Winter 2017


New York Law School

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ANSWERING THE CALL

[ NYLS Leads the Way in a New Era of Immigration Law ]

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LL.M. in Taxation

Build a foundation in tax and pursue a concentration in depth through the Graduate Tax Program. The program emphasizes advanced training in tax research and practice-oriented writing, as well as practical experience through externships.

For further information, contact Professor Ann F. Thomas at 212.431.2305 or email TaxLLM@nyls.edu.

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SPOTLIGHT ON
RECENT PROGRESS AND RECOGNITION

- In the top 25 percent for diversity in the 2018 U.S. News & World Report rankings.
- Ranked #37 nationally for most alumni promoted to law firm partnerships during 2016 by The National Law Journal.
- Ranked #11 for most improved employment rates by preLaw magazine.
- Again recognized for Hispanic representation (#12 nationally) by The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education magazine.

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As “New York’s law school,” we are never content with the status quo.

We strive, instead, to hold ourselves to the highest standards, to push the boundaries of what we are capable of, and to constantly grow, adapt, and evolve. This year, we have launched dynamic clinics, published vital scholarship, and jumped headfirst into the most pressing legal problems of our time.

Some of our highest-profile work has been in immigration law. As national immigration policies have shifted, placing greater demands on immigration lawyers, New York Law School has been in lock-step with every development and at the forefront of every important public conversation.

This fall, we launched an Asylum Clinic to aid people fleeing dangerous parts of the world and hoping to settle in the U.S. The new clinic complements our highly respected—and growing—work with child and teenage immigrants through the Safe Passage Project, founded by Professor Lenni B. Benson.

Our vast alumni network comprises leaders in all aspects of immigration law. Their expertise is as wide-ranging as the field, encompassing public service, business, entertainment, health care, the judiciary, education, and countless other sectors of our economy.

We have also trained thousands of attorneys, including many alumni, on the latest immigration law developments through a steady drumbeat of continuing legal education offerings.

Tomorrow will bring fresh challenges. Every day, we are preparing NYLS students to meet those demands, just as so many of you have done, with ingenuity, persistence, and grit.

I invite you to learn more about our latest activities. And if they interest you, join us!

Anthony W. Crowell
Dean and President
Professor of Law
In the early 1960s, 76 percent of Americans trusted government. But in the intervening decades, that figure plunged to 19 percent. What happened?

That question is central to Trustee Professor David Schoenbrod’s new book *DC Confidential: Inside the Five Tricks of Washington*. Mistrust in government, he concludes, stems from a half-century of “tricks” by legislators to deflect blame for unpopular or costly policies. In response, he has proposed the Honest Deal Act—a measure that would require politicians to explain the hidden costs of their proposals.

*DC Confidential* includes forewords by former Governor Howard Dean, a Democrat from Vermont, and Senator Mike Lee, a Republican from Utah. In March, Dean Anthony W. Crowell hosted a reception for the book at New York Law School. “David has done something that is almost unthinkable in today’s polarizing times,” Dean Crowell said to the audience. “He’s brought a liberal from Vermont and a conservative from Utah together in agreement on fundamental problems affecting our government.”

By mid-summer, Professor Schoenbrod had logged more than 80 media interviews, blanketing the airwaves of places as far-ranging as Panama City, Boise, Cincinnati, Sacramento, and Detroit.
The book is about the gradual erosion of trust in government during the last 50 years. But that sense of distrust seemed to accelerate during the 2016 election, with the emphasis on “outsider” candidates and “drain the swamp.” Why?

Actually, the erosion of trust in government was steep in the ’70s and ’80s, and the result was that various people won the presidency based on being outsiders. Jimmy Carter ran as an outsider. Ronald Reagan did. Bill Clinton did. Every one of them asserted they were going to be the new broom that would clean up the mess. But as mistrust in the government has built, the public became increasingly willing to buy outsiders who were even more from the outside. That’s why Bernie Sanders and Donald Trump did so much better than expected in 2016.

You argue that our status as a republic is at risk because of the tricks. How so?

Voters know that politicians are tricksters. So the question is, how do they get away with the tricks? It’s the same way that magicians can seem to pull rabbits out of hats. We know they’re tricksters, but we don’t see the sleight of hand. That’s why, even though we are aware that we’re being tricked, we don’t know how to stop them. And because of that, we become increasingly cynical about democracy. The figures show that larger and larger segments of the population, especially young people, no longer believe in democracy. That’s scary.

There is a whole generation of adults born after this mistrust began.

Right. Take someone who’s 40 or 50 years old. The trickery began before they became adults. But they were raised in an era where people did believe in government of the people, by the people, for the people. In contrast, many of the people who are younger, and this is the 20- and 30-year-olds, don’t believe in democracy anymore. They were raised in a time when the majority distrusted government, and so we poisoned the well from which democracy comes. We’ve got to clean it up.

Are there any indications that the founders anticipated these tricks and built safeguards against them?

No, I don’t think they did because there were norms about what government did then that would have prevented these tricks. Nobody back then would have thought about the government guaranteeing the debts of big banks; nobody would have thought that the government could provide Social Security pensions to all old people. It’s not that these are bad things, but the founders couldn’t anticipate the kind of things the government is doing now. So the fault is not with the founding framers; it is with our failure to adapt our politics to modern realities. We shouldn’t and can’t make government what it was in 1789. But what we can do is rebuild accountability to deal with the kind of government we have now.

What role do citizens have in fixing things?

Well first of all, citizens need to understand the tricks. They’re not difficult to understand. If people go to the website for my book, www.dc-confidential.org, they can play games that show them exactly how the tricks work. Second, they can use the action link at my website to write to a member of Congress and say, “We want you to fix these tricks, we want an honest deal.” Now, people will say, “These members of Congress, it’s built into their DNA that they don’t want to be
accountable,” but they [Congress members] also hate the kind of job they’re doing. These are people who do not like to go to work in the most despised institution in America. They do the tricks because they think voters demand it. If just some of the voters began to demand an honest deal, we could begin to turn the ship of state around.

The book has received praise for its simple, direct writing style and accompanying games. Can you talk about your approach?

I originally wrote the book the way I’ve written academic books. Through serendipity, a friend sent the book to Howard Dean, who without a request from me wrote a blurb for it. But along with the blurb came a note saying, “Your book is a bit hard to understand.” That made me stew because I realized the book was written not just to say what I say but to try and convince people to act upon it. And I realized it had to be understandable to the people who are being tricked. So, I worked hard to make the book straightforward, to use metaphors rather than legalistic jargon, and to make the book easy to comprehend. It took three times longer than any of my previous books because it takes a long time to turn academic twaddle into something that human beings would want to try to understand.

Your proposal emphasizes honesty and accountability. How can we as a society be more honest about the costs of our policies?

What we need is my proposed Honest Deal Act, which would require Congress to take responsibility for the burdens necessary to deliver the benefits they promise. That, in turn, would require us, the people, to decide whether we are willing to bear the burdens to get those benefits. So there’s a job for them to do and a job for us to do.

Former Democratic Governor Howard Dean and Republican Senator Mike Lee both wrote forewords for the book. In such a divided, partisan era, can the ideas in the book unite us?

I think there is potential but not right now. We are so distracted by all the controversy going on right now that the issues I raise about an accountable process of government are not going to be on people’s radar screens. My job right now is to try to keep the ideas alive until such time as we all draw a deep breath and say, “Where do we go from here?” That will be the moment of opportunity.

When will that moment come?

I don’t know. It’s like being in the middle of a hurricane and knowing what moment it will be over.

Are you optimistic about our country’s future? What gives you hope?

I see reasons for optimism and reasons for pessimism. The reasons for pessimism are obvious. The reasons for optimism are that the American people are disgusted with their government. They distrust both parties. Members of Congress know they go to work in the most despised institution in the land—they don’t like their jobs as they are. We all feel trapped. So, in these unhappy facts is hope.

Who inspired you to write this book?

I dedicate this book to Neal Peterson, for whom I worked when I was on the staff of Senator and Vice President Hubert Humphrey. Neal believed in fairness and an even break for the little guy. I also dedicate the book to Judge Spottswood W. Robinson III, for whom I clerked. He argued the Brown v. Board of Education case along with Thurgood Marshall and others. He was a brave African American lawyer from Virginia. New York Law School awarded him an honorary degree in 1986. And I dedicate the book to John Doar, a famous civil rights lawyer for whom I worked at the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, who marched down the streets of Selma in front of Martin Luther King Jr. knowing full well there might be an assassin with a rifle in some window and willing to take the bullet if need be. They were wonderful role models and mentors. I wrote the book in their spirit.

What People Have Said About DC Confidential

“The Five Tricks are complicated; otherwise they would not have been so successful for so long. But the real recurring theme here is very straightforward: the power to get rid of Washington chicanery is not within Washington. It is within each of us.”

–Former Vermont Governor and Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean

“In a democratic republic like ours, the first step toward government reform is always to educate the people, so that they are empowered to hold their elected representatives accountable for their decisions. That’s exactly what DC Confidential aims to achieve, and it’s why this book should be required reading for anyone who believes it’s still possible to reform our failing public institutions and put the federal government back to work for the American people.”

–U.S. Senator Mike Lee

“DC Confidential is a model of responsible rationality and so just what’s needed in these discouraging times.”

–Ted Van Dyk, former Senior Advisor to presidential candidates Hubert Humphrey, George McGovern, and Jimmy Carter

“I’m certain Humphrey would be delighted with your book. As am I.”

–John G. Stewart, former Legislative Director to Senator and Vice President Hubert Humphrey
“Globalization is the thing that brings us together with somebody we might never meet in our lives on the other side of the world. It’s the thing that takes a small business and makes it big. It’s the thing that connects people and cultures and countries. But it’s also the thing that terrorist groups, organized crime groups, and others have exploited to expand their own portfolios. And if you look right now, much of terrorism is actually being driven by globalization, the clever use of social media, and the fact that the world is becoming a very small place.”

—John J. Miller, NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism, who spoke at the April 2017 CityLaw Breakfast

Another high-profile speaker in the Center for New York City Law’s spring 2017 lineup was Michael Horodniceanu, then-President of the MTA Capital Construction Company. Horodniceanu described the daunting challenges of completing the initial phase of the long-awaited Second Avenue Subway. (The new subway line debuted at the end of 2016.) In May 2017, the Center for New York City Law also held its Third Annual Civic Fame Awards, honoring former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins and other civic leaders. Errol Louis, host of the political news show “Inside City Hall” on Spectrum News, gave remarks.

Visit www.nyls.edu/citylaw to learn about the Center’s future events.

INTERNET OF THINGS SYMPOSIUM

“How do we optimize rapid innovation to remain a world leader in the development of new technology while mitigating some of the consequences of all this change? How do we address digital divides, ensure data sets are high-quality and representative, increase digital readiness, and protect jobs, privacy, and security? How do we respond to changing social norms around data sharing? How do we make sure that consumers, who want to benefit from all of this innovation, have choices and transparency within it? What additional protections do consumers need? As the technology gets smarter, how and when do we protect human agency? The Federal Trade Commission is at the forefront of these issues.”

—Federal Trade Commissioner Terrell McSweeny in her keynote remarks, “Consumer Protection in the Age of Connected Everything”

In February 2017, the Center for Business and Financial Law and the New York Law School Law Review hosted a full-day symposium dedicated to the Internet of Things (IoT). The IoT comprises the burgeoning collection

Left to right: Peter F. McLaughlin, DLA Piper LLP; Professor Tamara C. Belinfanti; LaVonda Reed, Syracuse University; Mauricio Paez, Jones Day; and James H. Koenig, Paul Hastings LLP.
of everyday products—refrigerators, fitness trackers, hair brushes, and immersion blenders among them—that are connected to the internet. Legal and tech experts dissected emerging policy concerns posed by these products, from consumer rights to data collection and privacy. Professors Tamara C. Belinfanti, Stacy-Ann Elvy, and Houman B. Shadab—all affiliated with the Center—engaged the experts in panel discussions. Vivian DePietro ’17, Executive Symposium Editor for the New York Law School Law Review, and Professor Michelle Zierler, Faculty Publisher of the Law Review, were also key to organizing the event.

It is estimated that by 2025, there will be 75.4 billion Internet of Things devices.

Visit www.nyls.edu/cbfl and click the left-hand link to register for the Center’s mailing list.

ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

Some taxied from Manhattan’s East Side; others trekked from places as far-flung as Russia. Alumni Reunion Weekend in April 2017 celebrated them all. The packed weekend featured NYLS’s second annual “Hall of Judges” ceremony—honoring alumni at all levels of the judiciary. Other events included a festive auction raising funds for public-interest student internships and timely continuing legal education courses taught by NYLS faculty. Among the many celebrations, Distinguished Adjunct Professor F. Peter Phillips ’87 chaired the 30th anniversary reunion for the Class of 1987, and Alan Clarke ’77 chaired the 40th anniversary reunion for the Class of 1977. At his annual “State-of-the-Law-School” breakfast, Dean Anthony W. Crowell shared updates on NYLS’s dynamic new curriculum and student successes. Board Chair Arthur N. Abbey ’59 encouraged alumni engagement, and Johnny T. Vasser Jr. ’11 reflected on how his time at NYLS led to his career in New York City government.

