

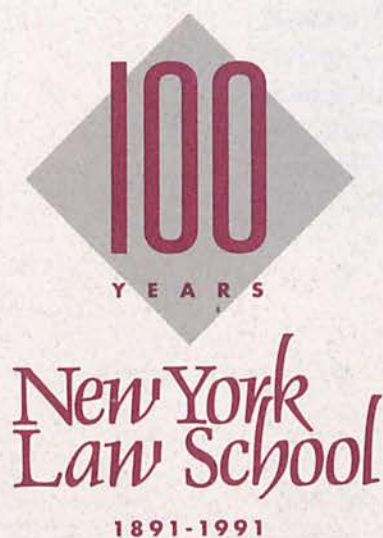
6-10-1992

1992 Commencement Program

New York Law School

One Hundredth Commencement Exercises

June 10, 1992



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Magna Cum Laude

Stewart Reifler

Dean M. Monti

Cum Laude

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Marisa Joss

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Lori G. Wentworth

Magna Cum Laude

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Gary S. Loffredo

Emily L. Granrud

Gayle M. Hyman

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Quintet #1

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Pomp and Circumstance No. 1, op. 39
Triumphal March—Aida

Sir Edward Elgar
Giuseppe Verdi

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Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States

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Processional

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B.A. City University of New York at Hunter College	B.A. Amherst College
Robert William Erb	Dean Michael Monti
B.A. New York State College at Buffalo	B.S. St. John's University
Lilliana M. Estrella-Gonzalez	Igor Muntianov
B.A. Fordham University	B.S. State University of New York at Maritime College
Erin L. Flynn	A.A. Pensacola Junior College
B.A. Rutgers College	
Nadine C. Johnson Gittens	Stephen Anthony Peduto
B.A. City University of New York at City College	B.A. University of Chicago
Gloria Etta Goldenberg	B.E. Stevens Institute of Technology
B.S. Case-Western Reserve University	
Jodi Brett Gottesfeld	MJ Quinn
B.A. State University of New York at Albany	B.A. Weber State University
Judith Cecelia Hillary	A.A. Schiller International University
M.S. University Missouri-Columbia School of Public Health	
B.S.N. Adelphi University School of Nursing	Stewart Reifler
B.A. Adelphi University	B.A. Bard College
Elise Imberman	Donna Santiago
B.A. Florida International University	B.A. New York University
Richad A. Jarosch	Pauline Elisa Sica
B.A. City University of New York at John Jay of Criminal Justice	M.A. Columbia University
Donna Gail Jones	B.A. College of New Rochelle
M.P.A. City University of New York at John Jay	
B.S. City University of New York at John Jay	Rose T. Stingo
Marisa Joss	M.A. City University of New York at John Jay
B.A. University of The Witwatersrand, South Africa	B.S. City University of New York at John Jay
Eileen Kaspar	William Allinson Thomas
M.L.I.S. Pratt University/Graduate School Library Science	B.A. Washington College
B.A. New York University/WSUC	Terrence McGill Tierney
	B.S. St. Louis University
	Preeti Torres
	B.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook
	Debra Jean Traendly
	B.B.A. City University of New York at Baruch
	Lila L. Varricchio
	B.A. City University of New York at Hunter College

Gil Howard Vilkas
B.S. State University of New York at Binghamton

Kenneth G. Walsh
B.A. Catholic University of America

Deborah Ellen Weiss
B.A. University of Pennsylvania

Hui Hui Yu
M.S. University of Miami
B.S. Chun-Yuan College of Science and Engineering

J.D. GRADUATES—JUNE 10, 1992

Tracey Joy Agoado
B.A. State University of New York at Buffalo

Anthony Agrippina
B.S. St. John's University

Susan Carole Ajalat
B.A. Rutgers University/Douglass College

Kristin M. Altieri
B.A. Georgetown University

Mary Ann Amodeo
B.A. New York University

Athanasia Apostolakos
B.S. Northeastern University

Benjamin Appelbaum
Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University
M.S. Pennsylvania State University
B.S. City University of New York at Brooklyn College

Gina May Calotta Armstrong
B.A. Georgetown University

Adam Scott Ashe
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Adrienne Maria Bagnato
B.A. City University of New York at Queens College

Elaine Denise Banar
B.S. University of Akron
A.A.S. University of Akron

Robert Barbieri
B.A. New York University

Catherine Isabelle Bardey
B.A. Brown University

Kathleen M. Barnett
B.A. Villanova University

Toni Ann Christine Barone
B.A. Seton Hall University

Michael Terence Barrett
B.A. Fordham University

Mitchell Craig Beinhaker
B.S. Cornell University

Marna Ellyn Bernstein
B.S. Northeastern University

John Edward Bersin
B.A. Fordham University

Gregg Mathew Bieber
B.S. University of South Florida

James Samuel Blank
B.A. University of Pennsylvania

Dixie Blood
B.M.E. Wartburg College
M.M.E.-M.T. University of Kansas
M.B.P.A. Southeastern University

