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September 2009 Alumni Newsletter

New York Law School

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ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Your Lifetime Network of Support | September 2009



ALUMNI WEEKEND 2010

It's not just for reunions anymore.

Announcing the first-ever New York Law School all-alumni weekend, including Reunion celebrations for classes ending in "0" and "5."

Mark your calendars now for April 23–25, 2010.

Meet the Network

Joseph S. Tesoriero '78: Managing the Numbers behind the Pineapples



For many Americans, "Dole" means pineapple. For Joseph Tesoriero '78, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Dole Food Company, the name also signifies a sweet job. Tesoriero, who joined the company in 2002 as VP of Tax, moved into the CFO position in 2004, managing a \$7 billion U.S.-based multi-national company, which distributes its products in more than 90 countries.

"Each day brings new challenges and opportunities, with a distinctively international flavor."

Dole has performed very well during the recession, Tesoriero says, with volumes and prices holding up well, while many input costs such as oil, paper, and fertilizers have fallen. Through solid operating results, cost cutting, and a non-core asset sale program the company has reduced its leverage by more than \$360 million over the last 12 months.

"With certain of our debt maturities occurring earlier this year, we found ourselves in the high-yield corporate bond market during March—not a very pleasant or rewarding experience," he notes. But recent improvements in the capital markets are "good news for any company needing access to capital."

The skills Tesoriero acquired in law school have helped him in navigating the rough economy. He says that the ability to analyze a fact pattern and apply case law translates to the duties of a CFO today, both from a compliance viewpoint, but also qualitatively.

"CFOs need to look for opportunities to constantly improve the way their companies operate. This type of discipline and attention to detail is definitely a skill that has its roots with my law school education."

New York Law School Heritage

Louis Jackson '30

The adage, “What you put in your pocket may be taken from you, but what you put in your head will always be yours,” was one Frieda Jackson told her son Louis, instilling in him a life-long hunger for knowledge. Having grown up as one of three brothers who shared a bed in working-class Rochester, New York, Jackson graduated City College in 1927, Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude*, and New York Law School in 1930—both with full scholarships.

Education was a cornerstone of Jackson Lewis, a leading workplace law firm that Jackson founded in 1958. He strongly believed that teaching management effective communication techniques to use with their workers would obviate the need for unions. He also believed in the efficacy of mentoring his young associates, holding them to high standards, tempered by fairness and humor. Bill Krupman, a partner at the firm, recalls how Jackson jokingly referred to himself as a “mentor” instead. “It was a line I loved,” says Krupman. “He was sweet but tough, exacting but fair, a 24/7 kind of guy, and also the finest man I ever met.”

Partner Philip Rosen was a first-year Jackson Lewis attorney “fresh out of law school” when he met Jackson, who “asked me about myself and my family, and told me about himself.” When they talked about cases, Jackson similarly “asked direct questions to identify the core issue and then suggested how to deal with it.”

Jackson, who was born in London in 1904 and arrived at Ellis Island at age 2, began his legal career by founding a general law practice in 1931 in New York with fellow alumnus Irwin Lester '30. He later worked as a legal consultant to the Sears Roebuck Company in Chicago on labor problems. There, he learned the intricacies of labor advisory work and another influential piece of philosophy: “Talk to the guy or gal.”

In his memoir, Jackson recalled a labor-management dispute at a foundry in Cicero, Illinois. The workers had just gone on strike, and the management needed assistance. Jackson spoke to both parties, first to the workers, then to management. He told the workers that their supervisor had said he could not ask for a better workforce. Jackson wrote, “They were stunned to meekness. They asked me what their next move should be. ‘Get off your high horse,’ I said, ‘and go talk to that guy!’”

The expertise Jackson gained there led him to launch Jackson Lewis, with partner Bob Lewis. Jackson’s firm primarily counseled non-union companies on labor issues. Early clients included numerous retailers such as Lord & Taylor and later, Toys “R” Us.

