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March 2009 Alumni Newsletter

New York Law School

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ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Your Lifetime Network of Support | March 2009



Building Buzz

On Saturday, April 18, take a pre-opening tour of the Law School's first custom-designed home. Visit state-of-the-art classrooms, beautiful student spaces, and the Mendik Law Library in its new, permanent facilities. Reconnect with classmates. Enjoy "Taste of New York" refreshments. Listen to music and take home souvenirs. And, share a champagne toast with Dean Matasar and the Board of Trustees.

View more information and register at www.nyls.edu/openhouse or call 212.431.2802.

Did you know?

In the month of February, more than 300 people were on-site daily working to complete the new building.

Meet the Network

Michael Costa '81:**Head of Corporate Tax of the Americas at Deutsche Bank**

Getting in touch with Michael Costa '81 is a little like trying to catch up with an Acela train. Even before the credit crunch and the unprecedented folding of several major investment banks, Costa was a busy man. Nowadays, with all the rules thrown out the window, Costa is even busier as the Managing Director of Corporate Tax at Deutsche Bank, which he joined in 2007.

His responsibilities include every corporate tax issue for Deutsche Bank for all of the Americas, "from the top of Canada to the tip of Peru and everything in between," he explains, including mergers and acquisitions and financial products for the German-owned bank. But Costa notes that the current downturn has brought "fact patterns that we couldn't have imagined before now."

Costa and his team are involved in bringing to the attention of the IRS and certain state officials that times have changed, while statutes have not. Tax law is based on the assumption that people routinely make a profit, which is no longer the case.

"There's not a lot of law written with the assumption of government intervention," he says. "We don't know now how these bailouts will affect the banking system, but we're keeping a close eye on it."

Despite the challenges of doing business in a distressed economy, Costa feels very fortunate to be at Deutsche Bank, which he describes as a "very well managed organization, very high-end and sophisticated."

Costa, a member of the Law School's Board of Trustees, is thankful for a legal education he deems "excellent by anyone's standards."

"I am a big fan of New York Law School's faculty," Costa says. "Having top flight professors gives you a higher platform from which to start your career."

New York Law School Heritage

Felix Bilgrey '51 and Sylvia Garland '60

When today's New York Law School students receive scholarships named in honor of Felix J. Bilgrey '51 and Sylvia D. Garland '60, they are not only receiving the means to an education. These recipients are also inheriting the legacies of two graduates who led extraordinary, purposeful lives marked by ideals that lifted them from the mores of their own age. Garland demonstrated in her life and law career that women could accomplish anything, and Bilgrey tackled new legal challenges regarding the censorship of motion pictures. Both were pioneers, and both have given New York Law School students scholarships, as well as very high standards. There is a scholarship in recognition of Sylvia Garland's work in civil litigation, and the Law School presents a commencement award in her name to a graduating student who demonstrates excellence in subjects relating to civil litigation. Garland's family and friends created a scholarship to honor her contributions to the Law School and the legal community, and Bilgrey's wife did the same for him.

Felix Jacob Bilgrey was noted in his life as a champion of freedom of speech and in particular as an opponent of the censorship of motion pictures. As President and General Counsel of the Times Film Corporation, he combated the efforts of state and local authorities to censor certain films. One of those films was *The Game of Love*, based on a short story by the French author Colette.

On the case, Bilgrey worked with Abner J. Mikva, a former congressman, federal judge, and law professor from Chicago, to persuade the Supreme Court to reverse the ban imposed by the city of Chicago. In the August 1957 issue of the trade publication *Box Office*, Bilgrey was quoted as saying the ban "violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution." Bilgrey also questioned the application of obscenity as a basis for banning the film.

Sylvia Dillof Garland was an equally distinguished New York Law School graduate. In an era when female law school students were rare, Garland was not only a great example of what women could accomplish; she was excellent by any standards. She was Editor in Chief of the *Law Review* and first in her class all three years of law school. At graduation, she won several awards for her distinguished scholarship: the

Trustees' prize for the highest average in her senior year, the Dean Gutman award for the highest degree of responsibility, and the Moot Court team and individual awards.

She pursued that passion for excellence after graduation, as a partner at Hofheimer, Gartlir, Gottlieb & Gross LLP. There, Garland focused her practice on civil litigation. She was also a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness, Appellate Division, First Department.

Sylvia Garland maintained close ties to the Law School where she had so brilliantly excelled by becoming an active member of the Alumni Association. She served as the Association's President and was, in turn, awarded the School's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1978.

Bilgrey and Garland represent two examples of the rich heritage of New York Law School. Their scholarships ensure that their legacies are carried on.

Alumni Corner

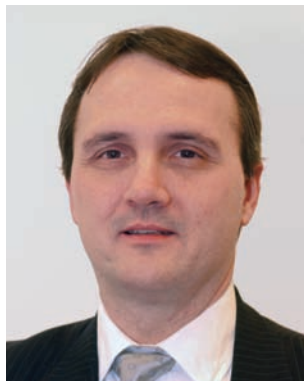
Test your knowledge about the exciting features of the Law School's new building.