Sandra Gale Blundetto
B.B.A. The College of Insurance

Wendy Ellen Blythe
B.A. Iona College

Mark Aaron Boltz
B.S. Pennsylvania State University

David Paul Bonomo
B.A. Trinity College

Steven Bracco
B.B.A. Pace University

Enza Michelle Brandi
B.A. State University of New York at Binghamton

Sharon Ilene Braunstein
B.A. Emory University

Bradley S. Braut
B.A. City University of New York at Brooklyn College

James Christopher Brennan
B.A. University of Richmond

Thomas Lee Breslin, Jr.
B.A. Rutgers University
A.A. College of Staten Island

John Christopher Breslo
B.S. Arizona State University

Michael Roy Bressler
B.A. State University of New York at Binghamton

Robert Bronstein
D.P.M. Ohio College Pediatric Medicine
B.A. State University of New York at Buffalo

Bruce Fields Bronster
B.S. New York University

Charlane O. Brown
B.A. City University of New York at John Jay College

Naomi L. Brown
B.A. Syracuse University

Gerald Bruckner
B.A. City University of New York at Queens College

Glenn R. Bruno
M.B.A. Pace University
B.A. Siena College

Alison A. Buchanan
B.B.A. James Madison University

Amy B. Buchansky
B.A. New York University

Lawrence Jay Buchman
B.S. Springfield College

Henry Johnston Bunis
B.A. Columbia University

Neil Howard Butterklee	Rhonda J. Cooper
M.B.A. Adelphi University	B.A. State University of New York at Albany
M.S. State University of New York at Stony Brook	Marie G. Costello
B.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook	B.S. St. John's University
Andrea Helen Buzasi	Lisa Ann Courtney
B.A. Union College	B.A. Mount Saint Mary's College
Adrienne Emily Cacavio	Patricia Ann Craven
B.S.N. Skidmore College	B.A. Tulane University
Michele C. Cacioppo	Peter J. Cresci
B.A. St. John's University	B.B.A. University of Notre Dame
Robert C. Calandra	Robert Stephen Cutrona
B.S. Fordham University	B.A. Pace University
Joy Campanelli	Jack Millard Dagleish, Jr.
B.A. City University of New York at Brooklyn College	B.B.A. Pace University
Denise Patricia Campbell	Jeffrey Robert D'Amico
B.S. Clemson University	B.S. City University of New York at Brooklyn College
Mark P. Cannon	Bruce Howard David
B.A. Pace University	D.O. Southeastern University
Linda M. Capitti	B.S. Fordham University
B.A. Rutgers University/Douglass College	James Thomas De Silva
Marc C. Capone	B.A. Niagara University
B.S. Syracuse University	Gerald Robert Della-Torre
Raysa Amarilis Castillo	B.A. Drew University
B.A. City University of New York College of Staten Island	Desiree C. Dhir
Leonard Joseph Catanzaro	B.A. George Washington University
B.A. New York University	Anne Miller Dickler
A.A. New York University	B.A. University of Rochester
Patricia Anne Cauldwell	Sean M. Dillon
B.A. Drew University	B.A. Rutgers University/Newark
Ellen Cavolina	Daniel Benjamin Dobkin
B.A. City University of New York at Hunter College	B.A. Columbia University
Robert J. Cecere	Deborah Alyse Dorfman
B.A. St. John's University	M.A. New York University
Melanie Wick Chang	B.A. University of California at Berkeley
B.A. University of Miami	Elizabeth Marie Dowell
B.B.A. University of Miami	B.A. University of Washington
Dena Lee Cimaskosky	Marissa Escurra Dubiel
B.S. Pennsylvania State University	B.A. Montclair State College
Caterina Civera-Tomaselli	Michelle Rene Dubuc
B.A. New York University	B.A. Providence College
Susan Jo Civic	Mark Evans Dwyer
B.A. City University of New York at Queens College	B.A. Hobart College
Christine Roberts Clark	Jayni L. Edelstein
B.S. St. John's University	B.A. University of Wisconsin at Madison
James W. Clune	Therese Katherine Egan
B.S. Montclair State College	B.A. Rutgers University/New Brunswick
Lorraine D. Cohen	Elizabeth Eilender
B.A. American University	A.B. Dartmouth College
Pamela D. Coleman	Suzanne Meredith Eisner
B.A. New York University	B.S.B.A. Boston University
Kimberley D. Collins	Catherine Ann Elin
B.A. Emory University	M.A. Sonoma State University
B.A. Emory University	B.A. New York University
Maria Colonna	David J. Eskin
B.A. New York University	B.A. City University of New York at Hunter College
Elizabeth Colantonio	Arturo Estrella
B.A. Rosemont College	B.S. Boston University
Jennifer Lynn Colyer	Maria delRosario Fernandez-Gomez
B.A. Rutgers University/Rutgers College	B.B.A. University of Miami

