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COUNSELOR

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY

December 1989

THE MENDIK LIBRARY TO OPEN JANUARY 16

State-of-the-Art Facility Ready to Open for Spring Semester

When students return to the Law School on January 17, they will find the most dramatic addition to the Law School in its history: the new, state-of-the-art Mendik Library, open and ready for business.

The new library will fundamentally alter daily life at the Law School, according to Professor Joyce Saltalamachia, director of the library. "I don't think anyone will be able to appreciate the dramatic difference until they actually get into the new building," she has said.

To accomplish the move to The Mendik Library, the Library will close immediately after finals on December 22 and reopen on January 16. During those three weeks, each of the Library's 305,000 volumes, every piece of equipment and decoration -- "down to the last stapler, potted plant and knick-knack" -- will be systematically packed, moved and unpacked in the new facility.

While the library is closed, students may use most New York area law school libraries by presenting a valid ID card. However, Columbia and NYU law school libraries require a pass issued at NYLS. Students must obtain passes at the reference desk before December 22, since passes will not be available while the Library is closed.

During the first few weeks of The Mendik Library's operation, the Library staff will be working to help users adjust to the new building with tours and informational materials. An open house and tours of the library for alumni and friends will be held in March with a formal opening celebration planned for early spring.

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HOUSING DISCRIMINATION CLINIC WINS EMPLOYMENT SUIT

The New York Law School Housing Discrimination Clinic successfully represented a Long Island man in an employment discrimination suit that is expected to have a significant impact on Long Island realty practices. Professors Sally Frank and Lawrence Grosberg and student Alix Simonetti represented Harold O'Garra in federal court against a Northport, L.I. real estate broker.

A relief order issued last month awarded the plaintiff \$42,000 in compensatory and punitive damages and attorney fees. The defendant was also ordered to take corrective action. The defendant must use equal opportunity logos on signs and ads, advertise position openings in minority newspapers and use civil rights organizations to assist in minority hiring efforts.

The case arose when the plaintiff was denied employment as a real estate agent by Peppermill Realty Co., Inc. Mr. O'Garra believed he had been a victim of racial discrimination and reported the incident to Suffolk Housing Services, a fair housing agency which referred him to the NYLS Clinic. The case was brought in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District New York before Magistrate David Jordan. This summer, a jury found that Peppermill Realty intentionally discriminated against Mr. O'Garra.

The results of the case will likely cause other Long Island real estate agencies to be more careful about their hiring practices, and may lead to the hiring of more black agents according to Professor Grosberg. Reasoning that black agents will be less likely to steer black buyers or renters into predominantly black areas, he told The New York Times, "Our hope is very much that it will have an impact on fair housing itself."

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Recycling Program Expands

The Law School has expanded its recycling program to include aluminum beverage cans, magazines and corrugated cardboard boxes. All cans will be given to WE CAN, a non-profit organization which assists the poor and homeless in New York City. Only empty, rinsed aluminum cans can be accepted.

The deposit bins for cans are located in the following areas:

47 Worth Street
Basement (Student Cafeteria)
1st Floor (Student Lounge)
3rd Floor (near C311)
5th Floor (dining room)

57 Worth Street
7th Floor (outside A703)
66 Leonard Street
3rd Floor (D22)

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Recycling ...

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Magazines can be discarded in the same blue bins as newspapers. Empty boxes should be left near your trash can and if possible, opened and flattened.

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Computer Virus Scanning Program

Computers, like humans, can have their systems attacked by viruses. A virus introduced to your computer system, through shared programs or telecommunication links damage or destroy valuable data. Viruses usually remain hidden until the damage is done but the Computer Center has available a program that detects a problem if one exists. It does not repair damage or cure viruses but it can tell you if your computer is headed for trouble. Anyone interested in using a copy of the scanning program, should contact the Computer Center, at ext. 316.

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New York Law School Faculty News

Benjamin Busch, former adjunct professor of international law, died on September 15, in Lakeville, Conn. He had been a partner at the Manhattan firm of Katz & Sommerich and counsel to Hamburger, Weinschenk, Molnar & Busch. He was 77 years old.

Professor Karen Gross has been appointed to the board of editors of Bankruptcy: Text, Statutes, Rules, a bankruptcy treatise written by Judge Robert Ginsberg. She has also been appointed to the ABA Business Law Section Task Force on Federal Court Structure which will investigate a recent Supreme Court decision requiring jury trials in certain bankruptcy cases.

Her June, 1988 testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee is included in a report issued by the Government Printing Office. Also included was her study of bankruptcy codes conducted for the American Bankruptcy Institute.

Professor Randolph Jonakait likened the use of the DNA test in the Central Park jogger rape case to "six fingerprints on top of each other" in an October 10 interview on WCBS-TV News At Five. "I think it was anticipated that there would not be good results in this case," he said.

Professor Arthur S. Leonard's paper "Homophobia, Heterosexism and Judicial Decisionmaking," has been accepted for publication as part of a symposium on psychiatry and homosexuality to be published by the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy.

