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Editor’s note: Our magazine has a new look! NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL MAGAZINE, formerly titled IN BRIEF, has been renamed, redesigned, and revamped to be more feature-focused and reader-friendly. Feel free to send us your feedback at magazine@nyls.edu.
Most Ingenious; Immeasurably Cooler
By Richard A. Matasar

As everyone knows, the three keys to real estate success are: location, location, location. Fifty years ago, when the Board of Trustees of New York Law School decided to move to an industrial downtown neighborhood with no nightlife, few residents, and no cachet, they had no way of knowing it would turn into TriBeCa—one of the city’s hottest areas. Later generations found additional low-cost parcels, cobbled them together, and created a viable law school facility out of renovated office buildings.

Today, these decisions appear prescient; the acquisition of TriBeCa real estate has become the engine for the Law School’s future: a wonderful high-tech, state-of-the-art facility; the ability to embrace new pedagogy; the capacity to serve its community; and the platform for an incomparable legal education.

New York Law School has answered the following riddle: How does a school nearly double the amount of space for its program, create a model program of legal education, quadruple its endowment, and provide a pathway to careers for generations of students? Simply put: By selling excess real estate for $136,000,000, investing the proceeds in high yield investments, and borrowing the costs of new construction at a low cost, the Law School has created physical space and wealth. Our endowment is approaching $240,000,000, over $200,000,000 more than at the beginning of the decade. No wonder the Real Estate Board of New York has called the deal the “most ingenious” of the last year. And with the launch of the School’s new Center for Real Estate Studies, the expertise of our students and faculty in the real estate field will only continue to grow.

This issue of NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL MAGAZINE—formerly IN BRIEF—features the story of the building project. It describes the wonderful new home we will provide to our students, the powerful technology embedded in the project, and the anticipated ways that we can serve our community. More importantly, it places facilities into the proper context—a home for the innovative and ambitious learning environment that the School is creating.

It is fitting that a project is the catalyst for moving the Law School forward because its program of study embraces project-based learning to provide the capstone to our students’ educational experiences. In this issue of the magazine, we highlight the extraordinary projects being developed by the faculty and students of the Institute for Information Law and Policy and their philosophy of collaboration. In the next several issues, we will return to that theme and continue to highlight the many projects conducted by our academic community.

A wonderful new building. Greater resources. An innovative program. It is true, as described in the press earlier this year: we are “immeasurably cooler.”

1 For their “Creation of a New Home for New York Law School” project, the real estate advisors at Studley won the prestigious “Most Ingenious Deal of the Year Award” from the Real Estate Board of New York on April 17, 2007.
2 See editor’s note on Table of Contents page.
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The Center for Real Estate Studies
New York Law School, get ready for an extreme makeover! Like the families on the popular ABC home improvement show, the Law School is finally getting the dream home it deserves. It all started in August 2006, when the School broke ground on a $190 million expansion and renovation project that will provide its students, faculty, administration, staff, alumni, and community with a state-of-the-art complex they’ll be proud to call home. When the dust settles and the project is complete, a brand new academic building will stand as a glittering symbol of the School’s extraordinary growth and success, embodying its lifelong spirit of innovation.

But the building is just the beginning. New York Law School is transforming inside too, working to ensure that every one of its students is equipped to succeed. “The new facility provides a platform that will allow us to deepen our mission and support our program,” says Dean and President Richard A. Matasar, “taking the School to the next level and ensuring that it is a place of value for all students who come through our doors.” The foundation is already in place with new academic centers, an enriching honors program, and opportunities for project-based learning enhancing what the School has to offer.

Breaking New Ground, Again
From its inception in 1891, New York Law School has set its own rules, always evolving to do what’s best for students. Led by Theodore Dwight, the School’s founders boldly broke away from Columbia College to protest teaching methods they didn’t support. After Columbia Law School relocated to Midtown, Dwight and his fellow trailblazers established New York Law School in Lower Manhattan, putting down roots in the heart of the city’s legal, financial, government, and corporate headquarters. The School immediately emerged as a champion for diversity, opening its doors to students of all backgrounds. And within a few years, the School started one of the first-ever evening programs so that students in the workforce and with families could benefit from a top-notch legal education as well.

Today, the evolution continues, as New York Law School doubles the size of its TriBeCa campus. Construction is currently underway on a brand-new, glass-enclosed, 200,000-square-foot building that will extend five stories aboveground and four below. According to Charles J. Maikish ’74, Executive Director of the Lower Manhattan Development Construction Command Center, the School’s expansion is “the most significant institutional building project in Lower Manhattan.” With the new facility set to open in 2008, he says, New York Law School will be “the first institution to complete a construction project in Lower Manhattan since 9/11.”

The new building will stand next to the School’s existing three buildings, which will be renovated completely by spring 2010. Architects from SmithGroup, a leading expert in law school design, looked to the institution’s core values to develop a fresh identity for the School. “Our challenge was to take an assemblage of facilities—including two late-19th century, historically significant, cast-iron buildings—and integrate them with a new structure that could express the School’s vitality and interaction with the community,” says Mark Maves, principal architect for the project. The result is a brilliant new campus that will reflect the Law School’s
past and future, symbolizing the growth and renewal of TriBeCa and all of Lower Manhattan.

The dramatic “reveal” moment will come in September 2008, when students start their academic year in a new facility that is almost exclusively student-centered—with classrooms, lounges, study rooms, dining facilities, and the library all housed within the building’s central core. According to William Perez, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, excitement for the expansive student spaces is already spreading beyond the current student body. “Prospective students are always impressed that the new building is dedicated almost entirely to students,” Perez says. “It sends a clear message of ‘students first.'”

The new building will also promote a message of community and collaboration, down to its very design. Surrounding the inner core on each aboveground level will be one of the facility’s most prominent design features: an open lounge and circulation space that runs along a 200-foot-long glass wall facing Leonard Street and West Broadway. As students, faculty, and staff move throughout the building and interact in its many collaborative spaces, this transparent glass envelope will provide them with striking views of the outside area and invite passersby to see the vibrant activity taking place inside. Students will attend their classes in rooms designed to maximize teaching and learning opportunities, with cutting-edge technology, top-notch lighting and acoustics, and tiered seating that promotes the open exchange of ideas. They’ll also collaborate in customized spaces modeled after the courtroom and other real-world practice settings. (See page 12 for artist’s renderings of the new building.)

As it opens its new home to students, the Law School looks forward to welcoming alumni back to the campus as well to share in the “unveiling” experience. The School will host housewarmings, lectures, art exhibits, conferences, and other events for alums and the larger community in its impressive new event spaces, which will include a large auditorium and a multipurpose room.

“The facilities will offer new opportunities to interact on-site with alumni, members of the legal community, and the public, and underscore the School’s fundamental mission of active participation and exchange,” says Dean Matasar. “The public spaces in particular will become rich opportunities to tell the story of the School’s history and fundamental relationship to New York City.” When they return home, alums will recognize much of what they remember about their alma mater and be wowed by its sleek new facilities.

The Art of the Deal
The launch of the building project fulfills a dream that has been in the making for decades. Since the 1970s, the leadership at New York Law School has pursued plans to build for the future. But without the resources to support it, the project was repeatedly kept on hold.

So how did they pull it off today? Dean Matasar believes it was a combination of “pluck and luck.” “Recent years have brought us some good luck,” he says, “and as an institution, New York Law School has always had the guts to act when luck comes our way.”

The luck, he says, lies in the School’s prime location and unique property assets. “We’re lucky because we live in TriBeCa, where we have phenomenal real estate,” he explains. “We had some property that we didn’t actually need, and the market allowed us to parlay that into a brand new building without taxing the future of the Law School.”

