Thank you friends, staff & contributors over the years.
Students Help Area Small Businesses

Kelli Brownewell

In the aftermath of September 11th, small businesses below Canal Street suffered losses that no business can afford to sustain. In an effort to keep these community businesses on their feet, Professor Anthony Fletcher, through New York Law School, began a project called Corporate Legal Services for Distressed Small Businesses. The project was created to help small businesses located below Canal Street that were actively running on September 11th, but adversely affected due to the tragedy.

After seeking approval from the School and Dean Richard Matasar, Associate Deans Matthew Wilkes and Stephen Ellmann, Professor Fletcher interviewed students to work on the project. Currently, there are 13 students involved in the project who work together in groups as small law firm associates, under Professor Fletcher as the supervising attorney.

Since the project began in January, its focus is to assist small businesses in the community with loans and grant applications, as well as to offer representation in lease renegotiations. For example, since September 11th, many small businesses are no longer able to pay the rent. One way this project helps is by assisting businesses in applying for grace periods or possible rent abatement. Incorporation assistance is also offered through the project.

In addition to students providing assistance, an advisory board was created. The members of this board are: Professor Nadine Strossen, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Director of the Legal Aid Society Daniel Greenberg, State Assemblyman Scott Stringer, and Professor Anthony Fletcher. The board supports the law school in the creation of the Distressed Small Businesses Project, and has expressed a strong commitment to its success. Although the project is due to end on April 26, 2002, Professor Fletcher will continue representing those businesses who need additional legal services whenever necessary.

Congress to Honor Class of 2002

Evening student, Liz Valandingham ’02, will present New York Law School with a class gift that won’t soon be forgotten. Thanks to the help of New Jersey Congressman Steve Rothman, Congress will salute New York Law School class of 2002 by flying a United States Flag over the United States Capitol Building, on June 2nd, 2002, the day of the graduation...

After the flag is flown, it is lowered, and delivered with a certification stating it was flown in honor of NYLS 2002 graduates. Valandingham plans to frame both the Flag and certificate, and present it to the School.

She hopes NYLS will display the Flag for students and alumni to see. She wants alumni to know the Flag is for them.

“When everyone comes back to visit, they can see their Flag. Only one Flag is flown over the Capitol each day. The day of our graduation, the Flag flown over the Capitol will be our Flag.”

Valandingham wishes to pay tribute to the community’s strength in rising above the challenges at a time of great uncertainty. “After September 11th it was a hard semester to finish, but we did it – we made it.”

“All over the world, anyone who looks at the Flag over the Capitol Building on June 2nd, will be looking at our flag,” proclaimed Valandingham.

Her message is simple yet, full of meaning: “Congratulations to the graduating class of 2002.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Commencement Speakers

According to the Office of Public Affairs, United States Senator Charles Schumer will deliver the Commencement Address at the 2002 Graduation ceremony. Both Senator Schumer and Honorable Pierre N. Leval of United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit will also receive honorary degrees. The late Bernard H. Mendik, Trustee and NYLS benefactor, will be honored posthumously at Commencement, said Public Affairs.

The 2002 Commencement will be held Sunday, June 2 at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center.

Dean Holds Town Meeting

During his April 17 Town Meeting, Dean Richard Matasar discussed the possibility that the School may consolidate all ___.

A Song for the Class of 2002

Congratulations to Professor Edward A. Purcell, Jr. on becoming the second Joseph Solomon Distinguished Professor of Law.
WTC Hero Students Honored

Susan L. Harper

Marking a historic moment in NYLS history, twenty-one NYLS students were honored on Tuesday, April 16, 2002, for their contributions during the rescue and recovery efforts on and following Sept. 11. It was a beautifully executed and moving event at the Marriott Financial Center, located only steps away from Ground Zero.

The students honored included: Kent Arthur '02, James H.L. Brown '04, John F. Barke '03, Kirk D. Burkhalter '04, Michael J. Cappello '04, Kevin Connane '04, Mark Desire '03, John M. Dickinson '04, Richard Evangelista '02, Joseph J. Finn '04, Michael Giancotti '04, Paul M. Kay '03, Richard B. Lovina '03, Joseph McConnon '02, Ariana B. Pelham '02, Adam Craig Pinto '02, Louis J. Russo III '02, Mariam A. Sanni '04, Gerald Simpkins '02, Robert L. Spadaccini '03 and Ler Arthur Yost '05.