THE FUTURE OF RETAIL REAL ESTATE

In April 2017, the Center for Real Estate Studies convened public- and private-sector leaders for a panel on the future of retail real estate. Professor Gerald Korngold, the Center’s Director, introduced and moderated the panel, citing recent data that showed a decline in average retail rents and a rise in retail vacancies. Speakers included William Bond, Principal with Vanbarton Group; Hope Knight, President and CEO of the Greater Jamaica Development Corporation; Susan Kurland, Executive Vice President and Co-Head of Savills Studley’s Global Retail Services Group; and Peter Schwartz ’84, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Westfield Corporation. Schwartz, whose company developed and operates the major shopping center in the World Trade Center Transportation Hub, noted that contractions in parts of the retail market have created opportunities for innovative retailers. Knight emphasized that retail stores contribute to a sense of community and provide space for exchanging ideas. All of the panelists agreed that the physical storefront is still a highly valued piece of the shopping experience.

Join the Center’s work at www.nyls.edu/cres-get-involved.

NEW INNOVATION CENTER CLINICS

The Innovation Center for Law and Technology launched two new clinics that set NYLS apart from other law schools. Both clinics are housed in The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity.

CYBERHARASSMENT CLINIC

This clinic—the nation’s only pro bono law school clinic that provides free counsel to victims of online harassment, including cyberbullying,
nonconsensual pornography, cyberstalking, and doxing—achieved remarkable success in its first year. Students won an order of protection for a client whose ex-partner secretly filmed her, negotiated a settlement between a victim and harasser that included an order of protection and destruction of private images, testified before the New York City Council, and wrote amicus briefs in impact litigation cases. Now in its second year, the clinic is poised to expand to a national constituency.

PTO TRADEMARK CLINIC

This clinic launched in fall 2017 and complements NYLS’s existing PTO Patent Clinic. NYLS is now one of a few U.S. law schools to offer both trademark and patent clinical work with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (PTO). Students evaluate trademarks and represent entrepreneurs who cannot afford counsel before the PTO.

Visit www.nyls.edu/innovation for the Center’s news and events.

LAW REVIEW RECEPTION RAISES SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

As any New York Law School Law Review alum knows, Law Review is not only a prestigious undertaking—it’s also an extraordinary bonding experience. In April 2017, current and former Law Review alumni gathered to socialize, trade stories of their experiences, and raise funds for NYLS scholarships. The event honored Michael J. Fahy ’98, a former Editor in Chief who became an FDNY Battalion Chief and tragically died in the line of duty in September 2016. Chief Fahy’s family attended the gathering, and close friend Fernando A. Bohorquez Jr. ’99 gave touching remarks. Based on the event’s popularity and success in raising over $75,000 in scholarship funding, NYLS plans to continue it annually.

NYLS “ON THE ROAD”

During the spring of 2017, Dean Anthony W. Crowell met with local alumni, friends, and prospective students in Los Angeles, South Florida, and the District of Columbia. With support from Victor Rampertab ’94 and other generous donors, NYLS established the South Florida Alumni Scholarship to benefit students from the region, a top feeder to NYLS. In Washington, D.C., Philip West ’84 generously hosted 50 local alumni at Steptoe & Johnson LLP. Look for more local alumni events this academic year.

Stay in touch! Visit www.nyls.edu/alumni and register with NetConnect.

STUDENT AWARDS CORNER

Melissa Abraham ’17: Winner of a scholarship from WX, the New York Women Executives in Real Estate
Sara Alpert ’17: First place in the Family Law Writing Competition, sponsored by Hofstra University School of Law and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts
Sophia Barclay 2L: Honored at the Metropolitan Black Bar Association’s (MBBAs) annual gala and winner of an MBBA scholarship
Samantha Dunac ’17: Named Northeast Board Member of the Year by the National Black Law Students Association
Noah Meyer ’17: Honorable mention at the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna
Danny Oquendo 4L Evening: One of 25 of the 2017 “Law Students of the Year” named by The National Jurist
Rachel Searle ’17: One of 25 of the 2017 Immigrant Justice Corps Fellows nationwide
Black Law Students Association: 2017 Northeast Regional Chapter of the Year for the second year in a row
Dispute Resolution Team: Quarterfinalist in the International Chamber of Commerce Mediation Competition in Paris, which featured teams from 33 countries
Moot Court Association: Finalist in the American Bar Association’s National Appellate Advocacy Competition for the Brooklyn region
Trial Competition Team: Second among 16 New York City-area teams in the American Association for Justice Student Trial Advocacy Competition

These highlights are from the 2016–17 academic year.
On an iconic Lincoln Center stage and in the company of their elated family and friends, the Class of 2017 shed their student personas and launched their legal careers.

The graduating class received career wisdom from not one but two world-famous leaders in law: Preet Bharara, the former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Emmy Award-winner Laura Ricciardi ’96, co-creator of the groundbreaking Netflix series “Making a Murderer.” Dean Anthony W. Crowell, Board of Trustees Chair Arthur N. Abbey ’59, and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Life William P. LaPiana awarded both speakers honorary Doctor of Law degrees. Reporters and camera crews waited intently to capture their remarks.

Trustee Susan Mendik, who has graciously continued the generous philanthropic legacy of her late husband, Bernard Mendik ’58, in supporting The Mendik Library, was awarded the President’s Medal. The Honorable Dakota Ramseur ’97, who was elected to the Civil Court of New York County in 2013 and has been an inspiring mentor to current students, received the Kathleen Grimm Medal for Distinguished Public Service, an honor named for the former trustee and city government leader.

The Class of 2017 bestowed its selective Teaching Awards on Professors Jeffrey J. Haas and Jacob S. Sherkow. The Otto L. Walter Distinguished Writing Award recipients were Professor Richard Chused for his co-authored book *Gendered Law in American History* (with Georgetown Law Professor Emerita Wendy Williams), Professor Stephen J. Ellmann for his article “The Struggle for the Rule of Law in South Africa,” and Distinguished Adjunct Professor F. Peter Phillips ’87 for his article “Ancient and Comely Order: The Use and Disuse of Arbitration by New York Quakers.” Class of 2017 graduates Venus Allahyarzadeh and Ayana Osada also won writing awards. The Alfred L. Rose Award for Excellence went to three accomplished Class of 2017 leaders: Christopher DeLong of the Two-Year J.D. Honors Program, Abbey Gauger of the Day Division, and Trevaughn Luncheon of the Evening Division.

Six members of the Class of 2017 reflected on their personal journeys to law school, soliciting applause and even a few tears from the audience: Ronald Cosme Jr., John Louros, Samantha Dunac, Christopher DeLong, Diana Ruiz, and Abbey Gauger.
PREET BHARARA

“Truth-finding only works if everyone in the system is always vigilant, always skeptical, always questioning, and always willing to disagree with others when they prove wrong, no matter how high up they are. Groupthink is death to justice and to fairness.”

LAURA RICCIARDI ’96

“The fact is, my legal education and my experience as a practicing lawyer have been totally relevant to my career as a filmmaker. I use my law degree every day in my work as a business owner and creative.”

HON. DAKOTA RAMSEUR ’97

“Give your time, because it’s the most valuable gift you can give. Judge a moot court competition for budding law students. Take a pro bono case. Take a struggling colleague to lunch. Whatever it is, whoever it is, they will appreciate it, and the community will be better for it.”

SUSAN MENDIK

“Much like my late husband, all of you have now developed the same discipline and learning tools during your time here at the Law School, so I urge you to go out and utilize them to build your own personal success story.”
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- Total LL.M. and J.D. program graduates
- Graduates who were members of the first Two-Year J.D. Honors Program class
- Number of NYLS Commencements
- The largest fine ever paid in the history of insider trading prosecution during Preet Bharara’s leadership of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York
- Emmy Awards won by Laura Ricciardi ’96 for “Making a Murderer”

**See Commencement for Yourself**

**Video:**  
www.youtube.com/nyls

**Photos:**  
www.flickr.com/nylawschool
ANSWERING THE CALL

[ NYLS Leads the Way in a New Era of Immigration Law ]

During the lead-up to the 2016 presidential election, immigration issues shifted to the forefront of public discourse, where they have remained. Yet, for all the attention paid to immigration, the legal and policy framework that surrounds it remains something of a mystery to many attorneys and non-attorneys alike. Interpreting those rapidly shifting laws and policies has become one of the most daunting legal challenges of our time.

Amid this turbulent period, NYLS is providing critical expertise. For decades, the School has grown a robust, far-reaching network of immigration law leaders. Today, those alumni counsel global law firms, major corporations, nonprofits, and government. Some are based outside the U.S. Many grapple with evolving questions about visas, taxes, deportation, and citizenship. Some play a role in setting or interpreting those policies.

And NYLS’s campus, just blocks from New York’s federal immigration court and in one of the densest corners of a city that is 40 percent immigrants, is physically at the center of these issues. The School is where the American Immigration Lawyers Association holds its monthly New York City chapter meetings. It is where the New York Immigration and Asylum Conference was held last year and will be held again this year. And it is where New York State launched its groundbreaking Liberty Defense Project, which intends to expand legal assistance to immigrants.
NYLS’s presence is particularly strong at the nation’s largest federal immigration court, a few blocks east of campus at 26 Federal Plaza. This high-rise is the next step for many adults and children apprehended at the U.S. border and detained by the government. The courthouse is also where the nonprofit Safe Passage Project at NYLS—founded by Professor Lenni B. Benson—does much of its work.

Immigration court is more akin to an administrative tribunal than a criminal or civil court; its judges, for example, are U.S. Department of Justice employees. And immigration court stands out in another way that is core to Safe Passage’s existence: Unlike in criminal court, no one in immigration court gets a free attorney. Children and teenagers caught at the border must either pay for a lawyer or face deportation proceedings on their own. Without counsel, their odds of avoiding deportation are slim. But with the free legal representation Safe Passage provides, more than 90 percent of Safe Passage’s young clients find legal pathways to a safer, more stable life in the U.S.

Since Professor Benson established Safe Passage in 2006, it has grown from a small NYLS clinic into a robust organization that employs staff and now carries close to 700 cases—and counting. The organization’s lawyers and students currently occupy a dedicated space within The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity at NYLS. Alumni and outside volunteers remain key to the operation, as do partners: Since Safe Passage’s clients are young and often coping with trauma, the organization has formed relationships with the social work schools at Columbia University and Hunter College.

On the court’s designated juvenile intake mornings, its security line, which looks and feels like an airport security line, is full of young people. And when the elevator doors open on the 12th or 14th floor, where the juvenile docket is heard, children and teenagers crowd the hallways and courtrooms. Most are dressed as if going to a celebration: ties on, suits pressed, hair carefully combed. One small child wears shorts that say “U.S.A.” in glitter.

As Professor Benson paces these halls and courtrooms, checking on the status of new cases, she sees current and former students at every turn. Safe Passage’s small army of staff and volunteers greets her in a large room where they interview new clients. Downstairs there was Sofia Dec ’08, an immigration attorney, walking in with her own clients. In the hallway is Sandra Nichols ’95, who runs her own immigration practice and who attended NYLS after a nearly 25-year social work career. Four alumni—Hon. Mary Cheng ’97, Hon. Paula Donnolo ’80, Hon. Evalyn P. Douchy ’95, and Hon. Amiena A. Khan ’87—are Immigration Judges at 26 Federal Plaza. Each day’s in court, Professor Benson sees dozens of familiar faces. She enthusiastically recruits attorneys to volunteer with Safe Passage, thanks the NYLS clinic students who flutter between courtrooms to move intake papers and people, and greets alumni who serve as counsel for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

NYLS’s powerful network has benefited its impact litigation work too. In March, Mark Baghdassarian ’99, a partner at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP, worked with Professor Benson and NYLS’s clinic to write an amicus brief in a high-profile federal case, Jenny Flores v. Jefferson Sessions III. The case concerned whether minors caught at the border and held in government detention centers are entitled to a hearing on their lengths of detention. The government’s policies, the brief argued, were tantamount to “warehousing unaccompanied children in detention facilities.” Representatives from 23 other law schools signed on. In July, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that young detainees were entitled to hearings, news heralded by the clinic. As of this writing, however, it is unclear whether the Trump administration will pursue an appeal with the U.S. Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, federal clampdowns at the border, combined with a steadily accelerating human rights crisis in Central America, have increased Safe Passage’s workload and slowed the court process for many young immigrants. Their futures in limbo, they wait.

•   •   •

On a frigid late-January Saturday afternoon, Professor Claire R. Thomas ’11, a former student of Professor Benson and former staff attorney and Director of Training at Safe Passage, headed to JFK Airport. In her bag was a copy of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Following President Trump’s executive order banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries, news had spread within the immigration law community that people arriving to JFK from those
countries were being denied entry to the U.S. Immigration lawyers in New York, fiercely concerned that the new order was unlawful, moved quickly to intervene. For Professor Thomas, that Saturday was the start of weeks of late-night shifts providing counsel to families whose relatives, though they possessed visas, had been prevented from returning to the U.S.

