Lincoln Patel ’12 is helping to reshape Manhattan’s far west side.
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RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

125-year-old Evening Division ranked No. 28 among part-time programs in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report rankings.

Named a top school for Business Law, Criminal Law, Family Law, Human Rights Law, and Tax Law by preLaw magazine.


Learn more at news.nyls.edu

INFLUENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

Collaborated with national census expert Jeffrey M. Wice to launch the New York Census and Redistricting Institute ahead of the 2020 national census.

Awarded a $275K partnership grant with the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office from the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate wrongful conviction claims through NYLS's Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic.

Partnered with the Interfaith Center of New York on first-of-its-kind programming to help law students and lawyers better represent clients of all faith backgrounds.

RECOGNIZED LEADERSHIP

NEW YORK CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING INSTITUTE

U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT GRANT to Investigate Wrongful Conviction Claims

INTERFAITH CENTER OF NEW YORK

New Religious Literacy Programs for Lawyers

NEW YORK CENSUS AND REDISTRICTING INSTITUTE

U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT GRANT to Investigate Wrongful Conviction Claims

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NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

DEPARTMENTS

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Remembering alumni, faculty, and friends

If there was ever a year to embrace a new vision, 2020 is it!

In this issue, you’ll find details of New York Law School’s 2020 Strategic Plan: Ever Upward. The legal marketplace has profoundly changed during the last decade, impacting law schools across the country. Our robust new plan reflects a thoughtful blend of ambitious vision and responsible management. It’s the second comprehensive strategic plan in NYLS’s history, and it charts our course for the next five years. We’ll follow up with annual reports on our progress as we’ve done in the past.

This issue also introduces you to an accomplished graduate who leads public infrastructure projects at Hudson Yards, one of the most high-profile developments of the modern era. You’ll learn about an innovative new fellowship that connects NYLS students to judicial externships in South Africa while honoring the memory of long-time Professor Stephen J. Ellmann. And, you’ll catch up on the many activities of our talented alumni, distinguished faculty, and wonderful students.

I hope you’re inspired by the issue. I also hope to see you back on campus soon!

Anthony W. Crowell
Dean and President
Professor of Law
NYLS Charts a Path for the Next Five Years

In November 2019, NYLS published 2020 Strategic Plan: Ever Upward. The new plan builds on the original 2013 Strategic Plan. It was the result of a community-wide planning process during 2018 and 2019.

The plan is organized by a set of values, goals, and priorities designed to benefit students, alumni, and the legal profession while strengthening the School’s reputation in the academic and legal communities.

“Law schools today must be creative and visionary, as well as adaptable and efficient,” Dean Anthony W. Crowell wrote in his introductory letter. “Thus, while our goals are ambitious, our plan reflects a keen understanding that we will realize them through highly responsible fiscal stewardship and program management, generous philanthropy, and innovative academic and institutional partnerships to support extraordinary outcomes for a diverse student population.”

As with the original plan, NYLS will report annually on progress made towards these goals.

Read more at www.nyls.edu/strategy.
Our Five-Year Plan at a Glance

Academic Excellence and Innovation
- Ensuring academic excellence and innovation by aligning our offerings with student goals and the needs of the market.
- Offering seamless academic support from First Week through the bar exam
- Advancing cutting-edge teaching and learning strategies for legal education
- Enhancing research and writing programs
- Providing an even broader range of experiential learning opportunities
- Supporting STEM and technology-assisted learning
- Serving as a model for a flexible, 21st-century Evening Division
- Building innovative ideas and partnerships to expand student opportunities

Diversity and Inclusion
- Engaging the entire School community to foster a culture of true inclusiveness, principally as applied to the other five goal areas.
- Launching a bold new alumni engagement program
- Engaging the NYLS community in meaningful social justice advocacy
- Serving as Lower Manhattan’s premier center for civic discourse
- Forging closer links to the judiciary

Operations
- Driving operational efficiencies and adopting a culture of transparency, accountability, and affordability.
- Advising students through an integrated hub
- Designing a thoroughly modern approach to public interest advising
- Cultivating a flexible approach that supports evening students and alumni
- Increasing NYLS’s scholarly reputation in the academic community and developing a robust intellectual community on campus
- Recruiting full-time faculty who contribute to NYLS’s tradition of teaching excellence and thought leadership
- Facilitating scholarly exchange and collaboration
- Creating new pathways for adjunct faculty and students to participate in the scholarly life of the School

Career Success
- Supporting students and graduates in the transition from law student to lawyer.
- Pioneering New Ways of Teaching and Learning Law
- Anticipating the Legal Profession of Tomorrow
- Facilitating Dialogue and Action on a Local and Global Scale

Intellectual Life
- Supporting the scholarly community.
- Expanding Opportunity and Access in Legal Education
- Community Engagement
- Strengthening partnerships and connections among our students, faculty, alumni, and supporters across the NYLS community.

Our five-year plan at a glance...
In his 30 years on the Supreme Court, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia helped decide some of the most important cases of modern times, from District of Columbia v. Heller and Bush v. Gore to decisions involving reproductive rights, the Affordable Care Act, and same-sex marriage.

A key figure in the modern conservative movement—and one of the Court’s most polarizing members—Scalia touted constitutional originalism from the moment he became a justice in 1986. “The Constitution that I interpret and apply is not living but dead, or as I prefer to call it, enduring,” he once said. “It means today not what current society, much less the court, thinks it ought to mean, but what it meant when it was adopted.”

But how closely did he stick to that originalist approach? And were his rulings truly objective and detached from politics, as he so often claimed?

Those questions are at the heart of Professor Edward A. Purcell Jr.’s forthcoming book, Antonin Scalia and American Constitutionalism: The Historical Significance of a Judicial Icon.

Professor Purcell begins by tracing Scalia’s rise from lawyer to justice and conservative icon and examining the originalist theory he championed. He then dives into nearly every area of law Scalia addressed, pointing out the justice’s “highly inconsistent” commitment to originalism and, in contrast, his “highly consistent” dedication to conservative ideologies.

A history professor turned constitutional law scholar, Professor Purcell is a leading authority on the history of the U.S. Supreme Court and the federal judicial system. He’s received numerous accolades for his scholarship over the years, including the 2013 Outstanding Scholar Award from the American Bar Foundation.

He spoke with New York Law School Magazine about Justice Scalia’s historical significance, how originalism became intertwined with politics, and why it exemplifies the “methodological fallacy.” The conversation has been edited for length and clarity.
Antonin Scalia is one of those names that almost everyone knows, even if they don’t follow law or politics. Why?

Scalia made himself and was made by others into a kind of cultural icon—a celebrity justice. Serving on the Supreme Court automatically gave him considerable visibility. He was also a powerful writer with a charismatic and dynamic personality—and willing to assert his views boldly in his judicial opinions and other writing, through public speeches, and on television. Those views resonated profoundly with the Republican base and the political right. As a result, he became the nation’s leading symbol of originalism and judicial conservatism. To a large extent, it was a case of a person well-suited to his time. Had he come along 50 or 100 years earlier, it would have been very different. As it is, he will go down as a major figure in the Court’s history.

When and how did originalism, which has been around since the Constitutional Convention, become so intertwined with conservative politics? Did that start with Justice Scalia?

On the most general level, originalist-type arguments have been made from the nation’s earliest years, and they continued to be made through the 1960s. But what we’d call modern originalism really began to take shape in the 1970s, when Robert Bork and Raoul Berger developed originalist arguments attacking the Warren Court.

Then in the 1980s, the Reagan administration formally adopted originalism as the only proper method to interpret the Constitution and used it to promote the president’s agenda. After that, originalism exploded as a general topic of political and scholarly debate. It had been one technique of legal reasoning among many, but it was heralded by some on the right as the one “correct” method of constitutional interpretation.

You spend most of the book pointing out the inconsistencies and contradictions embedded in Justice Scalia’s rulings. Can you give us an example?

One classic example everyone knows is Bush v. Gore. That was a wholly non-originalist decision. In fact, in terms of originalist sources and textual evidence from the Constitution itself, the Supreme Court had no business intervening in the case. Justice Scalia contradicted a number of his proclaimed principles in Bush v. Gore, and the positions he adopted certainly rejected originalism and textualism.

What do you see as Justice Scalia’s significance in the history of American constitutionalism?

First, his jurisprudence shows what I call “the methodological fallacy.” There is no method—originalism or any other—that always works and that can be applied consistently to prescribe clear and “correct” answers to controversial constitutional questions. Justice Scalia’s originalism exemplifies the methodological fallacy by showing that the originalist method just does not work. Furthermore, he didn’t even try to apply it generally.

Second, his career demonstrates the very close linkage between constitutional law and American politics. He was a deeply political figure in every way, even though he repeatedly denied it. Indeed, his originalism was designed to project a stance of complete judicial objectivity while justifying his basic political, cultural, and social beliefs. This demonstrates that in fact American constitutionalism is largely shaped by the political beliefs, political values, and policy goals of those who interpret it.

And third, he represents the changing and living nature of American constitutionalism—how the justices who have sat on the Court have repeatedly changed the law to meet modern-day challenges.

As both a historian and a constitutional lawyer, where do you place the modern Supreme Court in terms of importance and influence?

The Court started off being quite unimportant in the 1790s. George Washington had trouble getting people to serve on it because nobody foresaw what it would become, and in the early years it decided very few cases. But the trajectory from the early nineteenth century to present is generally a rising trend of influence, power, and authority. When you think of the decisions the Court made since the late nineteenth century—decisions that have had massive impacts on people’s lives—you see that the Supreme Court has only become more influential, more important, and more powerful with each passing decade.

You’ve been teaching at NYLS since 1989. What do you enjoy most about sharing your expertise with the next generation of attorneys?

Law school teaching can be extremely exciting. There is an intellectual vibrancy when a law school class goes well. You’re dealing with very complex, important issues that are often highly debatable. When you get to debating who said what, their reasons, and why one reason is better than another, it can be electric, eye-opening, and liberating. That’s what legal education—all education—is really about.

And what keeps you hooked on studying and writing about the law yourself?

The world, the law, and history are so complex that I keep finding captivating and puzzling issues I want to grapple with and try to understand. That’s why I originally became interested in history: I kept wondering why things happened when they did and in the form they did and what consequences they brought. When I got into law, I found myself asking the same questions. These fields are infinitely fascinating.
NYLS Greets a New Class

In August 2019, NYLS welcomed 390 first-year students. Their ranks include an Emmy Award-winning TV producer, a chemical engineer, and a two-time Purple Heart recipient. The new class hails from 172 undergraduate institutions, speaks 37 languages, and is nearly 60 percent female. To help incoming students acclimate, NYLS hosts First Week. This year’s programming included Foundations for the Study of Law—an overview of the American legal system and an introduction to the skills necessary to study and learn in law school. First Week also included legal research training from NYLS’s Mendik Library team. Successful alumni, including John Louros ’17, Julie Muniz ’97, Sherbune Paul ’16, and Errol Taylor ’87, shared advice. And NYLS debuted a Health and Wellness Program. The week concluded with a welcome reception hosted by Dean Anthony W. Crowell and Board Chair Arthur N. Abbey ’59.