Eight honorees invited to partake in the event declined for various personal reasons.

Serving as Masters of Ceremonies, Dean Richard Matasar shared with the audience, made up of students, alums, faculty, distinguished New York leaders, family and friends how, "NYLS is close in spirit and proximity... but there are others among us who gave back significantly more than the rest of us, and they bore the responsibility with the obligation to be a law student."

"He moved swiftly to ensure our student’s safety. He kept the lines of communications open, he gathered the Faculty, Dean Richard Matasar worked day and night. He was there with a smile and handshake," said Abbey.

Abbey then presented Dean Matasar with a plaque, which read, "Richard Matasar, Dean and President, Our 911 Hero, NYLS. We will never forget your leadership, passion and humanity."

According to Ms. Mendik, the fundraising event raised over $300,000.

Setting the stage and honored the next group of students at the event, Arthur Abbey, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Susan Mendik, Trustee and Dean Matasar.

Prof. Stephen J. Ellmann for his pro-bono law school committee work; Prof. Kaen Gross for her work on economic literacy; and Prof. Anthony Q. Fletcher for the Distress Business Project.

Chairman of NYLS Board of Trustees, Arthur Abbey, took center stage and stated some heartfelt sentiments on behalf of the NYLS Board, "I’ve a simple message from the Board of Trustee: we are proud, we are proud, we will never forget you and your extraordinary efforts."

NYLS Trustee Susan Mendik, chair of the event and wife of the late Bernard Mendik, former Trustee and generous benefactor, echoed the same sentiments, while happily sharing to the audience that the evening’s fundraising met its anticipated goals.

Following a dinner break, the ceremony honoring the students began. Three presenters from New York City government conferred the honors, made brief remarks, and personally recognized each student with an award symbolizing their outstanding contributions.

The night's events closed with Arthur Abbey honoring one more hero, Dean Richard Matasar for his leadership to the NYLS community following the attacks.

According to Ms. Mendik, the fundraising event raised over $300,000.

Student heroes receiving honors at the Spring Gala

LAURA HIDALGO PRAISES GALLAGHER BAR TRAINING SCHOOLS

I think what helped me most about your class was the note memorization, the memorization drills, and going through essay writing step-by-step, line by line, paragraph by paragraph. The World Cup of Memorization was a lot of fun it motivated me and I hope you'll keep that in your curriculum.

I needed the forced memorization, as well as a "starting point"-price to taking your class, I was completely overwhelmed by all the material I was supposed to know. I was so overwhelmed, in fact, that I couldn't figure out where to start, what to start memorizing. As a result, I really didn't have anything memorized by on past bar exams (I had tried, to just absorb all the Barbri materials and know the "basic concepts". Your course helped overcome that, because within the first hour of the first day, you had us memorizing. By the end of the first few lessons, I had already memorized more than I thought I could in such a short time, which gave me confidence in my ability to concentrate. You gave us the most important "tricks" to know, a core of the most important rules of law to have memorized at the end of your entire study period from which I was able to gain confidence, which in turn motivated me to keep memorizing and practicing-and sure enough, I was able to memorize enough and practice enough essays to pass the bar exam. Your method works, and I've already shared that with everyone I've talked to about my recent bar pass. I will find out from the NYBOLE within the next few days what I will gain confidence, which in turn motivated me to keep memorizing and practicing-and sure enough, I was able to memorize enough and practice enough essays to pass the bar exam. Your method works, and I've already shared that with everyone I've talked to about my recent bar pass.

Thanks again Dr. Gallagher!! Your class changed my life.

-Laura

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Cristina Campanella
Andrea Carbone
Alcides Casares
Erik Centner
Saverio Cereste
Jennifer Cesario
Edward Cepedez
Lori Cetani
Bejo Chacko
Stephanie Champion
Wendy Chavez
Kostas Cheliotis
Jennifer Chiheda
Jacek Cieszyinski
Jennifer Cohen
Lionel Cohen
Columbus Coleman
Lisa Compagnino
Paul Concannon
Jennifer Conti
Brenda Cooke
Justin Cordello
Lea Cornell
Michelle Cort
John Cortes
Anna D'Anna
Monique D'Errico
James Darling
Lisa DeClemente
Patricia DeCola
Marlene Delon
John Diaz
Sara Director
Joanna Donohue
Dennis Donovan
Tyschelle Doucette
Angelos Doukas
Charles Dufresne
Jill Dworzanski
Joshua Eichner
Danielle Ely
Bryan Eng
Thomas Farrell
Filomena Fazzino
Errol Feldman
Erin Ferrone
Samuel Figueroa
Andrew Flugger
Peter Fontanetta
Melissa Foggas
Justin Fossbender
Crystal Frazier