A few weeks earlier, Professor Thomas and Carlos Valenzuela ’16, an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow with Safe Passage at the time, had spent a week at a South Texas detention facility providing legal counsel to refugee mothers and children. Through their work, part of the CARA Pro Bono Project, they had heard dozens of stories of rape, domestic violence, and death threats—all evincing the humanitarian crisis churning in Central America and driving many refugees north to the U.S. border.

As spring approached, it was clear that Safe Passage did not have sufficient resources to respond to the cascade of new cases generated by changing federal policies and worsening refugee conditions in the Middle East and Central and South America. And while Safe Passage’s focus has always been children, other vulnerable people needed legal assistance too. Professors Thomas and Benson formulated plans for a brand new clinic that would help entire families with refugee and asylum claims. Professor Thomas accepted the position of its director.

This fall, the Asylum Clinic launched with nine students, including two members of the Two-Year J.D. Honors Program. The clinic handles its own cases in-house but works with nonprofit partners to link immigrants to public benefits and other social services. Its goal is to care for families holistically, enabling self-sufficiency.
NYLS professors and alumni offer legal counsel at JFK Airport.

Safe Passage hosts a performance of the play *Miracle in Rwanda*, a true story of the life of a genocide survivor, followed by a CLE on working with trauma survivors. Former Mayor David N. Dinkins is a special guest.

NYLS’s Immigration Law and Litigation Clinic submits an amicus brief, signed by representatives from 23 other law schools, in *Jenny Flores v. Jefferson Sessions III*.

NYLS and the New York State Bar Association host a full day of mock trials and lectures on representing immigrants.

NYLS celebrates World Refugee Day with a refugee and asylum training. (This CLE is available on demand.)

NYLS offers a CLE on U.S. Immigrations and Custom Enforcement and prosecutorial discretion.

NYLS co-hosts a panel on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program with the University of Chicago Alumni Association.

NYLS and the American Immigration Lawyers Association provide pro bono DACA renewal services.

NYLS hosts the New York Immigration and Asylum Conference, an all-day CLE attended by hundreds. Commissioner Nisha Agarwal of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs delivers the keynote speech.

Professors Benson and Thomas hold an evening CLE after the conference, focused on “Rights at the Border.”

NYLS co-hosts the launch of the New York State Liberty Defense Project, Governor Andrew Cuomo’s program to meet the legal needs of New York’s immigrants.

NYLS hosts a CLE on topics that affect both Family Court and Immigration Court proceedings.

NYLS hosts a CLE on representing children before the Asylum Office.

NYLS launches its new Asylum Clinic, led by Professor Thomas.
NYLS applauds those who have generously contributed to immigration law programs at the School and in the community.

**DIANE ABBEY**

Founder, Diane Abbey Law Institute for Children and Families at NYLS

“Lawyers are uniquely qualified to protect our society’s youngest and most vulnerable members. For more than a decade, the Safe Passage Project has given young immigrants, many of whom are survivors of trauma, the chance to pursue a full life. NYLS’s new Asylum Clinic is expanding on this work by advocating for refugees, including families, who are fleeing war and violence in their home countries and seeking stability in the U.S. I am proud to support the clinic’s work: It will strengthen families and promote a more just and equitable society.”

**LARRY COWEN ’96**

Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, Northgate Capital, LLC (San Francisco, California)

“As an investment management lawyer, I don’t have many opportunities to directly impact an immigrant’s life. However, by volunteering to represent asylees fleeing horrific persecution, I was able to do so. With the assistance of nonprofit legal organizations, I have taken on pro bono asylum cases in New York City and San Francisco, where I now live. These worthwhile experiences are particularly useful during a time when immigrants’ rights are in peril. I know that many fellow alumni are doing similar work, and I encourage others to seek out ways in which they can make a difference.”

**PAMELA O. FOSTER ’00**

Managing Director and Associate General Counsel, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Chair, Safe Passage Project Board of Directors

“No child should face immigration court alone. That is the mission of Safe Passage Project, which now actively represents almost 700 children. Over 350 pro bono attorneys, mentored by our attorneys and supported by our social workers, are committed to helping to secure a stable future for these children. Our founder, Professor Lenni Benson, has found innovative ways to include hundreds of NYLS alumni and students in our work—in turn, giving them remarkable opportunities to provide effective and compassionate counsel to immigrant families. As Chair of Safe Passage Project’s Board of Directors, I encourage alumni to visit www.safepassageproject.org, where you can donate or sign up to volunteer. We welcome your contributions with open arms.”
SARAH KROLL-ROSENBAUM ’05
Senior Counsel and Deputy Office Head, Constangy, Brooks, Smith & Prophete LLP (Los Angeles, California)

“Professor Lenni Benson’s passion for due process and fair procedure inspired the direction of my career as a class and collective action litigator. Even more important, however, was her inspiration to be a mentor for young lawyers. NYLS is an ideal training ground for future lawyers because its faculty members—Professor Benson a paragon among them—not only provide substantive legal education; they also encourage a strong commitment to justice in their students. That’s why I support Professor Benson’s work and the new Asylum Clinic.”

JULIE MUNIZ ’97
Partner, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP

“Immigration law is a constantly evolving, exciting practice area that affects both individuals and companies across a wide variety of industries such as technology, energy, health care, entertainment, education, and consulting. As a partner at a global immigration firm, I’ve seen the value that attorneys from diverse backgrounds bring to our firm. Our practice demands attorneys who can respond nimbly and creatively to an ever-changing policy landscape, who value service and ethics, and who are prepared to hit the ground running on day one. NYLS prepares future attorneys to be leaders in immigration law, and I support its student scholarships to continue this valuable work.”

JOE PLUMERI ’15 (HON.)
Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, First Data Corporation, and NYLS Trustee

“Whether appearing in New York immigration court or meeting with clients at The Joe Plumeri Center for Social Justice and Economic Opportunity, NYLS students are learning how to counsel families on immigration law issues with compassion and professionalism. NYLS has built a powerful pipeline of leaders in this critical field. Throughout New York City and around the world, they are achieving the American dream and helping others do the same. I am proud to stand behind NYLS’s immigration law work, both as founder of The Plumeri Center and as the grandson of Sicilian immigrants.”
The list below is a small sample of the many NYLS graduates who are leaders in all aspects of immigration law. Alumni names and photos correspond by number. Alumni work in the New York City area unless otherwise specified. Share news about your practice with magazine@nyls.edu.

### Business Immigration Law
Alumni advise large multinational corporations on employment-based immigration issues.

- **Houman Afshar ’04** and **Amy McCoy ’03,** Partners, Gibney, Anthony & Flaherty, LLP
  These are two of the many NYLS alumni who have worked at Gibney.

- **Alexis Axelrad ’97** and **Deborah Notkin ’87,** Partners, and **Samuel Newbold ’11,** Senior Associate, Barst Mukamel & Kleiner LLP
  These are three of the many NYLS attorneys who have worked at BMK.


- **Amy Fallon ’03,** Sharon Finkel ’01, Julie Muniz ’97, Jenny Nieves ’98, Hugh W. Thistlethwaite III ’05, and Freddi Weintraub ’88, Partners, and **Sara Alpert ’17,** Associate, Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP
  These are several of the many NYLS alumni who have worked at Fragomen.

- **Rosanna M. Fox ’06,** Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP

### Entertainment Law
Alumni work with artists, entertainers, fashion designers, and other creative professionals on visas and other immigration issues.

- **Matthew Covey ’11,** Partner, CoveyLaw and Founding Director, Tamizdat Artist Services LLC, a nonprofit. **Amanda Gupta ’11** and **Tafiya Khan ’12** also work at CoveyLaw.

- **Alejandro Filippa ’04,** Founder and Partner, Lehach Filippa, LLP

- **Alireza (Reza) Pourmohammadi ’01,** Managing Partner, Reza Pourmohammadi, P.C.

### Practice Outside the U.S.
NYLS’s global alumni network includes graduates based outside the U.S. who handle immigration and employment law matters for U.S. companies and individuals.

- **Adena Altman ’13,** U.S. Immigration Attorney and Senior Associate, PwC (Vancouver, Canada); **Monika Szabo ’97,** Partner in the Immigration Practice, PwC (Toronto, Canada); and **Blaise Tottenham ’08,** Manager and U.S. Immigration Attorney, PwC (London, United Kingdom)

- **James A. O’Malley ’85,** Founder, O’Malley & Associates, which has employed numerous NYLS graduates (New York City and Cork City, Ireland)

- **Daniel Parisi ’03,** Of Counsel, Tocci Lee Brill & Parisi and Chair, Department of State Liaison Committee, American Immigration Lawyers Association (London, United Kingdom)

### Nonprofit Sector
Many alumni do influential work at local or national nonprofit immigration organizations.

- **Gloria Chacon ’13,** Staff Attorney, The Bronx Defenders

- **Timothy Greenberg ’16,** Justice, AmeriCorps Legal Fellow, Safe Passage Project

- **Desireé Hernández ’08,** Director of Legal Services, Safe Passage Project

- **Camille Mackler ’06,** Director of Immigration Legal Policy, New York Immigration Coalition

- **Devi Patel ’15,** Supervising Attorney, Unaccompanied Minors Program, Catholic Charities Community Services

### Immigration Judges
Six alumni are judges in immigration court.

- **Hon. Mary Cheng ’97,** Deputy Chief Immigration Judge

- **Hon. Paula Donnolo ’80

- **Hon. Evalyn P. Douchy ’95

- **Hon. Amiena A. Khan ’87

- **Hon. Donn Livingston ’78** (Denver, Colorado)

- **Hon. Ramin Rastegar ’95** (Newark, New Jersey)
Others in Public Service

Many alumni work at all levels of government on issues related to immigration.

**Vivian Carballo ’13,** Attorney Advisor, U.S. Department of Justice (Falls Church, Virginia)

**Eileen McCrohan ’96,** Assistant Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

**Thomas McGrath ’88,** former Assistant Counsel, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; retired after 22 years in public service immigration work

**Laura Rion ’17,** Law Clerk, U.S. Department of Justice Honors Program

**Estefani Rodriguez ’16,** Attorney Advisor, U.S. Department of Justice (Miami, Florida)

**Jennifer V. Rogers ’08,** Immigration Services Officer, Humanitarian Division, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Vermont Service Center (St. Albans City, Vermont)

**Matilde Roman ’98,** Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation

**Kohsei Ugumori ’06,** Senior Litigation Counsel, Office of Immigration Litigation, U.S. Department of Justice (Washington, D.C.)

Boutique Practice and Solo Defense

Numerous alumni practice immigration law at specialty firms or as solo practitioners.

**Elizabeth M. Barna ’90,** Attorney, The Law Offices of Elizabeth M. Barna

**Rakhvir Dhanoa ’00,** Owner, Rakhvir Dhanoa, PC.

**Gustavo Fuentes ’06,** Principal Attorney, Gustavo Fuentes and Associates; trained with **Marcia Kasdan ’78**

**Marcia S. Kasdan ’78,** Principal Attorney, The Law Office of Marcia S. Kasdan, where she works with her daughter, Associate **Lisa Kasdan ’12**

**Yusra Matari ’15,** Attorney, Law Offices of Nadia Kahf

**Sandra P. Nichols ’95,** Attorney, Sandra P. Nichols, PC.

**Heather Poole ’00,** Managing Partner, Family & Removal Group, Stone, Grzegorek & Gonzalez LLP (Los Angeles, California)

**Maria del Pilar Rivera Ruiz ’15,** Attorney, Garganigo Goldsmith & Weiss

Teaching on Immigration Law Topics

Alumni teach and write on immigration law topics.

**Bryan C. Johnson-Xenitelis ’08** and **Claire R. Thomas ’11,** NYLS

**Heather Poole ’00,** Fullerton College and Cerritos College (Southern California)

**Jodi Ziesemer ’13,** St. John’s University

Many alumni have contributed and continue to contribute to *Immigration and Nationality Law: Problems and Strategies*, a major immigration law textbook of which Professor Lenni B. Benson is the lead author.

Members of Safe Passage Project’s Board of Directors

Four alumni help guide the growth and direction of the Safe Passage Project.

**Pamela O. Foster ’00** (Chair)

**Brenda Cooke ’02**

**Susan Henner ’94**

**Samuel Newbold ’11**

Many more alumni have generously shared their time and resources with Safe Passage Project. Their names are available at [www.safepassageproject.org](http://www.safepassageproject.org) under “Who We Are.”
**CORPORATIONS**

“Despite the dominant role corporations play in our economy, culture, and politics, the nature and purpose of corporations remains hotly contested. This conflict was brought to the fore in the recent Supreme Court opinions in *Citizens United* and *Hobby Lobby*. Although the prevailing narrative for the past quarter-century has been that corporations belong to shareholders and should pursue shareholder value, support for this approach, which has been justified as essential for managerial accountability, is eroding … This article argues that systems theory offers an answer.”