NYLS Hosts Human Rights Conference for WorldPride 2019

NYLS hosted a two-day global human rights conference for WorldPride 2019 in June. WorldPride events bring attention to issues affecting the LGBTQ community. They are attended by millions, and host cities have included London, Madrid, and Rome. WorldPride 2019—the first event held in the United States—marked the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, a watershed moment in the fight for LGBTQ civil rights. Dean Anthony W. Crowell welcomed hundreds of conference attendees, including 200 speakers, to campus, and NYLS organized an expert panel, “Technology, Cyberharassment, and Queer Equality,” moderated by Professor Ari Ezra Waldman, Director of NYLS’s Innovation Center for Law and Technology. The panelists included Adjunct Professor Andrew Santa Ana, who oversees NYLS’s Cyberharassment Clinic.
Bar Exam Champions Program Serves Up Encouragement

Nearly seven years ago, NYLS’s Alumni Association began a tradition: providing support and encouragement to recent graduates as they prepare for the New York State Bar Exam. In July 2019, the #NYLSBarExamChampions Program celebrated another successful year. Over the past six years, more than 400 alumni have made gifts supporting lunch during the grueling two-day exam, as well as essential bar prep resources for NYLS bar takers. Generous members of NYLS’s Board of Trustees provided matching funds. As part of the campaign, NYLS collected reflections on why alumni give. Jim Charne ’79 and Laurie Hutzler ’79, who have steadily supported the program, said, “The Bar Exam Champions Program provides not only lunch, but also great comfort and encouragement on those ever-so-stressful days. We’ve been very happy to support this wonderful program. It’s small things like this that make NYLS a community.”

Experts Assess Recent Changes in New York City Real Estate

NYLS hosted the breakfast forum “Seismic Shifts or Natural Progression? Recent Changes in NYC Real Estate” in September 2019. The event was co-sponsored by NYLS’s Center for Real Estate Studies and Center for New York City Law. Ross F. Moskowitz ’84, a partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP and an NYLS Trustee, skillfully moderated an engaging discussion on the latest policies impacting New York City’s real estate industry. Other speakers included Louise Carroll, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development; Lisa Gomez, Chief Operating Officer and Partner at L+M Development Partners Inc.; Brenda Rosen, CEO of Breaking Ground; and James Whelan, President of the Real Estate Board of New York.
INSIGHTS INTO THE NO-CODE REVOLUTION

In October 2019, Professor Houman B. Shadab, Co-Director of NYLS’s Center for Business and Financial Law, took students to a no-coding workshop. The event was hosted by Bubble, the New York City-based company that created a code-free programming platform. The “No-Code Revolution” refers to technology that has made it possible for law students and lawyers to develop powerful and valuable software without coding ability, other technical skills, or outside investors. Many view the phenomenon as a watershed development with profound socioeconomic implications. Pictured left to right are Natalie Young 2L, Serene Qandil 2L, Professor Shadab, and Daniel Pelo 3L at Bubble.

FIELD & CAMPUS

Jim Zirin Paints a Portrait of Donald Trump in 3,500 Lawsuits

In October 2019, NYLS’s Center for New York City Law hosted a discussion of Jim Zirin’s critically acclaimed new book: Plaintiff in Chief: A Portrait of Donald Trump in 3,500 Lawsuits. At the event, Zirin, a former federal prosecutor, distinguished attorney, and NYLS Trustee Emeritus, spoke with Dean Anthony W. Crowell about President Trump’s extensive litigation history. Zirin, who describes himself as a “middle-of-the-road Republican,” said he was troubled by the President’s use of the legal system to attack his enemies. “We are living in a dangerous time, and a dangerous precedent is being set,” he noted. Zirin has written two previous books, The Mother Court, about the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, and Supremely Partisan, about his belief that the Supreme Court is influenced by politics. C-SPAN aired the conversation on Plaintiff in Chief.

NYLS Hosts Immigration Symposium and Honors Professor Lenni Benson

In November 2019, hundreds of lawyers and advocates gathered at NYLS for the all-day symposium “A Century of Targeting Immigrants: From the Red Scare to the Travel Ban.” The event—co-sponsored by the New York Law School Law Review, the Impact Center for Public Interest Law, and the Safe Passage Project—featured discussions with historians, scholars, and attorneys. Alumni, including Jean-Michel Voltaire ’03, an attorney with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Adjunct Professor Claire R. Thomas ’11, spoke. David Cole, National Legal Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, gave a compelling keynote address, and the group Voices of a People’s History of the United States performed excerpts related to Howard Zinn’s acclaimed book. After the event, NYLS celebrated the appointment of Professor Lenni Benson as the Distinguished Chair in Immigration and Human Rights Law.
NYLS has partnered with the Interfaith Center of New York (ICNY) on new programs to help law students and lawyers serve people of all faith backgrounds.

The collaboration, which was announced in October 2019, is the first pairing of its kind. NYLS and ICNY are developing three programs: (1) engaging NYLS students in “know-your-rights” trainings with New York City congregations, (2) a March 2020 symposium on religious diversity and legal practice, and (3) interfaith dialogues for 1L students and other members of the NYLS community.

A key part of the training involves case studies, some of which are rooted in real-life scenarios. For example, students will learn about a case in which a Sikh Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) worker contested an MTA policy requiring him to wear the agency’s logo on his turban.

The Rev. Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director of ICNY, said that the program’s goal is “to ensure that the vastly diverse immigrant communities of New York will be well-served by religiously-literate attorneys and law students.”

Dean Anthony W. Crowell echoed that sentiment. “Programs like this are critical to serving the needs of our diverse communities and advancing access to justice,” he said.

These initiatives are made possible by generous seed funding from Diane Abbey, Founder of NYLS’s Diane Abbey Law Institute for Children and Families, and Arthur N. Abbey ’59, Chair of NYLS’s Board of Trustees.

Chief Judge Robert A. Katzmann of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and the founder of the Immigrant Justice Corps, will serve as the keynote speaker at the attorney-training program.

The announcement was covered by the New York Law Journal and National Jurist.

Pre-Law Pipeline Programming

In June 2019, NYLS debuted its Summer Pre-Law Program for college students.

Fifteen students attended a month of educational programming taught by NYLS faculty members, including Introduction to the Legal Method, Written Legal Communication, Introduction to LSAT Preparation, Academic Success, Professional Development, and a project-based capstone.

To complete the capstone, students worked in small teams, playing the role of law student interns in the New York City Mayor’s Office. As part of the simulation, they evaluated the feasibility of two mock proposals: providing all New York City employees with free lunch and allowing city employees to bring a pet to the office. Each group met with a different legal or policy advisor in city government to collect information.

On the final day of the program, students presented their findings and recommendations to Dean Anthony W. Crowell, Professor Kirk Burkhalter ’04 (Co-Chair of NYLS’s Faculty Committee on Diversity and Inclusion), Associate Dean Ella Mae Estrada (who oversees NYLS’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion), Associate Dean and Counsel Matt Gewolb, and Senior Director for Student Life Shani Darby (an NYLS Deputy Diversity Officer).

In their presentations, students grappled with the complexities raised by the proposals. More research would be needed, they said, to define terms like “lunch” and “city employee” in this context. Who, they questioned, would be at fault if one employee’s pet bites another employee in the office?

Dean Crowell told the group that the exercise was designed to help them start thinking like lawyers.

“Law isn’t about making quick assumptions,” he said. “It’s about doing deep research and understanding the full picture. The lawyer is a control tower, making sure that all relevant facts are considered.”

The participants were enthusiastic about their experiences.

“I didn’t expect that at the end of this, I’d be able to brief a case, read a legal textbook, or think like a law student,” one student said.

The program, offered at no cost to participants, continues for four weeks next summer. Meanwhile, NYLS stays in touch with attendees to provide them with law school-related resources. The School is developing additional pipeline programs for rising ninth-graders and for working professionals.
“It’s the most beautiful thing I know,” said Professor Laurence H. Tribe, on stage in NYLS’s Events Center.

In that moment, the renowned constitutional law scholar, who has taught at Harvard for 52 years, wasn’t speaking about the law. He was talking about his first love, mathematics. A passion so strong, he said, that it once compelled him to scrawl Euler’s formula across the wall of a library bathroom.

Professor Tribe’s journey from math to law was just one of the personal and surprising stories he shared on November 1, 2019, when he became the 11th luminary to appear on campus for the Sidney Shainwald Public Interest Lecture series.

Founded by global women’s health advocate and NYLS Trustee Emeritus Sybil Shainwald ’76, the high-profile talks honor her late husband’s life and work. Past guests have included U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel.

The latest event placed Professor Tribe on stage with Jeffrey Toobin—a legal analyst for CNN and writer for The New Yorker—in an interview-style conversation. The audience included federal and state judges, leading attorneys, academics, reporters, and NYLS faculty members. (Earlier that day, Tribe also had a separate conversation with NYLS students.)

Kenneth R. Feinberg, Dean Anthony W. Crowell, and Shainwald gave introductory remarks. Dean Crowell called Tribe “an indispensable guide for everyone in better understanding the most critical and constitutional issues at stake for our nation.” Feinberg and Shainwald also highlighted his deep expertise as a scholar.
Toobin began his interview much earlier in Professor Tribe’s story, with a question about his childhood: How did he come to be born in Shanghai?

Professor Tribe explained that his parents were Russian Jews who emigrated at a time when few countries would allow them in. He was born in Japanese-occupied Shanghai just two months before the Pearl Harbor attack—and his father, an American citizen, was imprisoned in Shanghai throughout Tribe’s early childhood.

The family eventually sailed to San Francisco, California, where Professor Tribe learned to speak English and, at age 16, left home to attend Harvard.

He’d already begun a graduate program in math when, thanks to a friend who was enrolled in law school, he discovered law. Professor Tribe quickly changed course.

“When I made the shift, the first thing I noticed was how much more difficult law was,” he said. “You really couldn’t ever put ‘QED’ at the end of a legal argument. There were these human variables. At first, that frustrated me, but then that became what I really loved.”

Professor Tribe recalled clerking for Supreme Court justices in the late 1960s. In that role, he worked on the draft in *Katz v. United States* that became the opinion of seven justices and ultimately led to the court overruling a previous Fourth Amendment-related decision. (U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan II, a 1924 NYLS graduate, authored an influential concurring opinion in the case.)

In 1978, Professor Tribe published *American Constitutional Law*—the book that Dean Crowell called a “seminal treatise” in his introduction. On stage, Professor Tribe offered a behind-the-book story that had his audience chuckling. A self-described klutz, he couldn’t change the tape on his electric typewriter without making a mess. So, while writing *American Constitutional Law*, Harvard rented him 11 typewriters and lined them up in a row. When the tape ran out on one, he’d move over to work on the next. He wrote that way for nine straight months, without taking a leave from teaching.

“It was really crazy,” he said. “I don’t know how the hell I did it.”

Professor Tribe also described his first time arguing a case—*Richmond Newspapers v. Virginia* in 1981—and noted that more requests to argue came quickly after that.

Toobin pointed out that many believe Tribe was en route to an eventual Supreme Court seat himself until his 1987 testimony against Robert Bork during the Senate confirmation hearings. While Professor Tribe said he had “no doubt” that he was jeopardizing his own chances by testifying against Bork, he credited his daughter, a teenager at the time, with the decision to do so anyway.