The deal he’s describing took place in June 2006, when the School sold its Mendik Library building at 240 Church Street for $136 million. Proceeds from the sale were allocated to the School’s endowment, which immediately quadrupled in size and is now among the top 12 of all American law schools. This growing endowment will enable the School to expand and enhance its program far into the future. But to ensure that the future remains secure, those funds need to be retained in the endowment—not spent on the construction of the new building.
Making Construction Magic

Building a state-of-the-art facility in the middle of a busy New York City block is no easy task, especially given the special circumstances of the Law School’s location—and the fact that current students are studying in the rooms right next door. Like every other aspect of the new building, its construction is cutting-edge. The crew is tackling the unusually challenging project with a number of unique approaches and methods. To maximize space, they have created a “vertical” construction site, with their trailers propped high up in the air so they don’t impinge on pedestrians’ sidewalk space or the congested site itself.

The crew’s first step upon breaking ground on August 1, 2006, was to demolish and remove the small Leonard Street building located behind the C building and next to the parking lot. To avoid damaging the neighboring structures, they removed the building debris slowly by hand, which made for a relatively “quiet” demolition with limited disturbance to students. A wide open space that is now the footprint of the new facility was left in its place.

Since the fall, the crew’s work has been focused underground, with a colorful mess of steel cranes and other massive machinery moving about the site. To most observers, progress is not immediately obvious. But below ground, a complicated system is at work as the team lays the building’s foundation. They are currently installing a “slurry wall,” formed by digging trenches along the new building’s perimeter to a depth of almost 100 feet and filling them with a material called “slurry.” This material holds the trenches open until reinforcing cages are carefully lowered into place. Once the reinforcements are in, the slurry-filled pits are filled with concrete, displacing the slurry and forming sturdy walls wherein the team will then proceed with excavation, set to start in summer 2007.

Due to the School’s proximity to the local subway and a Con Edison substation, they will use an unconventional “mining” approach to excavate, digging each of the four underground levels one at a time from the top down, rather than working from the bottom level up. As they make their way down to each level, they’ll place a concrete slab for each floor and then continue down. This approach reduces vibration from the subway to almost nothing and helps protect the integrity of existing structures around the site.

Once the underground work is finished, the crew will begin erecting the building’s aboveground “superstructure,” complete with the inner core and exterior façade. By fall 2008, New York Law School will have a dazzling new structure that showcases the School’s energy and spirit to the world.
Instead, funding for the expansion and renovation project came primarily from the sale of $135 million in insured bonds through the New York City Industrial Development Agency (IDA), also completed in June 2006. “We borrowed the money at a highly favorable rate by issuing 30-year bonds through the IDA,” says Dean Matasar. The School’s securities were given an A3 credit rating by Moody’s and an A-minus rating by Standard & Poor’s, both reflective of the School’s stable market position and solid financial condition. “As a condition of the issuance of these bonds,” he continues, “we agreed to maintain the endowment for the full 30-year period of the bonds and raise another $25 million for our endowment.”

That’s why, despite the financial windfall, fund-raising efforts are now more critical than ever. For the next 30 years, the School has pledged a large portion of the income from the endowment toward payment of the debt service on its bonds. In addition, the School has many innovative plans and programs that need funding now so that students can start reaping the benefits. To make all of this possible, New York Law School plans to launch a major capital campaign that, combined with the new endowment funds, will enable the School to transform far beyond the physical. With the new building setting the stage, the School aims to enhance student support, expand the faculty, and deepen its extraordinary program.

**Beyond the Bricks and Mortar**

Add the “pluck” of the Law School community to these strategic goals, and the dream of transformation is destined for reality. Starting with the faculty, Dean Matasar credits the people of New York Law School for their bold determination in taking the School to the next level—from the inside out. “Our faculty members have been willing to experiment and engage in change to a greater extent than those at any other law school,” he says. “They are creative, entrepreneurial thinkers eager to build new programs to serve the students the best they possibly can.” In addition to the faculty is an extremely supportive Board of Trustees. “Our Board is incredibly willing to give us flexibility to expand our program the way we think is best,” says Dean Matasar. “Without their support, and that of the entire Law School community, we would never be able to get our dreams off the ground.”

Throughout the last few years, Dean Matasar has led the School’s faculty and administration through an intense process of self-assessment and strategic planning aimed at improving what the School has to offer. Working together, they have been researching the marketplace, tapping alums and other experts for input, and designing and implementing program changes that will enable the School to deliver on its promise to “provide the right program for each student.” Professor Jethro K. Lieberman, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, is one of the major players in the planning. “We know that students choose one law school over another because they are drawn to a unique program, not something simple and generic,” Lieberman says. “We have been working hard to offer our students a better education with more diverse opportunities.”

Their efforts have launched New York Law School into a period of unprecedented change, with new opportunities for individualized education taking shape every day. To date, the School has created seven specialized academic centers where students find multiple ways to learn law and take action through project-based learning. At each center, students work side by side with faculty on real-world projects, gaining invaluable skills, hands-on experience, and connections for future employment. The newest center, the Center for Real Estate Studies, was just launched in the spring of 2007 in response to a surge of interest among students in real estate law. (Read more about this new center in the article on page 19.)
More and more, the centers bring life and visibility to the School, with courses, colloquia, and projects that allow students to pursue the careers of their dreams.

Beyond the specialized centers, the School has developed other special programs to meet students’ individual academic needs. The John Marshall Harlan Scholars Program, established in 2002, provides the School’s top students with an enriching program of scholarship and research that prepares them to be leaders in their fields. Harlan Scholars are invited to make one of the academic centers their intellectual home on campus, where they engage in coursework and research culminating in a capstone project in their final year.

Students who need extra help also find support, through the Comprehensive Curriculum Program, in which professors work closely with under-performing students to help them get the skills and knowledge they need to succeed on the bar exam, in law school, and in the workforce. In 2006, the first group of students to complete the program gave the School its highest bar passage rate for first-time takers in recent memory—an indication that the program is bound for success.

The School’s next step is perfecting an approach to support the middle segment of the student population. A curriculum committee is already at work revising the School’s overall program to more accurately reflect the knowledge and skills students need to succeed in today’s marketplace. Led by Professor Seth Harris, this group is closely examining the existing content and sequence of courses, rationalizing and synthesizing them to create a more cohesive and responsible program that gives students greater connections to the real world. “The curriculum used at most law schools in the United States is older than New York Law School itself,” Harris says. “We’re working to change our curriculum to reflect modern processes.”

One of the Law School’s ongoing initiatives is the revision of the first-year curriculum, which will be revamped for the fall of 2008. What changes can students anticipate? First-year students will take a new second-semester course called “Legislation and Regulation,” which provides an introduction to the processes by which laws are made and implemented. The revised curriculum will also include an integrated, more focused approach to ensuring students get the skills they need to excel in the legal profession. The previous set of first-year skills courses will be streamlined into a cohesive two-semester program that helps students understand and develop skills in a practical context. “What we put in our first-year curriculum signifies what we think is important to legal education and practice,” says Professor Harris. “We are saying that students must understand legislative and regulatory processes and that they must have certain skills to be successful.”

In addition to making curriculum changes, the Law School is dedicated to giving students more choices beyond the standard law degree. In 2003, the School began offering the Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Taxation, becoming one of the only law schools in the New York City area to offer this advanced training to tax attorneys. Coming in 2008, the School will offer the first-ever online master’s degree in mental disability law. This entirely Web-based program will provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to successfully work with, or on behalf of, persons with mental disabilities. Additional joint degree programs are also on the agenda. Beyond its current J.D./M.B.A. program with Baruch College, the School is considering other joint degree programs, including J.D./M.P.H. and J.D./M.P.S. For more information, please visit http://www.nyls.edu/

Marc Lasry ’84
Chairman and CEO, Avenue Capital Group
Founder and Senior Managing Director, Amroc
Member, New York Law School Board of Trustees

“Part of the experience of being in school is obviously the community and working with people and being together with people. I think that with the new building there is going to be a real feeling that it is a community.”
College and the bachelor’s/J.D. programs with Stevens Institute of Technology, Adelphi University, New England College, and Southern Vermont College, the Law School is exploring other possibilities for courses and programs that will prepare students in key areas that interface with the law.