**GRAFFITI ART**

“There now are legal and financial risks to building owners who allow graffiti to be painted on their walls. The existence of a right held by artists under VARA [the Visual Artists Rights Act] to resist the mutilation or destruction of their work—if it is of recognized stature—means that building owners will begin to call in the lawyers to draft agreements under which artists will be asked to waive their VARA rights. … This hardly is the world rebellious street artists envisioned when they began tagging buildings and mailboxes and making large pieces on subway cars during the 1970s.”

“The Anti-Rebellion Graffiti Heritage of 5Pointz” by Professor Richard Chused in his blog *Property! Thoughts*.

**JUSTICE HARLAN’S LEGACY**

“When I first read the Supreme Court’s thrilling *Obergefell* decision, I was struck by the fact that it repeatedly quoted Justice Harlan’s landmark 1961 opinion in *Poe v. Ullman*. This underscores the special status of that opinion; it is the earliest, most eloquent, and most enduring explanation of the Court’s special responsibility to construe the term ‘liberty’ in the due process clauses as encompassing protection from government intrusion into the private spheres of our lives.”


**LAW AND THE VISUAL**

“What if law were viewed less as a metric system than a musical composition, a public performance, a work of art: not simply a passive archive of written rules, policies, and principles, but also, and perhaps even more importantly, a theater in which we perform a shared reality…?”

TRANS RIGHTS AND LANGUAGE

“… Advocates for and theorists of trans rights and trans people want more than courts merely—even if respectfully—using whatever is the current terminology. They are implicitly hoping that the culture at large will absorb the richer and more complex understandings of gender expression that this language signifies.”

“Transsexual, Transgender, Trans: Reading Judicial Nomenclature in Title VII Cases” by Professor Kris Franklin (co-author), forthcoming in the Berkeley Journal of Gender, Law, and Justice

THE U.S. AS A TAX HAVEN

“In the new world of tax transparency … lawyers and accountants advising foreign clients will increasingly have to act as ‘gatekeepers’ with regard to the source and nature of their clients’ funds being invested in the United States.”

“Hiding the Ball: Anonymity, Tax Law, and the U.S. as the World’s Favorite New Tax Haven” by Professor Alan I. Appel ’76 (co-author) in the New York University 75th Institute on Federal Taxation

PROSECUTORIAL INDEPENDENCE

“While the Department of Justice remains a part of the executive branch and the Attorney General reports to the President, prosecutorial independence has evolved into an accepted norm, which is reflected in Department of Justice regulations and honored in practice. Any effort by the President to control the judgment of the Attorney General or other federal prosecutors ignores this important tradition, and any interpretation of the law or Constitution ought to be informed by it.”

“A History of Prosecutorial Independence in America” by Professor Rebecca Roiphe in an essay for the American Constitution Society

PRIVACY

“CPOs [Chief Privacy Officers] may set policies at the top, and they may have the ears of corporate executives, but they alone cannot embed robust privacy norms into the corporate ethos, practice, and routine. Nor do they design the very data hungry products that scream out for privacy protection ... Engineers, computer programmers, and other technologists create the platforms that sweep in user data. Marketing teams use ‘big data’ to gain competitive advantages. Human resources departments recruit engineering talent from the same top schools. Venture capitalists set priorities for start-ups. And a phalanx of product managers shepherd concepts from beginning to end. For a CPO’s vision of privacy to make its way into her company’s products, these workers have to implement it. As such, if we want the mobile apps, websites, robots, and smart devices we use to respect our privacy, we need to institutionalize robust privacy norms throughout the corporations that make them, including among those designing the products we use every day.”

“Designing Without Privacy” by Professor Ari Ezra Waldman, forthcoming in the Houston Law Review and winner of the International Association of Privacy Professionals Award for Best Paper at the 2017 Privacy Law Scholars Conference
FULL-TIME FACULTY ACTIVITIES

The following items represent a sampling of the recent activities of our full-time faculty. A full listing of faculty activities can be found at www.nyls.edu/FacultyNews.

Alan I. Appel ’76

Presentations
Spoke on "Case Studies for Outbound and Inbound Investments" and "Foreign Persons Investing in U.S. Real Estate and Other Assets" at the New York University Summer Institute in Taxation (July 2017).

Spoke on "Hiding the Ball—The U.S. as the World's Favorite New Tax Haven" at the Private Wealth Institute at Hofstra Law School (May 2017).

Spoke at the session "Anonymity, Tax Law, and the U.S. as the World's Favorite New Tax Haven" at the New York University 75th Institute on Federal Taxation (June 2017).

Citations
Tax Notes, one of the nation's leading daily tax publications, cited his co-authored article, "Hiding the Ball—Transparency, Tax Law, and the U.S. as the World's Favorite Tax Haven" (June 2017).

Deborah N. Archer

Awards and Recognition

Received the Jane M. Bolin Service Award at a reception hosted by the Yale Black Law Students Association (October 2016).

Richard C.E. Beck

Presentations
Presented his paper, “Tax Information Reporting as Weapon of Mass Destruction,” at the Mexico City meeting of the Law and Society Association (June 2017).

Lenni B. Benson

Awards and Recognition
Submitted 20 pages of guidelines on juvenile custody determinations to the Executive Office of the Administration for Children’s Services (ACF).


New York University 75th Institute on Federal Taxation (June 2017).


Publications
“Interactive Constitution: The Twenty-Fourth Amendment,” published as part of the National Constitution Center’s Interactive Constitution project (July 2017) (with D. Muller).


Media References and Appearances

Quoted in "Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Death Row Inmate," CNN (February 2017).

Tamara C. Belinfanti

Awards and Recognition
Ranked in the top 10 percent of authors on SSRN by all-time downloads (July 2017).

Publications


Presentations
Quoted in "How to (Not) Pay Taxes Like a Developer," The Real Deal (October 2016).

Past Uncle Sam," The Real Deal (November 2016).


Advocacy
Submitted 20 pages of guidelines on juvenile custody determinations to the Executive Office of the Administration for Children’s Services (ACF).

Spoke on "Case Studies for Outbound and Inbound Investments" and "Foreign Persons Investing in U.S. Real Estate and Other Assets" at the New York University Summer Institute in Taxation (July 2017).

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Publications


Past Uncle Sam," The Real Deal (November 2016).


Advocacy
Submitted 20 pages of guidelines on juvenile custody determinations to the Executive Office of the Administration for Children’s Services (ACF).
Immigration Review (July 2017).
Led the process to prepare a successful amicus brief on behalf of NYLS’s Immigration Law and Litigation Clinic in Jenny Flores v. Jefferson Sessions III, a case concerning the rights of immigrant children held in custody by the federal government (March 2017).

Media References and Appearances

Presentations
Gave remarks titled “Cheating with the Rules” before the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport in Olympia, Greece (September 2016).

Publications
Eight-part series on the 2016 Olympic Games, Observer (August, July, and June 2016).

Expert Testimony
Testified for the prosecution at the Pike County Courthouse in Milford, Pennsylvania during the penalty phase of the Eric Frien trial; the defendant was sentenced to death for killing a Pennsylvania State Trooper and seriously injuring another (April 2017).

Presentations

Publications
Gendered Law in American History, a compendium of over 30 years of research and teaching in the field (Carolina Academic Press, 2016) (with W. Williams).

Presentations
Hosted the University of Pennsylvania’s Urban Studies Program during its annual trip to New York City and spoke with students about current public policy and legal issues (April 2017).
Hosted an in-depth discussion with the Law School Admissions Council’s (LSAC’s) then-Interim President Arthomia Steele and Board Chair Susan Krinsky on how LSAC can better meet the needs of today’s students about current public policy and legal issues (April 2017).

Awards and Recognition
His co-authored book Gendered Law in American History was named one of the best works of recent scholarship relating to family law by the legal journal Jotwell (July 2017).
San Francisco, California, and facilitated a discussion on changes to New York’s State Bar pre-admissions requirements and changes proposed in other states (January 2017).

Attended the 2016 National Conference of Just The Beginning—A Pipeline Organization and spoke on the panel “Legal Education and the Law School of 2016: Market Place Challenges to Diversity. What Happens to Students of Color?” with the law deans of New York University, Columbia, Fordham, the City University of New York, Cardozo, and Brooklyn (September 2016).

**Media References and Appearances**


**Presentations**


**Publications**


**Appointments**


**Presentations**

Featured plenary speaker on assessment and classroom pedagogy at the annual Association of American Law Schools Conference for New Law Teachers (June 2017).

Away from academia, Filler is a vinden in the professional world. He is re-elected to the Executive Committee of the National Futures Association, which regulates the futures and derivatives industry (February 2017).

Vice Chair of the International Financial Services Sub-Committee of the American Bar Association’s International Law Committee (January 2017).

Presented on “International Regulation of the Financial Markets” at the University of Pretoria School of Law in South Africa (August 2017).


Moderated the panel “Remember the Financial Crisis of 2008 and How Close World Markets Came to Falling off the Edge?” at the American Bar Association International Law Committee Spring Program in Washington, D.C. (April 2017).
Presentations
Delivered a presentation with Professor Kim Hawkins titled “Retooling with Integrity” at New York University School of Law (June 2017).
Gave two presentations on lower court constitutionalism at the Israel Science Foundation’s “The Constitution in Trial Courts: Law, Hierarchy, and Democracy” workshop at Bar Ilan University in Israel (January 2017).

Publications

Advocacy
Co-signed “An Open Letter from Constitutional Law Scholars to President-Elect Donald Trump” with 36 law faculty nationwide to urge the president to take his constitutional oath seriously (December 2016).

Media References and Appearances
Interviewed by a variety of media outlets, including CNN and BBC World News, about President Donald Trump’s executive order halting immigration from seven countries (January 2017).

Appointments
Appointed to the Vera Institute of Justice’s Expert Advisory Council, whose goal is to end the incarceration of girls and LGBTQ and gender non-conforming youth in female juvenile justice facilities in New York City (March 2017).

Presentations
Gave remarks titled “Law Students and Creating a Sense of Belonging” at the Legal Writing Institute Conference at Brooklyn Law School, with Professor Doni Gewirtzman (December 2016).

Presentations
Ran trial skills programs for lawyers at the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General (July 2017), The Hartford (April 2017), and Hogan Lovells (December 2016).
Taught at a trial skills program for New York City Law Department attorneys (July and January 2017).

Presentations
Led workshops on effective motion argument for attorneys at Covington & Burling LLP and Hogan Lovells (June 2017).
Led trainings on taking and defending depositions at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP (June 2017); Covington & Burling LLP (May 2017); Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP (April 2017); Hogan Lovells (February 2017); Baker Bots LLP (January 2017); and Paul Hastings LLP (September 2016).
Taught continuing legal education programs to Administrative Law Judges and attorneys at the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings; topics included how to prepare lay witnesses and the ethics of witness preparation (June 2017) and how to prepare an expert witness and conduct an effective direct examination (October 2016).
Spoke on the topic “Effective Feedback: Mastering Difficult Conversations” at a continuing legal education program for externship supervisors held at Fordham Law School and jointly sponsored by New York Law School and five other area law schools (January 2017).

Presentations
Spoke at the New England Public Policy Center of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston conference “Economic Perspectives on State and Local Taxes.” His topic was “The Potential for Value Capture as a Revenue-Raising Tool in the U.S.” (May 2017).

Publications

Appointments
Appointed the Robert F. Wagner Professor of Labor and Employment Law, named for the distinguished alumnus and U.S. Senator; at his investiture, delivered the lecture “A Battle Over Statutory Interpretation: Title VII and Claims of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Discrimination” (April 2017).

Presentations
Spoke at the spring meeting of the New York State Bar Association Trusts and Estates Law Section (May 2017).
Participated in two panels at the spring continuing legal education symposium of the American Bar Association Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section (April 2017).

Publications

Arthur S. Leonard

Presentations
Review of Coquillette and Kimball’s On the Battlefield of Merit: Harvard Law School, the First Century

Publications
Richard D. Marsico

Publications
Special Education Law and Practice (with Professor Deborah N. Archer) (Carolina Academic Press, 2017).

Media References and Appearances
Quoted in “FINRA to Weigh Rule Changes Targeting High-Risk Brokers,” Bloomberg BNA (June 2017).

Presentations
Provided insight and commentary on “Business Fraud Today” before the Institute of Complex Commercial Litigation at a meeting attended by more than 40 New York State judges and held at New York Law School (December 2016).

Michael Roffer ’83

Awards and Recognition
Won the Joseph L. Andrews Legal Literature Award from the American Association of Law Libraries for The Law Book: From Hammurabi to the International Criminal Court, 250 Milestones in the History of Law (July 2016).

Presentations
Spoke to the Legal History Committee of the New York City Bar Association about legal history as it relates to current events such as the Syrian refugee crisis and controversial Supreme Court confirmation hearings, referencing his book, The Law Book: From Hammurabi to the International Criminal Court, 250 Milestones in the History of Law (December 2016).

Discussed his book with the New York County Lawyers’ Association Law and Literature Committee, focusing on the confirmation hearing of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas (October 2016).

Publications


Media References and Appearances
Reviews of The Law Book: From Hammurabi to the International Criminal Court, 250 Milestones in the History of Law appeared in Law Library Lights (Summer 2016), the Law Library Journal (September 2016), and the University of Louisville School of Law Legal Studies Research Paper Series (September 2016).

