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2017 Gala Program

New York Law School

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GALA 2017

Groundbreaking
Women in the Law

Tuesday, November 14, 2017
Tribeca Rooftop
2 Desbrosses Street, New York City

WE ARE NEW YORK’S LAW SCHOOL
HONORING

General Electric Company
Susan Hinkson ’98, LL.M. ’12
Sybil Shainwald ’76
Hon. Judith Sheindlin ’65
Professor Nadine Strossen
Eighty years ago, a groundbreaking woman made New York Law School history. Elizabeth Johnston Schenkel ’37 became the School’s first female graduate, thus beginning a tradition of pioneering New York Law School women that continues to this day. Later graduates included Barbara M. Watson ’62, the first African American and first female Assistant Secretary of State. Edith L. Fisch became the first female law professor in New York State when she began teaching at New York Law School in 1962.

Tonight’s honorees continue the proud legacy of these three women. Susan Hinkson ’98, LL.M. ’12, Sybil Shainwald ’76, and Hon. Judith Sheindlin ’65 are renowned leaders in their fields, exemplifying the professional heights to which our graduates can climb. Professor Nadine Strossen epitomizes the brilliance and dedication of our female faculty members. General Electric Company demonstrates the sweeping influence of corporate commitment to gender equity.

I am grateful that we can be together this evening to recognize our honorees and to celebrate this community, whose accomplishments never cease to amaze me.
Our honorees are visionaries whose careers defy the professional limitations women have often confronted. Our society is more just and equitable due to their willingness to push boundaries. In honoring them, we also celebrate the thousands of other accomplished women of New York Law School. They are leaders in traditional and non-traditional legal fields. They are professors who will leave their mark on the next generation of lawyers. And they are law students—60 percent of the 2017 entering class, in fact—who will help solve the most pressing problems of the 21st century.
ABOUT THE HONOREES
GE is the world’s Digital Industrial Company, transforming industry with software-defined machines and solutions that are connected, responsive, and predictive. GE is diverse in its platform, its broad portfolio of products and services, and most importantly, its people. This diversity fuels GE’s innovation, fosters a limitless source of ideas and opportunities, and is essential to productivity, meritocracy, and lasting competitive advantage.

GE’s Women’s Network, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, exists for the company’s nearly 70,000 women to cultivate their leadership skills, business practices, personal contacts, and career opportunities. The Women’s Network has evolved into a worldwide organization—more than 160 hubs in 60 countries—that promotes leaders who will ensure both their career success and GE’s growth.

GE believes a company that changes the world should reflect the world. In that spirit, it has set good faith goals of increasing the number of women in STEM [Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics] roles, as well as the representation of women in its technical entry-level leadership programs, by 2020. The Women’s Network drives a number of initiatives, from sponsoring STEM camps for middle school girls around the globe to providing women with development on sponsor readiness.

GE’s Global Law & Policy goal for diversity and inclusion is just as ambitious. The Global Law & Policy team aspires to be leaders at GE in recognizing the value of diverse backgrounds and fostering opportunities for diverse talent around the world. GE champions legal fellowships that support women and communities of color and partners with its outside counsel to report on the hours diverse team members spend working on GE matters.

New York Law School recognizes GE for advancing women in science, technology, and the law.
ABOUT THE HONOREES

Susan Hinkson ’98, LL.M. ’12 is a seasoned public- and private-sector leader with expertise in architecture and the law. She is currently an Executive Vice President in the Land Use, Housing, and Real Estate Practice Group at Capalino+Company.

Prior to joining Capalino+Company, Ms. Hinkson served as Vice Chair and Commissioner of the New York City Board of Standards and Appeals. In that role, she heard and adjudicated zoning variances, special permits, and administrative appeals cases.

Her previous work includes serving as Brooklyn Borough Commissioner for the New York City Department of Buildings, where she enforced the New York City Zoning Resolution and Building Code. In addition, Ms. Hinkson was Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Community Development for Sullivan County, overseeing community development projects in the Catskills region. She also worked for the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs as Capital Program Manager, where she managed design and construction in the city’s cultural institutions, such as the Public Theater and Museo del Barrio.

Ms. Hinkson graduated from Pratt Institute with a Bachelor of Architecture, and she is a registered architect in New York State. She earned her J.D. from New York Law School’s Evening Division and her LL.M. from the School’s Real Estate Law program. In addition to serving on New York Law School’s Board of Trustees, she is a Trustee of Wave Hill in the Bronx and a Trustee of the Riverdale YM-YWHA.