“She said, ‘Dad, do you really think he’s dangerous to the country?’ and I said, ‘Yeah,’” he recalled. “Well, then you have to testify against him,’ she said, ‘and explain why you think that.’”

As the post-lecture Q&A proved, many in the audience were eager to dig into Professor Tribe’s most recent work around impeachment, including his 2018 book *To End a Presidency: The Power of Impeachment*.

“The fact is, as a country, we have to proceed with such caution on impeachment,” Tribe said, later adding that “the objective is to safeguard and save democracy, not just to get rid of a particular bad actor.”
On November 14, 2019, alumni of NYLS’s Evening Division gathered to celebrate the Division’s 125th anniversary and toast its future success.

The keynote speaker was evening graduate Charles E. Phillips ’93, Chairman of Infor, a member of NYLS’s Board of Trustees, and one of the School’s most accomplished and influential alumni. Board Chair Arthur N. Abbey ‘59 and Dean Anthony W. Crowell welcomed the group. Kevon Weekes 4L Evening, a dynamo student and a mentee of Dean Crowell, shared her experiences as an evening student. (Following graduation, she will join the New York City Law Department as an Assistant Corporation Counsel.) The event benefitted NYLS’s Evening Division Leadership Fund, which supports the academic and bar success of NYLS evening students.

**FAST FACTS**

The Evening Division was founded in 1894—the same year that bottled Coca Cola hit the market, the patent for motion picture films was granted, and Pullman Company workers launched their famous national strike.

Anthony W. Crowell is the first NYLS Dean, and one of two law school deans currently serving among 205 nationally, known to have graduated from an evening law school program. He worked full-time while earning his J.D. from American University’s Washington College of Law.

NYLS has secured a grant from the AccessLex Institute to design and implement responses to the academic and bar prep challenges evening students face.
LOOKING
At the March 2019 star-studded opening of Hudson Yards, Lincoln Patel ’12 stood behind the ribbon.

He could see the crowd’s excitement at the unveiling of four gleaming towers, the climbable Vessel art sculpture, and dozens of shops and restaurants where desolate rail yards had once stood. The private development project—led by Related Companies and Oxford Properties Group—stretches from 30th Street to 34th Street and from 10th Avenue to 11th Avenue. A second phase will unfold above the rail yards to the far west.

For seven years, Patel has been closely involved in a less glamorous yet equally critical part of the project—its public infrastructure components. (The city has invested $3.5 billion in infrastructure.) That work includes the landmark two-mile extension of the No. 7 subway to 34th Street and 11th Avenue in September 2015, property acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and the opening of new parks and roadways. Patel is Executive Vice President and Counsel for the Hudson Yards Development Corporation (HYDC)—a quasi-governmental entity that oversees the city’s development program and interfaces with private developers and government agencies alike.

“What’s so fascinating about Hudson Yards is the idea of taking nothing and helping make it into something no one would have imagined,” Patel said. “You’re working on an area that has been dilapidated and underused, and you’re revitalizing it into an amazing mixed-use space. You’re creating genuine results in real time.”

For a long time, Hudson Yards was regarded as the last frontier of Manhattan. The site’s development—in the works for nearly two decades—became a critical part of the city’s bid to host the 2012 Olympics. In 2005, the New York City Council approved a comprehensive rezoning of the neighborhood. The same year, the City of New York established HYDC—where Patel works.

Patel never imagined that he’d become part of the groundbreaking project—among the largest in U.S. history. In 2012, after graduating from NYLS and while studying for the bar exam, he eagerly took on a six-month contract role handling condemnation matters at HYDC. The only catch was, he had no experience in condemnations.

“The job market was tough,” he said. “People weren’t getting call backs.” Patel’s persistence and willingness to acquire new skills paid off. He learned from his colleagues and took on any project he was offered. During the next seven years, he gradually amassed increasing responsibilities.
Patel has stayed connected to NYLS. Last fall, he hosted a special tour of Hudson Yards and reception for a group of alumni.

“Real Estate Transactions was my favorite class at NYLS because it tied together my love for law and business. The class was 10 percent grey area and 90 percent ‘this is how it’s done.’ I can say that it solidified my ability to do my job today.”

Patel is most proud of having helped HYDC get condemnation claims back on track after a series of costly slow-downs. To tackle the problem, he divided the claims into three categories and created targeted strategies for resolving them efficiently.

“I started setting up meetings with outside counsel and claimants,” he said. “And I settled 25 cases out of 32 that were pending when I joined the company.” Patel’s efforts brought HYDC back on budget to its initial projections when he started.

He’s also proud of helping to open New York City’s first new subway station in half a century, even though the launch was delayed from 2013 to 2015.

“Integrating the old and new subway systems safely, efficiently, and properly was critical—and highly complex,” he said. “That’s what held us up.”

These days, Patel juggles both business and legal duties, helping private developers avoid red tape and keeping his projects on budget and on schedule.

“There is no typical day,” he said. “I’ll jump from a conversation on design and construction to a legal question on a condemnation issue. The business and legal halves of the job can be intertwined any which way.”

At times, the “Counsel” part of his role is at odds with the “Vice President” part. “I’ve had to include other lawyers on a call because I’m already wearing my design and construction hat, and it would create a conflict to do both,” he said.

Patel, who attended George Washington University as an undergraduate, initially thought he’d go into politics, but an internship on Capitol Hill steered him away from that path. (Of course, the world of New York City real estate is plenty political.)

“I now understand the horse-trading component of politics, the give-and-take, but that was hard for me to swallow as an undergraduate,” he said. “My feeling has always been, if you say you’ll do something, you do it. I like that in law, you work for a client or a purpose from start to finish.”

Patel’s parents passively invested in real estate when he was a child, and by high school, he was already familiar with common transactional documents. At NYLS, he affiliated with the Center for Real Estate Studies and frequently attended speaker events.
“Real Estate Transactions was my favorite class at NYLS because it tied together my love for law and business,” he said. “The class was 10 percent grey area and 90 percent ‘this is how it’s done.’ I can say that it solidified my ability to do my job today.”

Patel gives back by staying in touch with the School. In September 2019, he hosted a special tour and reception for alumni of the Dean’s Leadership Council.

“I was able to get my job at HYDC because of strong references from Dean Anthony Crowell and [former] Professor Andrew Berman,” he said. “NYLS was great at giving us those opportunities. Every student should take advantage of what the School provides.”

**PATEL’S PICKS**

When friends and family ask Patel for can’t-miss destinations at Hudson Yards, here’s what he recommends:

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**Ride the inclinator at the 34th St.-Hudson Yards subway station.** Most tourists exiting the subway station go straight for its escalators, overlooking what Patel calls “New York City’s cheapest attraction”—a Willy Wonka-ish glass box. “It’s one of the first horizontal elevators in the United States,” Patel explained. “There’s only one other inclinator in a public transit system, and it’s in Europe.”

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**Go to the top of the Vessel and look west.** The Vessel—a gleaming honeycomb-shaped structure with 154 interconnected staircases—has become one of the site’s buzziest tourist spots. From the top, Patel wants visitors to look west across the rail yards. “Right now, there is a one-in-a-lifetime view of the Hudson River,” he said. “When the next phase of development is complete, it’ll be gone.”

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**Take a breather in Bella Abzug Park.** The park—named for the former women’s rights advocate and New York Congresswoman—features fountains and a climbing playground for children. “Everyone thinks it’s a kid’s playground, but it draws just as many adults,” Patel said. “It’s fun to see parents spending time with their kids and enjoying a break from the chaos of Midtown. I love taking my daughter there.”

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MORE ALUMNI CONNECTIONS TO HUDSON YARDS

**Cathy Hershcopf ‘85,** a corporate restructuring partner at Cooley LLP, works at 55 Hudson Yards. Cooley relocated to Hudson Yards from Bryant Park.

**Amanda Links ‘12,** now Senior Leasing Counsel at Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, helped negotiate the lease for the star anchor of Hudson Yards: Neiman Marcus. At the time, she worked for Proskauer Rose LLP.

**Jennifer A. McCool ‘97** is Executive Vice President at Related Companies, the lead private developer of Hudson Yards.

**Elan Michelle Nehleber ‘09,** an Associate at Boies Schiller Flexner, works at 55 Hudson Yards. The firm relocated its headquarters to Hudson Yards from Midtown East.

**Errol Taylor ‘87** is one of several alumni based in the New York office of Milbank LLP at 55 Hudson Yards. Taylor, a partner at Milbank, leads the firm’s biopharma patent litigation practice. Milbank relocated to Hudson Yards from the Financial District.
You were a public defender before you became an academic. How does your legal experience inform your scholarship?

Your research focuses on criminal procedure and prosecutors. What interests you about these topics?

What strategies for limiting prosecutorial powers do you have in mind?

Can you tell me about your forthcoming article in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review, “Prejudice-Based Rights in Criminal Procedure”? 

What drew you to NYLS?

As an appellate lawyer in an adequately funded public defender office, I saw the U.S. criminal legal system at its very best. Yet, even at its best, the system had profound problems. It pervasively discriminated against poor people and people of color. It tore communities apart instead of building them up. And it displayed little regard for criminal defendants’ rights or procedural fairness. My scholarship strives to understand how we dug ourselves into this hole, and how we might escape from it.

I believe that criminal procedure is profoundly out of balance. The framers of the Constitution sought to restrain enforcement of criminal law chiefly through fair and public trials that vested power in lay jurors. Pervasive plea-bargaining has greatly weakened that restraint and left us with few real checks on prosecutorial decision-making. I’m interested in exploring new strategies to rein in the power of the modern prosecutor.

No single intervention will suffice. But criminal discovery is one promising place to set change in motion. The civil system embraced liberal discovery long ago. The criminal system, however, often corrals defendants into making life-altering decisions about plea bargains without sufficient information, while enabling prosecutors to evade accountability for how they exercise discretion. Although some states are heading in the right direction on this issue, we still have a long way to go.

Some of criminal defendants’ most celebrated procedural rights—the right to receive exculpatory evidence from the prosecutor, effective assistance of counsel, and so on—are far narrower than they appear at first blush. The reason is that those rights, as currently interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, are limited by the concept of prejudice. For example, while a prosecutor may not suppress exculpatory evidence if doing so is likely to cause a wrongful conviction, case law allows the prosecutor to suppress such evidence if he or she concludes that suppression is unlikely to affect the outcome at trial. Using prejudice to define rights is dangerous, I argue, both because there’s no good way to predict in advance what will or won’t affect the eventual outcome, and because procedural fairness is inherently valuable even when the probable outcome seems clear.

The city—where better than New York City to study the criminal legal system and push for reform?—and the students, who never cease to impress me with their ideas, aspirations, professionalism, and diversity. Every day I reflect on how fortunate I am to work with this incredible group of people as they learn the law and discover what it means, for each of them, to be a lawyer.
FULL-TIME FACULTY ACTIVITIES

These items represent a sample of the recent activities of NYLS’s full-time faculty.

Susan J. Abraham

Awards and Recognition
Honored by the NYLS Moot Court Association after serving as the Association’s Faculty Advisor for 13 years (March 2019).

Appointments
Appointed to the Advisory Board of Restorative Justice Initiative in New York City (2019).

Presentations
Organized and moderated a panel following the showing that included the filmmaker and two mothers portrayed in the film who became restorative justice facilitators and activists after their sons were murdered. The panel addressed how the practice of restorative justice can be used in a myriad of contexts relating to criminal justice (February 2019).

