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April 2007 Alumni Newsletter

New York Law School

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ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

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Meet the Network



Building Buzz

In 2008, when New York Law School opens the door to its new, state-of-the-art building, that door will be located on West Broadway, not Worth Street. The Law School's new entrance will be moved around the corner from its current location, and the official address will be changed.

The A, B, and C buildings will be renovated and combined and will have one entrance on Church Street. As a result, New York Law School will no longer have any Worth Street entrances.

The new entrance on West Broadway will include a large lobby area and the entrance to the new Mendik Library, which will encompass five floors, including one on the ground level and four below ground. Although the new building will be nine levels, only five will be above ground. The underground parts of the building will make use of special lighting to provide a congenial, warm atmosphere.

Did you know?

- This year's graduation will be the 115th commencement in the history of New York Law School.
- New York Law School's first lecturer on Constitutional Law was Woodrow Wilson.
- More than 340 undergraduate institutions are represented among New York Law School's 1,400 students.



On April 24, the U.S. Supreme Court will be asked to decide if the City of New York has the right to sue foreign governments for real estate taxes on buildings housing their missions to the United Nations. The attorney representing the two foreign governments, India and Mongolia, is John J.P. Howley '89, a partner with Kaye Scholer.

Mr. Howley has written briefs for Supreme Court cases, but this will be his first time arguing before the court.

"I've been told that it's unique and a bit disorienting, but I'm excited about it," he said. "I am looking forward most to the quality of the argument, to engaging in conversation with nine distinguished justices. I enjoy a great argument. It's why I love being a lawyer."

Mr. Howley explained that his case is important because if the City wins, it means a municipality can sue any country that houses diplomats in its mission. In addition, Mr. Howley said, because international law is based on reciprocity, if the City wins, U.S. diplomatic missions could be sued in local courts around the world.

"Effectively, the City of New York is trying to create foreign policy," Mr. Howley noted.

Mr. Howley's practice is concentrated in international litigation and arbitration in the areas of antitrust, patent, and complex commercial transactions. He credited several New York Law School professors with preparing him well for his career.

"I remember Robert Blecker's course on Constitutional History," he said. "I continue to think about things we discussed in that course 20 years later."

Mr. Howley said that although he never had James Simon as a teacher, he learned how to analyze issues from listening to him speak. He added that David Chang taught him how to read cases in a more critical way.

"I loved law school," Mr. Howley recalled. "I enjoyed the professors. I felt they really engaged us."

New York Law School Heritage

Meet Judge Samuel Seabury, Class of 1893



A direct descendent of Dr. Samuel Seabury, the first American Episcopal bishop, Judge Samuel Seabury was born in Manhattan in 1873. After attending local private schools, he graduated, at the age of 20, from New York Law School, which had been founded only two years earlier in 1891.

From a young age, Judge Seabury was a strong believer in the need for honesty in government. He detested Tammany Hall, the political machine founded by the notorious William “Boss” Tweed, and led numerous reform campaigns against Tammany politicians. In the early years of the 20th century, Tammany Hall ruled New York City, and Judge Seabury’s calls for reform were largely ignored and often ridiculed.

After serving on the New York State Supreme Court and as an associate justice of the Court of Appeals, Judge Seabury ran for governor in 1916. Since he obviously was not the Tammany candidate, he lost the election. The Judge then went into private practice until 1930, when he was asked to lead a series of investigations into state and city corruption.

In 1931, the Judge initiated his most public and famous inquiry into the administration of Mayor James J. Walker, a 1905 graduate of New York Law School. Mayor Walker was a colorful and popular character in the 1920s. To many people, his well-known fondness for Broadway shows, chorus girls, and sporting events made him the symbol of the carefree and reckless spirit of the “roaring ’20s.” To Judge Seabury, Mayor Walker symbolized the worst of Tammany Hall.

Mayor Walker’s famous remark about Judge Seabury—“This fellow would convict the Twelve Apostles if he could”—garnered many headlines and laughs, but in the end, Jimmy Walker’s theatrics could not stand up to Judge Seabury’s relentless questioning. Mayor Walker’s bribe-taking was clearly exposed and he resigned in disgrace. Judge Seabury continued his career in public service, working as an advisor to Fiorello La Guardia, the reform-minded mayor who succeeded Jimmy Walker.

In Judge Seabury’s obituary, entitled “The Reformer,” TIME magazine said: “Earnestly, painstakingly, he raked the muck of city corruption among lawyers, bondsmen, cops, judges and pimps on the city payroll.” Almost 40 years after his death, Professor Ross Sandler, Director of the Center for New York City Law, characterized Judge Seabury as “the most important New York City reformer of the 20th Century” and a “real hero of the Law School.”