Patricia Ann Fersch
B.A. New York University

Christine Finnegan
B.A. Rutgers University/Douglass College

Steven Fischman
B.S.E.E. State University of New York at Buffalo

Heide Beth Fiterstein
B.A. University of Michigan

Robin Flaumenhaft
B.B.A. Hofstra University

Alexander David Flesher
B.A. Columbia University

Christine L. Fontaine
B.A. City University of New York at Brooklyn College

Helene Y. Frank
B.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook

Marc B. Frimet
B.B.A. City University of New York at Baruch College

Rhett Andre Frimet
M.B.A. City University of New York at Baruch College
B.S. Michigan State University

Mary E. Fritz
B.A. State University of New York at Empire State College

Patricia Louise Fuller
B.S. Texas A&M University

Keith Steven Furer
B.B.A. University of Miami

Jeffrey A. Futoran
B.A. University of Michigan

Steven Jay Gabe
B.S. New York University

Clifford Douglas Gabel
B.A. State University of New York at Binghamton

Thomas D. Gammino, Jr.
A.B. Brown University
A.B. Brown University

Dale Garron
B.S. Rutgers University/University College

David Alan Gehn
B.A. University of Maryland
A.A. Nassau Community College

Darren M. Gelber
B.A. Rutgers University/Rutgers College

Laura Large Geller
B.A. New York University

Michele A. Gendreau
M.B.A. University of Chicago
B.A. University of California at Los Angeles

Danielle George
B.A. New York University

Alexandra M. Gevas
B.A. Muhlenberg College

Joan Giaccio
B.A. State University of New York at Binghamton

Rosanne Elizabeth Giambalvo
B.A. Boston College

Angela Maria Giannico
B.B.A. Pace University

Karl Y. Girdhari
B.S. City University of New York at City College

Elissa Sue Glenn
B.B.A. Hofstra University

Ida Marla Glick
B.A. Clark University

Michael Edward Glynn
B.B.A. Pace University

Jane Goetz
B.A. University of Wisconsin at Madison

Tara Ann Goff
B.S. Pennsylvania State University

Michael Jay Goldfarb
B.S. University of Maryland

Beth A. Goldklang
M.B.A. Hofstra University
B.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook

Steven Todd Goldstein
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Emily Granrud
B.A. Oberlin College

Leon Marc Greenberg
B.S. State University of New York at Empire State College

William S. Greenberg
B.A. Montclair State College

John Patrick Grill
B.A. Drew University

Angelo A. Guglielmo
B.A. New York University

Thomas James Hall
B.A. Colgate University

Steven Ronald Harber
B.A. Bucknell University

Otto Haselhoff
B.S. St. John's University

Eric Hatzimemos
B.A. City College of New York at City College

Mark Damian Hauser
B.A. Rochester Institute of Technology
A.A. Rochester Institute of Technology

Janeen M. Heaney
B.A. Mount Holyoke College

Timothy Patrick Herzog
B.A. Fairfield University

Vivienne Marie Hewitt
M.S.C. University of Aston, England, U.K.
M.A. St. John's University
B.A. New York University

Brian Patrick Hickey, Jr.
B.A. Villanova University

Lisa Marie Hinse
B.A. University of Connecticut

Gayle Madilee Hyman
M.B.A. University of Chicago
B.A. Stanford University

Marie-Ann Elizabeth Iacobellis
B.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook

Ben Aaron Index	Charles Brian LaChaussee
B.A. University of Vermont	B.A. Trenton State College
Marc Louis Isaacs	Carol Ann Lackner
B.A. University of Rochester	B.S.N. City University of New York at City College
William Jannace	Elise Huang Lai
B.A. New York University	B.B.A. University of Texas at Austin
Yiwei Jiang	Susie Dana Langer
M.A. Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences	B.A. Boston University
B.A. East-China Normal University	Adrian Lauriello
Michael Joseph Johnson	B.A. Marist College
B.A. Fordham University	Susanne Lavelle
Laura S. Kalick	B.A. Rutgers University
B.S. Indiana University	Kerri Nancy Lechtrecker
Donna J. Kantrowitz	B.A. Hofstra University
B.A. Rutgers University/New Brunswick	Johnny Eng Lee
Susan A. Karp	M.S. Columbia University
B.A. State University of New York at Albany	B.S. Columbia University
Aimee Brett Kass	Yuichi Paul Lee
M.A. New York University	B.A. Trinity College
A.B. Sweet Briar College	Thomas David Leff
Natalia Smith Kerler	M.A. City University of New York at Hunter College
B.A. University of Rhode Island	A.B. Hamilton College
David W. Kesner	Robert Joseph Leonard
B.S. New York Institute of Technology	B.A. Manhattan College
A.A. Northern Essex Community College	Laura Mary Lestrade
Hani Khoury	B.A. State University of New York at Oneonta
A.B. Colgate University	Marci Robin Levy
Young Ju Kim	B.S. University of Maryland
B.A. Smith College	Steven I. Lewbel
Jon Preston King	B.A. City University of New York at Queens College
B.B.A. Southern Methodist University	Patti Alyse Lipp
Richard Alan Klass	B.A. University of Michigan
B.A. Hofstra University	Dorothea Lockhart
Thomas R. Kleinberger	B.A. Saint Augustine's College
B.A. State University of New York at Buffalo	Gary Scott Loffredo
Carolyn T. Kleppe	B.S. Bucknell University
B.S. Boston College	Lawrence Richard Lonergan
Steve L. Klepper	B.A. College of the Holy Cross
B.A. State University of New York at Hunter College	Elizabeth Lopez
Mitchell Barry Koval	B.A. Pace University
B.A. State University of New York at Albany	Joseph Andrew Loscalzo
Brian Scott Krantz	B.A. Bucknell University
B.B.A. George Washington University	Scott Todd Loventhal
David Scott Kritzer	B.A. University of Maryland
B.S. State University of New York at Buffalo	Diana Lucas
Audra Beth Kujawski	B.A. City University of New York at Queens College
B.A. Skidmore College	A.A. LaGuardia Community College
Peter Thomas Kujawski, Jr.	Lynette Marie Luff
B.A. New England College	B.A. Hofstra University
Arlene Veronica Kuljis	Janice Kirsten Lunde
B.A. Franklin & Marshall College	B.S.N. State University of New York at Albany
Lori S. Kweit	Richard Craig Lunenfeld
B.S. State University of New York at Albany	B.A. State University of New York at Albany
Mary Elizabeth Labate	Meryl Ann Lutsky
B.S. University of Rochester	B.A. New York University
	John Guiton Lynch, Jr.
	B.A. Boston University