Now a majority of the firm’s work is devoted to defending management in federal and state court litigation on civil rights and related issues. With a rocky economy forcing many companies to restructure their workforces, Jackson Lewis advises them on best practices to avoid employment discrimination lawsuits.

“My grandfather could never have imagined that the firm he started in 1958 with one associate would grow to 41 offices and 565 attorneys,” says his grandson, Cliff Atlas, a partner at the firm.

Louis Jackson’s legacy lives on not only in the law firm he founded but also in the Louis '30 and Sylvia Jackson Scholarship at the Law School—only fitting as the bright young man from Rochester had once benefited so greatly from receiving scholarships himself.

Faculty in the News

Who said it? Test your knowledge about two of New York Law School's esteemed professors featured in recent media articles.

1. This Institute for Information Law & Policy associate professor was cited in *The New York Times* on April 4, 2009 in an article about a legal challenge to Google’s plan to scan “orphan books,” books that are out of print:

“Some of Google’s rivals are clearly interested in the settlement’s fate. Microsoft is helping to finance the research on the settlement at the New York Law School Institute. _____, an associate professor at the Institute, said its work was not influenced by Microsoft.”

2. This professor was quoted in *The Washington Post* on March 24, 2009 in an article about global warming:

“The Environmental Protection Agency’s new leadership, in a step toward confronting global warming, submitted a finding that will force the White House to decide whether to limit greenhouse gas emissions under the nearly 40-year-old Clean Air Act. . . . But even those who support cutting greenhouse gases warn that doing so under the Clean Air Act could be complicated. ‘This would be a regulatory maze far exceeding anything we’ve seen before,’ said _____, a professor of environmental law at the New York Law School.”

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 in Brief

Thinking Like a Lawyer, Managing Like an Executive: Benjamin R. DeCosta '75 and the Art of Airport Management



Benjamin R. DeCosta '75 has always had his eyes on the sky. DeCosta began his career working for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and many issues he dealt with there involved aviation. He was also General Manager of Newark International Airport. Before that, he had dealings with LaGuardia and JFK and two Port Authority heliports.

Now, as Aviation General Manager of the world's busiest airport since 1998, DeCosta is responsible for some staggering numbers. His Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta, Georgia saw more than 90 million passengers in 2008—topping by a fair margin second-place O'Hare in Chicago, which had just under 70 million passengers, and JFK, which had under 48 million passengers. DeCosta's operation employs more than 56,000 people, producing a total financial impact of \$23.5 billion for the metro Atlanta region.

DeCosta recently had lunch with Dean Richard A. Matasar and committed to becoming more involved in alumni activity, despite his schedule being packed with meetings with city officials (DeCosta is officially a city employee and answers to Atlanta's mayor), lawyers, planners, and countless other individuals involved in several ongoing projects to expand the already enormous operations of the 4700-acre airport.

"Dean Matasar is dynamic, and his vision for the Law School is inspirational. Law school was one of the best educational experiences that I have had, and learning to think like a lawyer has helped me tremendously in my career. I welcome the opportunity to give back."

Perhaps it's the case of one visionary relating to another. In DeCosta's ambitious tenure at the airport—which has survived a change in city administration—the goal has been to balance investment with growth. His Capital Improvement

Program, with a \$6 billion-plus price tag, brought the development of a new 398-foot control tower—the tallest in the U.S. and third-tallest in the world. Three years ago, he completed a \$1.2 billion runway. In November 2009, the airport is slated to open a new rental car facility with an elevated tram to connect it to the airport, a \$642 million investment. A \$1.5 billion international terminal is currently under construction and scheduled to open in the spring of 2012.

Such expansions are not easy to finance in the tight credit markets, DeCosta says. The last six months have been particularly tough, with investors putting cash into treasuries rather than into financial instruments that support infrastructure.

"As an investment grade airport, we're waiting for the markets to thaw. Meanwhile, our work continues to ensure we remain financially sound in uncertain economic conditions."