**Bringing the Real World In**

But the innovation doesn’t end there. Looking ahead, New York Law School is working to make real-world work opportunities available to all of its students through clinics, externships, and internships. “We’re moving toward a program that provides every student with opportunities to engage with professors on a meaningful real-world project that has impact,” says Dean Matasar. “This is the best, most concrete way students will be able to ‘learn law and take action.’”

The key to making these opportunities possible is bringing in more top-notch faculty. “We are a big law school, and we need a big faculty to help us make our goals a reality,” says Dean Matasar. “This places heavier demands on us as a school, but the rewards for all of us are greater as a result.” Consequently, New York Law School is investing deeply in human resources to effectively reach more students. Who are they looking for? Dean Matasar says the School is committed to hiring additional full-time and adjunct faculty who define their success in terms of student achievement. “Following in the footsteps of the current faculty,” he says, “new members must not only demonstrate impressive expertise as scholars, researchers, and activists, but they must also possess a sincere desire to work side by side with students—as mentors and as partners.”

In keeping with the targeted focus on building skills in the first-year curriculum, the School plans to bolster its first-year faculty so students will develop their skills through close interaction with their professors. And as the demands of the profession change, the need for faculty with greater special knowledge increases as well. The School is reaching out to alumni and other leading professionals in a wide range of fields to deliver their unique expertise to New York Law School students. “The more people power the School has,” says Dean Matasar, “the better prepared we will be to meet all of our students’ needs.”

“The new building is an incredibly exciting development both as a symbol and as a reality. It says this is a place that is on the leading edge.”

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Professor Nadine Strossen
President of the American Civil Liberties Union

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Columbia College Law School at 49th Street, 1891

The original location of New York Law School, in the old Equitable Building at 120 Broadway

An early site of the Law School at 172–74 Fulton Street
Based on the current faculty, it’s clear that the School is on the right track. So many professors are already engaged in real-world assignments with students, helping them build the knowledge and experience they’ll need to succeed on the job. For examples of this collaboration in action, see the article highlighting the work of the Institute for Information Law and Policy (page 13).

A Future of Promise

With so many changes in the works at New York Law School, the campus is buzzing with energy and anticipation. The entire community—from prospective students to alumni—is expressing support and enthusiasm for the School’s new beginning, eager to move into its new home and proud to be part of it all.

But just as exciting are those things that will remain the same. As New York Law School breaks new ground literally and figuratively, it will stay true to its core values—embracing innovation, fostering integrity and professionalism, and advancing justice for a diverse society. The School will keep attracting bold students who work hard to make a difference in the world around them. And with a stellar academic program and enhanced support, students will be all the more prepared to do so.

In the years ahead, New York Law School will continue to evolve with relentless dedication to ensuring that students succeed. “We have already come so far but there is so much more that we can accomplish and do,” says Dean Matasar. “I’m really hopeful that these years to come are going to be the most exciting years for all of us.” With the School’s drive and spirit, there’s no telling where the journey will lead.

“The new building provides an excellent opportunity for growth at New York Law School. Our position in the city places us close to the financial district and city, state, and federal courthouses. The new building will allow future students to benefit from our location and state-of-the-art learning facilities.”
Extreme Makeover
Wired for Success: The Law Student of the Future
By Christine Pakkala

Outside, backhoes and cranes tell the story of big changes at New York Law School, but inside the old Worth Street buildings, a different kind of advancement is underway. Three years ago, Dean Richard A. Matasar asked the faculty how technology could change the way law professors teach and how law students learn. Today, professors from the School’s Institute for Information Law and Policy (IILP) have given the dean a resounding response, by melding law with new forms of technology that sound like Star Wars creatures—such as blogs and wikis. Professors and students use many of these new technologies to collaborate on real-world projects in the areas of law, technology, and communication. Some of their projects include analyzing media coverage of legal issues and then blogging about it; challenging the time-consuming process of patent review; and amending a statute in order to allow virtual corporations to operate.

IILP professors ask students to bring their résumés to class the first day, sending the signal that students will be straddling the worlds of education and work. To promote collaboration, classes are arranged in small teams, with each team pursuing a project that is mentored by a faculty member and serves an outside “client” of some kind. (See sidebars for more details about some of these projects). Some IILP students are also working toward a Certificate of Mastery in Law Practice Technology, an honor earned by students with a substantial understanding of how technology impacts law practice and legal institutions. Participating students design projects that help them acquire and demonstrate mastery in various areas. Along the way, they receive guidance from faculty and present their work to each other “so everyone gets the benefit of everyone else’s explorations,” says Professor David Johnson, a member of the IILP faculty. Their projects have real-world applications: last year a team developed an electronic “tenant kiosk” designed to dispense legal information at the New York City housing court.
In many ways, these students represent what tomorrow’s law students will be like: collaborative, tech savvy, and more involved in seeking coursework that is germane to the careers they plan to pursue. At the same time, tomorrow’s law students will be offered even more tools and more mentoring opportunities to ensure success in their future careers.

“Every law student will become much more accountable for and thoughtful about their path into the profession,” Johnson says. Law school, he says, will be a time of active preparation for the career to come.

Integral to their preparation will be developing the skills necessary to succeed in an ever-changing legal profession. Lawyers are increasingly expected to marry

Media Coverage of the Law: Student Blogs Find Much to Critique

The humorist and author Mark Twain said, “In the real world nothing happens at the right place at the right time. It is the job of journalists and historians to correct that.” It is, by extension, the job of the “Media Watch Blogs” of the School’s Program in Law & Journalism (PLJ) to correct the inaccuracies of the media—or at least point them out. In their blogs, PLJ students critique the coverage of important legal issues in major media outlets, sharing what they learn with the public, journalists, and other students. They work with faculty mentors as well as a media watchdog group, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR), which guides them on how to monitor the media. Student team members choose a major legal issue and a form of media, and then monitor the coverage by that medium.

“This project really requires you to think about the law differently,” Kerry Higgins, a third-year law student, says. “You learn that law isn’t just what you learn in first-year contracts. It’s about how the law is portrayed in the media and how that affects what people think of the law. It’s about what lawyers do within that realm.”

She noted that the class, mentored by Professor Cameron Stracher, encourages students to ask, “Why does the issue matter to the reader?” It’s not merely a question of misrepresentation of a legal issue, Higgins notes, but a “failure to give readers a context for what the information means.”

Higgins posted a blog entry January 26 on the Program in Law & Journalism’s Web site comparing the coverage by various newspapers of the previous week’s announcement by the Bush administration that it would no longer continue its six-year-long policy of “warrantless wiretapping.” The administration turned the job over to the supervision of Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) court. Higgins wasn’t happy with what she read for two reasons: because most coverage focused on the actual decision and not whether the administration was implicitly acknowledging it had made a mistake, and because the change was in name only, since the wiretapping would continue, with only the responsible party changed.

In a scathing indictment of several newspapers’ coverage of the issue, Higgins wrote, “By failing to place the decision in the broader context in which it was made, and running headlines like ‘Secret court will monitor U.S. domestic surveillance program; Shift by Bush administration is hailed,’ [from INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE] such coverage succeeds in nothing more than falsely assuring readers that the program will now be subject to meaningful judicial review.”

Besides her heightened awareness of the sometimes uneven coverage of legal issues, the capstone course has taught Higgins that there are many avenues a law student might pursue—even being a lawyer. “I came to law school and never intended to be a lawyer,” she says. “And then I happened to like it. I think it is a very creative field and many people just don’t know that.”
legal skills with knowledge of communication, media, and technology. Through their collaboration on real-world projects and direct feedback from professors, IILP students gain both, as they learn to take charge of their own educational paths.