Robert A. Macedonio	Chistrine Moffett
B.S. St. John's University	B.S.N. State University of New York at Buffalo
Ian William MacLean	Eugenie Hart Moody
B.A. St. Lawrence University	B.A. Pace University
Richard Blaine Madden	Steven Charles Moore
B.A. Denison University	B.A. University of Minnesota
Elizabeth Anne Mafale	Kenneth H. Mueller
B.A. Fairfield University	B.S. Lehigh University
Brenna Bridget Mahoney	Daniel Terrence Mullin
B.A. Rutgers College	B.S. St. John's University
Maria L. Polimeni Marchiano	John Thomas Murphy, Jr.
B.A. New York University	B.A. Fordham University
Steven Hadley Mark	Jeanne Naughton-Carr
B.A. University of Maryland at College Park	B.A. Lafayette College
Sara Martin	Steven Jay Neuwirth
B.A. Fordham University	B.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook
Kevin Louis McAllister	Karen Ast Nikischer
B.S. Fordham University	M.B.A. Fordham University
Stephanie Rittrivi McCavitt	B.A. New York University
B.B.A. University of Massachusetts	James Patrick Nolan
Joseph Michael McGill	B.A. University of California at Berkeley
B.A. Manhattan College	Robert B. Nourian
Edward J. McGowan	B.S. University of Scranton
B.F.A. New York University	Stephen Francis O'Beirne
Peter McMahon	B.A. City University of New York at Lehman College
B.S. Old Dominion University	Sean Michael O'Toole
Eileen Theresa McNerney	B.S. St. John's University
B.S. Fairleigh Dickinson University	Richard Obuch
Valerie Anne Meakin	B.S.B. Seton Hall University
B.A. Fordham University	Scott Frederic Odierno
Cyril Chesnut Means	B.A. Brown University
B.S. New York Institute of Technology	Mary-Jane Oltarzewski
Eileen Meehan	B.A. Rutgers University/New Brunswick
B.S. University of Dayton	James Richard Paganelli
Allan Stewart Meltzer	B.A. Montclair State College
B.A. American University	Bayne D. Papamichael
Eric Craig Mendelson	B.A. William Paterson College
B.A. State University of New York at Albany	Perry C. Papantonis
Elia R. Mendiola	B.S. Manhattan College
B.A. Caldwell College	Constance M. Papavasiliou
Kirsten Paula Merone	B.S. New York University
B.A. Muhlenberg College	David Charles Parks
Sonia Metellus	B.S. University of Maryland
B.S.N. City University of New York at City College	Alpa V. Patel
A.A. New York Technical College	B.S. St. John's University
Roberta Frances Mewshaw	Edward John Pavia
B.A. University of New Mexico	B.S. City University of New York at John Jay College
Howard George Meyers, III	Marilyn J. Peck
B.A. Bucknell University	B.A. State University of New York at Stony Brook
Seth Milbauer	Janice L. Pecorino
B.A. Washington University	B.A. City University of New York at Queens College
Diane H. Miller	Caroline Anne Peebles
B.A. University of Maryland	B.A. Sussex University
Glenn Martin Miller	Julie Petrow
M.A. University of Cincinnati	B.A. New York University
B.A. University of Cincinnati	John Thomas Petrusky
A.A. University of Cincinnati	B.S. New York University
Marion Sandra Mishkin	Michael Anthony Pettinati
B.F.A. School of Visual Arts	B.A. New York University