Rebecca Roiphe

Appointments
Appointed Co-Dean for Faculty Scholarship by Dean Anthony W. Crowell (June 2017).


Presentations
Presented her article “The President, the Department of Justice, and Prosecutorial Independence” at the annual Legal Ethics Schmooze at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law (July 2017).

Hosted the third annual Criminal Justice Ethics Schmooze, which gathered top ethics scholars from law schools around the country at New York Law School to discuss emerging ideas and future scholarship (June 2017).

Publications


Media References and Appearances

Ross Sandler

Awards and Recognition
Selected by the American Bar Association Section of State and Local Government Law as the Jefferson B. Fordham Lifetime Achievement honoree for his outstanding contributions to the practice of state and local government law (August 2016).
**Presentations**

Keynote speaker at the 2017 Jefferson B. Fordham Awards Luncheon hosted by the American Bar Association Section of State and Local Government Law, in recognition of his Lifetime Achievement Award (August 2017).

**Media References and Appearances**

Quoted in “NYC Council’s Budget Includes Funding for Deportation Lawyers for Most Serious Felons,” amNY (June 2017).


**David Schoenbrod**


DC Confidential: Inside the Five Tricks of Washington, featuring forewords by Governor Howard Dean and Senator Mike Lee (Encounter Books, 2017).


**Presentations**

Spoke at the Internet of Things World conference in Santa Clara, California, on the panel “Future of Blockchain—Regulations and Investment Trends” (May 2017).

**Media References and Appearances**


Quoted in "Blockchain’s Smart Contracts: What’s Smart, What’s Not,” FinOps Report (December 2016).

**Presentations**

Presented the talk “Patent Protection for Microbial Technologies” at the 2017 Meeting of the Federation of European Microbiological Societies, in Valencia, Spain. This biennial worldwide event brings together 2,700 scientists to tackle pressing issues in microbiology, antibiotic resistance, virology, science education, and other topics (July 2017).

**Publications**

“Cancer’s IP” was accepted for publication in the North Carolina Law Review (March 2017), and for the Inaugural Junior Faculty Forum for Law and STEM hosted by the University of Pennsylvania, Stanford, and Northwestern (July 2017).


**Presentations**

Lectured on “Vico’s Providence Today,” “Sublime Jurisprudence,” and “New Methodological Frontiers in Clinical Legal Studies” for the University of Nice European Law and Humanities Project in France (June 2017).

Gave the lecture “Five Images: Visualizing the Sacred Source of Law’s Authority” at the Law as Religion, Religion as Law Conference at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (June 2017).

Presented the plenary address at the 48th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada (October 2016).

**Appointments**

Visiting Fellow for spring 2018 at Fitzwilliam College and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities at the University of Cambridge (April 2017).

**Jacob S. Sherkow**

Winner of the Class of 2017 Teaching Award at NYLS’s Commencement (May 2017).

**Awards and Recognition**

His working essay “Patents, Promises, and Reproducibility” received second place in the annual essay contest of the Association for Teaching and Research in Intellectual Property (March 2017).

**Appointments**

Appointed head judge of the Wall Street Blockchain Alliance’s 2017 Financial Market Challenge (June 2017).

**Richard K. Sherwin**

Presented the plenary address at the 48th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada (October 2016).

**Publications**

His 2015 article “Too Late for Thinking: The Curious Quest for Emancipatory Potential in Meaningless Affect and Some Jurisprudential Implications” was translated into Italian and published in the...
Delivered the keynote lecture at the Annual Public Affairs Conference at Missouri State University. The conference theme was “Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Perspectives on Self-Government,” and her lecture was titled “Freedoms of Speech for All: From Right to Left and From Right to Wrong” (April 2017).


Addressed federal judges and their law clerks and discussed constitutional law and civil liberties issues under the Trump administration at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, hosted by Judge Joel Slomsky ’70 (January 2017).

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ADJUNCT FACULTY ACTIVITIES

The following items represent a sampling of the recent activities of our adjunct faculty.

Adele Bernhard

Presentations
Presented at the “Righting Wrongful Convictions” panel at the Celebration of Public Service at Brooklyn Law School (April 2017).

Publications

Advocacy
With students from NYLS’s Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic, persuaded the New York State Appellate Division, Second Department to hear the appeal of the December 2016 murder conviction of Andrew Krivak, who has been imprisoned for more than 20 years (July 2017).
With students from NYLS’s Post-Conviction Innocence Clinic, convinced the Monroe County Supreme Court to vacate the conviction of Rene Bailey, a child care provider in a shaken-baby case, based on new scientific evidence in the case, and the 2014 decision was affirmed by the New York State Appellate Division, Fourth Department (December 2016).

Expert Testimony
Testified as an expert at the post-conviction hearing in People v. Caldeirado, a shaken-baby case, in Queens Supreme Court (June 2016).

Media References and Appearances

Andrew R. Berman

Publications

Presentations

Berwin Cohen ’99

Presentations
Spoke at the Association of Divorce Financial Planners Breakfast Meeting on “The Loss of Trust and the Innocent Spouse” (July 2016).

Legislative Activities
Contributed to the Proposal for Student Debt Relief and Tax Credit Act of 2017 (March 2017).
Commented on the Internal Revenue Service notice of “Transaction of Interest—Section 831(b) Micro-Captive Transactions” (January 2017).
Commented on the Internal Revenue Service proposed rulemaking for “Estate, Gift, and Generation-Skipping Transfer Taxes; Restrictions on Liquidation of an Interest” (November 2016).

Litigation

Anna G. Cominsky ’05

Appointments
Visiting Associate Professor of Law at NYLS (July 2017).

Presentations
Taught attorneys at the New York City Law Department’s Trial Advocacy Program (July 2017 and January 2017).
Gave a presentation to attorneys at the New Jersey Association for Justice Meadowlands Seminar titled “Ethics and Professionalism” (November 2016).

Heather Cuocolo ’03

Presentations
Presenter at the XXXV International Congress on Mental Health on “Therapeutic Jurisprudence and Sexual Offending: Innovations in the Neurological and Legal Underpinnings” at Charles University in Prague (July 2017).
Spoke at the American Society of Criminology on “Another Ride on the Nurture-Nature Merry-Go-Round: Pedophilia and the Neurology of Morality in Law and Science” and “Sexual Perversion and Morality: How an Attorney’s Personal View of Deviance Can Shape the Quality of Representation in Sex Offender Cases” (November 2016).
Spoke at the 2016 Society of American Law Teachers Conference on “Using Technology to Address International Human Rights Issues and Reach Underrepresented Clients” (September 2016).

Publications

Media References and Appearances
Quoted in “Sex with Younger Girlfriend Won’t Get Man Deported,” discussing Esquivel-Quintana v. Sessions, Bloomberg BNA (June 2017).
Quoted in “Star Athlete Gets Just Probation in Rape Case, But Let’s Not Be Quite So Outraged,” LawNewz (August 2016).

Joanne Doroshow

Awards and Recognition
Received the Partnership Award from the American Association for Justice at its annual convention in Los Angeles, California (August 2016).

Media References and Appearances

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS 29

Quoted in “House GOP Quietly Advances Key Elements of Tort Reform,” The Washington Post (March 2017).


Lucas A. Ferrara
Awards and Recognition
Again recognized in the Super Lawyers list of the top 100 New York metropolitan area attorneys (October 2016).

Media References and Appearances

Hon. Robert J. Firestone ’90
Publications
“Does the Ohio CAT Violate the Commerce Clause?” State Tax Notes (May 2017).

Lisa F. Grumet
Awards and Recognition
Honorary Order of the Barristers Award, NYLS Moot Court Association (May 2017).

Awards and Recognition
Recognized by the NYLS Public Interest Coalition (April 2017).

Appointments
Visiting Associate Professor of Law at NYLS (July 2017).

Appointed to the Vera Institute of Justice’s Expert Advisory Council, whose goal is to end the incarceration of girls and LGBT and gender non-conforming youth in female juvenile justice facilities in New York City (March 2017).

Presentations
Co-developed and moderated a panel at the Impact Center for Public Interest Law symposium “Family, Gender, and Juvenile Justice” (February 2017).

Media References and Appearances

Jason D. Jones
Appointments
Named Partner at Fross Zelnick Lehrman & Zissu, P.C. in New York, with a focus on litigation (January 2017).

F. Peter Phillips ’87
Presentations
Organized the “London Boot Camp” in partnership with the International Centre for Dispute Resolution. The three-day conference offered participants 17.5 continuing legal education credits and the chance to learn from prominent dispute resolution practitioners (June 2017).

Keynote speaker at the Fourth Conference of the Asian Mediation Association in Beijing, China, attended by more than 300 people from 16 countries in Asia, North America, and Europe. At the event, he also spoke on a panel addressing the differences between Western and Asian approaches to commercial mediation (October 2016).

Moderated the panel “Regulating Consumer Dispute” at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association Business Law Section in Boston, Massachusetts (September 2016).

Invited to speak at the Global Pound Conference at Cardozo School of Law, focused on dispute resolution and improving access to justice around the world (September 2016).

Publications

Andrew Scherer
Awards and Recognition
Received a New York City Council Proclamation for his longtime advocacy work supporting the right to free counsel for low-income tenants facing eviction (July 2017).

Presentations
Spoke on the panel “Are We Ready for Civil Gideon in Housing Court?” at a discussion co-sponsored by the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy and the New York Legal Assistance Group (December 2016).

Spoke on the panel “Protecting Low-Income Tenants: The Role of the Public Interest Legal Community” at the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Public Interest Law Day (December 2016).

Publications

Expert Testimony
Testified on New York City’s experiences in eviction proceedings and the need for a right to counsel at a Philadelphia City Council public hearing (December 2016).

Media References and Appearances
Quoted in “Council Votes to Support Low-Income Tenants’ Right to Counsel,” Town and Village (July 2017).


Richard J. Sobelsohn
Appointments
Joined Cohen Brothers Realty Corporation as Vice President, Legal (January 2017).

Reappointed Chair of the American Bar Association Economics, Technology, and Practice Methods Committee of the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section (August 2016).

Reappointed Group Vice Chair of the Practice Management Group of the American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law (August 2016).

Presentations
Moderator and panelist for the American Bar Association Section of Real Property, Trust and Estate Law webinar “Revolutionizing Transactional Practice Methods—How to Overcome Transactional Attorney Pain Points with Evolving Practice Tools” (February 2017).

Panelist at “Sustainable Development, LEED Buildings, and Green Legal Jobs: They Are Not Only Where You Would Expect Them To Be,” a Center for Real Estate Studies Master Class (September 2016).
Media References and Appearances

Claire R. Thomas ’11
Appointments
Visiting Scholar at The New School’s Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility (August 2016 to present).

Presentations
Panelist at the Practising Law Institute’s Defending Immigration Removal Proceedings program (July 2017).
Presented a program to New York City Council legal staff titled “Current Immigration Issues Under the New Administration” (June 2017).

Publications

Advocacy
Volunteered for a week with Carlos Valenzuela ’16 at an immigration detention facility for refugee mothers and children in Dilley, Texas as part of the CARA Pro Bono Project (December 2016).

Media References and Appearances

Lynne M. Fischman Uniman
Awards and Recognition
Named by Super Lawyers as one of the “Top 50 Women Lawyers in New York” (October 2016).

Appointments
Sworn in as a mediator to the Eastern District of New York (June 2017).

By joining our active alumni community and giving to our Annual Fund—which supports student scholarships, faculty work, and academic programs—you are investing in future advocates and innovators.

• Support NYLS. An envelope is provided in this magazine. Or, visit www.nyls.edu/annualfund.

• Be a connected alum. Learn about CLEs, events, and mentoring opportunities. Visit www.nyls.edu/alumni.

• Tell us about your achievements. Send your news to magazine@nyls.edu.

IDEAS HEARD AROUND THE WORLD
Our faculty members produce influential scholarship that advances legal education and breaks new ground.

This year, their work has been published or accepted for publication in the Columbia Law Review; the University of Pennsylvania Law Review; the Duke Law Journal; the Northwestern University Law Review Online; the Cornell Law Review; the Iowa Law Review; the Notre Dame Law Review Online; the Boston College Law Review; the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy; and other top national and international journals.

A New Generation of Legal Champions
Tomorrow’s leaders might be contemplating law school today. With your support, more of them can attend.
New York State Assembly Member Robert Carroll ’13

had spent his weekend in the Adirondacks, promoting a state-wide tourism initiative alongside Governor Andrew Cuomo and fellow sneaker-clad elected officials. Back in the city, he had just concluded a morning press conference at City Hall, outlining his proposal to improve New York City’s transit system. Later that day, he would return to Brooklyn’s 44th Assembly District, which comprises about 140,000 people across parts of Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Kensington, Ditmas Park, and Midwood, for meetings and to keep an eye on pending legislation.

“The great thing about my job as an assembly member,” Carroll said, “is that there really isn’t an average day.”

