1 NINE YEARS IN A ROW
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
The 2019 Alumni Celebration is shaping up to be an extraordinary occasion for the entire NYLS community—and we’ll honor classes ending in 4 and 9. You won’t want to miss it!

Do you want to make sure your class is well represented at the celebration? Email alumni@nyls.edu to join your class committee.

How NYLS Trains 21st-Century Prosecutors