Penelope Andrews

Awards and Recognition
Ranked in the top 10 percent of authors on SSRN by all-time downloads (September 2019).

Appointments
Elected President of the Law and Society Association, June 2019 through June 2021 (June 2019).

Presentations

Presented her research on #MeToo at the University of Melbourne in Australia and at the 11th Feminist Legal Theory Conference: “Applied Feminism and #MeToo,” held at the University of Baltimore School of Law (August and April 2019).

Alan L. Appel ’76

Presented her research on #MeToo at the University of Melbourne in Australia and at the 11th Feminist Legal Theory Conference: “Applied Feminism and #MeToo,” held at the University of Baltimore School of Law (August and April 2019).

Awards and Recognition
Presented her research on #MeToo at the University of Melbourne in Australia and at the 11th Feminist Legal Theory Conference: “Applied Feminism and #MeToo,” held at the University of Baltimore School of Law (August and April 2019).

Publications

“ICE Raids Bear a Disturbing Resemblance to the ‘Pass Raids’ of Apartheid,” Slate (July 2019).


Publications
“ICE Raids Bear a Disturbing Resemblance to the ‘Pass Raids’ of Apartheid,” Slate (July 2019).

“Apartheid, ” held at NYLS (April 2019).

Guest panelist at the New York University School of Professional Studies 77th Institute on Federal Taxation in New York and San Diego, California (November and October 2018).

Publications

Delivered remarks related to Citizen Capitalism at The Cornell Club-New York (January 2019).

Tamara C. Belinfanti

Awards and Recognition
Her article, “Contested Visions: The Value of Systems Theory for Corporate Law,” published in the University of Pennsylvania Law Review (2018), was selected as one of the “The Top 10 Corporate and Securities Articles of 2018” by the Corporate Practice Commentator (May 2019).

Presentations

Delivered remarks related to Citizen Capitalism at The Cornell Club-New York (January 2019).

Publications

Lenni B. Benson

Awards and Recognition
Received the prestigious Child 10 Award from the Hugo Stenbeck Foundation, a global children’s rights group based in Sweden. The annual award is given to 10 leaders worldwide for
their efforts to protect vulnerable children; the awards ceremony marked the seventh time Benson spoke about issues affecting migrant children during fall 2018 (December 2018).

Presentations
Speaker and moderator at the University of Sydney Law School “Conference on Children, Migration and the Right to Health” in Sydney, Australia (July 2019).

Publications

Protecting Migrant Children: In Search of Best Practice, a comprehensive resource for human rights advocates, policymakers, and others who promote the well-being of child migrants around the world (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2018).

Advocacy
Authored a public regulatory comment critiquing the U.S. government’s expansion of “expedited removal” (September 2019).

Submitted comments on proposed rules that would eliminate judicial review of the detention of migrant children and joined amici briefs in seeking the restoration of asylum seeker rights following government attempts to restrain applications at the Southwest border (2018–19).

Media References and Appearances
Featured prominently, along with the Safe Passage Project, in “If You’re Like Me, You Can’t Sit By. This Is America,” The New York Times (August 2019).

Presentations
Delivered the final, two-hour keynote address at the 40th Annual Conference of the Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation, attended by death penalty prosecutors from across the country (August 2019).

Op-Ed, “Pittsburgh synagogue massacre is a crime that deserves death penalty,” Fox News (August 2019).

Op-Ed, “AG Barr is right to resume death penalty for vicious killers,” Fox News (July 2019).


Presentations

Presented a paper titled “The Adoption of the Wills’ Act of 1837: A Lesson on the Perils of Law Reform” to the Legal History Seminar at the Faculty of Law in the University of Cambridge (March 2019).


“Eric Garner is proof that we need to reform laws on excessive force,” The Washington Post (July 2019).


Represents the family of Eric Garner in a lawsuit seeking a judicial inquiry into Garner’s death following a police chokehold and in a request for records related to the disciplinary trial of former NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo (August 2019–Present).

Presentations
Testified, as Co-Director of NYLS’s Racial Justice Project, before the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Codes on the Repeal of New York Civil Rights Law Section 50-a. (October 2019).

Spoke about police reform and accountability at the 2019 Annual Legislative Conference, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.’s leading policy conference on issues impacting African Americans and the global Black community (September 2019).


Advocacy
Represents the family of Eric Garner in a lawsuit seeking a judicial inquiry into Garner’s death following a police chokehold and in a request for records related to the disciplinary trial of former NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo (August 2019–Present).

Media References and Appearances
Quoted extensively in the press about his legal advocacy on behalf of the family of Eric Garner, including in POLITICO, the Associated Press, Staten Island Advance, and New York Amsterdam News, and on the podcast Good Law | Bad Law (August 2019).

Presentations
Member of the program committee for the Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, “The Path to Independence: Preparing Students to be Lawyers,”

Roberto Alaniz

Appointments
Appointed Acting Director of NYLS’s Office of Clinical and Experiential Learning (July 2019).

Presentations
Testified, as Co-Director of NYLS’s Racial Justice Project, before the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Codes on the Repeal of New York Civil Rights Law Section 50-a. (October 2019).

Spoke about police reform and accountability at the 2019 Annual Legislative Conference, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.’s leading policy conference on issues impacting African Americans and the global Black community (September 2019).


Advocacy
Represents the family of Eric Garner in a lawsuit seeking a judicial inquiry into Garner’s death following a police chokehold and in a request for records related to the disciplinary trial of former NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo (August 2019–Present).

Media References and Appearances
Quoted extensively in the press about his legal advocacy on behalf of the family of Eric Garner, including in POLITICO, the Associated Press, Staten Island Advance, and New York Amsterdam News, and on the podcast Good Law | Bad Law (August 2019).

Presentations
Member of the program committee for the Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, “The Path to Independence: Preparing Students to be Lawyers,”
held at NYLS. NYLS was among nine law schools co-hosting the conference, which included over 25 presenters from schools across the country (May 2019).

**Media References and Appearances**

Frequently appeared on the Law & Crime Network as a legal analyst to discuss breaking, high-profile criminal cases (2019).

**Service**

Co-led NYLS’s inaugural Pre-Law Program; the program’s goal is to provide undergraduate students from underrepresented populations with a dedicated set of opportunities to explore the law and create a pathway to earn their J.D. degrees (summer 2019).

**Presentations**

Delivered remarks, “From Picasso to Warhol to Koons: Art Appropriation or Just Plain Theft?” at the West Tisbury Free Public Library on Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts (July 2019).

Spoke at a panel on women, temperance, and reform held at the New-York Historical Society as part of the 2019 Diane and Adam E. Max Conference on Women’s History, themed “Ninety-Nine Years Since Prohibition” and held in celebration of Women’s History Month (March 2019).

**Publications**


**Anna G. Cominsky ’05**

**Presentations**

With NYLS Professors Kim Hawkins and Richard D. Marsico, participated in the Clinical Law Review Writers’ Workshop at New York University School of Law, where she presented her work in progress, “Client (De-) Selection: Who Am I to Choose?” (September 2019).

Attended the Southeastern Association of Law Schools 2019 Conference, where she participated in the Clinical Education Workshop Discussion Group “Is Clinical Legal Education the Conscience of the Legal Academy?” (July 2019).

Taught New York City Law Department attorneys an intensive trial advocacy skills training program; the program culminated in a mock trial (July 2019).

With NYLS Professor Mariana Hogan, taught a series of intensive trial advocacy workshops to attorneys from the New York City Department of Social Services, culminating in mock trials (June and May 2019).


**Publications**


**Media References and Appearances**

Featured prominently in a story by TV Globo, a Brazil-based international network with offices in New York City; the story focused on Brazil’s ongoing debate over whether to incorporate plea bargains into its criminal justice system for the first time (February 2019).

Led the panel “For the Law School Dean: Law Schools and the New Accountability Paradigm,” in which law school deans discussed how law schools can live up to the new American Bar Association transparency and accountability principles. The panel was part of the 2019 Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting (January 2019).


**Awards and Recognition**

Named to “The Higher Education Power 50” Power List as one of the 50 most powerful leaders in New York’s higher education community by City & State New York magazine (March 2019).

**Media References and Appearances**

Featured on “Law You Should Know,” 90.3 WHPC and Apple Podcasts, in an episode profiling NYLS (March 2019).

**Ronald H. Filler**

**Appointments**

Elected to the Executive Committee of the National Futures Association, the industry regulator for the derivatives industry. He is on the Public Representatives Committee and the only full-time academic serving on the Executive Committee (March 2019).
Presentations
Moderated a panel on regulatory reporting at the 41st Annual FIA Law & Compliance Division Conference in Washington, D.C. (May 2019).

Spoke at the Conference on Commodities Volatility and Risk Management in Paris, France (May 2019).

Media References and Appearances

Kris Franklin

Awards and Recognition
Along with NYLS Professors Doni Gewirtzman and Kim Hawkins, and Professor Peggy Cooper Davis of New York University School of Law, named a finalist for the second annual Wolters Kluwer Leading Edge Prize for Educational Innovation. The NYLS group’s proposal was titled “A Team-Based Legal Education Constructive Workshop” (September 2019).

Spoke at a roundtable addressing law school diversity and inclusion efforts at the Fourth National People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference at American University Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. (June 2019).

Spoke at NYLS’s annual “What’s Next for SCOTUS?” panel on the Supreme Court’s upcoming term, alongside NYLS Professors Lenni Benson, Arthur S. Leonard, Edward A. Purcell Jr., and Rebecca Roiphe (September 2019).

Spoke on a panel titled “Constitutionalism and Constitution-Making: Global Perspectives” at the NYLS South Africa Reading Group’s “Conference to Honor the South African Constitutional Scholar, Professor Heinz Klug” (June 2019).

Anne Goldstein

Awards and Recognition
Along with NYLS Professors Kris Franklin and Kim Hawkins, and Professor Peggy Cooper Davis of New York University School of Law, named a finalist for the second annual Wolters Kluwer Leading Edge Prize for Educational Innovation. The NYLS group’s proposal was titled “A Team-Based Legal Education Constructive Workshop” (September 2019).

Presentations
Member of the program committee for the Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, “The Path to Independence: Preparing Students to be Lawyers,” held at NYLS. NYLS was among nine law schools co-hosting the conference, which included over 25 presenters from schools across the country (May 2019).

With NYLS Professor Lynn Boepple Su, presented “From Clueless to Clued-In: Teaching Students to Internalize the Procedural and Evidentiary Life of a Case to Become More Adept at Critical Reading and Legal Analysis” at the Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, held at NYLS (May 2019).

With Professor Su, presented “Inculcating a ‘Core Habit of Mindful Thinking’ About the Procedural and Evidentiary Life of a Case” at the “Conference on Enhancing Teaching and Learning in a Law School,” in partnership with the Columbia University Teachers College and held at NYLS (May 2019).

Presentations
Spoke at the Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, held at NYLS, on “Using Pending Supreme Court Litigation to Teach Lawyering Skills” (May 2019).

Publications
“Academic highlight: The need for transparency in state attorneys general amicus briefs,” SCOTUSBlog (June 2019).