Elected at age 30, Carroll is the second youngest New York State Assembly Member. He was practicing at a law firm and had written a well-received play about Brooklyn politics, The Believers, when his long-time predecessor, Assembly Member James F. Brennan, retired. Although Carroll was a first-time candidate, politics was not new to him. He was already the youngest head of the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats, a progressive organization co-founded by his grandfather to protest the Vietnam War. Carroll’s father, also a lawyer, had competed in a six-way Democratic primary for the local City Council seat in 2001. (The seat ultimately went to Mayor Bill de Blasio.)

“Because I’ve been around politics, I know a lot of great candidates who’ve lost,” he said. “I know a lot of people who thought they were going to go one way and ended up going another way because of time, circumstance, or life. I’ve been exceptionally lucky.”

Carroll’s first day in office was about two weeks before President Trump’s inauguration, and his leap from attorney to elected official coincided with rapidly changing notions of the role of local politicians.

“I’ve seen different civic and political organizations revitalized since the election,” Carroll said. “They’ve realized for the first time that they can act as this bulwark against what’s going on federally.” He pointed to Medicaid and education as examples of services that receive substantial federal funding but whose funds are administered at the state level, a circumstance that gives leverage to localities.

Carroll is proud to live in his grandfather’s old house in South Park Slope with his brother, an assistant
district attorney, and to spend most of his nights attending block association, community board, and civic association meetings.

“If anybody reading this lives in my district, they’ve seen me at their subway station,” he said. “They’ve seen me out at their local events. And you get to have real conversations about important issues, from making sure that our hospitals stay open to how we’re educating children to trying to fix the MTA.”

Carroll believes that paying close attention to local politics and voting in primary elections are essential to good citizenship. When he won the Democratic primary in September 2016, only about 14 percent of eligible voters in his district came out to the polls. For all of Brooklyn, the figure was closer to 8 percent.

“We felt really good that we exceeded turnout by big numbers, but it was still an anemic amount of people,” he said. “I don’t think people always realize how much access they have. You should be able to talk to your local state assembly member, your local congress member. If you go out and volunteer, you’re going to get some sort of real access, if they’re good elected officials.” To encourage feedback from his constituents, Carroll launched a weekly newsletter summarizing his legislative priorities.

He has advice for fellow alumni who may be mulling a run for office: “Be well-versed. We’re all lawyers here. Some candidates say, ‘I’m running,’ and they run into a roadblock of the election laws of whatever state or locality they’re in. They kind of howl at the moon.”

But lawyers, he believes, are specially equipped to serve as elected representatives and should not be daunted.

“Politicians love to throw around the term ‘stop and frisk,’ he said. “Well, what is stop and frisk? What is a Terry stop, and what does the Fourth Amendment say there? No matter where you fall on the issue, if you don’t understand the actual legal underpinnings, you’re going to end up seeming, I think, relatively hollow.” Carroll cited his courses in Criminal Evidence (with Professor Eugene Cerruti), Constitutional Law (with Professor Robert Blecker), and the Fourth Amendment (with Professor Sadiq Reza) as formative to his understanding of criminal justice.

In March, Carroll delivered a speech at NYLS to the Dean’s Leadership Council, a group of academically distinguished first-year students. He emphasized that NYLS taught him the value of looking beneath the surface of issues.

“Hard work and specificity and being obsessed with something really, really goes a long way,” he told the group. “There are a lot of people who are just as smart as you. There are a lot of people who are just as creative as you. There are a lot of people who are just as thoughtful as you. The one thing you can control is how hard you work and how deeply you think about what you’re doing.”
Sheila Namm ’95 has worked as a clinical nurse, a bioethicist, an emergency preparedness chief, and a senior hospital administrator. But she hasn’t job hopped or even changed industries. Rather, Namm has deftly layered her education and experience to carve out a unique career that is wholly her own.

In December 2016, Namm departed Maimonides Hospital in Brooklyn after 42 years of service. Most recently she was Senior Vice President of Professional Affairs and Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine for the Continuum of Care. In that role, she oversaw risk management, regulatory affairs, bioethics, claims management, palliative care, and many other duties.

The constant in Namm’s career is her devotion to clinical care, which stems from her first job as a nurse. Namm earned her bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Hunter College and her master’s degree in Psychiatric Nursing from New York University. She was well on her way to a Ph.D. at NYU, but that path didn’t feel right.

“I was going to school to get a piece of paper and wasn’t learning something that could be helpful for my career,” she said. At work, she was increasingly drawn into risk management and medical malpractice projects.

“I began to realize how much the law affected everything I was doing in health care,” she said.

Namm wasn’t ready to quit caring for patients, so she enrolled in NYLS’s Evening Division. She was in her 40s, a stepmother to teenagers, and commuting from Staten Island. The next four years of her life became a blur of intense learning. Namm began work at Maimonides at 6:00 a.m. daily. Most weeknights, she drove straight from the hospital to her evening classes. Despite the exhausting schedule, Namm stayed focused.

“I knew I wasn’t going to law school to change my career,” she said. “I was going to law school to enhance my career.”

After Namm graduated, she briefly worked as an Assistant General Counsel at Maimonides. But after a year, she missed the people-centric work she had done as a nurse. With the hospital’s then-CEO, she crafted an entirely new role that blended her legal and clinical skills.

“Anything regulatory around care delivery became my forte, understanding what it meant and how to get it implemented in the hospital,” she said.

She also took on medical malpractice initiatives and rallied plaintiff’s counsel, judges, insurance carriers,
and the hospital’s clinical and legal teams to settle malpractice lawsuits early.

“We were able to educate the judges a lot on the medicine, and the hospital became not just bricks and mortar and a pocket full of money but about actual people,” Namm said. “Every dollar saved on a malpractice settlement is a dollar that can deliver care more effectively. That was something new for judges to realize.”

Through her efforts and with support from Maimonides leadership, the hospital became one of five federal grant recipients in New York State funded to research new ways of addressing medical malpractice. Namm was also instrumental in encouraging a strategy called “disclosure, apology, and compensation”—which seeks to minimize drawn-out malpractice lawsuits in the interest of straightforward communication and timely settlements for families.

“So many cases are because of known complications not explained well,” Namm said. “Why become adversarial? Let’s do the right thing, tell the families what happened, and get to the compensation so that they’re made whole more quickly.”

Drawing on her psychiatric nursing background, she also launched “second-victim” supportive work for health care staff who witnessed traumatic events.

“We began to realize that the emotional toll on physicians and nurses was enormous,” Namm said. “And that’s not your only patient. There will be more tomorrow. How do we help you cope so you can properly care for the next patient?”

Namm also took on emergency management work for Maimonides, serving as incident commander during blizzards, public transit shutdowns, Hurricane Sandy, and 9/11. And she consulted with clinical staff on bioethics issues such as brain-death determination, end-of-life care, and medical consent at the hospital.

“I never let go of anything, I kept building and adding,” she said. “Wherever I saw a gap, I said, ‘That looks interesting. I think I can figure that out.’”

As she approached 70, Namm felt it was time for another change—the chance to share her decades of expertise with others and to break away from a 24/7 on-call schedule.

“I do miss that adrenaline when you’re teasing out a huge problem with 40 people in a room,” she said. But she’s still working hard: She formed an LLC to do consulting, teaching, and speaking on risk management and medical malpractice topics. She’s also mentoring an NYLS student and has advised on NYLS’s medical malpractice programming.

Namm knows that it’s rare for nurses to attend law school, and one of her newest goals is to change that.

“Nursing is an untapped experience,” she said. “Nurses may not want to go through the traditional nursing channels. Law gives you a sense of how to do it differently.”

“My nursing is the foundation I built everything else on,” she said. “I’ve been a nurse 49 years, and I’ve been through a lot of changes about how care is supposed to be. One thing I’ve learned is that it’s still all about the people—people in need and people who deliver the care. I had the great fortune of putting together the legal, the clinical, the ethical, and the cultural and how that all impacted how you could deliver care to profoundly sick people.”

Martin Tolchin’s letter to the editor, “Justice Antonin Scalia’s Death, and a Political Fight,” was featured in the Opinion section of *The New York Times* in February 2016.


Lewis M. Steel’s book, *The Butler’s Child: An Autobiography*, published by Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin’s Press in June 2016, received a starred review by *Publisher’s Weekly* the same month of its release. The book focuses on Steel’s career as a civil rights lawyer, including his work with the NAACP and the many cases he handled in private practice.

Steven E. Pegalis, Founding Partner at Pegalis & Erickson LLC, Co-Director of NYLS’s Patient Safety Project, and an NYLS Trustee, was honored by the New York State Trial Lawyers Association in November 2016, with a “Lifetime Achievement Award,” and recognized in the areas of Medical Malpractice Law—Plaintiffs and Personal Injury Litigation—Plaintiffs. Pegalis was also named a “2017 Lawyer of the Year” for plaintiffs’ personal injury litigation by Best Lawyers and U.S. News & World Report.

Jeffrey L. Sapir began his 38th year as Chapter 13 Standing Trustee for the Southern District of New York in 2017.

Francis J. Apicella writes in, from January 2016, that he was appointed a court examiner in First Department guardianship and trust matters and that he is still engaged in private practice in Tuckahoe, New York, specializing in wills and estate matters.

Hon. Joseph Maltese was honored in April 2017 at the Columbian Lawyers Association annual Charles A. Rapallo Awards and Justice Antonin Scalia Award Luncheon.

Hon. Roy O. Chernus, Superior Court Judge in Marin County,

John H. Jankoff joined the national law firm Wilson Elser as Of Counsel in May 2016.

Andrew P. Brucker joined Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP as a partner in August 2016, practicing in the areas of cooperative and condominium law, real estate, and real estate finance.

Benjamin Ostrer was awarded the Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award by the New York State Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section, as the criminal defense lawyer of the year for 2016. The Charles F. Crimi Memorial Award recognizes the professional career of a defense lawyer in private practice that embodies the highest ideals of the Criminal Justice Section.

Neil Reichenberg, Executive Director of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources, was featured in “The Workforce Institute at Kronos Announces New Board Members, Adds Key International Voices to Roster of HCM and Workforce Management Visionaries,” via *Business Wire* in June 2016.
California donated a kidney as part of a national 32-person “daisy chain” with 16 donors and 16 recipients. His donation was reported in “Lib at Large: Marin Judge Gives Kidney to Help Friend Live,” in the Marin Independent Journal and by Fox KTVU in the story, “Apple Encourages Organ Donation with New Software Update” in June 2016.

James R. Gregory joined Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. in November 2016 to continue his practice in environmental law, land use, and complex commercial litigation.

Richard L. Koral is a Clergy Leader at the New York Society for Ethical Culture.


Hon. Jonah I. Triebwasser, a judge in the Town of Red Hook, New York, was awarded a scholarship to attend the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada in March 2017. He writes that he will study the handling of cases involving commercial vehicles.

--- 1980 ---

Luise A. Barrack, Managing Member at Rosenberg & Estis, P.C., was spotlighted with a short bio published in the New York Real Estate Journal in “2016 Women in Real Estate.”

Hon. Paula Donnolo was sworn in as a U.S. Immigration Judge in April 2017.

Hon. Robert C. Mulvey was featured in “New Appellate Court Justices Take Bench” in the New York Law Journal in February 2016 and other press coverage after Governor Andrew Cuomo appointed him to the Appellate Division, Third Department.


--- 1982 ---

Barbara Champoux, a former partner at Crowell & Moring LLP, now has her own real estate practice, Champoux Law Group PLLC. Her short bio was published in the New York Real Estate Journal as a spotlight piece, “2017 Women in Professional Services: Barbara Champoux of Champoux Law Group PLLC” in May 2017.

Margaret M. Enloe is a certified coach and advisor who works with lawyers to enhance their leadership skills and facilitate career transitions. She began coaching after retiring from PwC as partner and Associate General Counsel in 2013.


--- 1981 ---

E. Christopher Johnson, a former Vice President and General Counsel at General Motors, was named to the Board of Trustees of Tuskegee University in March 2017. His mother was a member of its Class of 1940.

Denise A. Poulos’s firm, Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, PLLC, was named “Business of the Year” in the Business Services category by Business NH Magazine in April 2017. Poulos is Managing Partner at the firm and was featured in the article.

--- 1983 ---

Lisa Krouse was featured in “FCCI Insurance Group Appoints Lisa Krouse to Board of Directors,” via PRWeb in April 2016.

John Ryan was among six attorneys honored by the New York City Mayor’s Office with a Mayoral Service Program recognition in April 2017 for his pro bono work with New York’s immigrant community via NYLS’s Safe Passage Project.

Jason J. Zeller writes in, “I’m now retired, and I can happily report that the view from the other side is great and beats reading advance sheets!” in January 2017. Zeller was Assistant Chief Counsel with the California Public Utilities Commission.

Christine Lepera was named to the “Power Lawyers of 2017: Hollywood’s Top Music Business Attorneys,” list by The Hollywood Reporter. Lepera was recognized for her work representing Dr. Luke in his dispute with the pop star Kesha. In July 2017, she was named to Billboard magazine’s 2017 list of Top Music Lawyers for her successful defense of Drake and associated companies from a lawsuit challenging his use of a sample in a song.