“The most important New York City reformer of the 20th Century”

New York City honored Judge Seabury, who died in 1958 at the age of 85, by naming a playground at P.S. 198 on Lexington Avenue and East 95th Street, for him. The Judge’s accomplishments also are remembered in the book, *THE MAN WHO RODE THE TIGER: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JUDGE SAMUEL SEABURY* by Herbert Mitgang.

Alumni Corner

Judge Samuel Seabury, Class of 1893, was one of New York Law School’s earliest distinguished alumni. Can you answer these questions about other great alumni from the first 50 years of New York Law School’s history?

1. Bainbridge Colby, Class of 1892, served as secretary of state under which President?
2. James Gerard, Class of 1912, was the ambassador to which country during World War I?
3. Which member of the Class of 1913 was the first African American judge in the United States?
4. Which member of the Class of 1918 served as president of the American Bar Association?
5. John Marshall Harlan, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was a member of which class?

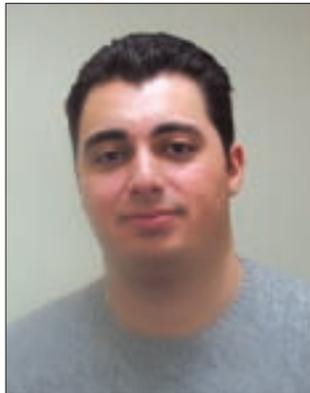
To take this survey and see the answers, please visit the Alumni & Friends page on the New York Law School Web site, www.nyls.edu.

Alumni in Brief

Victor Rampertab '94



Victor Rampertab '94



Shawn Kodes '07

When Victor Rampertab '94 saw the resume his wife, Yvette Chang '95, handed him, he was immediately interested. Mr. Rampertab recalled that his wife had been urging him to become more involved with New York Law School for some time, and he thought mentoring a student might be a good opportunity for both his firm, Hudson Castle, and the student, Shawn Kodes '07.

In May 2006, Mr. Rampertab, a Managing Director at Hudson Castle, and head of the firm's banking group, extended Shawn a summer internship at Hudson Castle (www.hudsoncastle.com), a private, boutique-structured finance banking firm that provides capital markets-based funding and balance sheet management solutions to large-to-mega-cap global financial institutions. Shawn continued with the firm throughout his final year in law school and has been offered, and accepted, a permanent position after graduation this May.

"The mentor program at New York Law School is a remarkable asset," Shawn said. "I know that looking for mentors and jobs can be frustrating, but it's important to never give up. The New York Law School alumni network is a valuable and vast resource and is growing stronger. Had it not been for the mentor program, I would have likely completed law school without any practical business experience."

Since starting at Hudson Castle, Shawn has been involved in a variety of activities, including assisting the firm's senior management team in developing funding and capital management solutions for the firm's financial institution client base. He has worked regularly with the firm's clients and partners at top law firms to execute innovative structured finance products. His experience has been invaluable and much of the credit, he says, belongs to Mr. Rampertab.

Shawn explained that Mr. Rampertab is "very hands on and has really taken me under his wing. He's a great teacher and it's very inspiring working around him."

Mr. Rampertab readily returns the compliment.

"What I saw in Shawn were a lot of the intangibles critical to succeeding in banking," Mr. Rampertab commented.

Mr. Rampertab said that "Shawn had excellent grades and that was a very important factor, but when I met him in person, I was even more impressed with the research he had done into the firm's business, his willingness to commit himself to learning, and his desire to make meaningful contributions to the business. Shawn really presented some unique characteristics."

Mr. Rampertab explained that working on a banking platform is "a big step for someone right out of law school" because "it's not a law job." Mr. Rampertab said he was impressed that Shawn was willing to take that chance because "lawyers tend to be very conservative and are often hesitant to begin their careers in finance."

"The New York Law School alumni network is a valuable and vast resource and is growing stronger. Had it not been for the mentor program, I would have likely completed law school without any practical business experience."

Mr. Rampertab recalled that when he was a student he "was not interested in maintaining a perfect GPA, but instead focused on eventually working in business. Job prospects in the mid-1990s were tough, so I got investment banking experience as a volunteer."

"There are often not enough real-life opportunities available to law students outside of law firm practice," Mr. Rampertab said, "and the mentor program opens the door for law students to gain real-life experience and acquire useful skills from non-traditional settings. The mentor program was a great way for me to become more involved with New York Law School and it has also allowed me to find a talented addition to the firm."

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CONNECTIONS

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Free for Alumni

(from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations)

- **Wednesday, April 18, 2007**
12:30 p.m.–2 p.m.
Spotlight on Women Luncheon
In the Wellington Conference Center
- **Tuesday, April 24, 2007**
6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Reception for Alumni & Friends
Hosted by Norman Radow '81
At his home in Atlanta, GA

For more information or to register to attend these free events, go to <http://alumni.nyls.edu/events>.

For more information about other Law School events, visit the Calendar page on the Web site at www.nyls.edu.

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Office of Development and Alumni Relations

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