1. When you are in the auditorium of the new building, are you under water?
2. How is it possible that you never feel vibrations or hear any sounds from the subway, when there are two subway lines within 100 feet of the new building?
3. What design appears in the glass on some portions of the new building?
4. What is going to make the fifth floor student dining center the most coveted dining facility in TriBeCa?
5. What type of wood paneling decorates the entire north side of the building?
6. What is one of Dean Matasar's favorite parts of the new building?

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/alumni.

Alumni in Brief

Paul L. Porretta '95 and the Art of the Golden Parachute



Paul L. Porretta's *Breaking New Ground. Again.* gift of a classroom to New York Law School—in conjunction with the capital campaign—may come as a surprise to a handful of former classmates.

His first year of law school, the seating chart placed Porretta '95 in the very first row of Professor Kim M. Lang's

Torts class. For 14 weeks, he was kept on his toes, answering Professor Lang's questions.

"When I bump into classmates today," he says with a chuckle, "many of them remark, 'Oh, you were the guy in the front row of Torts class who got hammered every night!'"

Despite the grueling intellectual workout he received, Porretta recalls the class, and other experiences at the law school, with a great deal of fondness. "The outstanding faculty provided me with excellent legal training, and I was well prepared to begin my practice upon graduation," he says.

Donating the classroom, says Porretta, an Alumni Association board member, is his opportunity to strengthen his commitment to the Law School that served him so well.

"The idea of having my name on a classroom gave me a tremendous thrill because, more than anything else, I enjoyed the classes at New York Law School. I marveled at the faculty and all of the knowledge and training they imparted to me and my classmates, and it's a terrific honor to be able to show my gratitude."

Porretta, who was made a partner at Morrison Cohen LLP in the firm's compensation and benefits department in November 2008, came to law school, like many of his fellow Evening Division students, with a demanding career in full swing. In his case, the career was as an officer of a pension fund. While holding that position, and prior to entering law school, Porretta earned an M.B.A. at Fordham. Immersed in the business side of compensation and benefits, Porretta became intrigued by the legal issues involved.

After New York Law School, Porretta completed an LL.M. in Taxation at New York University School of Law. Today, his executive compensation practice includes designing employment agreements, deferred compensation plans, stock option plans, restricted stock plans, and change-in-control agreements. In addition, Porretta works on golden parachute issues in mergers and acquisitions and on disclosure requirements for executives at public companies. On the employee benefits side, Porretta advises clients on 401(k) and pension plan matters. A particularly large part of his practice is the design and implementation of employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs).

The economic downturn hasn't reduced the amount of work Porretta's firm is handling, but in recent months the nature of the work has changed, especially with a "great deal of activity" in "realigning executive staff" and, he notes, "mostly at a high level."

Yet the need for legal services continues for corporations despite reductions in staff and executives. "Corporations still need executives, 401(k) plans, and pension plans," he says.

But Porretta acknowledges that corporations are decreasing the extent of benefits provided, such as employer contributions, and, as a result, Morrison Cohen has worked recently on changes to benefits plans and pension funding issues.

As for the future, Porretta says he is looking to further develop his practice at Morrison Cohen. "There are plenty of new demands ahead—changes in the law, our current economic crisis, and shifting client needs," he says. "I look forward to meeting those challenges."

ALUMNI

CONNECTIONS

Your Lifetime Network of Support | March 2009



For Alumni SAVE THESE DATES

- **Friday, April 17 and Saturday, April 18**
Reunion Weekend 2009
For all classes ending in "4" and "9"
- **Saturday, April 18, 2009**
Opening Celebration of
the New Building
For all alumni

For information and to register, go to
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

CONNECTIONS

Breaking New Ground. Again. Campaign

Judith Rosenberger Names a Judge's Chair in Honor of Her Husband, Justice Ernst H. Rosenberger '58



"The opportunity to make a gift that has lasting presence, personal significance, and a meaningful purpose is a wonderful experience," says Dr. Judith Rosenberger, who donated a Moot Court judge's chair as a Hanukkah gift to her husband, Justice Ernst H.

Rosenberger '58. The judge's

chair will have a permanent position behind the bench for the final round of Moot Court tournaments.

"When I heard about naming opportunities for the new building at an alumni dinner, it was one of those 'aha' moments," Dr. Rosenberger says.

She describes how her husband not only "absolutely adores" New York Law School, but credits it with being the foundation of his life and therefore the life of his whole family. Ernst Rosenberger fled Nazi Germany as a child with his parents. He worked his way through New York City public schools and attended City College of New York. After serving in the United States Army, with the help of the G.I. bill, as well as securing a job and housing at a children's shelter in Manhattan, Rosenberger attended the Law School and graduated in 1958. His ties to the Law School have remained strong ever since.