“...the law students are beginning on a lifetime learning curve. They need to take responsibility early for their continuing professional development, and can find and exploit many resources through the School in addition to attending traditional classes. It’s not about sitting in the back of the class taking notes; students are professionals from day one.”

So what is being a professional, tech-savvy lawyer really about? As Professor Beth Simone Noveck, Director of IILP, notes, lawyers are “first and foremost problem solvers,” and tomorrow’s law students will therefore need to think about the problems that will face their generation. With new technology comes new responsibility to society, and tomorrow’s students—interpreters of legal code to the rest of society—will have to figure out how to apply their knowledge for social good. One of Noveck’s real-world projects has her students grappling with an overloaded patent review system that sometimes allows undeserving inventions to be granted patents too easily. Their solution is a more open peer review system for patents. (See page 17 for more information about the Community Patent Review.) But tomorrow’s law students will, of course, have a different set of problems to address, and they will need to have “the widest arsenal of tools available to them to grapple with complex projects,” Noveck says.

She explains that law students might learn to identify and use or even design and build software tools, such as wikis, blogs, and Web sites, “that change the way people work and share knowledge.” It might also mean learning to navigate virtual worlds as “places to organize new kinds of social interactions.” Since all IILP students already meet online in Second Life and There.com, three-dimensional virtual worlds, it is very likely that online teaching, learning, and meeting will be commonplace for future law students.

Other tools, says Noveck, might be designed to specifically improve legal institutions and legal practice, such as e-discovery—in which electronic data is sought, located, secured, and searched with the intent of using it as evidence in a civil or criminal legal case—and other automation and efficiency-building technologies for law offices and legal institutions.

Students who want to become litigators, she adds, will have access to multimedia forms, such as audio and video, that can be used to educate, inform, and “persuade people with pictures as well as text.” In Professor Richard Sherwin’s course on Visual Persuasion in the Law, for example, students are learning to use computer-generated visuals, including maps and videos, to render complex ideas accessible to clients, juries, and the general public. And for students interested in careers in business, government, or even activism, learning the legal implications of a new tool like an iPod or a TiVo will give them a leg up on the competition.

“This requires understanding exactly how the technology works, talking to those who created it, understanding and knowing how the law works, and being able to explain it to the technologists,” Noveck says.
Those who can “translate” between the worlds of law, science, and business will be that much better prepared to serve clients and to serve the values of social justice and civil liberties. Tomorrow’s lawyers will be go-betweens, speaking two languages, that of law and that of technology.

Law students of the future will fortify their legal training with other kinds of expertise and combine it with an overall technological and media savvy. For example, they will need to create content about their areas of expertise for blogs and Web sites for consumers increasingly reliant on the Web for information about lawyers, says Professor Cameron Stracher, Co-director of New York Law School’s Program in Law & Journalism. And extra knowledge means extra power. As they navigate their careers, future law students will have a range of new options available to them, in addition to becoming a lawyer and practicing in a law firm.

The Internet has a lot to do with these changes and not just in the area of law. The Internet has brought the power to the people, enabling them to research issues, compare prices, and create content. For future law students, the ability to interpret myriad—and as yet unknown—issues that arise from the Internet will only strengthen their position in an increasingly competitive job market. But building their Internet know-how won’t replace the need to make personal connections in the legal community—in fact, it will make it even easier for students to do so. As law students of the future turn to faculty and alumni for mentoring help, they’ll have even more opportunities to contact them, as well as a wider network to reach.

“As Johnson points out, students can maximize their studies by being able to attend in either a physical location or a virtual academic setting. He says that future law students may be asked to teach classes in a virtual setting—as several have done in the context of the certificate program. Students in other classes have also been asked to collaborate to create blogs and wikis and thereby teach each other, making the professor more of a coach and less of a lecturer.”

Johnson views his students as colleagues and believes law students should see themselves the same way, as “part of the profession from day one, and understand that they are just beginning a lifetime learning curve.” Noveck states the case of student involvement even more strongly.

“The students are the Institute,” she says. “The Institute began when Chun Li, then a first-year student, sat down in my office and never left. He organized the first State of Play conference on law and virtual worlds.” Chun Li ’06 and Harlan Scholars organized the event and helped to make the Law School a center for the study of law and new technology.

Subsequent generations of students have continued the State of Play tradition and “helped us to expand into the development of new technologies to improve law practice and law teaching, and further the goals of social justice,” Noveck says.

In the future, New York Law School students will carry on this tradition of innovation, striking out on ambitious, uncharted virtual territory to redefine the legal profession. With the expanding resources and support the School provides, they’ll be even more equipped to construct their paths to success, from the moment they set foot in the classroom, or more aptly, lay a finger on the keyboard.
Imagine that you have invented the Micro Manager. It makes appointments for you, and breaks them when you can’t keep them. It reminds you that you have dry cleaning to pick up and—by some miracle of technology—it prints another claim ticket when you lose yours. You know that once you get the patent, you’ll make millions. Unfortunately, you don’t know how original your idea is or whether it’s worth pursuing. And with a million other applications waiting to be processed, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) doesn’t have the time or the resources to do the research for you.

While the Micro Manager might be a fantasy, the problem of a backlogged United States Patent and Trademark Office is a reality. As Professor Beth Noveck says, “The patent system needs our help.” She and a team of 10 students plan to deliver it. Their Community Patent Review Project has created an online system that opens up the process of patent examination to public participation, bringing together scientific experts who are able to provide information to the USPTO to help it evaluate patent applications. The goal of the project is to bring more information and greater accountability to the patent examination process, she says. In doing so, the project aims to ensure the issuance of high-quality patents.

“The Community Patent Review Project takes advantage of today’s community-based technology to improve the quality of U.S. patents in a manner that is aligned with the basic tenets of the patent system,” Noveck says. “This initiative does precisely what Thomas Jefferson intended the patent system to do by reaching out to the scientific community.”

Noveck’s students are actively involved in designing the legal and educational materials for the patent review site. They have worked on the terms of service, copyright and privacy policies, and dispute resolution mechanisms. They have also developed a program to teach intellectual property law to scientists to enable them to participate in the process.

The students also took a sample patent and attempted to find prior art (a term used in patent law to describe published information that would limit the scope of a specific application) on that patent to learn what the challenges are that face a lay person in trying to understand the concept of prior art and what patent law requires. They documented their search process and are using this experience to write up materials about the meaning of prior art.

Heavy hitters like the MacArthur Foundation and the Omidyar Network—as well as CA, General Electric, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Microsoft, and Red Hat—are behind Noveck and her students’ efforts, enabling them to work on both the design of the technology to support the process and on the design of the legal and policy framework to make it possible for experts to contribute to the patent examination process.

The USPTO has adopted the Community Patent Review Project as one of its major strategic initiatives and will pilot the system on software and technology patents in 2007.
Virtual Corporations: Students Amend a (Real) State Statute

In the middle of his class on creating the world’s first virtual corporation, Professor David Johnson’s cell phone voice mail trills the Mamas and the Papas’ “California Dreamin’.” Baby-boomer in his music tastes, Johnson is otherwise firmly 21st century, mentoring his students to do work with real-world applications.

Johnson and his students are working with a particular state’s legislature to attempt to amend its limited liability company act to allow the formation and operation of a company entirely online. If they are successful, the way business is conducted could be changed forever.

“We’re creating a novel way of doing business that is primarily if not exclusively online,” says Derek Gilchrist, a second-year student. “It’s a hands-on, interactive kind of learning—learning by doing.” Gilchrist and his classmates are structuring a corporation that has no physical setting, creating all the rules that govern a corporation.

“Traditional corporate structures with boards of directors and named officers are not well suited for some kinds of online collaborations,” says Johnson, “which involve more transient membership, focus on self-selected participants who contribute attention rather than capital, and require more participatory decision making.” Opportunities abound to use online systems to provide automated bookkeeping, bonding services that increase trust, and online dispute resolution, he says.