Richard Gueckle
Evan Gamm
Matthew Gammons
Cory Garcia
Jennifer Gebbia
Elisa Gerontanos
Michael Gervasi
Frances Giaglione
Karen Glover
Vedant Gokhale
Julie Goldenberg
Alexander Gomez
Gregory Gomez
Christopher Gonnella
Yadhira Gonzalez-Taylor
Daryl Goodman
Brian Gordon
Latahnia Graham
Maria Guerra
Charles Guerra
Jina Guirguis
Zlatko Hadzismajlovic
Michelle Hall
W. Miller Hall
Rochelle Haller
Christa Harper
Susan Harper
Otsu Harper
Raymond Hayes
Vanessa Hays
Andrew Hegt
Harry Heinonen
Elizabeth Hickey
Stephen Hofmann
Tara Hofstra
Sean Hogan
Matthew Holley
George Hristopoulos
Huang Huang
Kenneth Huesklamp
Tamika Hurde
Lauren Hurr
Kimmo Hussain
Lori-An Hymowitz
Soren Israelyan
Juan Jaramillo
Robert Jordan
Ajaypreet Kamra
John Kang
Jared Kaplan
Nicholas Kappas
Donna Keane

Paul Kemnitzer
Neil Khan
James Kimmei
Christopher Kinzel
Adam Kitzen
Alona Klarfeld
Daniel Klingle
Rupali Kothari
Laura Kraemer
Adam Kranman
Peter Kreiner
Eric Kreuter
Kristy Kulina
Celestino Labombarda
Rosemary Lane
Kelly Lerner
Kimberly Lessner
Mitchell Levine
Nellie Levitis
Mara Levy
Jamie Levy
Bill Lomuscio
Kerry Longobardi
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Janet Mace
Zarifa Madayan
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Craig Mait
Nathalie Mandel
Matthew Mann
Patrick Marc
Christine Martin
Scott Mason
William Mastro
Julie Mathew
Alexander Maurillo
Timothy McBride
John McGrath
Courtney McGuinn
James McKnight
Joseph Moconnon
Coleen Mcgrath
Haley Meade
Cathy Melitski
Allan Mena
Stacey-Anne Mesler
Adam Meyers
Ninowtzka Mier
Kara Miller
Tanisha Mills
Herb Moore’s Parting Words

“So, I hear you go to law school?”
“Yeah, I’m a third year at New York Law School.”
“Oh, NYU?”
“No, New York Law and NYU are two different schools.”
“Oh, I see.”

If I had a dollar for every exchange I’ve had like that, I could start paying back my student loans! We’ve all been there but my advice to you: don’t let it get you down. For the past three years, I’ve heard a number of students come down on NYLS for “not being as good as NYU” or “dropping in the national rankings.” Don’t buy it. NYLS will be as good of a school as we make it. And it all starts with attitude.

Sure, NYU may have a better reputation but, as people and future lawyers, I have an opportunity to get a legal education in the capital of the world: New York. I’ve heard a number of students come down on NYLS for “not being as good as NYU” or “dropping in the national rankings.”

If you feel like you’re not getting in class, see your professor after class. If you feel like there aren’t any jobs out there, go to Career Services and find out where NYLS alumni are working. If you have an idea for an extracurricular activity, take it to Student Life. When you come across a computer that doesn’t work, let Information Technology know about it. If you can’t stand the food in the cafeteria, raise the issue at Dean Matasar’s next town meeting. If a professor specializes in a field that interests you, see if he needs an assistant or can provide a contact. If you are stressing about the bar, take part in the Jumpstart Program. If you go on an amazing fishing adventure, write about it in The L (that’s what I did!).

The point is, get involved. We all have busy schedules and limited time but remember, NYLS will only be as good as we make it. The next time someone says, “Oh, NYU?” Say, “No, New York Law School,” with pride.

-Tight Lines...

Managing Editor Chris Ross (left) with Stephen Hofmann at the NYC Marathon

Goodbye

Stephen A. Hofmann

As my last semester winds down at New York Law School, I wanted offer a few words to my fellow classmates before we venture out into that brave new world.

