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## May 2007 Alumni Newsletter

New York Law School

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# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

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## Meet the Network



### Building Buzz

For their "Creation of a New Home for New York Law School" project, the real estate advisors at Studley won the prestigious Most Ingenious Deal of the Year Award from the Real Estate Board of New York at a ceremony on April 17.

Charles Maikish '74, Executive Director of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center, praised Dean Richard Matasar for his leadership.

"Rick authored and engineered this unique project," Mr. Maikish said. "This will be the first major institutional project to open in Lower Manhattan post 9/11."

To make the deal, Dean Matasar directed a team of law school leaders and outside consultants through four key moves:

1. The successful sale of the law library building, which raised \$136 million.
2. The creation of a major endowment with the proceeds.
3. The securing of favorable fiscal ratings to obtain \$145 million in low-interest, tax-exempt bonds.
4. The design, groundbreaking, and construction of a major new building that increases the School's educational space by 70 percent.

### Did you know?

- New York Law School's oldest alumni (from classes that graduated 50 years ago or more) are affectionately known as "the Old Guard." Currently, there are about 500 members of the Old Guard.
- Avery Fisher, the man for whom Avery Fisher Hall, the site of our commencement, is named, invented the transistorized amplifier and the first stereo radio-phonograph in the 1950s.



### New York Law School Celebrates 115th Commencement

Approximately 400 students, including 13 LL.M. candidates, will graduate at New York Law School's 115th commencement on Sunday, May 20 at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. More than 50 percent of the Class of 2007 are women, and approximately 20 percent identify themselves as minority group members.

Each year at the commencement ceremony, two students, representing the Day and Evening Divisions, speak. This year's student speakers are Katherine (Katie) E. Smith (Day Division) and Alice Louise King (Evening Division).

Commencement 2007 will recognize two great lawyers. The President's Medal of Honor will be presented to Sybil Shainwald '76, member of the New York Law School Board of Trustees, President of the Law Offices of Sybil Shainwald, and sponsor of the prestigious Sidney Shainwald Public Interest Lecture, held at the Law School annually. Sybil Shainwald is the first woman ever to receive the President's Medal of Honor. The award will be presented by Arthur N. Abbey '59, Chairman of the New York Law School Board of Trustees.

The Law School will confer an honorary Doctor of Laws (LL.D.) degree on David Boies, Chairman of Boies, Schiller and Flexner LLP. Mr. Boies has represented numerous well-known clients in a variety of high-profile cases, including Vice President Al Gore during the disputed 2000 presidential election. Mr. Boies' award will be presented by Maurice R. Greenberg '50, one of New York Law School's most outstanding alumni.

This year's commencement includes the inauguration of a new graduation event: a two-day Open House, held on Saturday, May 19 and on Sunday morning. During Open House, graduates and their families and friends are invited to visit the Law School campus and meet and socialize with the Dean, faculty members, and their classmates.

## New York Law School Heritage

### Meet Bainbridge Colby, Class of 1892



One year after the founding of New York Law School, the graduating class included among its members one of the institution's most distinguished alumni—Bainbridge Colby, Secretary of State under Woodrow Wilson and one of the founders of the Bull Moose Progressive Party.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1869, Mr. Colby, a graduate of Williams College, Class of 1890, was studying at Columbia Law School when a group of faculty, students, and alumni, led by Columbia's founder Dean Theodore Dwight, broke away to create a new law school dedicated to academic freedom. That school was New York Law School, and Mr. Colby was among its first students.

After graduating in 1892, Mr. Colby began practicing law in New York City. He represented a variety of clients, including Mark Twain, and also became active in Republican politics. Mr. Colby served in the New York State Assembly from 1901 to 1902. In 1912, he was a passionate supporter of Theodore Roosevelt's presidential candidacy. When Roosevelt left the Republican Party, which had denied him its nomination in favor of William Howard Taft, Mr. Colby went with Roosevelt and became one of the founders of the National Progressive Party. The new party was nicknamed the Bull Moose Party because when reporters suggested Roosevelt was no longer fit for office, he allegedly replied that he was fit as a bull moose. Mr. Colby was a delegate at the new party's national convention in 1912.

In 1914 and in 1916, Mr. Colby ran for U.S. Senate from New York on the Progressive Party ticket and lost both times. In 1916, the new party was disbanded, and the next year, Mr. Colby was appointed a commissioner of the U.S. Shipping Board. He supported President Woodrow Wilson, a Democrat, as enthusiastically as he had supported Theodore Roosevelt, and became a close confidant of the president. In 1920, President Wilson appointed him Secretary of State.

When Woodrow Wilson was incapacitated by a series of strokes, Mr. Colby supported his League of Nations strongly and just as strongly denounced as "agitators of dangerous revolt" the new Bolshevik leaders who had come to power in Russia in 1917. Mr. Colby set forth the policy of refusing to recognize the new government of the Soviet Union—a policy that remained in effect until 1933.