- Howard Russell Philips
B.A. Rider College
- Andrew Loring Platt
B.A. Skidmore College
- Scot Ethan Plotnick
B.A. George Washington University
- James George Preston
B.S. George Washington University
- Ivonne Prieto
M.S. City University of New York at Hunter College
B.A. University of Pennsylvania
- Risa Beth Procton
B.S. University of Florida
- Sean Thomas Prosser
B.A. University of Pennsylvania
- Laurence David Rahmanan
B.A. State University of New York at Binghamton
- Christina Antonina Rallo
B.A. New York University
- Julie Nicole Rappaport
B.S. Cornell University
- Jodi Lyn Reiskind
M.B.A. Manhattan College
B.A. Clark University
- Adam Barry Reisman
B.A. Rutgers University/New Brunswick
- Maria Ressos
B.A. Mary Mount Manhattan College
A.D.S. Taylor Business Institute
- Irene F. Ribbot
B.A. City University of New York at John Jay College
- Patricia Anne Rimmels
B.A. Manhattanville College
- Jonathan David Rivers
B.A. University of Arizona
- Madeline Rizzo
B.A. College of the Holy Cross
- Lilia Conzuelo Rose
B.B.A. City University of New York at Baruch College
- Ross B. Rosen
B.S. University of Rhode Island
- Aron Z. Rosenbaum
B.A. Mesivtha Tifereth, Jerusalem
- Hugh Michael Ross
B.B.A. Emory University
- Lisa J. Ruiz
B.S. Philadelphia College of Textiles and Sciences
A.S. State University of New York at Fashion Institute of Technology
- David Lawrence Rutkin
B.S. State University of New York at Albany
- Helen M. Ryan
B.S. St. John's University
- Thomas Michael Ryan
B.A. New York University
- Elias N. Sakalis
B.A. Fordham University
- Michael Christopher Salvo
B.A. Fordham University
- Joseph Anthony SanFilippo, Jr.
B.A. Providence College
- John A. Saraceno, Jr.
B.A. Fordham University
- Gina Scelta
M.A. City University of New York at John Jay College
B.A. Fordham University
- Jeri Susan Schaefer
B.A. American University
- Deborah Joy Schull
B.A. William Smith College
- Sheryl Lynn Schwartz
B.A. American University
- Lauren Jane Seed
B.A. Clark University
- Philip Howard Seelig
B.A. Long Island University
- Lester Andrew Seidman
B.B.A. City University of New York at Baruch College
- James Patrick Sheehan
B.A. Rutgers University/Rutgers College
- Andrew M. Shipper
B.A. City University of New York at Hunter College
- Lydia Papavasiliou Shure
B.A. Georgetown University
- Steven Siegel
M.S.U.P. Columbia University
B.A. Columbia University
- Jeffrey B. Siler
B.A. University of Rochester
- Daena Alyn Silverman
B.B.A. George Washington University
- Colleen Marie Skinner
B.A. Rutgers University/Douglass College
- Jeffrey H. Sklar
B.S. New York University
- Jeffrey Neil Slippen
B.A. Union College
- Pamela Jill Slovis
B.A. Tufts University
- Kim Marie Solar
M.A. University of London
B.A. New York University
- James Louis Somoza
B.A. Syracuse University
- Chae Young Son
B.A. State University of New York at Binghamton
- Gisele Speiser
B.A. New York University
- J.A. Spejenkowski
B.B.A. City University of New York at Baruch College
- Phillip D. Spyropoulos
B.A. Boston University
- Garrett Lee Stackman
B.S. Cornell University

Brenda Eady Stafford, Jr.
M.A. Tufts University
B.A. Tufts University

Michael Joseph Stafford
B.S. Villanova University

Jeffrey Marc Stein
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Corey Steinberg
B.A. Union College

Jon Adam Steinberg
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Melissa Winick Stillman
B.A. Emory University

Richard Straussman
B.E.E. Hofstra University

Rachael B. Susskind
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Samantha Maria Susskind
B.A. New York University

Bonnie Susan Teich
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Stacy Lee Tick
B.S. Ithaca College

William James Tinsley, Jr.
B.A. University of South Carolina

Frank Alex Tobias
B.S. Rutgers University/New Brunswick

David M. Toolan
B.A. Mount Saint Mary's College

Andrew Toscano
B.A. West Chester State College

Thomas Nicholas Tronolone
B.A. St. John's University

Regan L. Trumper
B.S. South Dakota School of Mines & Technology

Rae Anne Tuite
B.A. San Diego State University

Wayne Edwin Tumlin
A.B. University of North Carolina

Maris Catherine Tutrone
B.A. Holy Cross

Robert A. Ungaro
B.A. New York University

D. Gregory Valenza
B.S. Cornell University

Carla Varriale
B.A. Boston University

Irene Vassilakis
B.A. Columbia University

Elisa Velazquez
B.A. Fordham University

John Francis Vodopia
B.S.E.E. Polytechnic University
A.A.S. Suffolk County Community College

Richard John von Ohlen
B.A. Villanova University

Pina Marie Vricella
B.S. Boston University

Paul Mitchell Waldman
M.A. Boston University

Jillian M. Wallach
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Craig Mitchell Walsey
B.A. Emory University