We entered NYLS on a rainy day in our city’s history, literally. Cold and rain-soaked we took an unflattering ID picture. Unaware of what to expect, we filed into A900 and sat for our first Contracts class. Many of us lost friends, some lost family, others lost lovers. I lost 23 of my former NYPD colleagues, one of whom I worked with early on in my career. But we persevered. Rising to meet this challenge we met for classes on Saturdays, stayed late during the week, and sacrificed some of the precious free time that is sparsely distributed in law school. I think the US Marines say it best, “that which does not kill you makes you stronger.” We are all a little stronger.

The point is, get involved. We all have busy schedules and limited time but remember, NYLS will only be as good as we make it. The next time someone says, “Oh, NYU?” Say, “No, New York Law School,” with pride.

-Tight Lines...

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And now the finish line is close. Remember as you head out into the legal world that you carry with you the New York Law School name. Set the example. Take your duties seriously, but yourself not so seriously. Perform your legal workings with honor, courage, and patriotism and your nights will never be sleepless. I am proud to have gotten to know and befriend so many of you. God bless all of you and good luck!
"Adieu, Adieu..."

Susan L. Harper

"All good things...must come to end" as our title states; including our time here at NYLS and with the L. Now is the time we bid you adieu.

For four years we have covered your stories, shared with the community your challenges, triumphs and successes. Throughout it all, the L was extremely fortunate to have many contributors (several featured on our cover) provide their time, talent and energy, as well as a generous group of advertisers sponsoring us. Along the way, we received two American Bar Association Awards (2000 & 2001) and continuously received feedback from our fellow community members encouraging us to pursue our mission.

Unless you are passionate about writing, it is hard to explain why we were so committed to producing this publication. After all, unlike other law school activities, we never received academic credit, nor did we receive institutional funding.

Were we crazy? Perhaps. But then again, it was never about grades.

Those who wrote consistently for the L had a burning desire to express themselves. Writing for most of us is not a want; it is a need that many us cannot do without, like eating and breathing. The L fulfilled this need in all of us. It permitted us to have an outlet where our thoughts and ideas could spring to life, giving us a sense of personal balance, while making our law school dreams come true.

Throughout the four years, I can honestly say, it was always a thrill to spot you, our reader, in the corner digesting our work and reacting to the stories we wrote. We thank you.

I had the privilege to work with a wonderful and dedicated group of individuals with whom I learned a great deal from; I am forever thankful to you and to my classmates who supported us during this journey.

Finally, don't be surprised if in the future you pick up a publication and recognize the author's name. Remember where they got their start... right here with the L.

Best wishes, always.

"... To You and You and You"

Ninowitzka Mier

Without the L, I am not sure I would have made it through law school. While New York Law School is a wonderful place to study law, it intimidated me. My first year, I feared studying law would be the equivalent to reading and writing thick legal jargon, punctuated with colorless words like "henceforth," "aforementioned" and "hereinafter." I could feel all my creativity oozing, then trickling away. I began to worry that law school was not for me.

With nowhere to go and serious doubts about my future as a law student, I stumbled upon the L. I discovered a forum where I was free to write anything. I felt liberated. Interestingly enough, for my first article, I chose to write about the political turmoil in Colombia and its direct legal implications to the United States. Who would of thought?

I slowly realized that I was not at the bottom of an ocean with my feet stuck in a cement block of legal jargon. On the contrary, the L allowed me to explore my creative side, while writing about issues that affected us all. I embraced it and I wanted more. I needed more. To my surprise, I met others like me. I like to think of us as Writers Disguised as Law Students. The L became my outlet to discuss everything from Prison Labor to featuring a creative short story about a Fly I encountered one early morning.

But I am not writing to ask you to join the L, or even to sell you on how exciting it is to be a part of such a dynamic and versatile group. In fact, this is to thank you for supporting us for as long as you have, and to say good-bye and good luck. Everyone at the L is a student who has sacrificed time from studying, family and having a life to make this publication a reality. In return for all of their dedication—a masterpiece, also known as a student newspaper for the NYLS community.

Thank you for taking the time read your student paper—thank you for caring. We wouldn't have taken the time to write it if we didn't care about it ourselves. Good luck to everyone and the graduating class of 2002. And I'd like to thank the L. I will never forget our late hours editing each publication, and I always be grateful for the time I had to know such dedicated and inspiring people. I love you and I'll miss you.

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