While engaging with the state’s legislature to reform its limited liability company act, Johnson’s students have parceled out the collaborative effort into smaller tasks. Some students drafted model operating agreements for virtual companies, while others developed supporting materials for the legislative process. One group was asked to analyze the application of limited liability company law to nonprofit organizations, and another group designed the interactive 3-D interface that will embody the operating agreements in software code and allow participants in the virtual company to see the state of the company, report on their actions as agents for the company, and make decisions together.

“Inside some virtual worlds, like Second Life, there are people going into business together,” Johnson says. “Some of them are making interesting amounts of money, but the only way of doing it is trusting one person to handle that money. The others are at risk. Right now it is hard for a group to own anything together.”

The online world is very good at creating markets such as eBay for one-time transactions, but there is no established protocol for creating a business in which there is a longer relationship, and that’s where Johnson and his students come in.

“It would be easier and cheaper to come together online,” Johnson says. “That would create in effect a new kind of business that never met anywhere and had no physical location. In a regular business you invest capital in exchange for a security. But online it is not capital that is invested, but attention and effort.”

Johnson believes his students enjoy doing work that impacts the world, and that they’re naturals at connecting the dots between law and the Internet. After all, as he puts it, “They have grown up as natives in the virtual world.”
The Big Apple is a real estate city. Since the purchase of Manhattan Island in the early 1600s, the story of New York City has always been about space. With Lower Manhattan’s prime real estate market as the setting, New York Law School is now emerging as a real estate school—with the launch of a $190 million expansion and renovation project and the creation of the new Center for Real Estate Studies.

The Center opened in February 2007 in response to a growing interest in this practice area among students, providing them with an opportunity to study both the private practice and public regulation of real estate. Through an extensive selection of courses, conferences, projects, and externships, the new Center aims to bridge the existing gap between the private practice and academic study of real estate. It joins the company of its six enormously successful predecessors—the School’s existing academic centers—known for their rigorous approach to helping students learn law and take action.

Professor Andrew R. Berman, Director of the Center for Real Estate Studies, knows the Center will be no exception in the centers’ tradition of excellence, and he is full of excitement as he faces the road ahead. A former partner with Sidley Austin Brown & Wood’s New York Real Estate Group, Berman knows that the creative application of real-world experience is the key to successful legal training and practice. The new Center, he believes, will provide students with the hands-on experience they need to excel in a range of careers in the real estate industry.

Berman will use his background, which includes more than 14 years of experience in private practice, in sculpting the Center’s many offerings. “Real estate lawyers must be familiar not only with theoretical knowledge of property law but also with the ability to solve real-world problems,” he says. “We’re confident that our unique approach will make the Center one of the nation’s leading academic centers in real estate law.”

According to Berman, the Center will train lawyers to be “prepared to work across a vast range of disciplines and interact with specialists in a variety of fields” relating to real estate and real estate financing.

A 13-member advisory board, composed of leaders from across the real estate industry, will help Berman as he develops a wide range of conferences, symposia, and continuing legal education programs that address all facets of real estate studies, such as zoning and land use, environmental law, eminent domain, housing, the secondary mortgage market, and nontraditional financings. These leaders include Lawrence N. Field ’63, Chairman and CEO of NSB Associates; Norman J. Radow ’81, founder and President of the RADCO Companies; and Zygmunt (Zygi) Wilf ’74.
COO of Garden Homes Development, President of Wilf & Silverman, and owner of the Minnesota Vikings. (See pages 21–26 for more about the Advisory Board.)

The Center’s first public event took place on March 13, 2007, with a breakfast forum at the Law School, co-sponsored by Stroock & Stroock & Lavan. Keynote speaker Stephen M. Ross, Chairman and CEO of RELATED and Chairman of the Real Estate Board of New York, and commentator Ross Moskowitz ’84, Partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, spoke to an audience of real estate lawyers, developers, land use experts, students, and professors about the future of real estate in New York City. In April, the Center brought industry experts together again for a conference on recent developments in land use law in New York City, co-sponsored with the School’s Center for New York City Law and the New York City Department of Law. Other Center events in the works include a conference on nontraditional real estate financings and a symposium on sustainable real estate development in New York City—both scheduled for fall 2007.

In addition to bringing the experts in with events and programs, the Center will also enable students to work directly with practitioners out in the field—just by virtue of its location. Through internships, externships, and a range of projects connected to the real world, students will benefit from the Center’s place in the heart of one of New York City’s most fertile real estate markets. Commenting on its key location, Dean Richard A. Matasar said, “The new Center for Real Estate Studies is a testament to the vibrant growth of both New York City and our School.”

With a successful launch and a wealth of talent, creativity, and expertise behind it, the Center for Real Estate Studies is positioned to become a premier site for the study of real estate. Members of the legal and real estate communities have already taken note, with coverage of the Center’s launch appearing in the NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL, CRAIN’S NEW YORK BUSINESS, REAL ESTATE WEEKLY, and REAL ESTATE NEW YORK. In addition, many alums have reached out to Berman to express their excitement about the new Center and all it has to offer. Their enthusiasm is shared by the entire Law School community, which looks forward to seeing how the Center will continue to prepare students for success in this exciting and dynamic industry.
Perry Cacace ’79 graduated from New York Law School cum laude, and from there, joined Proskauer Rose LLP. “My goal was a career that combined both law and business,” he says. “I found that a real estate practice—with an emphasis on real estate finance—provided the right balance for me.”

He has been a partner in Proskauer’s real estate department for almost 20 years, where he manages a broad range of real estate law activities, including mortgage and mezzanine financings, sales and acquisitions of commercial properties, and construction and development projects.

“I was fortunate to be involved in many significant transactions during my early years at Proskauer,” he notes. “One early transaction that stands out was representing Meridien Hotels in connection with the sale of its San Francisco hotel to the subsidiary of a major Japanese airline.”

Most recently, Cacace has represented the New York Jets in connection with the team’s proposed Meadowlands stadium development with the New York Giants. He also regularly represents TriLyn-Investcorp Mezzanine Partners, Bank of Scotland, J.D. Carlisle Development Corporation, DLJ Real Estate Capital Partners, and other high-profile clients in complex real estate transactions and financings.

Lawrence Field ’63 is the founder, Chairman, and CEO of NSB Associates, Inc., a real estate development and investment firm based in Southern California. Prior to his work with NSB, Field was a partner with The Richlar Partnership, a Los Angeles real estate firm he co-founded in 1976. Before his move to California, he acted as principal of a successful New York City real estate brokerage where, in addition to many other successful relationships, he represented the Japanese government in securing housing for 500 workers at the Japanese Pavilion during the 1965 New York World’s Fair.

Among Field’s most memorable deals was his purchase of an L.A. shopping center in the 1990s. Anticipating a lawsuit from one of the tenants, the owner agreed to sell the center only if Field agreed to pay any legal fees if the tenant sued. When the tenant—a supermarket with 7 years left on a below-market lease—did sue, Field won the case and negotiated a new 25-year lease at triple the rent.

“We borrowed 90 percent of the equity to purchase the center based on the new lease with the supermarket,” says Field, “and now 15 years later, the property is valued at 400 percent of the original purchase price and 20 times more than our original cash investment.”

Perry A. Cacace ’79

Lawrence N. Field ’63
Gerald Korngold brings to the Advisory Board a rich academic background in real estate law, a subject he has taught and studied intensively since he graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He is currently McCurdy Professor of Law at Case Western Reserve University and a Visiting Fellow at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

“I was drawn to the practice of real estate law because it was an opportunity for the lawyer to bring parties together around a table where all shared the common goal of completing a project that would meet people’s needs in the marketplace, and that would be personally rewarding for the parties to the deal,” he explains. “It had more appeal to me than litigating pathological transactions.”

Most recently, Korngold spent a nine-year term as Dean of the Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Previously, he was a professor of law at Case Western, New York University School of Law, and New York Law School.