New York Law School recognizes Ms. Hinkson for her deep commitment to enhancing New York’s built environment, which benefits New Yorkers and protects the public welfare.
Sybil Shainwald’s compassion and professional skills have ennobled the practice of law. These words were spoken by U.S. District Court Judge Jack B. Weinstein, before whom Ms. Shainwald appeared hundreds of times in championing her clients’ rights.

Ms. Shainwald has advanced a deep commitment to social justice and women’s rights through her groundbreaking advocacy and litigation. She was instrumental in expanding the statute of limitations for latent injuries in New York, and she filed the first case under the Revival and Discovery Statute, enabling compensation for thousands of women and their children. She achieved the nation's first victory on behalf of women whose mothers had taken the drug DES during pregnancy and filed a class action that resulted in the establishment of an emergency fund for “DES daughters.”

She brought the initial cases for the lactation suppressant Parlodel and the pregnancy screening test Chorionic Villus Sampling; represented 2,000 women against the maker of a harmful intrauterine contraceptive device; and established a $25 million fund for foreign women injured by faulty breast implants.

Ms. Shainwald was Chair of the National Women’s Health Network; a founding member of Trial Lawyers for Public Justice; a member of the Food and Drug Administration’s Consumer Consortium; and an integral part of the first Black Women’s Health Conference, the first Rural Women’s Health Conference, and many other grassroots women’s groups, which she also funds. Her writings, lectures, media appearances, and public testimony have raised the national consciousness on crucial women’s health issues. Ms. Shainwald is a Trustee of New York Law School.

New York Law School honors Ms. Shainwald for her lifetime of championing women’s reproductive rights.
Hon. Judith Sheindlin ’65 is a distinguished jurist, a Supervising Judge of the Family Court in Manhattan, and the star of JUDGE JUDY, the No. 1 program in syndication for the last eight years. In 2006, she and her daughter Nicole Sheindlin ’93 co-founded Her Honor Mentoring. The program pairs high school seniors with mentors from all disciplines and has thus far graduated 375 women. “The Sheindlin Forum” at USC Annenberg was dedicated on September 12, 2017. Its goal is to create a space for public debate and advancing intellectually rigorous, civil, and healthy discourse.

She was honored for her trailblazing work with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. She has received the “Gracie Allen Tribute Award” from American Women in Radio and Television and the “Brandon Tartikoff Legacy Award,” named after the late broadcasting pioneer. In 2012, Judge Sheindlin was inducted into the prestigious Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame for her contributions to the TV business.

She is the recipient of the “VP/Law Society” award from the University College of Dublin. She has also been honored with the “Distinguished Alumni Award” from New York Law School and the “Woman of the 21st Century Award” from The Women's Guild at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.

Judge Sheindlin has authored seven books including Don’t Pee on My Leg and Tell Me It’s Raining and the New York Times best-seller, Beauty Fades, Dumb is Forever.

New York Law School honors Judge Sheindlin for her extraordinary influence as a trailblazing jurist and global media icon.
Nadine Strossen is the John Marshall Harlan II Professor of Law at New York Law School, where she has taught courses in constitutional law, human rights, and freedom of speech for nearly three decades.

From 1991 through 2008, Professor Strossen served as President of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). She was the first woman and the youngest person to lead the ACLU. When she stepped down, three U.S. Supreme Court Justices (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Antonin Scalia, and David Souter) participated in her tribute luncheon.

Professor Strossen has presented at more than 500 campuses and in many foreign countries. She has appeared on virtually every national news program and has published more than 300 pieces of writing. Her forthcoming book, *HATE: Why We Should Resist It With Free Speech, Not Censorship*, will be published in May.

Professor Strossen is a member of the ACLU’s National Advisory Council and the Council on Foreign Relations, as well as the Advisory Boards of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, and Heterodox Academy. She is a recipient of the American Bar Association's 2017 Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award and many other honors.

Professor Strossen graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard College and magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

New York Law School recognizes Professor Strossen for her powerful actions to protect the individual rights of all people and for her immeasurable impact on the School and its students.
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Thank you for investing in tomorrow’s groundbreaking women (and men).

On behalf of New York Law School, thank you to the honorees, their guests, and all of the generous individuals and companies who have made this evening possible. Your attendance tonight enables more talented and hardworking students to receive a high-quality legal education, regardless of their personal means.

New York Law School is also grateful to the Gala 2017 Committee, in particular the co-chairs, and the Gala Faculty and Staff Committee for their remarkable dedication to our School.