"He really feels that the Law School saved him," Dr. Rosenberger says of her husband, who has served on the Law

School faculty since 1976, teaching courses such as the Criminal Justice Seminar. Justice Rosenberger has practiced law at the New York City-based law firm Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP since 2004. His practice focuses on both domestic and international litigation, as well as arbitration, alternative and international dispute resolution, and mediation. From 1985 to 2004, he was an Associate Justice of the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, First Department.

Judith Rosenberger developed her individual ties to the Law School when, as a psychoanalytic fellow, she approached former Dean E. Donald Shapiro about doing her required community project by surveying the School's students regarding what they did, and did not, think would benefit them in the way of school-related mental health services. The result was a 20-year relationship in which the School offered any student the option of a private, off-campus consultation with her, in which she arranged for them to get whatever psychological and social services they might need. In this role, she remarks, she "saw first-hand the high level of professional expectations blended with support" that reflected the very qualities that so inspired her husband—"now as well as on his way up."

"The judge's chair is a wonderful gift not only for Justice Rosenberger, but also for the law students," says Seth Rosen '99, Assistant Vice President of Development at the Law School. "Every time they see it, they can be reminded that a degree at New York Law School can launch you on a great career, like the one Justice Rosenberger has had."

WELCOME HOME!

PLEASE JOIN US

on

April 18, 2009

for the

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL

OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

TO SHOW OFF

OUR NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING

www.nyls.edu/openhouse

and

Friday, April 17–Saturday, April 18

for

REUNION WEEKEND 2009

FOR CLASSES ENDING

IN "4" AND "9"

www.nyls.edu/reunion2009



Scholarships

Some things do last forever.

The average law school student graduates with \$120,000 in law school debt. **With a gift of any size**, you can change this, starting now.

When you make a gift toward a scholarship, every year you are transforming lives—the lives of the students who receive the gift of a scholarship, and the people these students will impact as they move forth into their careers.

There are a lot of ways to create a named scholarship at New York Law School. Below are a few of the opportunities, and alumni, friends, faculty, and staff are coming up with new ones all the time. Call us, and tell us how you would like to contribute.

1. One person, or a family or group of friends, can create a scholarship, in their own names, or in the names of their parents, a faculty member, or someone else they want to honor. Great names grace the walls of great institutions. Seventy-five named scholarships already exist at New York Law School, including:
 - The family of Shepard Broad '27 established a scholarship in his name, to give future generations of first-generation students the same opportunity for success as their father enjoyed with his New York Law School degree.
 - The friends of Professor Denise Morgan are setting up a scholarship in her name to keep her memory alive for the future of the Law School and to inspire generations to come.
 - Professor Ronald Filler established a scholarship because he knows how critical this financial support is to the students to whom he is devoting his career.
2. Alumni and friends of an organized group can set up a scholarship. Every member of that group can make a gift of any size, and be part of building a named scholarship that will support forever students following in their foot-steps. For example:
 - **A class can establish a scholarship.** Several class leaders have already started working to build scholarships with the support, and in the name, of their class. How about yours?
 - **Alumni and friends from a common discipline can create a scholarship.** New York Law School has a large and distinguished population of alumni in the entertainment industry, and they are in the process of creating entertainment industry scholarships.
 - **A student organization and its alumni and friends can set up a scholarship.** The Black Law Students Association (BLSA) is already organizing to create theirs.
 - **Centers and their alumni and friends can create scholarships.**

How much is a named scholarship?

A fully endowed named scholarship starts at just **\$25,000**.

Over how many years can the gift be made?

Five years, and you can make the gift in any installments that you choose. For an individual, that works out to about \$15 per day, or \$99 per week, or \$420 per month, or \$5,000 per year. For a group, it's however much you can give, whenever you can give it, and until the full amount of the scholarship is raised, the monies will be available as part of the General Scholarship Fund.

What is our goal?

Our immediate goal, for between now and June 30, 2009, is to create 25 new pledged scholarships. Our long-term goal is to provide 50 percent scholarships to every student.

A great school is measured by the contributions of its members to society, and looking at our faculty, alumni, and student body, it is clear that New York Law School is a great school. As lawyers, we share a belief which New York Law School teaches all of its students: that lawyers are trustees for the common good. What greater good can we achieve than to repay the gift of our own education, by making the gift of education to generations of aspiring New York Law School students to come?

Your leadership is the fuel that powers our success. Call or e-mail us, now, and we'll give you all the support you need to make your individual or group scholarship a reality.

Suzanne Davidson

Vice President and Associate Dean of Development and Alumni Relations
212.431.2818
suzanne.davidson@nyls.edu

Seth Rosen '99

Assistant Vice President of Development
212.431.2169
seth.rosen@nyls.edu

Tara Regist-Tomlinson

Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations
212.431.2808
tara.regist-tomlinson@nyls.edu

Lauren Peddicord

Breaking New Ground. Again. Campaign Manager
212.431.2184
lauren.peddicord@nyls.edu