Noting the four books and numerous articles he has published on topics in real estate and property law, Korngold adds, “My focus on real estate has remained strong in my 25-year career in legal academia.”

George Lefcoe is a professor at the University of Southern California, where he has been a faculty member since 1962. A long-standing expert in land use planning and real estate financing, he currently holds the Florine Yoder Chair in Real Estate Law.

Lefcoe traces his interest in real estate to his parents, who bought, sold, and operated small hotels in Miami. “Quite often, they engaged in detailed discussions of their deals and operations at dinner,” he recalls. “I loved the chitchat but not the constant demands on their time. So I decided to become a teacher of real estate law.”

For more than a decade, Lefcoe has directed the USC Traveling Land Use Seminar, bringing it to major cities all over the world. His academic career has generated a wealth of publications in the field of real estate law. In addition, he maintains a vibrant career as a land use planning and real estate finance consultant, and has worked with government clients at all levels, as well as major firms and foundations in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Japan. Lefcoe has also served on government commissions, including the Regional Planning Commission of Los Angeles County and the City of Los Angeles Planning Commission.
Currently Counsel in the Miami office of Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, Robert Mallow ’68 has built a flourishing legal career in real estate and real estate finance law, specializing in complex commercial real estate and corporate finance transactions.

After graduating from New York Law School, Mallow quickly developed an interest in real estate as a young associate working on multiple real estate/finance transactions. Soon after, he completed New York University’s LL.M. program in Corporation Law, where he was most inspired by his Real Estate Finance class—and the professor who taught it. Since then, Mallow has honed his expertise by practicing with a number of highly successful firms in New York and Florida.

One of his most memorable transactions involved representing a family who sold a series of strategic properties in Times Square for $102,500,000. The blockbuster deal was featured in the New York Law Journal in August 2005.

Mallow is a member of the American Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association.

Susan Mendik is a member of the New York Law School Board of Trustees. The wife of the late alumnus and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Bernard H. Mendik ’58, Mrs. Mendik continues the Mendik family’s involvement with the Law School.

“Bernie was a New York Law School student in the 1950s and later became an owner and manager of multiple major commercial properties throughout New York City,” she says. “Over the years, both the real estate industry and the Law School were very dear to him. I know he would be extremely enthusiastic about the new project—not only because it combines both his passions but also because of its facilitation of the Law School’s curriculum.”

Ross Moskowitz ’84 is a real estate partner at Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP in New York City. He has represented numerous high-profile developers, financial institutions, and other real estate owners in sophisticated real estate transactions, as well as before New York City and New York State agencies, including the City Planning Commission, the Landmarks Preservation Commission, and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development.

Prior to joining Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, Moskowitz was Executive Vice President at the New York City Economic Development Corporation, where he used his legal expertise to bring many of New York City’s most complex real estate ventures—including Renaissance Plaza and Times Square—to fruition.
He cites his development of a mixed-use building immediately next to Carnegie Hall as one of the early transactions that helped launch his career in real estate. “Every time I walk down 57th Street,” he says, “I know that I had a hand in shaping New York's skyline. You can't ask for a better field to be involved in, because in real estate, you have the opportunity to be part of a transaction that can change a neighborhood and benefit the city.”

Andrew Penson ’84 is a member of the New York Law School Board of Trustees and the founder and President of Argent Ventures, a real estate investment firm that owns many major properties in the United States.

Prior to leading Argent, Penson was part of a family-run real estate firm and spent several years in practice as a real estate lawyer. An opportunistic investor, he has been behind the successful revitalization and resale of several properties deemed too risky by competitors—most notably the purchase of Manhattan Mall in Midtown, which was sold in 2007 for nearly six times its initial purchase price.

Penson says one of his most memorable deals was buying a share in the Chrysler Building. Intending to purchase the entire property, Penson says he eventually partnered with owner Jerry I. Speyer, President and CEO of Tishman Speyer Properties, to extend the ground lease and buy the property. “It was an opportunity to use everything I ever learned in law school and in life,” he says.

Penson has been an active consultant in planning the construction of New York Law School’s new academic building. “I used to dream about building on the parking lot,” he says, “so now it’s like a dream come true.”

Norman Radow ’81 can trace his interest in real estate back to a first-year course he took at New York Law School with Professor William Epstein in 1978. Radow recalls, “He was so excited about real estate, and it was contagious.”

Since he began his career as a lawyer and businessman in the early 1980s, Radow has overseen the revitalization and development of numerous urban residential properties. He is the founder and President of The RADCO Companies, a real estate group that has completed projects in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and Tampa. Before forming RADCO in 1994, Radow practiced law as general counsel and vice president of Euromax, an international real estate development company, and was a special assistant corporation counsel for New York City.
Norman J. Radow ’81

Radow speaks with pride about his most important sales. “I bought a building on 104th and Broadway in 1979. I cleaned it up myself and sold it that same year. That deal paid for law school,” he says. “But my best deal since was the Four Seasons hotel, office, and condominium tower in Atlanta. It still is the sexiest deal I’ve ever done!”

Alan J. Schnurman ’71

Alan J. Schnurman ’71 is a senior partner in the Wall Street law firm of Zalman & Schnurman, specializing in personal injury and insurance litigation. He is also the host and founder of the nationally syndicated television show Lawline and the Internet network Lawline.com—both focused on news and trends in law and real estate. Lawline.com was among the first Web sites to be accredited to offer continuing legal education courses online, and has acted as a model for similar sites nationwide. Prior to his work with the firm, Schnurman built his career in both litigation and real estate. He also served as a director of the New York Law School Alumni Association.

Schnurman’s first real estate venture was his own personal residence, and from then on, he was hooked. “Our home appreciated to such an extent,” he recalls, “that my wife and I decided real estate was where we were going to invest.”

Reflecting on his success, Schnurman says, “It’s always a good time to buy good location real estate. Real estate investing is the most reliable path to financial security that I know—there are 10 valid reasons why not to buy every single piece of property you can, but just one reason to do it. That’s how you reach financial success.”

Lino A. Solis ’96

Lino Solis’s ’96 real estate experience dates back to his time as a student at New York Law School, when he managed properties owned by his wife’s family as he worked towards his degree. After spending time at the law firm of Sullivan & Worcester LLP and as senior real estate counsel to the national retailers Urban Brands, Inc. and G+G Retail, Inc., he found himself drawn back to his real estate development roots.

Solis is now Vice President and General Counsel at Thor Equities, LLC, a leasing developer, owner, and manager of commercial properties throughout the United States, where he oversees all of the company’s legal activities, from real estate transactions to financing. Among the company’s major projects in New York is the redevelopment of Coney Island into a year-round destination with additional hotels and entertainment attractions.
Michael Weiss ’76 is Principal of The Engel Burman Group, a Lynbrook, New York, real estate development group which owns, manages, and develops properties along the East Coast, including commercial and industrial properties, residential homes, and long-term care and assisted living units. Among the many properties Weiss has built from the ground up is a chain of assisted living facilities on Long Island known as the Bristals, which employ more than 450 people.

Weiss practiced law for a year after graduating from New York Law School, then joined his wife Cathy’s family real estate business. Thirty years later, having managed hundreds of successful business transactions for Engel Burman and others, he is perfectly positioned to provide his expertise as a legally trained businessman working in the heart of today’s East Coast real estate market.

Weiss considers the new Center for Real Estate Studies “such an exciting undertaking to be involved with, especially at its inception.”

Zygi Wilf ’74 is President of Wilf & Silverman, a New Jersey-based firm that specializes in real estate transactions. He is also Chief Operating Officer of Garden Homes Development, a family-owned real estate business that has developed a huge array of projects, from condominiums to shopping centers to internationally located hotels. In cooperation with the rest of the Wilf family, he has been active in real estate transactions in California, Florida, New Jersey, New York, and elsewhere. Garden Commercial Properties, a subsidiary of Garden Homes, is among the top 10 shopping center owners in the United States.