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Faculty News...

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Professor Jethro K. Lieberman's article, "Lessons from a Writing Audit," co-authored with Tom Goldstein, appeared in the October issue of the ABA Journal.

Professor Michael L. Perlin has been named to the National Advisory Board of the Institute on Mental Instability and Law of the National Center for State Courts in Williamsburgh, Va. He will present a paper titled "Competence, Deinstitutionalization and Homelessness," in March at the University of Houston Law Center's annual Health Law Conference. The paper will appear in an issue of the Houston Law Review.

Professor Stuart A. Schlesinger's columns, "The So-Called Learned Intermediary" and "Shelf Life of a Product, According to Law," co-authored with Edward J. Sanocki Jr., were published in the Product Liability section of The New York Law Journal on Oct. 18 and Nov. 29.

Professor E. Donald Shapiro delivered the first annual Joseph Solomon Lecture at Law School on November 28. His talk, "The Dangers of DNA: It Ain't Just Fingerprints," centered on the personal liberties pitfalls in the creation of DNA databases. On the same day, he commented on the use of DNA evidence in the Central Park jogger rape case on WNBC-TV news.

Dean James F. Simon's book, The Antagonists: Hugo Black, Felix Frankfurter and Civil Liberties in America was reviewed in The New York Law Journal on October 20. In addition, Dean Simon was one of fifteen New York Law school deans who signed a letter to New York law firms urging them to limit part-time work for law students. The deans believe some students are spending too much time on work and not enough on academics.

Professor Nadine Strossen appeared on Cable News Network and was quoted in several Dallas newspapers on November 10 discussing current constitutional controversies. She was also the featured guest on the Wisconsin affiliate of National Public Radio, on the subject of "Individual Rights and the War on Drugs," and was quoted in the November 15 issue of the Madison, Wis. Capital Times on the University of Wisconsin's recently adopted rules on racist speech. Her article, "Recent U.S. and International Judicial Protection of Legal Rights: A Comparative Legal Process Analysis and Proposed Synthesis," will be the lead article in the April 1990 Hastings Law Journal.

Professor Ruti Teitel will speak on the constitutionality of religious holiday displays at a lecture sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League, New England Region, on December 15 in Boston. She will also speak in Boston on December 18 at the 21st annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies of the American Council of Learned Studies on the relationship of history to law.

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL STAFF UPDATE

Suzanne Baer, Director of Career Planning and Placement, was quoted in the November 27 issue of the New York Law Journal on the barriers facing over-30 law graduates.

Christine Stenstrom of the Library Staff reviewed The Remains of the Day, by Kazuo Ishiguro in the October 1 issue of Library Journal.

Additions and Advancements

Danielle Aptekar has been appointed the Placement Counselor/Program Coordinator in the office of Career Planning and Placement. She has a B.A. in Psychology from SUNY at Albany and was most recently employed as a recruiter for Eden Legal Services in Manhattan.

Ned Burke has joined the Law School as the new Communications Assistant in the office of Public Affairs. He was graduated from Fairfield University in May 1989 with a B.A. in Communication Arts.

Gerardo Figueroa is working as a Staff Assistant in the Registrar's Office. He had previously worked in a temporary position in the Office of the Associate Dean for Finance and Administration. He has a B.A. in Business from Staten Island College and an Associate Degree from the American College of Puerto Rico.

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NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL STUDENT/ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Exam Policy

Students should be aware of the new examination policies on absence, tardiness and illness in effect for the exam period beginning Dec. 11.

* Absences can only be excused in advance and exams must be rescheduled within a 72-hour period.

* A student more than ten minutes late for an exam must either take the exam in the proctor's room (B410) or take an incomplete and make up the exam in the next semester exam period.

* Students who cannot complete exams due to illness also must make up the exam next semester.

* All excuses must be approved in advance by Stephen Goot of the Office of Academic Affairs. Call him with any questions at ext. 870.

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DECEMBER DOCKET

Wednesday 6th	Last Day of Classes of Fall Semester
Thursday 7th	Reading Period Begins
Monday 11th	Final Examinations Begin
Tuesday 12th	4:00 p.m. Board of Trustees Meeting
Wednesday 13th	6:00-p.m. Brooklyn Alumni Reception
Thursday 14th	6:00 p.m. Alumni Association Meeting
Wednesday 20th	4:00-6:00 p.m. Faculty and Staff Holiday Reception, Dining Room, 5th Floor, 47 Worth Street.
Thursday 21st	Final Examinations End, Winter Recess Begins.
Friday 22nd	Christmas Eve Day (Staff Holiday) Library Closes
Monday 25th	Christmas Day (Staff Holiday)

JANUARY DOCKET

Monday 1st	New Years Day (Staff Holiday)
Thursday 11th	Orientation - First Year Students, Mid- Year Class
Tuesday 16th	The Mendik Library opens
Wednesday 17th	Spring 1990 Term begins

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