

1-2009

## January 2009 Alumni Newsletter

New York Law School

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# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Your Lifetime Network of Support | January 2009



## Building Buzz

More than 230 people are working hard every day to bring the Law School's new building to the final stages of completion, says Curt Epstein, Project Manager. The glass facade along Leonard Street is going up and the glass facade along Worth Street is almost complete, with the second through fifth floors in place. "The classrooms are taking shape, and you can see the tiers where the seating will be," Epstein says.

The eastern wall of the new structure is in place, and that side of the building is now enclosed. Drywall framing and sheetrock installation are in progress. Duct work and plumbing rough-outs are being installed in various areas of the structure. The four—yes, four!—passenger elevators that were installed are now being inspected.

## Congratulations Class of 2008!

On Your July 2008  
New York State Bar  
Passage Results: **93.6%**

## Meet the Network

### Marcey Grigsby '06: Laying the Foundations for a Great Career



Marcey Grigsby '06 speaks at least three words of Latin: *summa cum laude*. She graduated from both Ohio Wesleyan University and the Law School with this distinction. She was Editor in Chief of the *Law Review* and she received the Alfred L. Rose Award for Excellence and the Trustees' Prize for the Highest Grade Point Average.

No small wonder, then, that Grigsby is conducting her career with a similar penchant for excellence. A native of Cincinnati, Grigsby joined Debevoise & Plimpton LLP in 2006, where her practice focused on mergers and acquisitions. Next, Grigsby headed south to Memphis from 2007 to 2008, where she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Ronald Lee Gilman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

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*"It was a fantastic experience. I dealt with legal issues I hadn't encountered in my corporate practice, from criminal law, to constitutional law, to immigration." That variety helped "lay a firm and solid foundation" for her legal career, she says.*

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*Law Review*, corporate law classes, and faculty support prepared her for the challenges of the clerkship and of practicing law, Grigsby says.

Although Memphis' slower pace of life had a certain appeal, Grigsby was happy to return to New York and Debevoise in September 2008. Now practicing securities law, she is part of a team advising a client who is raising money in the credit markets to finance a strategic acquisition. The credit markets' volatility has made such deals "certainly more challenging, but enjoyable too."

"I'm happy to be where I am, she says. "I don't have a five-year plan just yet, but I love what I'm doing now."

## New York Law School Heritage

### Pulitzer Prize-Winning Playwright Elmer Rice '12

Law and literature have enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship. Writers as varied as Dostoevsky and Scott Turow have explored the machinations and drama of trials; while other writers, such as Harper Lee, have invented lawyers of such moral character that they are not easily forgotten—in Lee's case, Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. To be able to marry law and literature is a remarkable gift and one shared by New York Law School graduate Elmer Rice '12.

For theatergoers from 1914 to the mid-1940s, Elmer Rice was a household name as one of the most famous playwrights and theatrical directors of his day. His first play, *On Trial*, was a courtroom drama that he submitted unsolicited to a producer. It was accepted and produced on Broadway just months before Rice's twenty-second birthday. A major success, the play ran for a year, and earned Rice \$100,000. Subsequently, three different film versions were made—in 1917, 1928, and 1939. *On Trial* was remarkable in part because it was the first stage production to use the "flashback" technique.

Rice was born Elmer Reizenstein in New York City in 1892. Although he dropped out of high school to support his family, Rice developed an interest in law and graduated *cum laude* from the Law School. In 1913, he was admitted to the New York State Bar. Rice used his law degree in unusual ways, as the basis for the knowledge behind his legal-themed plays *On Trial*, *It Is the Law*, and *Counsellor-at-Law*.

After *On Trial*, Rice wrote the prophetic *The Adding Machine*, which featured a bookkeeper named Mr. Zero who, after 25 years of service to his company, is replaced by an adding machine. Mr. Zero strikes back by killing his employer. The play is one that has found an enduring audience. A 2008 musical adaptation of *The Adding Machine* was a *New York Times* Critics Circle pick.

In 1929, his third play, *Street Scene*, won him a Pulitzer Prize. Rice's realistic portrayal of New York tenement life struck a chord with audiences, despite the fact that screwball comedies were the rage at the time. In 1947, Rice adapted it as a musical, with lyrics by Langston Hughes and music by Kurt Weill.

Rice tackled difficult subjects, from the tormented office worker Mr. Zero, to the inhabitants of the tenements in *Street Scene*. Other firsts include Rice's presentation of a childbirth scene in *A New Life*. With *Judgment Day*, Rice was the first

American playwright to address Nazism, and he was the first to condemn Nazism's presence in the United States in *American Landscape*.

But Rice could be light-hearted as well. He adapted the story *Holiday Inn*, which became a holiday classic and featured Bing Crosby's performance of "White Christmas."

### Did you know?

New York Law School announced in November that it will offer an LL.M. in Real Estate beginning in the spring 2009 semester. The program will be the only one of its kind in New York City and one of only four in the nation.

## Alumni Corner

### Who is it?

Test your knowledge of New York Law School professors.