Ronald V. Zezima became Vice President of the New Rochelle Bar Association in January 2017.
SEND US YOUR NEWS!

New York Law School Magazine would like to hear from you! Please let us know about your professional accomplishments, personal milestones, and/or any other news you would like to share with the New York Law School community. Send your news to magazine@nyls.edu or via www.nyls.edu/magazine.

--- 1984 ---

E. Drew Britcher, Founding Partner at Britcher Leone, LLC, was named one of the “Top 10” attorneys in New Jersey for 2016 by New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine, making him the only medical malpractice attorney named among the “Top 10” for the last five consecutive years. Britcher is also one of two attorneys specializing in personal injury law who has been named to the list of the “Top 10” for each of the last five years. He was also named one of the “500 Leading Lawyers in America” by Lawdragon Magazine and among “Bergen’s Best” by 201 Magazine.

Mark E. Garcia, a partner in the Glendale, California office of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, became President of the Counsel for Justice, focusing on the charitable fundraising areas of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, in July 2017.

Paul Gruber was appointed Co-Chair of the Committee on Landlord and Tenant Proceedings of the New York State Bar Association in the Real Property Law Section.


Ira D. Wincott became a shareholder and joined the Long Island office of Littler Mendelson P.C. in September 2016. Littler is the world’s largest employment and labor law practice representing management.

--- 1985 ---

Jonathan W. Gottlieb joined the Energy, Environmental, and Commodities Practice Group as a partner at the Washington, D.C. office of Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP in August 2016.

Robert A. Grey was inducted into the National Academy of Arbitrators. His nationwide full-time labor and employment arbitration and mediation practice is based in the New York City area. He is on several arbitration rosters, including the American Arbitration Association, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, National Mediation Board, and Cornell ILR [Industrial and Labor Relations] National Roster of Neutrals, and on several permanent panels, both in the public and private sectors. In addition, he was Senior Editor of “The Railway Labor Act” (2016) and Chapter Author of “The Family Medical Leave Act” (2015), both published by Bloomberg BNA.

Joe Gunn celebrated his retirement in June 2017 after 20 years in the Economic Development Division of the New York City Law Department, where he played a key role in major economic development projects, including leases for Citi Field and the new Yankee Stadium, and United Nations retention and expansion efforts.

Drexel B. Harris Jr. writes in, from July 2017, that he was appointed Chair of the Insurance Law Committee of the New York City Bar Association for a three-year term. He also writes that he is continuing in his position as Associate General Counsel of Reliance Insurance Company and as Director of the Board of Bridge Street Development Company, a Brooklyn-based nonprofit housing developer and service agency.

Mara B. Levin, a partner at Herrick Feinstein LLP, was honored with the Lawyers Alliance in November 2016, recognizing outstanding pro bono work done by business and transactional attorneys throughout New York City.

Lee Zimet writes that he joined WTS LLC in Morristown, New Jersey in March 2017, as Senior Director. WTS is a world-wide tax consulting firm.

--- 1987 ---

Andrew Karas, who was named a partner at Fox Rothschild LLP, was mentioned in “On the Move,” in the New Jersey Law Journal in May 2016.

--- 1988 ---

Scott L. Cagan, Shareholder at GrayRobinson, P.A., was recognized in the 2007 through 2017 editions of Florida Super Lawyers for his accomplishments in the employment and labor field.

Paul Harvey received a 2016 New York City Bar Association Thomas E. Dewey Medal, for his work as an assistant district attorney and Special Narcotics Prosecutor.

Thomas A. Roberts has joined Bressler, Amery & Ross P.C. as a principal in its Securities and Securities Litigation practices.

--- 1989 ---

John Howley writes that he was one of the producers of the Broadway musical, “Allegiance,” which starred George Takei and ran during 2015–16.

Mark R. Manley was featured in “Southern Vermont College’s Board of Trustees Announces Appointment of New Members,” in the Bennington Banner in May 2016.

Deanne H. Peterson, who is Counsel for Tulare County, California, was featured in “County Appoints New Counsel,” in The Porterville Recorder in December 2016.
Hon. Stanley Bergman was nominated by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie to the state’s Superior Court bench and confirmed by the State Senate in May 2017. He was featured in “5 Confirmed for Superior Court” in the New Jersey Law Journal in May 2017.

Andrew S. Kasmen joined Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP’s Conshohocken and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania offices in May 2017 as a partner, with a focus on corporate and real estate law.

Matthew Meyers was named, for another consecutive year, among the 2016 Top-Rated Construction Litigation Attorneys in Morristown, New Jersey by New Jersey Super Lawyers.

Peter Ventrice, a partner at Brause, Brause & Ventrice, LLC, was named a 2016 “Top-Rated Family Law Attorney in Metuchen, New Jersey” by New Jersey Super Lawyers magazine. This is a distinction held by fewer than five percent of practicing attorneys in New Jersey, based upon peer recognition and professional achievement.

Michael Arce co-founded The Arce Law Office, PLLC, which has been in practice for 11 years. He wrote in that he established a soup kitchen to support the community and that his oldest son, Christopher, attends Cornell University.

Marylee Jenkins was reappointed a member, and named the Chairperson of, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Patent Public Advisory Committee for a three-year term in March 2017. She is also a partner at the New York office of Arent Fox LLP, where she leads the Intellectual Property Group.

Jennifer A. Manner has been promoted to Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs at EchoStar Corporation.

Hon. Scott Rumana was sworn in as a Superior Court Judge in Passaic County, New Jersey in December 2016.

James Blank was named to the Law360 MVP Awards list in November 2016 for his intellectual property work with Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP.


Erik Jacobs writes that he took a sabbatical for the 2017 winter season to train in Europe with the U.S. Ski Team.

William Jannace has been serving as a research affiliate with The Fletcher Network for Sovereign Wealth and Global Capital.

Richard Klass’s road to becoming a lawyer was detailed in the April 2017 Brooklyn Daily Eagle article, “Meet the Bar Leaders: Richard Klass Decides on Law Career After Father’s Business Ends, Parents Split.”

Maria Marchiano was promoted to Deputy Commissioner, and the first Chief Clerk, of the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, the city’s administrative law court.

Andrew M. Wasserman was appointed Senior Vice President and General Counsel for the North American operations of Willis Towers Watson and Global Lead Counsel for Willis Towers Watson’s Corporate Risk & Broking operations in January 2016.

Craig E. Averill is a partner at Serling Rooks Hunter McKoy & Worob LLP. His announcement was mentioned in “New Partners Join Law Firms Greenberg Traurig and Serling Rooks Hunter McKoy & Worob,” which ran in Music Week in January 2016.

Craig T. D’Agostini was featured with a short profile in “Business Leaders in the News” in the Detroit Free Press in January 2016. He was promoted to Vice President of Government Affairs for Comcast’s Heartland region, which includes Michigan, Indiana, and Kentucky.

Hon. Evalyn P. Douchy was sworn in as a U.S. Immigration Judge in March 2016.

Russell J. McEwan was appointed Co-Office Managing Shareholder of the Newark, New Jersey office of Littler Mendelson P.C. in
February 2017, to focus on clients’ labor and employment issues.

**Hon. Ramin Rastegar** was sworn in as a U.S. Immigration Judge in January 2016.

**Dylan Saperman** was promoted to Counsel at Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, in Garden City, New York, where he practices in the areas of commercial and residential real estate, commercial lending, loan workouts, corporate law, and not-for-profit law. He was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the Long Island Children’s Choir in May 2017.

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**1996**

**Terri L. Adler**, a partner at Duval & Stachenfeld LLP, was spotlighted with a short bio published in the *New York Real Estate Journal* in “2016 Women in Real Estate.” She has consistently been recognized in New York’s *Super Lawyers* for real estate law and as one of the “Top 50 Women Attorneys” in New York.

**Daniel Franzetti** was featured in “QBE North America Appoints Daniel Franzetti Chief Claims Officer” via PR Newswire in February 2016.

**Jordan Friedman**, along with fellow alum **William Johnson ’07**, was featured in “WHO’S NEWS: Commercial Appointments and Promotions” in *Real Estate Weekly* in January 2017. Friedman joined the sales team at Cignature Realty Associates Inc. as an associate real estate broker.

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**1997**

**Jennifer Ecker** was promoted to partner at Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP and focuses her practice in real estate and commercial litigation.


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**1999**

**Laura Ricciardi**, co-creator with Moira Demos, of the Emmy Award-winning documentary Netflix series, “Making a Murderer,” addressed the Class of 2017 at NYLS’s 125th Commencement, held at Lincoln Center. She and Demos are working on the next installment of “Making a Murderer.”


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**2000**

**Hon. Frances A. Ortiz** was appointed a judge in Housing Court of the City of New York, Kings County.

**Susan Sullivan-Bisceglia** was featured in “5 Female Trailblazers in Dutchess,” in the *Poughkeepsie Journal* in February 2017. In addition to being a licensed pilot for over 30 years, she is an aviation attorney and a Wappingers Falls Village justice.

**1998**

**Stefanie A. Martinez** was appointed to the Second Judicial District Court of Nebraska in April 2017 by the state’s Governor, Pete Ricketts.

**Hon. Eleanor C. Reid** was appointed to be a Civil Court Judge in New York City’s Family Court by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio in July 2017. Judge Reid was an appellate court attorney for 16 years.

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**1998**


**Hon. Alison Hamanjian** was appointed as an interim Civil Court Judge by Mayor Bill de Blasio in February 2017 and is serving in Family Court. The appointment was featured in “Mayor Appoints Judges to Family, Civil Court” in the *New York Law Journal* in February 2017.

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**Aristedes Mahairas** was profiled in a *Bloomberg Law* article “FBI Agent Shares Cybersecurity Tips for Big Law” in June 2017. In the article, Mahairas shared cybersecurity tips for big law firms based on his experience as Special Agent-in-Charge of the Cyber
Division of New York City’s FBI field office.

**Thomas P. McDaid Jr.**, Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations for the North Merrick, Union Free School District, was elected to the New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal Board of Governors for a two-year term.

**Christopher Staszak** has joined the law firm of Goldberg Segalla as a partner in Albany, New York.

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**2001**

**Abraham Berger** writes that he was named a Top Attorney of 2016 by *Pasadena Magazine* in April 2017, for his work in construction law. He is a senior associate in the Los Angeles, construction law. He was featured in “Open Systems Technologies Hires Kevin Seltzer as Chief Financial Officer” by PRWeb in March 2016.

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**2002**

**Jason S. Bolio**, of Bolio & Company, LLC, was selected by the American Society of Legal Advocates as one of the “Top 40 Lawyers Under 40” in the practice area of litigation in Massachusetts.

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**2003**

**Jason A. Cohen** joined Thompson & Knight LLP as a partner in the firm’s New York office in its Trial Practice Group in January 2017.

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**2004**

**David Freylikhman**, Of Counsel at the Florham Park, New Jersey office of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, was named by the *New Jersey Law Journal* as one of the “New Leaders of the Bar,” a list identifying “attorneys representing the future of the legal profession in New Jersey,” in April 2017.

**Brian J. Kaszuba** was quoted in “Adams Introduces Online Community Board Applications” in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* in
January 2016. He was also featured on “Why Bay Ridge Voted Against Affordable Housing Plan” on Currents on New Evangelization Television in February 2016. Kaszuba was quoted in “MTA to ‘Wait and See’ on Plea to Up Bus Service After Bay Ridge Avenue Station Shutdown” in the Brooklyn Reporter in May 2017, and was mentioned in “Brehons Celebrate the Holiday Season” in the Irish Echo in December 2016. He was also named Communications Manager and Deputy Title IX Coordinator for NYLS.


Christine Favara Monti was promoted from In-House Legal Counsel of the Advantage Group, an industry leader in title insurance and related real estate services, to Executive Vice President of the flagship company Advantage Title.

Lisa R. Wichter joined Barton Gilman LLP in October 2016, where she focuses on health care and medical malpractice defense litigation.

2005

Danielle M. Corcione joined the litigation department as Counsel at Day Pitney LLP’s Parsippany, New Jersey office. Corcione was previously an assistant U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey in the Newark office.

Justin J. D’Elia was promoted to firm partnership at Duane Morris LLP in January 2017. He focuses on securities arbitration and brokerage industry civil and criminal litigation.

Shaun Ertischek’s scholarly article “From Debtors’ Prisons to the CFPB: A Historical Perspective on the Debt Collection Industry” was published in the spring/summer 2016 edition of the Florida Supreme Court Historical Magazine. He also spoke on a panel called “Eliminating Litigation Blind Spots: Identifying and Mitigating Hidden Risk” at Consero’s Financial Services & Insurance Litigation Forum in Coral Gables, Florida.

Kathleen O’Rourke Gorman was featured in “Sedgewick Names Six New Partners for 2016,” in Globe Newswire in January 2016.

Stacie Truesdell Michaels was included in VEGAS INC’s “40 Under 40” list for her work as Vice President and General Counsel at Wynn Las Vegas.

Michael Santorelli’s column “How President Trump Could Reshape the Digital Landscape” was published in Forbes in January 2017.