Media References and Appearances


**Advocacy**

Through NYLS’s Diane Abbey Law Institute for Children and Families, supervised students in the Volunteer Attorney Program in Brooklyn Family Court in filing appeals for individuals who were wrongfully denied marriage licenses and in preparing a memorandum supporting legislation for the New York State Bar Association Committee on Children and the Law (2019).

**Awards and Recognition**

Along with NYLS Professors Kris Franklin and Doni Gewirtzman, and Professor Peggy Cooper Davis of New York University School of Law, named a finalist for the second annual Wolters Kluwer Leading Edge Prize for Educational Innovation. The NYLS group’s proposal was titled “A Team-Based Legal Education Constructive Workshop” (September 2019).

**Appointments**

Co-Director of NYLS’s new Housing Justice Leadership Initiative (January 2019).

**Presentations**

With NYLS Professors Anna Cominsky ’05 and Richard D. Marsico, participated in the Clinical Law Review. Writers’ Workshop at New York University School of Law, where she presented her work-in-progress, “Power and Possibility in the Era of Right to Counsel and the New Rent Laws” (September 2019).

**Mariana Hogan**

Served as Program Director and faculty for a series of training programs for Hogan Lovells’ litigation associates from across the Americas, including on fact investigation, deposition skills, motion argument, expert depositions, and trial skills (2019).

**Presentations**

Designed, directed, and taught the second annual Intensive Trial Advocacy Program for attorneys at the New York City Department of Social Services, working with Andrew Tallis ’93, of the Department of Social Services, to organize the trainings and NYLS Professor Anna Cominsky ’05 to teach workshops (June and May 2019).

Presented and taught workshops on deposition and trial skills for litigators at Allstate Insurance Company; Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP; Baker Botts LLP; Covington & Burling LLP; The Hartford; Hunton Andrews Kurth; Milbank LLP; and Paul Hastings LLP (2019).

**Gowri J. Krishna**

Attended the 18th Annual Transactional Clinical Conference in Berkeley, California and presented at two sessions (May 2019).

Presented at the 2019 Association of American Law Schools Conference on Clinical Legal Education at a session titled “What’s Economic Inequality Got to Do with It? Everything! Strategies for Teaching Economic Inequality in Clinics” (May 2019).

Presented at the Fifth Annual Conference of the Cooperative Professionals Guild on “The New Landscape for Worker Cooperative Entity Choice,” where she spoke about NYLS’s Nonprofit and Small Business Clinic’s work in creating the first franchise in the country made up of worker-owned cooperative businesses (May 2019).

Organized the expert panel and CLE “Impact Thursday 11: Amazon Postmortem: A Discussion on Grassroots Organizing, Law, and Policy,” held at NYLS (March 2019).

Organized a New York City “Community Economic Development Summit” in which law students from community-focused transactional clinics throughout the city came to NYLS to meet each other and discuss timely issues (March 2019).

**Publications**


**Media References and Appearances**

Featured in Fordham Lawyer magazine as Director of NYLS’s Nonprofit and Small Business Clinic (February 2019).

Publications

Richard D. Marsico
Awards and Recognition
Regularly ranked in the top 10 percent of authors on SSRN by all-time downloads, and his paper, “From Rowley to Endrew F.: The Evolution of a Free Appropriate Public Education for Children with Disabilities,” was regularly included on category-specific SSRN Top 10 downloads lists (2019).

Howard S. Meyers
Presentations
Attended a Securities Litigation and Arbitration Clinic Roundtable at Fordham University School of Law, where he discussed NYLS’s recent investor protection activities and initiatives with fellow clinicians and securities regulators from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, FINRA (Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.), and New York State Office of the Attorney General (June 2019).

Frank W. Munger
Awards and Recognition
Given the Legacy Award at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association in Washington, D.C. This award recognizes more than a single accomplishment or contribution to the legal profession.
contribution; rather, it is given to individuals who have had a career of such activities (June 2019).

**Publications**


**Presentations**

Presented on “Policing Criminal Procedure Error on Appeal” and moderated a panel at “CrimFest! 2019” at Brooklyn Law School (July 2019).

Presented about “Prejudice-Based Rights in Criminal Procedure,” was accepted for publication by the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* (March 2019).

Presented on former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and the Supreme Court at the New York University School of Law’s “Colloquium on Legal and Constitutional History” (September 2019).

**Publications**


**Advocacy**

Under her supervision, Education Law Clinic students won two suspension dismissals and one suspension appeal. They also reduced suspension lengths in seven other cases for public school students in New York City (2018–19).

**Presentations**

Presented on “Policing the Police—Enforcing Transparency and Accountability,” a panel discussion sponsored by NYLS’s Racial Justice Project as part of the 2019 Northeast Regional Student Chapter Convening of the American Constitution Society, held at NYLS (October 2019).

SPOKE AT NYLS’S ANNUAL “WHAT’S NEXT FOR SCOTUS?” PANEL ON THE SUPREME COURT’S UPCOMING TERM, ALONGSIDE NYLS PROFESSORS LENNI BENSON, DONI GEWIRTMAN, ARTHUR S. LEONARD, AND REBECCA ROIPHE (SEPTEMBER 2019).

**Publications**


**Presentations**

Moderated “Policing the Police—Enforcing Transparency and Accountability,” a panel discussion sponsored by NYLS’s Racial Justice Project as part of the 2019 Northeast Regional Student Chapter Convening of the American Constitution Society, held at NYLS (October 2019).

**Publications**

Co-authored “The Judge in Epstein’s Case Should Not Turn the Dismissal into a Drama for the Victims,” Law.com (with B. Green) (August 2019).


**Media References and Appearances**

As a CBS News legal analyst, regularly appeared on live TV to analyze breaking national legal and political news, including the Mueller Investigation, the Jeffrey Epstein case, the Michael Cohen case, and numerous other headline stories (2019).

**Appointments**

Appointed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to an expert panel to evaluate reconstruction of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, known as the BQE. The panel is assessing options for replacement of the aging highway (April 2019).

**Publications**

“U.S.A. v. NYCHA: Judge Pauley Rejects the Proposed Consent Decree,” *CityLand* (January 2019).
Andrew Scherer

Co-Director of NYLS’s new Housing Justice Leadership Institute (January 2019).

Presentations
Spoke on a panel titled “Critical Developments in Housing Policy” at the Cardozo Journal of Equal Rights and Social Justice Symposium, held at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (October 2019).

Helped organize and spoke at the New York State Law School Access to Justice Conference convened by the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice (May 2019).

Hosted 55 pro bono scholars from around New York City for a joint class on the tenant rights movement in New York City (April 2019).

Gave remarks at the “Detroit Eviction Right to Counsel Summit” in Detroit, Michigan, where he discussed New York’s experience winning the right to counsel for tenants (March 2019).

Media References and Appearances
Quoted in “Landlords bid to have courts overturn rent reforms,” Crain’s New York Business (July 2019).


Houman B. Shadab

Appointments

Presentations
Presented a paper, “Trade Secrecy for Scientific Communities: The Case of AIRR,” at the Boston University School of Law 4th Annual bioIP Faculty Workshop. bioIP is a selective conference that selects three, anonymously selected papers at the intersection of law and the biosciences for presentation, in-depth critique, and commentary by respected senior scholars in the field (April 2019).

Delivered remarks, “The Pick-and-Shovel Play: Bioethics for Gene-Editing Vector Patents,” at Biowlawlapalooza, an annual conference hosted by the Stanford Law School Center for Law and the Biosciences and featuring more than 30 speakers from around the world (March 2019).

Publications

Co-authored “Regulating Genetic Self-Experimentation as Biomedical Research,” The Regulatory Review (with P.J. Zettler and C.J. Guerrini) (July 2019).


Jacoby S. Sherkow

Appointments

Presentations
Spoke at the New York State Permanent Commission on Access to Justice Conference in Detroit, Michigan, where he discussed New York’s experience winning the right to counsel for tenants (March 2019).

Media References and Appearances
Quoted in “Landlords bid to have courts overturn rent reforms,” Crain’s New York Business (July 2019).


His book, Not Censorship: Resist It with Free Speech, was a 2019 common read assignment for incoming freshmen at both Washburn University and Washington University in St. Louis (summer 2019).

Winner of NYLS’s Class of 2019 Teaching Award.
given at Commencement (May 2019).

**Presentations**
Testified before the House Committee on Homeland Security on “Examining Social Media Companies’ Efforts to Counter Online Terror Content and Misinformation.” The other witnesses were executives at Facebook, Twitter, and Google. The hearing was carried on C-SPAN and attracted national press attention (June 2019).

Took part in a unique interactive workshop hosted by Facebook, attended by selected free speech and technology leaders, and related to the company’s pledge to create a new way for users to appeal content decisions. The event drew high-profile coverage, including from *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* (May 2019).

Continued to participate in major speaking engagements, including on hundreds of college campuses, averaging at least one appearance per day, to promote the free speech ideals in her new book, *HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship* (2018–19).

**Publications**


**Awards and Recognition**

Winner of a Global Legal Skills Award given by the UIC John Marshall Law School and Melbourne Law School in recognition of her “strong commitment to promoting global legal skills education, cross-cultural communication, and the empowerment of diverse students” (December 2018).

**Presentations**
Member of the program committee for the Biennial Empire State Legal Writing Conference, “The Path to Independence: Preparing Students to be Lawyers,” held at NYLS. NYLS was among nine law schools co-hosting the conference, which included over 25 presenters from schools across the country (May 2019).

With NYLS Professor Anne Goldstein, presented “Inculcating a ‘Core Habit of Mindful Thinking’ About the Procedural and Evidentiary Life of a Case,” Conference on Enhancing Teaching and Learning in a Law School, in partnership with the Teachers College, Columbia University and held at NYLS (May 2019).

Spoke at the Global Legal Skills Conference held at Melbourne Law School in Melbourne, Australia. Her presentation, “Helping Culturally-Diverse Students Overcome the Imposter Syndrome,” identified causes of imposter syndrome and ways to combat it (December 2018).

**Awards and Recognition**

Regularly ranked in the top 10 percent of authors on SSRN by total new downloads (2019).

**Presentations**
Participated in the Term Membership Subcommittee of the Council on Foreign Relations to help select the Council’s next term members (April 2019).

With Professor Goldstein, presented “Inculcating a ‘Core Habit of Mindful Thinking’ About the Procedural and Evidentiary Life of a Case,” Conference on Enhancing Teaching and Learning in a Law School, in partnership with the Teachers College, Columbia University and held at NYLS (May 2019).

With NYLS Graduate Tax Program, which she directs, was voted first in the “Best Banking/ Bankruptcy/Tax LL.M. Program” category for the 10th year in a row by readers of the *New York Law Journal* (2019).

**Presentations**
Organized and spoke at NYLS’s 16th Annual Tax Lawyering Workshop, an all-day CLE (May 2019).

**Awards and Recognition**
Won the Privacy Law Scholars Conference Best Paper Award for the second time in three years (June 2019).

**Publications**


**Awards and Recognition**

Regularly ranked in the top 10 percent of authors on SSRN by total new downloads (2019).

**Appointments**
Serving as Microsoft Visiting Professor of Information Technology Policy and Microsoft Visiting Scholar at the Center for Information Technology Policy at Princeton University (June 2019–present).

Elected to The American Law Institute (July 2019).

Named a Belfer Fellow by the Anti-Defamation League Center for Technology and Society (May 2019).