Tara Dawn Walsh
B.A. City University of New York at Queens College

Heidi Christine Wanner
M.A. New York University
B.A. University of Rochester

Andrew Martin Wasserman
B.A. Michigan State University

Hope Elizabeth Wayne
B.A. Franklin and Marshall College

Michael Julian Weinstein
B.A. City University of New York at Lehman College

Stacey A. Weisblatt
B.A. State University of New York at Fashion Institute of Technology
A.A.S. State University of New York at Fashion Institute of Technology

Lori G. Wentworth
B.A. University of Washington

Edward Francis White
B.S.E.E. New York Institute of Technology
A.A.S. Nassau Community College

Patrick O'Haire Whitford
B.A. City University of New York at Lehman College

Thomas Byron Wiggin
B.B.A. George Washington University

Stacey Nadeen Wilkes
B.A. American University

Neil Michael Wilson
M.B.A. Hofstra University
B.S. State University of New York at New Paltz

Scott D. Wofsy
B.S.M.E. George Washington University

Alan Neil Wolf
B.A. State University of New York at Albany

Vicki Lynn Woody
B.B.A. University of Iowa

Audrey J. Wyman
M.B.A. Fairleigh Dickinson University
B.S. Fairleigh Dickinson University

Eric Zohn
B.A. Tulane University

Steven Michael Zorowitz
B.F.A. New York University

JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR



Maintaining from its earliest days a deep commitment to provide the highest quality legal education, dependent only on the individual talents and aspirations of the student, New York Law School has a long tradition manifesting the belief that outstanding lawyers come from diverse backgrounds and circumstances. The study of law, interpreted and debated within the framework of individually unique experiences of ethnicity, faith, and gender, has been at the core of New York Law School's distinctive mission for more than a century.

Nearly the whole of that century was required to pass before the phrase "all *men* are created equal" would become more widely accepted in its generic, rather than limiting, sense. That defining moment occurred on September 22, 1981, when Sandra Day O'Connor took the oath of office as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Less than three decades earlier, this future Supreme Court Justice, a magna cum laude economics graduate of Stanford University and Law Review editor at the Stanford Law School, had found national

law firms unwilling to offer any position save that of legal secretary. Clearly, the intervening years have proven both the foolishness and the futility of using gender or other superficial considerations as the basis for determining either ability or character.

Sandra Day O'Connor has dedicated much of her career to public service, providing outstanding leadership in both the legislative and judicial branches of government. Currently the only member of the Supreme Court to have held elected or statewide office, she has served as a prosecutor, a legislator, and as majority leader of the Arizona State Senate. Turning her talents to the judiciary, she served four years as a state trial court judge before being appointed to the Arizona Court of Appeals by then-Governor Bruce Babbitt, who has said "the intense part of her ambition is focused against an internal standard rather than an outside goal..."

From the first year of her service as Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Sandra Day O'Connor has demonstrated a distinctive independence of mind and a deep commitment to the principles of federalism. Her questions in oral arguments have earned a reputation for piercing to the core of contested issues, her preparation is known to be extensive, and her rulings have been carefully focused. Justice O'Connor's consistent determination to follow the facts, defining and interpreting them solely within the framework of Constitutional principles, has earned for her the highest respect a formidable legal intellect may command.

Sandra Day O'Connor, for your outstanding achievements, which, for the first time, have established a standard in our profession to which women and men alike may seek to aspire, the Board of Trustees of New York Law School hereby confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, with all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining.

DEAN JAMES F. SIMON

This 100th Commencement of New York Law School marks the beginning of a second century for an institution founded by concerned faculty and students ardently committed to the study of law by melding the practical with the theoretical, and with a future The New York Times predicted in October, 1891, was "brighter than the most sanguine had hoped for." Today, served by a new generation of pioneering teachers of the law and producing men and women remarkably qualified to become leaders in their profession, New York Law School justifiably and proudly continues to fulfill those century-old expectations.



James F. Simon, while writing acclaimed books on the Supreme Court of the United States, has made significant contributions to legal education during his extraordinarily productive tenure as Dean of New York Law School. The success of his years as Dean can be measured in the many outstanding achievements of the Law School during that time: the gathering of the largest, most talented and productive faculty since the institution's founding; the introduction of numerous academic initiatives resulting in distinguished special programs and innovative new curricula; the increasing diversity and quality of the student body; the substantial expansion and improvement of all facilities; and, the impressive and steadily growing participation by all members of the Law School community in its broad and diverse activities.

A graduate of Yale College and the Yale Law School, James F. Simon has served as a Ford Foundation Fellow in India, a Harvard Fellow in Law and the Humanities, and as Visiting Lecturer in American Studies at Yale University. A former contributing editor and correspondent for Time magazine, he is the author of three major works on the modern Supreme Court and its Justices: *In His Own Image: The Supreme Court in Richard Nixon's America*, winner of the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Award; *Independent Journey: The Life of William O. Douglas*, winner of the Scribes Award of the American Society of Writers on Legal Subjects; and, most recently, *The Antagonists: Hugo Black, Felix Frankfurter and Civil Liberties in Modern America*. Along with such impressive scholarly production, Dean Simon has been a member of the faculty of New York Law School since 1975, and accepted the deanship in March, 1983.