After President Wilson's term ended, Mr. Colby returned to private life as a partner in the president's law firm from 1921 to 1923. He continued to practice law for the remainder of his life. When Mr. Colby died in 1950, he was the last surviving member of the Wilson Cabinet. He is buried with his wife, Anne Ahlstrand Colby, in Chautauqua County, New York under a simple headstone that reads: "Faithful Public Servant."

## Alumni Corner

This month New York Law School will celebrate its 115th commencement. Can you answer these questions about our special speakers and honorees?

1. Maurice R. Greenberg '50, who will introduce honoree David Boies, was for many years the driving force behind what multinational company?
2. David Boies represented Vice President Al Gore in connection with the disputed vote count in Florida in the 2000 presidential election; what lawyer represented George Bush in arguments before the Supreme Court?
3. Before studying law at New York Law School, Sybil Shainwald '76 had a very successful first career. What was her occupation?
4. Arthur N. Abbey, who will introduce honoree Sybil Shainwald, is a member of what class at New York Law School?
5. Besides being alumni of New York Law School, what do Maurice Greenberg, Sybil Shainwald, and Arthur Abbey share in common?

## Alumni in Brief

**Alan W. Clark '77**



It is a New York Law School tradition that members of the graduating class may receive their diplomas from family members who are alumni. For Law School Trustee Alan W. Clark '77, that tradition could be habit-forming. In 2004, Mr. Clark's son Brandon graduated from New York Law School, followed a

year later by his nephew Harris R. Berkman. Both of them work with Mr. Clark at the law firm he founded on Long Island more than 25 years ago. The firm, which employs six lawyers, specializes in medical malpractice and product liability.

Although no members of the extended Clark family will be receiving degrees from New York Law School this year, they will be back in 2008 when Mr. Clark's younger son Rory 2L graduates. Mr. Clark admits he encouraged his sons and nephew to come to New York Law School, but added, "I think they recognized the benefits on their own."

According to Mr. Clark, those benefits include a great location near every court, numerous government agencies, and Wall Street, as well as a great faculty and adjunct faculty. Mr. Clark loved New York Law School 30 years ago, and he is even more enthusiastic about it today.

"I'm proud of the Law School," he said. "I think it has its own identity. I feel it's improving and growing, and with the new building and everything else that's going on, it's really taking off in the right direction. I think we can compete with any school."

Mr. Clark said he remembered many of his professors with great fondness.

The late Alfred S. Julien, who taught product liability, was, Mr. Clark noted, "a tremendous trial attorney."

Mr. Clark also thought very highly of former Dean E. Donald Shapiro, who taught legal medicine, because "he brought a lot of real-world experience to that course." Mr. Clark remembered being one of the few students who attended an autopsy without fainting.

The late Cyril Means, Mr. Clark said, was a "great Constitutional law professor."

Mr. Clark said he was pleased to be able to participate in the life of the Law School, both as an active alumnus and as a member of the Board of Trustees.

"I want to give something back," he commented.

Although she is not an alumna, his wife Madeleine, who is a paralegal and works in his law firm, shares his enthusiasm for New York Law School and encouraged her nephew and both of her sons to attend law school here.

Mr. Clark recalled that he decided to become a lawyer during his second year of college because he wanted to help people.

"It sounds corny, but it's true," he commented.

He chose his specialties because he wanted to be a litigator and he also had a strong interest in medicine.

Mr. Clark enjoys his practice thoroughly.

"To me being a lawyer means being in court and trying cases," he said. "Being a trial lawyer is being a producer, a director, a writer, and an actor. There is no greater challenge, and I still love it today."

The law, Mr. Clark said, is exciting because "it's never stagnant. It's an ever-evolving career."

Mr. Clark said he would urge all of the Law School's alumni to "come and see what's going on now. Get a feel for this school. There is a real metamorphosis going on, and you have to feel a lot of pride in that."



*Harris Berkman '05, Rory Clark 2L, and Brandon Clark '04*

ALUMNI

# CONNECTIONS

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## Free for Alumni

- **Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.**  
Long Island Reception for Alumni & Friends  
Hosted by Anthony Capetola '70  
At Carlton on the Park  
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, New York  
  
To register for this event, go to <http://alumni.nyls.edu/events>.

## SAVE THESE DATES

- **Friday, October 5 and Saturday, October 6**  
Reunion Weekend for All Classes Ending in  
"2" and "7"
- **Thursday, December 13**  
New York Law School Hosts a Gala Honoring  
Kathleen Grimm '80, Steven E. Pegalis '65,  
and Charles E. Phillips, Jr. '93

More information about these events will be posted on the Alumni & Friends page on the New York Law School Web site ([www.nyls.edu](http://www.nyls.edu)) in the coming months.

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Alumni Connections

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