**Publications**


ADJUNCT FACULTY ACTIVITIES

These items represent a sample of the recent activities of NYLS’s adjunct faculty.

Astrid F. Andre

Publications

“Can Estate Planning be Used to Help Preserve Economic Assets in Low-Income Communities?” Shelterforce (March 2019).

Barry Appleton

Appointments

Named Co-Director of NYLS’s Center for International Law, where he is also Senior Fellow (August 2019).

Presentations


Co-hosted, with NYLS Professor Ruti G. Teitel, the NYLS Faculty Scholarship Lunch Workshop “Understanding Brexit” (February 2019).

Spoke at the Fordham University School of Law International Law Journal symposium “International Trade: Isolationism, Trade Wars, & Trump,” along with top international law scholars (February 2019).

Presented via teleconference to the Intellectual Property Committee of the American Bar Association Section of International Law on revisions for intellectual property and online commerce investment claims in the new U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement (November 2018).

Chaired a panel, “Investment and Mega-Regional: The New World of Investment Arbitration Under NAFTA and CPTPP,” in Mexico City, Mexico at the Fall Meeting of the American Bar Association Section of International Law (November 2018).

Christopher G. Binns ’12

Awards and Recognition

Named a Rising Star in Super Lawyers, an honor given to just 5 percent of Manhattan lawyers (September 2019).

Heather Cucolo ’03

Awards and Recognition

Winner of NYLS’s Otto L. Walter Distinguished Writing Award, given at Commencement 2019, for “Representing People with Mental Disabilities: Sex Offender Registration” (May 2019).

Appointments

Appointed fellowship faculty at Albert Einstein College of Medicine (August 2019).

Presentations


Media Recognition and Appearances


David Epstein

Awards and Recognition


Lucas A. Ferrara

Media References and Appearances

Quoted in “‘FiDi landlord violated rent stabilization regs for years: lawsuit,’” The Real Deal (October 2019).
Quoted in "Croman backed out of deal over rent-control concerns: lawsuit," *The Real Deal* (September 2019).

Quoted in "Steve Croman sued over illegally deregulating apartments," *The Real Deal* (September 2019).


Featured in "Blackstone will pay rent-stabilized tenants $1M. It won't stop the lawsuit," *The Real Deal* (April 2019).

Quoted in “Landlords are exploiting a key loophole to raise rents on thousands of apartments," *Crain’s New York Business* (April 2019).

Quoted in “Court rules rent-inflation case against major landlord can proceed;” *Crain’s New York Business* (March 2019).

**The Honorable Robert J. Firestone ’90**

**Appointments**

Reappointed to the New York City Tax Appeals Tribunal as a Commissioner for a third term ending in 2024 (February 2019).

**Brian J. Kaszuba ’04**

**Appointments**

Elected as an Executive Board Member of Brooklyn Community Board 10 in southern Brooklyn and will serve as Treasurer of the Board for a three-year term (September 2019).

**Presentations**

Spoke at a New York City Bar Association career panel titled “Finding Your Public Interest: Legal Careers in Public Policy and Government Affairs” (June 2019).

**Media References and Appearances**

Quoted in "Doctors’ Row becomes first historic district in Bay Ridge," *Brooklyn Eagle* (June 2019).


Quoted in "Brooklynites sound off on Verrazzano becoming most expensive bridge in U.S.,” *Brooklyn Reporter* (April 2019).

**F. Peter Phillips ’87**

**Presentations**

Featured speaker at the “International Mediation Summit 2019” in Chongqing, China. His presentation addressed “The Construction of International Commercial Dispute Resolution System Based on the Singapore Mediation Convention and the Convention on Enforcement of International Arbitral Awards” (October 2019).

**Salman Raval**

**Appointments**

Elected to the Board of Trustees of Scholarship America, the nation’s leading nonprofit scholarship and educational support organization (March 2019).

**Andrew J. Santa Ana**

**Awards and Recognition**

Named one of 2019's “Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40” by the National LGBT Bar Association (March 2019).

**Presentations**

At the WorldPride 2019 Human Rights Conference, held at NYLS, spoke on a panel titled “Technology, Cyberharassment, and Queer Equality” (June 2019).

**Richard J. Sobelsohn**

**Publications**


**Media References and Appearances**

Quoted in “How do Chicago’s laws protect immigrants against discrimination?” *Chicago Tribune* (October 2019).

Quoted in "Ice no longer has unfettered access to New York courthouses. But they can still arrest immigrants right outside;” *Brooklyn Eagle* (April 2019).

**Claire R. Thomas ’11**

**Presentations**

Organized the 2019 New York Asylum and Immigration Law Conference, along with the Federal Bar Association Immigration Law Section. The event, hosted at NYLS, was a full day of training panels held on International Women’s Day (March 2019). Presented on asylum law at the Practising Law Institute’s “Asylum, Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, Crime Victim, and Other Immigration Relief 2019” program (February 2019).

**Advocacy**

With students from NYLS’s Asylum Clinic and other volunteers she recruited, spent spring break in Tijuana, Mexico volunteering with the immigration advocacy group Al Otro Lado (March 2019).

With students from NYLS’s Asylum Clinic, prevailed on seven asylum cases, including for clients facing life-threatening persecution in Ghana, Guyana, and Russia (2018–19).

**Citations**


**Media References and Appearances**

Quoted in "How do Chicago’s laws protect immigrants against discrimination?" *Chicago Tribune* (October 2019).

Quoted in "Ice no longer has unfettered access to New York courthouses. But they can still arrest immigrants right outside;” *Brooklyn Eagle* (April 2019).

**Amy Wallace**

**Presentations**

Spoke at the “4th Annual United Kingdom and Ireland Best Practice Street Law Conference” at the Queen Mary University of London School of Law (September 2019).

Conducted the NALP (National Association for Law Placement, Inc./Street Law Legal Diversity Pipeline Program, a partnership between Street Law, Inc. and NALP to train attorneys and other legal professionals at Epstein Becker & Green, P.C.; Verizon’s Westchester corporate legal department; Alston & Bird LLP; and GE Capital’s Norwalk, Connecticut corporate legal department (January 2019 and October 2018).

**Publications**


**Service**

Worked with Street Law, Inc., the national nonprofit, to create a set of Street Law training videos that were filmed at NYLS and featured NYLS Street Law student instructors (January 2019).
SEND US YOUR NEWS!

*New York Law School Magazine* welcomes your professional accomplishments, personal milestones, and any other news you would like to share with the NYLS community.

Email magazine@nyls.edu.
1961
Albert Kalter was listed in the 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* publication, a peer-reviewed ranking recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence across the United States. The Law Offices of Albert Kalter, PC was listed as a “Top Rated Estate Planning & Probate Attorney in New York, NY” by *Super Lawyers* for 2007–19.

1965
Hon. Judith Scheindlin was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 46th Daytime Annual Emmy Awards on May 5, 2019. She was also the Lifetime Achievement Honoree and Guest at Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University’s Outstanding Women in the Law Awards and Dinner Reception in April 2019.

1971
Stephen J. Gassman was listed in the 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* publication, a peer-reviewed ranking recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence across the United States.


1972
Charles D. Lavine was re-elected to the New York State Assembly, District 13 (Nassau County) during the 2018 midterm elections.

1975
Benjamin R. DeCosta, former Aviation General Manager of the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (1998–2010), published an op-ed for *SaportaReport* regarding the state of Georgia’s proposed takeover of the airport.

Leonard J. Witman was listed in the 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* publication, a peer-reviewed ranking recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence across the United States.

1976
Gail S. Port was listed in the 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* publication, a peer-reviewed ranking recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence across the United States.

1977
Jonathan G. Jacobson was elected to the New York State Assembly, District 104 (Dutchess County) during the 2018 midterm elections.

1978
Judith Kozlowski was both recognized and featured by AARP for her role in leading the fight against elder abuse, as an expert/consultant on elder justice matters with the U.S. Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative.

On September 24, 2019, Hon. Faviola A. Soto, was honored at the Dominican Bar Association’s 16th Annual Scholarship Gala.

1979
Michael J. Stanton was listed in the 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* publication, a peer-reviewed ranking recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence across the United States.

1980
Karen Artz Ash, a partner at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP, was nominated to the BTI Client Service All-Star Attorneys 2019 list by corporate counsel. This honor is reserved for stand-out individuals whose client service is unparalleled. Ash was also presented with the Global Lifetime Achievement Award from *Managing Intellectual Property* magazine. She is an adjunct professor at NYLS.

1981
Charles (Chuck) A. Ross joined Mintz & Gold LLP as a partner in the firm’s White Collar Criminal Defense and Investigations practice.

1982
Hon. Ingrid Joseph was re-elected as a judge of the New York State Supreme Court during the 2018 midterm elections. Her new role was profiled by *Caribbean Life* in “Justice Ingrid Joseph proud to sit on judicial bench” on December 12, 2018.

Christine T. Lepera has been listed as one of Billboard’s 2019 “Top Music Lawyers” for yet another year.
1983

With a 35-year career at the New York City Law Department under his belt, Vincent D. D’Orazio was appointed Chief of the Department’s Tax and Bankruptcy Litigation Division.

Julie A. Interdonato, an adjunct professor of law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, authored the article “The Consummate Legal Education: Teaching Analysis as Doctrine” in Concordia Law Review (2019). The article proposes the establishment of analysis as an independent topic of study throughout a student’s law school career, alongside the traditional law school courses, for the purpose of enhancing the analytic proficiency of future lawyers in all areas of the legal profession.

Hon. Douglas J. Lerose was re-elected as a Nassau County District Court Judge, District 4 during the 2018 midterm elections.

Margaret T. Ling, Senior Counsel at Big Apple Abstract Corp, has been installed to the Executive Council of The Network of Bar Leaders.

Lee J. Plave, Partner at Plave Koch PLC, was named Global Franchise Lawyer of the Year by PLC, was named Global Franchise Lawyer of the Year by PLC. Plave’s New York office.

1984

As head of the trial practice at Britcher Leone, LLC, E. Drew Britcher was named one of the top 10 attorneys for 2019 by New Jersey Super Lawyers and profiled as a “Top Rated Medical Malpractice Attorney in Glen Rock, NJ.” 2019 marked the 15th consecutive year that Britcher was recognized by New Jersey Super Lawyers.

1985

Pauline Reich, Founder and Director of the Asia-Pacific Cyberlaw, Cybercrime and Internet Security Research Institute at Waseda University School of Law in Tokyo, Japan, has published a book titled Civil Procedure in Japan, the culmination of 20 years of research and work.

1986

Mara B. Levin has joined the law firm Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the Labor & Employment and Commercial Litigation groups in the firm’s New York office.

On June 23, 2019, the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Staten Island presented Frank A. Oswald with the Allan Weissglass Distinguished Leadership Award, an honor reserved for those individuals who have supported the mission of the JCC and served as leaders in the Staten Island community.

1987

Elliot L. Engel was re-elected to the House of Representatives during the 2018 midterm elections. He is Chair of the House Foreign Relations Committee.