As author, scholar, educator, and Dean, James F. Simon has demonstrated qualities of leadership, scholarship and integrity reflecting the highest standards of New York Law School, and in so doing he has contributed immeasurably to the excellence of this institution.

James F. Simon, for your recognized achievements in scholarship, making the Supreme Court more comprehensible through your perceptive books; for your dedication to the law and to legal education as an outstanding teacher; for your leadership as Dean of New York Law School during a decade of outstanding advancement, the Board of Trustees of New York Law School hereby confers upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*, with all the rights and privileges thereunto appertaining.

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

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Hon. Charles William Froessel
Hon. John Marshall Harlan
Archibald Robinson Watson

1956

Albert Cohn
Albert Conway
Denis O'Leary

1957

Nathaniel L. Goldstein
Charles H. Griffiths
David W. Peck

1958

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James Thomas Hallinan
Gerald Nolan
Ferdinand Pecora

1959

Bernard Botein
Theodore Granik
Philip M. Kleinfeld
Edward J. Neary

1960

Charles Stewart Desmond

1961

Robert Moses

1962

Stanley Howells Fuld
Sylvester Comstock Smith, Jr.
Murray Stockman

1963

Sydney F. Foster

1964

George J. Beldock
Hunter Labatut Delatour
Marvin R. Dye
Alfred Gross

1965

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1966

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1967

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1968

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Tom C. Clark
David Finkelstein
Orison S. Marden
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Jerry Finkelstein
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John Vincent Thornton

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1990

Alvin J. Bronstein
Linda A. Fairstein
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1991

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Hon. John H. Sununu

NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL: AT THE HEART OF NEW YORK'S LEGAL COMMUNITY FOR 100 YEARS

FOUNDING: 1891

New York Law School was established in 1891 by faculty, students and alumni of the Columbia College School of Law who were protesting the trustees attempts to dictate the teaching methods used by professors. Theodore Dwight, founder and dean of the Columbia School of Law and a major figure in the history of American legal scholarship, led the creation of New York Law School in lower Manhattan, near its present location.

THE EARLY YEARS: 1891-1914

Almost immediately, New York Law School attained a formidable reputation due to the excellence of its students and faculty. One early lecturer was Woodrow Wilson, then Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University. Another was Charles Evans Hughes, subsequently Chief Justice of the United States. The first class included James Gerard, who went on to serve as Ambassador to Germany during World War I, and Bainbridge Colby, who became Secretary of State under President Wilson and, later, Wilson's law partner. The School began its evening division within its first decade.

By 1904, the Law School was the largest in the country, and, by 1906, it had over 1,000 students, the largest enrollment attained by any law school before World War I. Many of those attending New York Law School during this period became founders or name partners of leading law firms, including: Henry Hurlbut Abbott of Breed, Abbott & Morgan; Edwin Sunderland of Davis, Polk, Wardwell, Sunderland & Kiendel, and Thomas Debevoise of Debevoise & Plimpton.

It was rare for minorities and recent immigrants to attend law school in those days, but from the outset New York Law School was hospitable to all races and ethnic groups. The evening division proved a special asset in providing access to legal education for those who needed to work to support their studies. Among the Black graduates of the pre-World War I era, the most prominent was probably James S. Watson, who became a power in the New York Black community and a distinguished judge. The Judge's daughter, Barbara Watson, also attended the law school and was the first woman to attain the rank of Assistant Secretary of State of the United States. Later, Justice Emilio Nunez, class of 1927, was the first Hispanic to be named to the bench in New York State.

WORLD WAR AND THE GREAT DEPRESSION: 1915-1946

The School closed for one year during World War I, briefly interrupting a steady expansion that lasted until the mid-1920s. Classes of the 1920's produced graduates who would play a leading role in the profession. Among the most notable were U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Marshall Harlan and Albert Parker, a founding partner of Parker, Chapin, Flattau & Klimpl.

The Depression hit the school very hard and enrollment dwindled. While the situation had improved by the late 1930s the inauguration of the draft in 1940 dealt the institution another blow. In 1941, the School was forced to close for the duration of World War II.

REBUILDING: 1947-1980

In 1947, New York Law School reopened and began the difficult task of rebuilding. A major impetus for reopening came from alumni who formed a committee spearheaded by New York State Supreme Court Justice Albert Cohn. The new program was small, but in the 1950s, the School made significant strides. The Law Review was re-established, admission standards were raised, and faculty and

curriculum were improved. Many alumni now prominent in the bar, the judiciary, government and business attended the school during these years, including Judge Roger J. Miner of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, Presiding Justice Francis T. Murphy of the New York Supreme Court Appellate Division, Otto Walter, founding partner of Walter, Conston, Alexander & Green and Bernard Mendik, a leader in the real estate industry and current chairman of the Board of Trustees.

During the next decades, the Law School continued to upgrade its curriculum, faculty and trustees. A major expansion came with the appointment of E. Donald Shapiro as dean in the early 1970s as the School joined the Association of American Law Schools and the trustees authorized an increase in the size of the full-time faculty. Admissions requirements were raised while enrollment climbed. Facilities were significantly expanded to include three adjacent buildings, and an endowment fund grew.