DeCosta has always packed a lot into his day. He attended law school during the evening while working full time at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as a law assistant in the Authority's law department. He was a member of a legal fraternity and was the head of the Black Law Students Association. In addition, DeCosta was part of a selection committee for student recruitment.

He also enjoyed the academic rigor of law school, especially Constitutional Law taught by the late Professor Cyril Means.

"Professor Means gave us a very good understanding not only of how the founding government was structured, but of the rights that we enjoy as Americans. As an African American, I was particularly interested in the legal basis for the rights we could depend upon."

ALUMNI

CONNECTIONS

Your Lifetime Network of Support | September 2009



Save the Dates

- **Wednesday, September 16, 2009 | 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.**
Staten Island Reception for Alumni and Friends
Hosted by Anthony F. Bisignano '82
- **Thursday, September 17, 2009 | 6:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.**
Spotlight on Sports, Entertainment, and Intellectual Property
- **Wednesday, October 14, 2009 | 12:30 p.m.–2:00 p.m.**
Spotlight Luncheon
- **Wednesday, October 21, 2009 | 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m.**
Long Island Reception for Alumni and Friends
Hosted by Anthony A. Capetola '70
- **Alumni Weekend – April 23–25, 2010 –**
It's not just for reunions any more.

This spring we inaugurate our first annual **Alumni Weekend** so that alumni from all classes can celebrate together in the new building over two days of fun and festivities, including a Friday cocktail party with the dean; a State of the Law School lunch featuring Coney Island hot dogs, hamburgers, and ice cream; a talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning Professor Annette Gordon-Reed; and a fabulous Saturday evening dinner and casino night. The weekend will feature special recognition for reunion classes ending in "0" and "5."

More information to follow. We look forward to seeing you in April!

**NEW YORK
LAW SCHOOL**

Alumni Connections

Office of Development and Alumni Relations

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New York, NY 10013-2921

CONNECTIONS

A Mother-Son Pair Works Hard to Give Back

Susan J. Flynn-Hollander '85

Partner/Of Counsel at Schenck, Price, Smith & King LLP. Mentor. Trustee. Editor. Fund-raiser. Susan J. Flynn-Hollander '85 wears many hats, but her latest commitment—spearheading fund-raising for the Law School in New Jersey—has her brimming with enthusiasm as she discusses Dean Matasar and the future of New York Law School.

“Dean Matasar has made the new building a reality, but more importantly, he has kept the students at the forefront of everything he accomplishes.”

From small things, she says, such as providing bagels, beverages, and pizza before exams, celebrating milestones, to larger efforts geared towards ensuring that each student feels part of the New York Law School community; it all works towards creating a base of good feeling about the Law School.

Flynn-Hollander says she has taken on the leadership role in New Jersey because she is grateful to the Law School that offered her a launch for an accomplished career in health care law and hospital administration.

Flynn-Hollander's eldest son Jeremy '05 carried on the New York Law School tradition—as a Harlan Scholar and fellow commuter from New Jersey—and both are equally “amazed with the talent, diversity, and high intellectual capital to which we were exposed,” Flynn-Hollander says.

As fondly as she recalls her experience, today's New York Law School is even better equipped to offer students an excellent education, from matching students to financial aid and programs during law school to “making good on its promise to prepare its students in the best way possible” to pass the bar, secure employment, repay student debt, and take their places in the legal profession.

Flynn-Hollander says her fund-raising responsibilities will evolve even as the School deals with an uncertain economy. She plans to work hard to reach out to all New Jersey-based graduates and encourage them to be more involved with their alma mater—through a gift, student mentoring, and especially, serving as a “fan” base for the Law School.

Jeremy E. Hollander '05

Getting a job in a depressed economy can be tough, but Jeremy E. Hollander '05 and other members of the Recent Graduates Committee hope they can offer some help. Hollander, a member of Skadden Arps' general litigation department, and other Committee members, hosted an employment networking event in March. Hollander estimates that 75 students and recent graduates attended the event to meet with other New York Law School alumni working in the region.