Deborah J. Notkin, a partner at Barst Mukamal & Kleiner LLC, has been named among the “Nation’s Most Powerful Employment Attorneys” and “Top 20 Most Powerful Immigration Attorneys” in the country by Human Resource Executive and “2019 Top 20 Lawyers in Corporate Immigration Law” by Lawdragon Magazine for the past five years. A prior President of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and a current member of its Board of Governors, she was recently named as one of the 2019 “Top Women” in Super Lawyers and “Top Rated Immigration Attorney in New York, NY” from 2006–19.

Hon. Ushir Pandit-Durant was elected a judge of the New York State Supreme Court during the 2018 midterm elections. In 2015, she became the first South Asian woman to be elected to the bench in Queens, New York.

1988

In January 2019, after nearly 30 years of dedicated service as Chief of the Workers’ Compensation Division at the New York City Law Department, John Swiney transitioned to managing the Transit Authority’s Workers’ Compensation Program.

1989

Daniel S. Wassmer is serving as Counsel to the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania while he continues teaching both paralegal and business classes at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pennsylvania. Actively engaged in 3D arts, he recently had a sculpture included in a show at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

1990

Peter Ventrice, a partner at Brause, Brause & Ventrice, LLC, in Metuchen, New Jersey, was selected as a 2019 “Top Rated Family Law Attorney in Metuchen, NJ” by Super Lawyers. He was previously selected in 2012 and 2014–18.

1991

Jennifer A. Manner, Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at EchoStar, has been named by Cablefax as one of the “100 Most Powerful Women in Broadband and Cable.” She also reports that she has been elected President of the United States International Telecommunication Union Association.

1992

Kathleen Barnett Einhorn, a partner at Genova Burns LLC and Chair of the Complex Commercial Litigation and Intellectual Property practice groups, was sworn into the Board of Trustees of the New Jersey State Bar Association.
Wayne E. Tumin was listed in the 26th edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* publication, a peer-reviewed ranking recognizing lawyers for their professional excellence across the United States. He is a Partner at Tumin & Tumin, PLLC in Greensboro, North Carolina. His firm was regionally ranked in five practice areas in the *U.S. News & World Report—Best Lawyers “Best Law Firms”* rankings based on a rigorous evaluation process.

1993

Charles E. Phillips Jr., Chairman of Infor, was ranked fourth on the “Top 50 Tech Services CEOs” of 2019 list according to *The Software Report*. He is a member of NYLS’s Board of Trustees.

Nicole Sheindlin, Co-Founder of the female empowerment program Her Honor Mentoring, was recognized as a “Woman of Distinction” during the New York State Senate’s 21st annual Women of Distinction—Honoring Women in New York ceremony.

David Simon, an accomplished litigator in commercial, employment, construction, and tort claims, has joined the Mount Kisco, New York law firm of Hollis Laidlaw & Simon, P.C. as a partner. His focus is litigation, land use and zoning, and corporate.

1995

Jeffrey C. Kanige has been named Editor of *NJBIIZ*, New Jersey’s leading business journal.

Osvaldo Ramirez-Bermudez has been appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer for Clear Blue Financial Holdings, LLC & Clear Blue Insurance Group.

1996

Fonda Duvanel has joined DLA Piper as Of Counsel in the firm’s Real Estate practice with a focus on property sales and acquisitions, development projects, debt and equity financing, and loan servicing.

Jane Ann E. Whitchurch is an attorney at Foster & Mazzie LLC in Totowa, New Jersey, where she practices in automobile liability, premises liability, products liability, and workers’ compensation. She recently came from the law firm Rivkin Radler LLP, where she was Counsel in the Commercial Litigation, General Liability, and Insurance Coverage practice groups at the Hackensack, New Jersey office.

1998

Lisa J. Black, Founder and a partner at Black Marjieh & Sanford LLP, was interviewed by *Authority Magazine*, which focuses on featuring people who are authorities in business, film, sports, and technology.

Brian E. Schrader, President and CEO of Business Intelligence Associates, received a silver award for “CEO of the Year” in the Business Services category from the CEO World Awards.

Perry F. Sofferman joined Kaufman Dolowich Voluck, LLP as a partner and Chair of the firm’s new Corporate and Intellectual Property practice group.

1999

Keith R. Whitman has joined the Texas-based law firm Thomas & Knight LLP as its Chief
Operating Officer. He will manage all administrative and operational functions for the firm.

**2000**

Stephen J. Dallas has been appointed Senior Vice President of Business & Legal Affairs and Digital Business Development at Universal Music Publishing Group.

Christine M. Hanisco, an attorney at The Stein Law Firm, PLLC, has been appointed to the New Hampshire Bar Association’s Board of Governors as Governor-At-Large.

Matthew P. Van Natten, in recognition of his role as an attorney at the Law Office of Matthew Van Natten, has been recognized by Continental Who’s Who Registry Inc. as a Pinnacle Lifetime Member in the field of law.

**2001**

Frank A. Valverde, a partner at Rivkin Radler LLP, has been listed a “Top Rated Insurance Coverage Attorney in Uniondale, NY” by Super Lawyers, an honor reserved for only the top 5 percent of all lawyers in a given state or region.

**2003**

Jean-Michel Voltaire has accepted a position with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as Senior Litigation Attorney in the Office of the General Counsel.

**2004**

Letal Algazy joins Goldberg Segalla as a partner in the firm’s Workers’ Compensation practice group in Garden City, New York.

David Freylikhman, a shareholder in the New York and New Jersey offices of global law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP, has been recognized as one of NJBIZ’s 2019 “40 Under 40” award winners.

Benjamin Moser, formerly the Director of Major Gifts for the United Way of Asheville, North Carolina, has been selected as the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley’s new President and CEO.

Sean F. McAlloon, a partner at Rivkin Radler LLP, has been listed as a “Top Rated Insurance Coverage Lawyer in Uniondale, NY” by Super Lawyers, an honor reserved for only the top 5 percent of all lawyers in a given state or region.

**2007**

David M. Jacobs has been listed as one of Billboard’s 2019 Top Music Lawyers for yet another year.

Shawn Kodes has been elected Partner in the Structured Finance and Derivatives practice at the New York office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, effective January 1, 2019.

Keith R. Martorana has been promoted to Partner at the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, effective January 1, 2019. With a background in business restructuring, he represents creditor groups, financial institutions, debtors, and hedge funds. He graduated magna cum laude from NYLS, where he also served as Executive Articles Editor of the New York Law School Law Review.

Kevin Rubinstein was promoted from Counsel to Partner at Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP in its New York office.

**2009**

Edward C. Braunstein was re-elected to the New York State Assembly, District 26 (Queens) during the 2018 midterm elections.

Kristopher (Kris) T. Ferranti, a partner at Shearman & Sterling, was named a “Rising Star in Real Estate” by Crain’s New York Business in its inaugural honoree listing of 56 employees of law firms, real estate companies, and financing firms.

was also recognized at the Halstead Real Estate 2019 awards ceremony in the Halstead Producer’s Council—Top 2% Companywide.

Johanna Miller was appointed Director of the Education Policy Center at New York Civil Liberties Union.

Peter Tsai was presented with an Edith Spivack Special Recognition Award by the New York City Law Department, where he works in the Labor and Employment Law Division. As an honoree, he has demonstrated specific outstanding achievement, as well as overall dedication and superior performance, for over five years. He received the award at a ceremony on December 13, 2018.
In June 2019, Patrick R. Doyle joined Duval & Stachenfeld LLP as Special Counsel in the firm’s Leasing and Real Estate practice groups.

2010

Andrew M. Cromer, formerly Associate General Counsel for Shake Shack in New York City, has joined AXS Law Group PLLC in Miami, Florida as a partner in its Corporate & Transactional practice.

Remington A. Gregg, Counsel for Civil Justice and Consumer Rights at Public Citizen, recently testified before a Congressional Committee hearing.

Matthew R. Halal has been promoted to Partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP.

Amie L. Stepnovich, formerly the U.S. Policy Manager and Global Policy of Access Now and Director of the Domestic Surveillance Project at the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC), has been appointed Executive Director of Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology, and Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado Law School in Boulder, Colorado.

Eugene Travers, an associate at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, was named a “Rising Star in Real Estate” by Crain’s New York Business in its inaugural honoree listing of 56 employees of law firms, real estate companies, and financing firms.

Highly qualified in patent prosecution, James R. Major has joined Norris McLaughlin, P.A. as an associate. An attorney in the firm’s Intellectual Property practice group, he focuses his practice on domestic and foreign patent applications.

Danielle Tricolla, an associate at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP, was an honoree at the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University’s Outstanding Women in the Law Awards and Dinner Reception in April 2019. At this same event, fellow alum Hon. Judith Sheindlin ’65 was the Lifetime Achievement Honoree.

2012

Christopher G. Binns has been recognized by Super Lawyers as a “Top Rated Employment & Labor Attorney” and a “Rising Star,” an honor received by only 5 percent of Manhattan lawyers. He is an adjunct professor at NYLS.

Stephen G. Harding was re-elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives, 107th General Assembly District, during the 2018 midterm elections. His new role was profiled in The News-Times article “Harding wins 107th District race” on November 7, 2018.

Lisabeth Jorgensen has been appointed Staff Attorney for MetroWest Legal Services, a legal aid service based in Framingham, Massachusetts. As Staff Attorney, she will help victims of crime in issues concerning family law, immigration, bankruptcy, governmental benefits, consumer rights, housing, and/or employment.

2011

In June 2019, Patrick R. Doyle joined Duval & Stachenfeld LLP as Special Counsel in the firm’s Leasing and Real Estate practice groups.

Aaron J. Lund has been appointed Executive Director and Chief Compliance Officer of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, effective April 8, 2019.

Nathan A. Olson, an associate of Branstad & Olson Law Office, assisted in successfully defending a man wrongfully accused of first-degree murder. The highly publicized trial, which was featured on both Dateline and the Law & Crime Network, resulted in a quick acquittal of the defendant. The case will also be the subject of a follow-up Dateline episode and a documentary. Olson currently practices criminal defense and appellate law with Branstad & Olson Law Office in Des Moines, Iowa.

Maria Georgina Tsakrios became engaged to fellow NYLS alum Marc Battipaglia ’13 on December 22, 2018 in the classroom where they met almost seven years ago.

2013

Robert Carroll was re-elected to the New York State Assembly, District 44 (Park Slope) during the 2018 midterm elections. In July 2019, Petal M. Hwang, was both promoted to Agency Attorney III at the New York City Civil Service Commission and celebrated her fifth anniversary with the Commission.

Jason L. Rindenau joined The Andersen Firm in Fort Lauderdale, Florida as an associate attorney in the firm’s litigation department.
Jodi Ziesemer has joined the New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG) as its new Director of the Immigrant Protection Unit. She joins from Catholic Charities where she was the Supervising Attorney for the unaccompanied minors program.

2014


As Assistant Director of Legislative Affairs at the State University for New York (SUNY) Office of State Relations, Shirley S. Paul was named among City & State New York’s “2019 Albany 40 Under 40,” an annual list that identifies rising stars in state politics.

Jennifer N. Wang joined MetLife Services and Solutions, LLC’s in-house legal team as Senior Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary in June 2019.

Tracy J. Weinstein, an associate at Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP, was selected for the inaugural class of Civil Justice Fellows of Lawyers for Civil Justice (LCJ), a national coalition of defense trial lawyer organizations, law firms, and corporations that promotes excellence and fairness in the civil justice system. LCJ Fellows serve a three-year term, where they play an important role in developing, writing, and advocating for the organization’s policy positions.