“I came into the family real estate business right out of law school,” Wilf explains. “The business had been going for 50 years, so it was a natural choice for me.” Some of his most memorable projects have included developments in California and building up properties in new areas that have benefited their local communities.

An avid investor across the board, Wilf purchased the Minnesota Vikings in 2005 and recently became involved in the construction of a new stadium for his team. His many years of varied investment and real estate experience will be key in the Center for Real Estate Studies’ seminal years.
In addition to the new Center for Real Estate Studies and the Institute for Information Law and Policy (described in the feature articles), the School's other five academic centers have provided students with a range of innovative programs, projects, and other opportunities throughout the school year. Here are some highlights from each of these centers.
Center for International Law

This year, the Center for International Law welcomed Tai-Heng Cheng, Associate Professor of Law, as Associate Director of the Center. Cheng holds degrees from Oxford and Yale, and has been associated with firms in Singapore, Shanghai, and New York City.

Under Cheng’s guidance, the Center collaborated with think tank Network 20/20 on the Iran Project, which appraised the impact of nongovernmental organizations on democracy and development in Iran. The project—which included a fact-finding mission in Iran carried out by Cheng and Shahab D. Ghalambor ’3L—culminated in a report with policy recommendations to the U.S. government and civil society.

During a C.V. Starr Lecture, His Excellency Andrew Jacovides of Cyprus—one of the longest-serving ambassadors to the United States—spoke about the role that international law plays in the conduct of diplomacy. In another Starr Lecture later broadcast on C-SPAN, Professor Padma Desai, a leading Russia expert at Columbia University, tried to explain why that country had been backtracking on some of its legal and reform measures. Dr. Eric R. Kandel, the first Nobel laureate to speak at the Law School, delivered the Otto L. Walter Lecture and spoke about his work concerning the molecular basis of memory and its legal and ethical implications. The talk was Dr. Kandel’s first address to a law school audience.

The Center created an International Law Fellowship and Associate positions for outstanding students. The Fellow has provided timely international law memoranda to practitioners and governmental and international bodies. Associates partnered with Network 20/20 on a project sponsored by the New America Foundation called the “Dream Speech,” in which they drafted foreign policy speeches they would like to see the new U.S. president deliver at his or her inauguration in 2009.

The Center for International Law also redesigned and expanded the coverage of its newsletter, The International Review. All previous issues are available on the Center’s home page.
Two of the Center for New York City Law’s Fellows recently accepted important positions with the City of New York. Angelina Martinez-Rubio ’04 accepted a position as Assistant General Counsel, and Kevin Schultz ’05 accepted a position as Agency Attorney—both with the Department of Buildings. Martinez-Rubio and Schultz are following a path laid by earlier Fellows who started their careers working for New York City agencies.

On January 19, 2007, New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson Jr. spoke at the first City Law Breakfast of 2007. Before an audience of more than 200 attendees, Comptroller Thompson extensively addressed the need for additional affordable housing. Adding to the significance of the event, he then awarded Tino Hernandez, Chair of the New York City Housing Authority, the Comptroller’s annual recognition given to the city agency that has done the most to reduce tort liability. As with all City Law Breakfasts, the event was broadcast live on the Center’s Web site (www.citylaw.org), where it is still available for viewing along with all of the Center’s recent breakfasts.

In the fall, the Center’s newsletter CityLAND added a new feature: profiles of persons having an important impact on New York City land use matters. In the February 15, 2007 issue, architect Sir Norman Foster was profiled.

The Center’s Web site recently added additional agency administrative decisions to the CityADMIN library of New York City administrative decisions. The Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan borough presidents are in the process of sending the Center all of their formal comments on proposed zoning changes and special permits. This raises to 20 the number of city agencies that use the Center’s Web site to make public their administrative decisions.

Taking advantage of the proximity of City Hall, Anthony Crowell, Counsel to Mayor Bloomberg and Adjunct Professor at New York Law School, led his fall semester class on a tour of City Hall, the highlight of which was a lengthy presentation in the Mayor’s conference room on the city’s efforts to stop the sale of illegal guns. These tours have become a regular feature of Center-related courses.
Center for Professional Values and Practice

The Center for Professional Values and Practice supports research and teaching on the legal profession, focusing on the dynamics of professional regulation, the market for lawyers, and lawyers’ careers. This year, students and faculty have been engaged in the following projects, designed to provide an in-depth portrait of law practice in a variety of settings:

**Boundaries of the Profession**
The boundaries between the “practice of law” and other types of work are constantly under construction, with lawyers and other service providers competing for control over tasks. This project examines emerging roles in and around the practice of law, focusing on the boundary between law and consulting and its market and regulatory implications.

**New York Lawyer Diversity Project**
The legal profession as a whole is less racially integrated than other comparable professions, according to a recent national report on the status of minority lawyers. While many employers, journalists, and scholars claim to be concerned with the problem, outside of law firms there is little data on the race and ethnicity of lawyers. This project explores what is known and unknown about New York lawyers, with the goal of designing a system for routine data collection within the state.

**Risk Management in Large Law Firms**
As law firms have grown and professional regulation has become more complex, large law firms have begun to invest in specialized risk management positions, such as loss prevention counsel, claims counsel, and law firm general counsel. This project examines the development and influence of the growing “risk management” industry, focusing on the ways that risk managers shape management practices within law firms and the extent to which management practices affect lawyers’ day-to-day work.

**Lawyers in Transnational Practice**
Historically, legal professions and their host nation-states developed in tandem. Today, the legal profession emerges as a transnational phenomenon, and nation-states face challenges to their authority at international, supranational, and nongovernmental levels. This project draws on a multinational and collaborative research network to consider the relationship between legal, market, and professional globalization.
Center on Business Law & Policy

The Center on Business Law & Policy was established in 2006 to provide students with an enriched educational experience in corporate, securities, and commercial law. The Center’s programs affirm lawyers’ responsibility to advise private clients in ways that maximize wealth and other social goods, and reflect the many roles that lawyers play in the capital market system. The Center aims to prepare an exceptional corps of highly motivated students who will excel as planners, counselors, and advocates in the business law field.

Throughout the school year, the Center has sponsored multiple Master Classes, which are taught by accomplished corporate practitioners from the New York City legal community in conjunction with New York Law School faculty. These classes are open to all members of the Law School community.

Recent Master Classes have included:

• “Securities Arbitration: Level Playing Field or Stacked Deck?”
  On November 29, 2006, Aleta G. Estreicher, Professor of Law, and Howard S. Meyers, Visiting Clinical Professor and Associate Director of the Center on Business Law & Policy, discussed securities arbitration as an increasingly important tool for investors seeking redress for their stockbrokers’ misconduct. As co-directors of New York Law School’s Securities Arbitration Clinic, they explored whether the securities arbitration process is inherently fair to investors. Clinic students also shared their experiences and further discussed the securities arbitration process.

• “The Nuts and Bolts of Corporate Financial Restructuring”
  This Master Class, held on October 4, 2006, featured Allan S. Brilliant, a partner in Goodwin Procter LLP’s Business Law Department and Co-chair of its Financial Restructuring Practice. Brilliant spoke from his extensive experience representing debtors, bank groups, bondholder committees, asset acquirers, and unsecured creditors’ committees in large complex restructurings and reorganizations throughout the United States.

The Center also hosted a symposium on April 13, 2007, titled “Corporate Governance Five Years After Sarbanes-Oxley: Is There Real Change?” This symposium featured several panels comprising scholars and experts, who addressed changing perspectives on corporate governance and liability. The Honorable Myron T. Steele, Chief Justice of the Delaware Supreme Court, was the keynote speaker.
Justice Action Center

The Justice Action Center (JAC) brings students and faculty together to explore how law impacts social justice. This year, JAC has undertaken several new initiatives while expanding on earlier projects, including:

Economic Justice: Capital to Low-Income Communities
The Economic Justice Project, directed by Professor Richard Marsico, works to ensure that low-income communities receive investment capital from banks and other lenders. JAC students research bank lending records; issue lending reports; and work with local, regional, and national organizations on reinvestment policy issues. Among its efforts this year, the project completed an analysis of Home Mortgage Disclosure Act data, which will be made available on the Center’s Web site.