1. This professor was named a Carnegie Scholar in April 2008.
2. This professor won the 2008 National Book Award for nonfiction.
3. This professor's book *State Succession and Commercial Obligations* was recently cited by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York as the sole authority for a holding in its decision in the case of *Mortimer Off Shore Services, Ltd. v. Federal Republic of Germany*.
4. This professor testified before Congress in July 2008.
5. This newly hired professor will teach Constitutional Law, Land Use Regulation, and Special Topics in State and Local Government.
6. This visiting professor was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he charged process servers with violations of the Civil Rights Act—the first instance in which deprivations of property were alleged under the 100-year-old law.

To take this quiz and see the answers, please visit the Alumni & Friends page on the New York Law School Web site, [www.nyls.edu](http://www.nyls.edu).

## Alumni in Brief

### Steve Klosk '87



When he became CEO of Cambrex this year, Steve Klosk '87 used his rigorous law school experience to define his new role. Klosk knew he didn't want to rest on the success of the company, which produces bulk drug small molecules for customers bringing new therapeutics and generic drugs to market. Instead, he wanted

to create "a culture of innovation and risk-taking" to expand and invigorate the company.

"We all know that in order to keep up in law school, especially first year, you must learn to drill down to the core—the holding—of the opinion and understand the rationale for the decision," Klosk says. "In business, it is understanding the market opportunities, how to anticipate the customers' needs, and how to provide more value than the competition."

Klosk says he is "continuously amazed at how poorly business professionals are prepared to organize and distill their thoughts, especially in writing."

"Being forced to present your thoughts in front of varying audiences in law school is invaluable in helping to sell your customers, employees, and investors in the business world."

Klosk says his most important role is setting the strategy and hiring the best people to execute that strategy. Setting the strategy means figuring out new ways to lower the costs of drugs, delivering them more effectively, and increasing patient compliance. Cambrex works with their customers' new therapeutics during clinical trials and then produces them if they become approved drugs.

"We have higher labor costs in the U.S. and Europe than our competition in India and China; so we have to find ways to add value through proprietary technology in order to retain business," says Klosk. "We need to develop better technology, some protected by innovative intellectual property, in order to create more value for our customers."

Cambrex does so by applying its drug delivery technology, developing new continuous flow chemistry to its processes,

designing greener chemistry processes that reduce waste, and using enzymatic processes to replace traditional chemistry where effective.

Using proprietary polymeric drug delivery technology, Cambrex "taste masks" the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used in manufacturing drugs and delivers them to be used in sugarless and tasteless formulations for liquid suspensions, oral dissolving tablets, oral thin films, and gums. Cambrex is also one of only a few companies in the United States licensed to produce controlled substances, which are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Business law classes, such as Accounting for Lawyers and Commercial Transactions, enabled Klosk to understand the language of business. While his overall experience as a law student was key to his success, one professor in particular, Joseph Koffler, paved the way.

"He forced us to be prepared, to be articulate, and to be ready to defend our positions and conclusions. It is hard for me to remember a presentation in business that has been tougher than presenting to him in front of 100 of my classmates."

During the economic downturn, that preparedness has stood Klosk in good stead. Good value, new products, and communication help his company to thrive even in difficult times.

"Communication with customers is incredibly important to gain credibility at all times but especially when things are not going well."

With his New York Law School education as his foundation, and a clear and inventive mind for business, Klosk is a CEO who knows where he is headed.

## Spring Recruitment 2009

**Support New York Law School and the students who follow in your footsteps.**

To learn more, hire for the summer, or hire a new grad, go to [www.nyls.edu](http://www.nyls.edu) > Employers & Career Services > Services for Employers > Recruiting Services.

ALUMNI

# CONNECTIONS

Your Lifetime Network of Support | January 2009



## For Alumni

### SAVE THESE DATES IN 2009

- **Thursday, January 8** | 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
San Diego Reception for Alumni and Friends
- **Monday, January 12** | 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Los Angeles Reception for Alumni and Friends
- **Wednesday, January 14** | 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.  
San Francisco Reception for Alumni and Friends
- **Tuesday, January 20**  
Annual Meeting of the Alumni Association
- **Thursday, January 29**  
Spotlight Luncheon  
Guest Speaker: Seymour Glazer '60,  
one of the original Watergate prosecutors
- **Thursday, January 29**  
New York State Bar Alumni Reception
- **Monday, February 2**  
Reunion 2009 Kickoff Reception at Dean Matasar's home  
All members of classes ending in "4" and "9" are invited.  
Details and RSVP at [www.nyls.edu/alumni](http://www.nyls.edu/alumni).
- **Friday, April 17–Saturday, April 18**  
Reunion Weekend 2009
- **Saturday, April 18**  
New York Law School Open House Celebration

For information and to register, go to [www.nyls.edu/alumni](http://www.nyls.edu/alumni).