“It was a great opportunity for students and recent graduates to make contact with alums,” says Hollander. “I took some résumés from students at that event that I hope to pass on when I hear of job opportunities.”

Another project they hope will help recent graduates is the Loan Repayment Assistance Champion, a program designed to assist students with managing law school debt and loans in addition to traditional grants and scholarships.

“We thought it would be a great way to help students in need, in addition to the traditional grants and scholarships they receive,” Hollander says. The Committee hopes to raise between \$15,000 and \$20,000 in the next five years.

The Committee also offers mentoring to current students, Hollander says. Because of a certain commonality in law school experience, recent alumni can reach out to current students and effectively mentor them, he notes. Recent graduates and current students are accustomed to laptops in wired classrooms and online discussion boards, for example.

Hollander says the Committee will continue to brainstorm ideas for aiding third-year students and recent graduates, including hosting an informational table during the first week of school and scheduling speaking events on topics like financial planning.

Staying connected to the Law School after graduation benefits the alumni, too, by creating a strong network of colleagues, Hollander says. “It's good to know as many people as possible. Who knows when you might face them on the opposing side of the table?”

Capital Campaign Donor Spotlight

Dr. Lisa J. Chin '96



Photo credit: Eve Vagg

Dr. Lisa J. Chin '96 is a serious scholar. Chin was led to law school through her master's in public health program at Columbia University (1994), where she was exposed to health law regulation and policy. Law school then led her to obtain a doctorate of education in 2008, specializing in health education with a focus on issues of informed consent. Having a law background and being able to relate it to a health care issue was for her "a great marriage of interests."

Chin also earned a master's in bioethics. Now working as a postdoctoral research fellow at Columbia's Center for HIV Research, Chin is applying her interest in informed consent to the legal and ethical issues in HIV clinical research and treatment. As a result, Chin feels an enormous sense of gratitude to New York Law School.

Surprisingly, Chin struggled during the first year of Law School. Despite that, the School decided to let her continue, resulting in Chin turning in an improved academic performance for the remaining two years. To thank the School that gave her a second chance, Chin made a gift to name a library office in the new building as part of the *Breaking New Ground. Again.* Capital Campaign.

"I spent a lot of time in the library," she laughs. "I've always been passionate about research, not just empirical research, but actually looking things up. I've always loved being surrounded by books."

Chin has also endowed a scholarship in honor of her parents, who paid for her law school education.

Establishing a scholarship will allow a "New York Law School student the opportunity to pursue his/her legal studies and minimize the burden of educational debt."

David Kaplan '77



For David Kaplan '77, it wasn't a question of donating a classroom to New York Law School's new building. With three generations of Kaplans attending the Law School, it was a question of how many Kaplan names to put on the door.

Kaplan, who has his own law firm in Garden City, Long Island, is the second in his family to graduate from the Law School, following his father, Morris Kaplan '51, a Long Island-based trusts and estates and tax lawyer. In turn, David Kaplan inspired his own sons to attend law school, with Ross Kaplan currently entering his third year at New York Law School.

"People looked up to my Dad as a sage expert," says David. "In fifth grade, I stood up in a class career program and said I wanted to be a lawyer, too."

David Kaplan's firm, with offices in Garden City, West Palm Beach, and Manhattan, specializes in estate planning for high-net-worth individuals, tax planning, and elder law. Kaplan says his practice hasn't been adversely affected by the downturn in the economy, noting the adage that "You can't escape death and taxes, so for better or worse, that makes my practice thrive."

Of his gift to the Law School, Kaplan says that he realized he owed his success to his alma mater and he "needed to pay that back." Kaplan marvels at Dean Richard Matasar's leadership and the student-centered philosophy evidenced by the design of the new building.

"When I was a student, there was no place to study," he recalls. "The building at 57 Worth Street was relatively small and not student friendly. This new building is filled with spaces designed with the students in mind. It's an amazing, comfortable place where law students from around the country will get a great education."