Jillian M. Searles was elected a partner at Hodgson Russ LLP as a member of the Business Litigation Practice in January 2017.

Kevin F. Sweeney joined the Philadelphia office of Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughton in September 2016, as Senior Counsel with a focus on IRS audits and criminal investigations. He presented at an annual fraud conference by The Institute of Internal Auditors Central Jersey Chapter in May 2017 and the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners’ Philadelphia Chapter in April 2017. He was also a featured speaker at the New Jersey Society of Enrolled Agents Dinner in November 2016. In addition, he presented on criminal tax fraud at the American Bar Association’s 33rd Annual National Institute on Criminal Tax Fraud in November 2016 and at the 6th Annual National Institute on Tax Controversy in December 2016, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Hugh W. Thistletwaite III was promoted to partner at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP, the leading provider of immigration services worldwide, in July 2016.

2006

Joshua Blank, who is Associate General Counsel and Vice President at United Business Media, was selected for inclusion in the IAM Strategy 300 as one of the World’s Leading Intellectual Property Strategists.

Gerald H. Brown Jr. was elected a partner in the Corporate Department and the Asset Management Practice at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP in March 2016.

Rosanna Michelle Fox joined the Business Immigration & Compliance Practice at Greenberg Traurig, LLP as a shareholder in January 2016.

Andrew Kaver joined the Los Angeles, California office of DJR Welch Attorneys at Law, a law firm focusing on all business aspects of the medical marijuana industry.

Matthew Necci, a partner at Halloran & Sage LLP in Hartford, Connecticut, was named to Super Lawyers’ 2016 “Rising Stars” list in October 2016, a ranking he’s received each year since 2013.

2007

Andrew R. Arbeit joined Goldberg Segalla’s Albany office as an associate in March 2017, bringing a decade of experience in workers’ compensation defense.

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Patrick T. Campbell was elected to partnership at Baker & Hostetler LLP.

Amanda Davis joined Associated Bank as Senior Vice President and Senior Counsel, Legal in June 2017.

Christian Gonzalez was named partner at Dinsmore & Shohl LLP in Columbus, Ohio.

David M. Jacobs, a partner at entertainment and media law firm Grubman Shire & Meiselas, was named to Billboard magazine’s 2017 list of Top Music Lawyers.

William Johnson was promoted from an associate to a special counsel at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP in January 2017. He and Jordan Friedman ’96 were mentioned in “WHO’S NEWS: Commercial Appointments and Promotions” in Real Estate Weekly in January 2017.

Nadia Zaidi, an immigration lawyer who pairs with business lawyers to help startups, was featured on Forbes.com in an article titled “Five Immigration Lawyers Who Specialize in Startups” in May 2017.

Claude Aiken was featured in “Commissioner Clyburn Announces Staff Changes,” a press release by the Federal Communications Commission in June 2016 announcing his appointment as wireline legal advisor.

Ken Biberaj became Managing Director at the tenant representation firm, Savills Studley, in May 2017, and is based at the firm’s Virginia office.

Brian Krist joined the New York City Mayor’s Office of Special Enforcement as Special Assistant Corporation Counsel in April 2016.


Kristin Marchesiello is Corporate Counsel at Matomy Media Group, one of the world’s leading digital performance-based marketing companies, serving 120 billion impressions per month across 100 countries.

Brian A. Seidenberg, an associate at GrayRobinson, P.A., was accepted to Leadership Fort Lauderdale Class XXIII in August 2016.

Ryan Steinman, an associate at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, was featured in the print issue of Conscious Magazine devoted to “Powerful Voices”—individuals, organizations, and innovative ideas that are changing the conversation and creating stronger communities.

Alex J. Tolston was appointed Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary of Hemisphere Media Group, Inc. He was named a 2016 “Rising Star” by the Daily Business Review at its “Professional Excellence: Lifetime Achievement Attorney of the Year & Rising Stars” event.

Michelle Tonelli’s article “Flying in the Dark: How a Legal Loophole Endangers Critical Infrastructure” was published in the fall 2015 Journal of Air Law and Commerce.

Andrea R. Anencehino joined McConville Considine Cooman & Moorin, P.C. as the firm’s Business Development Manager, leading MCCM’s programs to raise its profile, expand its client base, and foster new business relationships.

Charlene A. Barker Gedeus joined Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooneyp. C. as an associate in August 2017.

John W. McGowan joined Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP as an associate in the firm’s Litigation Practice Group at its White Plains, New York office in April 2017. He was previously Senior District Attorney in Rockland County, New York.

Kate Howard was featured in “National Association of Professional Women Inducts Kate Howard, Associate Attorney at Honeywell Law Firm, PLLC, Into its VIP Professional Woman of the Year Circle” on PRWeb in March 2016.

Danielle Tricolla is an associate at Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP where she practices in the areas of litigation, land use, and real estate law. She was spotlighted with a short bio published in the New York Real Estate Journal in “2016 Women in Real Estate.”

Adrianna Altamirano, of the Paris P. Eliades Law Firm LLC, was featured in the “People in Business” section of the New Jersey Herald in July 2017, in recognition of her having been named a trustee for the Sussex County Bar Association.

In October 2016, Mary Herms was named a New York County Lawyers’ Association Honoree for her distinguished pro bono service.

Lisabeth Jorgensen was named to “The Albany 40 Under 40 Rising Stars of 2017” list by City & State in June 2017, for her work with New York’s Utility Project. The list recognizes the next generation of political leaders.
Jorge Rodriguez was sworn in as a member of the Board of Directors of the NYLS Alumni Association during Alumni Reunion in April 2017. In addition, he writes, “As a member of the New York City Bar Association, Military Affairs & Justice Committee, I had the opportunity for the second time in as many years to be an in-person observer at the trials held at the U.S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This year I was an observer at the trial of U.S. v. Abd al Hadi.” Finally, he reports that in June 2017, he participated in the Council on Legal Education Opportunity Inc. “Achieving Success in the Application Process” weekend seminar held at New York University School of Law, where he spoke on two panels: “The Application Process” and “The Personal Statement.”

Chris Bruno’s career and road to becoming Economic Development Director in Fairfax, Virginia, where he brought fresh energy to the job in 2016, were profiled by the Fairfax Connection in May 2017.

Kerryanne Burke writes that she incorporated her not-for-profit group, The African Diaspora Birthright Organization, Inc. to empower, educate, and connect African American people in America with the African continent, its people, and its culture.

Gloria Chacon, a staff attorney with The Bronx Defenders, was featured by Spectrum News NY1 in “NYer of the Week: Gloria Chacon Opens Doors for People New to Country” in November 2016.

Michael J. Bonsignore joined Murtha Cullina LLP’s new Immigration Practice Group as an associate, assisting clients with obtaining visas and helping businesses navigate the Department of Labor’s PERM Labor Certification process.

Allison W. Rosenzweig, an associate with Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP, was profiled as a “Top Rated Business & Corporate Attorney in Uniondale, NY” and been selected as a “New York Rising Star” by Super Lawyers from 2015 to 2017. She also served as Co-Chair of Smile Farms Summer Soiree, a fundraising event for a not-for-profit organization that assists mentally challenged adults in finding employment. She was recognized by the Huntington Chamber of Commerce at the Annual Celebrate Long Island’s Young Professionals recognition event. She also received an Achievers’ Award from the Long Island Center for Business and Professional Women.

Mark Goldsack joined Archer & Greiner as an associate in the firm’s Red Bank, New Jersey office in August 2016. He concentrates in the areas of public finance and government affairs.

Julie Nociolo began a two-year federal clerkship in September 2015 with the Honorable Gary L. Sharpe at the Northern District of New York.

Michael Twomey was appointed Legislative Director for Brooklyn Council Member Jumaane D. Williams in April 2017. Twomey previously interned in Williams’s office in 2012 and 2013 and worked as a legal fellow with NYLS’s Center for New York City Law.

Jana M. Benson joined the Dallas, Texas office of Thompson & Knight LLP as an associate in the Tax Practice Group in August 2016.

Chryxtina S. Lopera was one of 10 new assistant district attorneys named to the Queens District Attorney’s Office in March 2017.

Nicole Mozee’s leadership and community service activities were featured in “Wisdom Through Education” published in UDaily, a publication by the University of Delaware, in January 2017.

Matthew Walsh received a Legal Assistant Rookie of the Year Award from the New York City Law Department, while attending New York Law School as a 3L Evening Division student in December 2016.
Pensive is a good word for how I’m feeling. Not fearful, but just thinking carefully about what’s next. I’m incredibly excited and thankful as well. Since I started here, my career plans have evolved but have not fundamentally changed. I came in focused on both public interest and business. Having been in the military—I have been in the Army Reserve for six years—I definitely wanted to do work related to social justice. My experience here has shown me other possibilities too. Last year I competed in Vienna against 320 law schools, including teams from Spain, Russia, France, and Turkey, in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition. That, combined with the Dispute Resolution Team, opened me up to an area of the law that I didn’t consider before law school—arbitration. I’m exploring a few prospective jobs, but regardless of where I work after graduation, I want to give back to the School as much as possible. I hope our alumni understand that their contributions to NYLS are absolutely making an impact, even if they do not see that every day. As we graduate and go into the world, we are all going to build on their foundation and continue their momentum.
MARLENE BONET 3L

I am excited because I’ve been working towards being an attorney my whole life. This year I’m looking forward to taking Domestic Violence and the Law, Anatomy of New York State Divorce Action, and Pre-Trial Advocacy. I’ll also do work with the Impact Center for Public Interest Law on its Marriage License Project, which means I’ll be going to court, drafting documents, and speaking with clients who were the victims of fraudulent marriages. And I’m President of the Domestic Violence Project at NYLS and proud of the fundraising we’ve done to benefit the Matrimonial & Family Law Unit at New York Legal Assistance Group. I’m moving toward family law now, but my career plans have evolved from when I started school. I originally had an interest in intellectual property and fashion law, and through the Fashion Law Institute, I got a fantastic summer internship at an IP firm. While I loved the attorneys and gained incredible writing and research experience, I eventually realized that IP wasn’t for me. My internship with a family law judge in Bergen County, New Jersey made it clear that family law is what I want to do. I’m thrilled to be able to continue that work during the academic year. After graduation, I would love to work at a family law firm in New Jersey, where I’m from.

KHADEYA PENSON 3L

I feel relieved and happy going into my last year. The first year was the most difficult. My 2L year, I was more confident in myself. Now, I’m ready to finish strong. This year, I’m doing the Criminal Defense Clinic, so I’ll have my own clients and work in the New York City Criminal Court, where I am now interning. I’m also Vice President of the Black Law Students Association, and I’m looking forward to the events we have planned. Our biggest event is the annual alumni dinner. Last year we raised over $23,000 in scholarship funds, and I’m hoping we can do that again. Becoming a criminal defense attorney was my incentive for coming to law school; I majored in criminal justice as an undergraduate. I want to advocate for individuals marginalized by our criminal justice system, especially Black men. I’m looking forward to taking Crimes in Immigration this year; it explores how criminal justice and immigration issues overlap. And I’m hoping that this time next year, I’ll be working for the Legal Aid Society. I interned in their criminal defense practice in Brooklyn last summer. I really enjoyed my internship, and I would love to work there.

EDWARD CHING 4L EVENING

I have mixed feelings about my last year. There is the joy of accomplishment: I’m near the top of my class and made it on to Law Review. There is also relief: For four years, I’ve juggled full-time work, school, and parenting my 10-year-old and 6-year-old. And there is anxiety about finding a job after graduation, especially since I’m in my 40s and competing with younger graduates. From the beginning of law school, my focus was corporate law or entertainment law, and that hasn’t changed. I hope to work for a firm or in-house counsel in a corporate compliance role. This year I’m looking forward to taking Compliance Within Financial Services Companies and Mergers and Acquisitions, which build on my 10 years of experience in investment banking. I’m also excited to participate in the Elder Law Clinic, helping the elderly with their legal issues. That is something I’d like to continue after graduation on a pro bono basis. And of course I’ll be working hard to build up my network of professors and alumni.
Michael J. Fahy ’98 passed away on September 27, 2016. A public servant and a hero, he lost his life in the line of duty as an FDNY Battalion Chief. Chief Fahy graduated magna cum laude from NYLS and served as Editor in Chief of the New York Law School Law Review. He became a firefighter after attending law school. Chief Fahy was considered a rising star within the FDNY and was known for his courage, leadership, and commitment to service.

Murray T. Koven ’38 passed away on February 23, 2017, shortly before his 101st birthday. He had practiced law for 77 years and at the time of his death, he was one of the School’s oldest living alumni. Many students benefited from the scholarships he generously funded. A popular and active alumnus, Koven was a member of the Alumni Association and participated in numerous NYLS reunions, most recently in 2013 on the 75th anniversary of his graduation.

Laurie B. Martin passed away on January 17, 2017. She had worked at NYLS for 26 years, mainly in the offices of Institutional Advancement and Information Technology. Martin volunteered at many of the School’s events and was devoted to maintaining its spirit and sense of community. She was beloved among colleagues for her contagious laughter and loyal friendship.
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ANSWERING THE CALL

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