THE PRESENT: Since 1983

The 1980s and 1990s have been a time of dramatic growth for New York Law School. A member of the faculty, James F. Simon, was appointed Dean in 1983 following the retirement of Dean Donald Shapiro. Dean Simon set in motion a major facilities renovation, beginning in 1983 and highlighted by the opening of the new Mendik Library in 1990. Other extensive renovations have completely transformed the Law School's classrooms, offices and specialty training areas. Major construction has recently begun to create a new Student Center. During Dean Simon's tenure the Law School has introduced an innovative Lawyering Skills Program into the core curriculum. Special academic programs have also been established, including the annual Stiefel Symposium on international and comparative law topics, the Walter Visiting Fellowship and the Law School's centennial conference in honor of Justice John Marshall Harlan, the Class of 1924.

The School has attracted a distinguished full-time faculty of nearly 50. They are productive scholars as well as skilled teachers, and train a student body of approximately 1,400 students. Some of the nation's most prominent scholars from other law schools have also served on the Law School's faculty as visitors. The Harlan Distinguished Visiting Professor Program has brought to the Law School major scholars such as Dean-Designate Harry Wellington of Yale, John Hart Ely of Stanford and Edward G. White of Virginia for semesters or full years in residence.

Distinguished visiting lecturers have also been attracted, including former President Jimmy Carter, Associate Justices of the Supreme Court Harry A. Blackmun, William J. Brennan, Jr., and Sandra Day O'Connor, and Governors Mario Cuomo of New York and Thomas Kean of New Jersey. Other distinguished visitors include former New York City Mayor Edward I. Koch, U.S. Ambassador Max Kampelman, head of the SALT delegation in Geneva, Justice Aharon Barak of the Supreme Court of Israel and Ambassador Jean-Pierre Derisbourg, head of the European Community's Delegation to the United Nations.

Recent years have also seen an increase of selectivity in the admissions process as the applicant pool has grown significantly, and aggressive outreach efforts have resulted in the largest minority enrollment in the history of the Law School. A major upgrading of career services has resulted in top law firms in New York City and elsewhere—as well as local, state and federal agencies, law enforcement departments, public defenders and non-profit public service organizations—recruiting New York Law School graduates.

In 1991, Dean Simon announced that he would be returning to the faculty at the conclusion of the 1991-92 academic year, and the Trustees appointed as his successor the former Sterling Professor of Law and Dean of Yale Law School, Harry H. Wellington.



TRADITION OF ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The caps, gowns and hoods worn at college and university functions date back to the Middle Ages. Monks and students used them to keep warm in medieval castles and halls of learning. From these practical origins, they have developed into the accepted garb which symbolizes scholarly achievement.

Baccalaureate gowns have a long, pleated front with shirring across the shoulders and back. They are primarily distinguished by flowing sleeves, pointed at the fingertip. These gowns may be worn either open or closed.

The master's degree gown is worn open, and the sleeve is cut so that the forearm comes through a slit just above the elbow.

Gowns for the doctor's degree are also worn open. They carry broad, velvet panels down the front, and three velvet bars on the full, round sleeves. This velvet trimming may be either black or the color distinctive of the degree.

Mortar boards or caps worn with baccalaureate and master's gowns generally have black tassels. The tassel of the doctoral cap is usually made of gold bullion.

Faculty members and guests in today's procession are robed in gowns and hoods which represent the institutions from which they have received degrees.

The hood gives color and real meaning to the academic costume. Its silk lining bears the colors of the institution conferring the degree. The hood is bordered with velvet of a prescribed width and color to indicate the field of learning to which the degree pertains.

Agriculture	<i>Maize</i>
Architecture	<i>Blue Violet</i>
Arts, Letters, Humanities	<i>White</i>
Commerce, Accountancy, Business	<i>Drab</i>
Dentistry	<i>Lilac</i>
Economics	<i>Copper</i>
Education	<i>Light Blue</i>
Engineering	<i>Orange</i>
Fine Arts	<i>Brown</i>
Forestry	<i>Russet</i>
Journalism	<i>Crimson</i>
Law	<i>Purple</i>
Library Science	<i>Lemon</i>
Mathematics	<i>Gold</i>
Medicine	<i>Kelly Green</i>
Music	<i>Pink</i>
Nursing	<i>Apricot</i>
Optometry	<i>Aqua</i>

Oratory (Speech)	<i>Silver</i>
Pharmacy	<i>Olive Green</i>
Philanthropy	<i>Rose</i>
Philosophy	<i>Dark Blue</i>
Physical Education	<i>Sage Green</i>
Physics, Police Science, Science	<i>Science Gold</i>
Podiatry	<i>Nile Green</i>
Political Science	<i>Dark Blue</i>
Psychology	<i>Gold</i>
Public Administration, Foreign Service, Government	<i>Peacock Blue</i>
Social Science, Service and Work, Urban Life	<i>Citron</i>
Sociology	<i>White</i>
Theology	<i>Scarlet</i>
Urban Planning	<i>Brown</i>
Veterinary Science	<i>Gray</i>