**NEW YORK  
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Alumni Connections

Office of Development and Alumni Relations

57 Worth Street

New York, NY 10013-2960

## Breaking New Ground. Again. Campaign

### Martin Levin '83 Leads the Way through His "Art" of Giving Back



"I had to make a choice," Martin Levin '83 says of growing up in South Philadelphia, the son of a butcher. "I knew I didn't want to work in a butcher shop seven days a week." And he never did.

Levin, 89, has played many roles—public servant, publishing executive, industry leader, active in India and the

USSR, professor, and New York Law School philanthropist—but a butcher is not one of them.

Beginning his career in the midst of the Great Depression, Levin attended night school at Temple University while working as a public assistance caseworker. A new director, seeking new talent to reform the public assistance agency and stimulated by Levin's suggestions for change, promoted Levin to be his administrative assistant. That position led to other administrative assistant positions in the Air Corps during World War II, before he was inducted into the infantry in the U.S. Army. Returning from military duty in December 1946, Levin completed a decade of public service with a three-year stint as an executive in the Veterans Administration.

In 1950, an officer with whom he worked in the Air Corps recruited Levin, who had no previous experience in publishing, to join him at Grosset & Dunlap in New York City. Levin spent 16 years at Grosset, becoming the Senior Vice President and a member of the publishing company's board of directors. In July 1966, he was recruited by the Times Mirror Company (publisher of the *Los Angeles Times*) as President of the Book Group. By the time Levin retired in 1983, the fledgling book company he inherited was the fifth largest book publisher in the U.S.

In 1979, while still President of the Times Mirror Book Group, Levin mapped out his retirement from publishing with a drastic change of course: a decision to pursue his schoolboy dream of becoming a lawyer. Various city law schools that offered evening division classes turned him down. They couldn't comprehend how he would swing it—a demanding full-time career in publishing that required frequent travel

plus the rigors of law school. Only New York Law School was willing to give him a chance. He could take eight credits for one term and see if he did indeed like the law, the dean of admissions told him.

Fitting in with his classmates was a challenge, as Levin was nearly 40 years older than most of the students and his work schedule made participating in a study group difficult. To do so, Levin shed his three-piece suit for a Mets T-shirt and took the Lexington Avenue express to school. Since the companies within his Book Group were located around the U.S. and abroad, Levin often left class directly for an airport, making certain the limousine picking him up met him one block away from 42 Worth Street, and slipping back into his three-piece suit on the way.

There were other incongruities in his double life as senior publishing executive and law school student. Because of a book Levin had worked on about the Library of Congress, Chief Justice Warren Berger sought him out, not knowing Levin was a first-year law student disguised as a publisher, and requested that Levin sponsor a similar book about the Supreme Court. As the project moved along, Levin would fly to Washington, D.C., lunch with the Chief Justice, review the manuscript, and fly back to attend Professor Lung-chu Chen's Constitutional Law class that evening. While he won the Law School's Copyright Prize, Levin was devastated not to win the Constitutional Law Prize at his commencement.

After graduating in four years, Levin was hired by the premier intellectual property firm Cowan, Liebowitz & Latman, to be Of Counsel. Early on, he was retained by the American Institute of Physics, the American Mathematical Society, and Yale University. And during the days of the Soviet Union, he negotiated and drafted publishing contracts with Russian publishing agencies. In 1991, he developed a legal and business framework for *Reader's Digest* to publish a Russian-language version of the magazine, making the *Digest* the first uncensored general purpose magazine published in the Soviet Union.

As if two careers weren't enough, Levin added professor to his résumé; he has been teaching a course in Publishing Law at New York Law School each year since 1987. Levin also spends two weeks every summer teaching at the Professional

Publishing Course at Stanford University. Since the course is housed in the law school building, Levin became the agent for Stanford Law Professor Gerald Gunther, whose major work on Learned Hand was published by Knopf, and Professor Paul Goldstein, whose book *Copyright's Highway* was originally published by Hill and Wang.

"New York Law School is the best and often the only bridge to somewhere for those seeking a career in the law," Levin says. "For those who have walked across that bridge, it is a privilege to serve."

Levin has expressed his gratitude to New York Law School with many gifts over the years. Most recently, he made one of the first gifts to the *Breaking New Ground. Again.* Capital Campaign. In honor of his wife, he donated a stunning and valuable oil painting by Paul Jenkins called *Phenomenon Prism Smoke Dance*.

"I wanted to make a contribution to the School in thanks for all it has done for me."

### Watch your mailbox in January for the *Breaking New Ground. Again. Campaign Book.*

Our Capital Campaign is in full swing, and we hope you will be part of it. In January every graduate will be receiving our beautiful new Campaign Book, which describes the importance of the Capital Campaign and how you can be involved. For more information, or to discuss an outright or planned gift, please contact:

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PLEASE JOIN US  
*on*

**April 18, 2009**  
*for the*

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL  
OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

TO SHOW OFF  
OUR NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING  
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*and*  
**Friday, April 17–Saturday, April 18**  
*for*  
REUNION WEEKEND 2009

For classes ending  
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