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Advocating for Our Future

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New York Law School Class of 2010

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SARA J. MIRSKY

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ADVOCATING FOR OUR FUTURE

As I approach the end of my New York Law School experience, I can begin to reflect on many important lessons: learning about subject matter jurisdiction, discussing the intricacies of equal protection, and working through complex cases for corporations class. But the most important lesson I have learned is that before we as law students can be advocates for others, we must first be advocates for ourselves. New York Law School provides us with the tools we need for a complete legal education, but each student must construct a successful educational experience on his or her own.

In this effort, however, we are not without guidance. NYLS employs inspiring faculty, hosts engaging events, and encourages students to get involved in many “lawyer in training” experiences (such as externships, clinics, and the Public Service Certificate Program). These opportunities ensure that NYLS students can get a formal legal education, and also gain important practical experience. Both are necessary to make the shift from being a law student to being a lawyer. At NYLS, eager students can carry out the school’s motto: Learn law. Take action.

But in order for students to truly get the education they need and deserve, students must be proactive. Passive students who allow their legal education to happen to them cannot inform the school of improvements it needs to make, or more importantly, of what already works. And in return, the faculty, staff, and administration should listen carefully to students’ feedback. By engaging in this kind of dialogue, the NYLS community can continue to work on improving the reputation of the institution as a whole, and help current students get to wherever they wish with their legal careers.

One only needs to look at the NYLS alumni who have written pieces in this Issue for examples of great accomplishments by our former students. These alumni, who are scattered throughout all areas of the legal profession, have used their NYLS education to build successful foundations for their legal careers. By remaining a part of the greater NYLS community through their contributions to the *Law Review*, they have furthered our understanding of how lawyers can improve the lives of those affected by the legal system, and how lawyers can improve the legal system itself. By combining their professional experiences with their personal interests, these alumni have demonstrated great creativity, and made strong arguments for how the legal system should improve. In an effort to highlight some of the best examples of scholarship by our alumni, this edition of the *Law Review* showcases their unique, provocative work.

The pieces of legal scholarship in this edition were born of the Alumni Symposium we held at NYLS in the fall of 2008. It was my first official *Law Review* event. I remember riding the subway from Brooklyn to TriBeCa that morning, thinking about my position within NYLS as a first-semester 2L. I recognized that I still had much to learn, but I also recognized that looking to our alumni would be an important way to learn how to be a successful student and, eventually, a lawyer. I believe the Alumni Symposium demonstrated how accomplished and innovative NYLS alumni can be.

Second Circuit Judge Roger Miner, the first Managing Editor of the *Law Review*, delivered a spirited speech on his views on the current state of NYLS and what he hopes the school will achieve in the future. Victor Suthammanont, a recent NYLS graduate, delivered an overview of his article, *Rebalancing the Scales: Restoring the*

Availability of Disparate Impact Causes of Action in Title VI Cases, which tackles issues on the forefront of current discrimination jurisprudence. In Lisa Chalidize's presentation of her article, *Misinformed Consent: Non-medical Bases for American Birth Recommendations As a Human Rights Issue*, she discussed human rights issues as they relate to the practice of midwifery and the limited birthing options available to American women. Bran Noonan's article, *The Niesig and NLRA Union: A Revised Standard for Identifying High-level Employees for Ex Parte Interviews*, demonstrates the difficult line attorneys must walk when conducting *ex parte* interviews during discovery. This is just a sampling of the intriguing articles written by alumni in this issue.

This issue also features a number of student pieces. Each shows that great legal scholarship can begin while students are in law school. Kelly Fisher's case comment discusses how a relationship between a government agency and its consultants can affect Freedom of Information requests. Carol Bahan's note analyzes the multi-lateral treaties that influence how international terrorism suspects are brought to justice. By publishing these pieces, the *Law Review* demonstrates its commitment to supporting students as they tackle advanced topics and research, even before they graduate.

All of the articles in this issue show that NYLS students and alumni have become experts in a great number of legal disciplines. The *Law Review* is thrilled to share their expertise with current students, other alumni, and the legal community. It is my hope that by reading this issue, other alumni will be encouraged not only to reach out to the *Law Review* with their scholarship, but to also become involved in the greater NYLS community. Alumni could greatly help NYLS by reaching out to our Career Services Center, attending networking events, and offering to mentor current students.

By contributing articles to our *Law Review*, the alumni featured in this issue have demonstrated their dedication to the school, as well as their trust in the current student staff of the *Law Review*. And trust us they should. Since receiving the extraordinary honor of being appointed Editor in Chief last March, I have watched my peers take ownership of their responsibilities and help create and edit outstanding legal scholarship. Working in conjunction with our dedicated faculty advisors, the students on the *Law Review* strive to publish the best *Law Review* possible. We hope the alumni will be proud of the work current students have done in preparing their pieces for publication, and that readers will see this as an example of the exemplary work NYLS is capable of.

Having all attended the Alumni Symposium and worked together on this issue, the *Law Review* editors know that we have incredible standards to live up to. The convergence of alumni and student work in this issue of the *Law Review* shows that NYLS has much to be proud of—in our past, present, and future.