2015

Jonathan (Jay) P. Manfre has been appointed Chief Legal Officer of the sports nutrition company Redcon1, a role that combines his hobby (bodybuilding) and the law.

2016

Josephine Bahn was named one of The Daily Record’s 2019 “Leadership in Law” winners based on her professional achievement, community service, and mentoring.

Jessica M. Figueroa has joined WFG National Title Insurance Company as Senior National Commercial Underwriting Counsel for the company’s New York-based commercial division.

Christina D. Gallo has joined Carlton Fields, P.A. as an associate.

2017

Sara Alper’s article, “The Past and Future State of De Facto Parents,” first published in August 2017 in Family Court Review, was reprinted and disseminated at a CLE program organized by the New York State Bar Association Family Law Section.

Shabana Baksh has joined the global nonprofit founded by Hillary Clinton and Madeline Albright, Vital Voices Global Partnership, as a member of the New York Council.

On April 28, 2019, Class of 2017 couple Jessica Bibby and Mike Giesen married at Liberty House in Jersey City, New Jersey. Dean Anthony W. Crowell attended the ceremony. The happy couple are both Assistant Public Defenders with the Law Offices of the Public Defender, Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida (Miami-Dade County).

2019

The following Class of 2019 graduates were hired as Assistant District Attorneys at the Bronx District Attorney’s Office: Ethan S. Binder, Carissa A. Caukin, Alison T. Wallace, and Monique Zabihzadeh.

The following Class of 2019 graduates were hired by the New York City Law Department and were listed in the New York Law Journal feature “City Law Department Entry Class Attorneys”: Stacy P. D’Cunha (Tort Division), William T. Gosling (Special Federal Litigation Division), Moshe Y. Katz (Tort Division), Christin M. Nierman (Labor and Employment Law Division), Jessic N. Plutchok (Family Court Division), Megan H. Schnader (Tort Division), and Emma L. Semerad (Workers’ Compensation Division).

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

New York Law School Magazine welcomes your professional accomplishments, personal milestones, and any other news you would like to share with the NYLS community.

Email magazine@nyls.edu.
Emil Roger “Bud” Annunziato was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps immediately after he graduated from college. He served in Guam in the Pacific Theater. After graduating from NYLS, he practiced estates law and tax law in New Canaan, Connecticut; New York City; and Bronxville, New York.

Joseph J. Gentile, a WWII veteran, was in private law practice for over 65 years. He argued in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Solimino v. Astoria Federal Sav. and Loan (1989) and won a major motion in a residential foreclosure case just before he passed, one month shy of his 96th birthday.

Werner Weinstock went on to serve as a First Lieutenant in U.S. Army Intelligence. For almost 30 years, he was a litigator with Equitable Life Assurance Society (now Axa Equitable Life Insurance Company) and retired as Vice President and Associate General Counsel in charge of the litigation department.

At NYLS, David Stolow graduated first in his class, served on the New York Law School Law Review, and was an evening student. He practiced labor law for many years before serving as Executive Director of the Law Department at Morgan Stanley.

Selinda Melnik graduated from NYLS summa cum laude. She was partner in the Wilmington, Delaware office of DLA Piper and worked at several other major firms. She was also a founder of the International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation, the foremost global professional organization for women in the insolvency and restructuring field.

Hon. Nathan W. Gordon presided for a generation over immigration proceedings in Newark, New Jersey and Los Angeles, California. Born the youngest of eight children in a family that had emigrated from Russia, he never forgot the struggles of his parents, and was known for treating those who appeared before him with dignity and kindness.

Class of 1951
Emil Roger “Bud” Annunziato
March 31, 2019

Class of 1952
Joseph J. Gentile
April 16, 2018

Class of 1953
Joseph Irom
November 17, 2018

Class of 1957
Hon. Nathan W. Gordon
January 9, 2019

Class of 1961
Walenty Polywko
July 15, 2018

Elliot Wohl
February 16, 2019

Class of 1973
Pamela Goodman Ostrager
November 24, 2018

Thomas Raimondi
July 9, 2018

Class of 1977
Barbara M. Mandelowitz McMahon
January 15, 2019

Class of 1978
Nancy Yankow
November 23, 2018

Class of 1979
Francis (Frank) J. Milon
June 14, 2019

Class of 1980
Richard MacLean
August 25, 2019

Class of 1981
David Stolow
August 6, 2019

At NYLS, David Stolow graduated first in his class, served on the New York Law School Law Review, and was an evening student. He practiced labor law for many years before serving as Executive Director of the Law Department at Morgan Stanley.

Class of 1984
Selinda Melnik
November 19, 2018

Class of 1991
Hon. Timothy Sullivan
June 1, 2019

Class of 1993
Lisa S. Rabinowitz
May 23, 2019
In early 2019, NYLS launched the Stephen J. Ellmann Judicial Fellowship. Supported by generous donors, the fellowship honors Professor Ellmann’s legacy of extensive scholarship and teaching on human rights and the rule of law in South Africa.

Inaugural Ellmann Judicial Fellows Jennifer Kuhn 3L and Tammy Tran ’19 spent last summer halfway around the world, working directly with South African judges. (Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law Penelope Andrews, an influential South African scholar and former Law Dean of the University of Cape Town, provided critical guidance and connections.)

In a recent interview with New York Law School Magazine, Kuhn and Tran shared their experiences:
**What led to your interest in this fellowship?**

**JK:** As an undergraduate, I studied international development with a focus on Africa. During the summer after my 2L year at NYLS, I served as Professor Ellmann’s research assistant for his final book*. In the process, I got to know him and learned a lot about the South African legal system.

**TT:** During law school, I participated in judicial externships at the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. Court of International Trade. I was looking for a way to develop my interest in international courts after graduating from NYLS and before joining Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP as a litigator.

**Where did you work?**

**JK:** During June 2019, I did research and writing for Judge Margaret Victor in the Johannesburg High Court, a court of first instance. I drafted one of her legal judgments, which was an incredible experience. I spent July at the Legal Resource Centre, a human rights organization, where I researched and wrote a 25-page policy brief on improving women’s access to child support and other services.

**TT:** My fellowship was August and September 2019. I began at the Constitutional Court, the country’s highest court. Judge Victor was acting on that court. Many of the cases I observed dealt with interpreting provisions of South Africa’s (very young) constitution. Next, I went to the High Court in Johannesburg and worked with two judges there. I later observed cases and met with judges at the Supreme Court of Appeal in Bloemfontein and the High Court in Cape Town. I also visited the Labour Court of Appeal, the Magistrate Court Commercialized Special Court Division, a private law firm, and Section 27 (a public interest law center)—all in Johannesburg. Finally, I volunteered at the Manaleni Achievement Centre, a children’s center outside of Pretoria.

**Can you share a particularly memorable experience?**

**JK:** At the Johannesburg High Court, I worked in the court’s pro bono office, which advises people who seek to bring a case. It was a fascinating look at how access to justice works in a country with a new constitution and a still-evolving legal system.

**TT:** I heard a radio report on a heartbreaking case involving a 5-year-old student who drowned in a pit toilet at a rural school in Limpopo. My experience in NYLS’s Education Law Clinic had sparked my interest in educational issues, and Judge Leonie Windell in the Johannesburg High Court kindly arranged for me to work with the judges on the bench for the case at the appellate court in Bloemfontein. This allowed me to learn more about South Africa’s Appellate Division and about challenges related to sanitary conditions in many of South Africa’s rural schools.

**What surprised you the most?**

**JK:** I was surprised by how forthcoming people were in speaking about their experiences and hopes. I made a lot of friends, and I found everyone very welcoming. Also, through Judge Victor’s mentoring program, I talked with women my age about the country’s political system. It was enlightening. Many of them were born at the end of apartheid. Some of their parents weren’t allowed to go to school. Now they’re going to become the lawyers of their country.

**TT:** I agree about the warmth of the people. That was pleasantly surprising. The judges were great mentors, and I was able to discuss my career path and law school experiences with them. They were very kind, and I think that speaks to the culture of South Africa.

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JK: I’m doing a field placement with the New York City Law Department’s Tort Division, and I hope to work at the Law Department after I graduate. It’s an interesting experience coming from this fellowship and going into municipal practice because it’s macro and then micro. But the experiences connect. The Law Department has a new team focused on government and policy reform in response to police misconduct. There were also issues of mistrust between the police force and the public in South Africa. Going into municipal practice, I take that example with me.

TT: Throughout the fellowship, I was in courtrooms a lot. I was able to view the cross-examination and direct examination of witnesses and to see how counsel interacts with the judge, how case theories are developed, and, in some cases, how counsel improperly handles a case. Speaking with judges in chambers and hearing how they approach cases was very helpful and made me excited to start my litigation career.

JK: A change in perspective is so important. In America, we tend to focus on European law, and we operate in a system that evolved from European law. While South Africa’s system draws from the Dutch and Roman legal systems, its constitution includes a right to customary law. I’m grateful to have worked in a different environment.

TT: I learned a lot that is applicable to my professional career as a lawyer, but it was also very personally meaningful to me to step outside of my comfort zone and be so warmly welcomed by judges who were invested in us having positive experiences. This fellowship is hugely beneficial, and I hope it continues.

Editor’s Note: The South African judges were so pleased with the inaugural program that they suggested having a judge’s clerk, as well as a judge, in residence at NYLS as Stephen J. Ellmann Fellows. The first judge is scheduled to be in residence at NYLS in spring 2020. The fellowship program was made possible by a grant from the family foundations of Jack Himmelstein and Lauren Friedman.

Continuing the South Africa Reading Group
In January 2019, Professor Penelope Andrews joined NYLS as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Racial Justice Project. As leader of the Racial Justice Project’s new international arm, Professor Andrews relaunched the South Africa Reading Group, formed at NYLS more than two decades ago by Professors Andrews and Ellmann. The group engages NYLS faculty and students, along with academics and policy advocates from the United States, South Africa, and elsewhere, in conversation about South African law and policy issues. It also hosts world-renowned South African public figures.

Faculty Remember Professor Ellmann
In a special fall 2019 issue of the Clinical Law Review, themed “Remembrances of Steve Ellmann, Still Present,” 20 NYLS faculty and faculty emeriti published poignant essays about Professor Ellmann’s lasting influence on their lives. “Steve was a great colleague and a brilliant, kind, and patient person who dedicated his formidable talents to promoting peace and justice through law,” the group wrote in its collective dedication. “All of us hope this tribute keeps his memory and work alive.”

Supporting the Ellmann Fellowship
Inspired by this new program? Your gift of support will help sustain and grow it. Visit www.nyls.edu/give, and select Stephen Ellmann Judicial Fellows as your designation.
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RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS


- Awarded a $275K partnership grant with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office from the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate wrongful conviction claims through NYLS’s Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic.

- New Religious Literacy Programs for Lawyers

INFLUENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Collaborated with national census expert Jeffrey M. Wice to launch the New York Census and Redistricting Institute ahead of the 2020 national census.

- Partnered with the Interfaith Center of New York on first-of-its-kind programming to help law students and lawyers better represent clients of all faith backgrounds.

- Awarded a $275K partnership grant with the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office from the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate wrongful conviction claims through NYLS’s Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic.

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