Labor and Employment Law
This year saw the successful incorporation of the Law School’s Labor and Employment Law program into JAC. With this change, JAC now oversees the Carbonell Fellowships in Law & Policy; organizes the Justice Speaks lunch series, which brings practitioners to the Law School to discuss current legal trends affecting social justice; supports the distribution of *LeaSon/Gay Law Notes*, the internationally respected newsletter written by Professor Arthur S. Leonard, students, and volunteers; and sponsors the annual Tony Coelho Lecture in Disability Employment Law & Policy, which focuses on the future of legislation protecting Americans with disabilities.

Immigration and Family
JAC faculty and students focused on the many social justice issues stemming from the ongoing national debate on immigration policy. The Center launched the Safe Passage Project which, in partnership with The Door, a youth services agency, matches student volunteers with *pro bono* counsel to represent juveniles in immigration court. JAC also worked with several student groups to plan Immigration Awareness Month, hosting a series of events throughout March 2007 that focused on the human side of the immigration debate, including the needs of asylum seekers, access to courts, and the long path to legal citizenship.

This year, JAC students and faculty also welcomed Robinette Dingle as the Center’s new administrator. A former faculty assistant at the Law School, Dingle handles many day-to-day operations of the center, including maintaining student records, assisting with event planning, and coordinating community outreach efforts.

JAC student Arika Sánchez 2L (left) and Adjunct Professor Lindsay A. Curcio (right) at Citizenship Day, March 24, 2007.

From left to right: Professor Frank A. Bress; Stephen Singer, Loyola Law School; David Utter, Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana; and Leonard Noisette, Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem; at the Justice Speaks: New Orleans Post-Katrina: Rebuilding Criminal Defense event on February 19, 2007.
Update on Student Organizations

Student organizations have continued to show a high level of activity, sponsoring approximately 50 events during the 2006–2007 academic year. In addition to providing topical information panels and networking opportunities, these events also helped raise funds to benefit the American Cancer Society, UNAIDS, the Alliance for Lupus Research, the Children’s Hope Foundation, survivors of domestic violence, and the Law School’s public interest support programs. The following page contains highlights from this year’s calendar of events and activities.
• “Women in the Judiciary,” sponsored by the Legal Association for Women on November 16, 2006, featuring Jill Goodman, Counsel to the Judicial Committee on Women in the Courts, and Caroline Levy, Senior Assistant Dean, Hofstra University Law School.

• A film screening of the powerful documentary DARFUR DIARIES: MESSAGE FROM HOME, sponsored by Lawyers Without Borders, on September 28, 2006.

• Annual AALSA/SALSA/LaLSA Spring Alumni Banquet, March 16, 2007, honoring Nam Hee Kim, Co-Director, Community Liaison Project, Sanctuary for Families; Nelson A. Castillo, Immediate Past National President, Hispanic National Bar Association; and Moushumi M. Kahn, Law Offices of Moushumi M. Kahn.

• A conversation with Douglas J. Band, Counselor to President William J. Clinton, sponsored by the NYLS Democrats on October 24, 2006. Band spoke about his experiences traveling with and advising President Clinton, from his final years in the White House to his current duties with the Clinton Foundation.

• All Day Teach-in: “Guantanamo: How Should We Respond?” sponsored by the Student Bar Association and Lawyers Without Borders, on October 24, 2006. Featured speakers were Joseph Margulies, Lead Counsel in Raul v. Bush; U.S. Army Captain James Yee, former chaplain at Guantánamo Bay; U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Charles Swift; and William H. Taft IV, Former Chief Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State.


• Annual BLSA Alumni Dinner, April 12, 2007, honoring Errol B. Taylor ’87, Partner at Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP.

• Barristers’ Ball, featuring a Casino Night, March 24, 2007, sponsored by the Student Bar Association, held at The Down Town Association.


• “Racial Profiling: Crime Control, Terrorism, and the NYPD,” sponsored by the Federalist Society, February 15, 2007, with speakers: New York Law School Professor Sadiq Reza; King Downing, the National Coordinator of the ACLU’s Campaign Against Racial Profiling; and Roger Clegg, President and General Counsel of the Center for Equal Opportunity.


• The launch of Thursday Night Live! sponsored by the Student Bar Association—a social event every Thursday, on or off-campus, hosted each week by a different student organization.

• The introduction of “SBA Presents…”—the Student Bar Association’s new Podcast series, designed to provide information and advice to current and prospective students.
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VISITING ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BRANDT GOLDSTEIN

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Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney

PROFESSOR JAMES F. SIMON
Storming the Court: How a Band of Law Students Fought the President—and Won

By Diana Barnes-Brown

In a period marked by disparate perspectives on immigration, constitutional rights, and civil liberties in America, Visiting Associate Professor Brandt Goldstein’s Storming the Court (Scribner 2005; Paperback edition 2006) presents a timely and compelling narrative. The book relates the true story of how a group of Yale law students and human rights lawyers took on the U.S. government to free 300 Haitian refugees imprisoned at Guantánamo Bay in the early 1990s. Their heroic battle gained national attention as they took the case all the way to the Supreme Court.

Although its themes are universal in reach, Storming the Court began as a very personal project. A law student at Yale at the time, Goldstein says: “These were my classmates. . . . I could tell something important was happening.”

He originally set out to recount the plight of refugees who had fled their homeland and to tell the astonishing story of the law students who prevailed against the Justice Department in court. But after 9/11, Goldstein focused his efforts on addressing the greater constitutional and human rights dilemmas involved. With the detention and apparent abuse of terrorist suspects at the base following 9/11, he says the narrative has become “a cautionary tale about the U.S. government’s effort to use Guantánamo as a prison beyond the reach of any law.”

While the current detainees at Guantánamo are considered a threat to the United States for their alleged ties to terrorism, the Haitians were held for an entirely different reason: many were HIV positive, at a time when HIV/AIDS was still largely misunderstood and its victims were stigmatized and feared. “They were the ultimate ‘Other’—demeasured, Creole-speaking, HIV-positive Haitians,” says Goldstein. “So I had to find a way to help the reader identify with them.” By illuminating the life story of one refugee—28-year-old Yvonne Pascal—he provided the emotional core of the narrative. “For the general reader,” he explains, “a legal principle is not as compelling as a human story. I think this is true for most lawyers, too, when they take off their professional hats.”

One of Goldstein’s inspirations was Truman Capote, who fathered the true crime/legal narrative genre with In Cold Blood. But knowing the acclaimed book had also been criticized for blurring the line between fact and fiction, Goldstein held himself to strict investigative standards. He conducted years of in-depth interviews with key players on both sides and devoted thousands of hours to researching the case. He also developed close relationships with Pascal, the impassioned refugee leader whose activism helped free her fellow detainees, and Harold Koh, now Dean of Yale Law School, whose charisma and commitment to justice ultimately led to triumph.

Goldstein’s devotion to the project has more than paid off: Storming the Court has won praise from literary critics and legal experts alike. In 2005, Warner Bros. studios purchased the rights to the book for a feature-length film. Michael Seitzman, best known for his work on North Country, starring Charlize Theron, is scheduled to write and direct. Translating the 300-page narrative into a two-hour screenplay won’t be easy, but Goldstein isn’t worried: “Michael is a great talent. I really trust what he is doing.”

Along with his optimism about the book’s success, Goldstein clearly displays a passionate commitment to critiquing the federal government’s handling of human and constitutional rights issues. “The Constitution is the conscience of our nation,” he says, referring to the current administration’s insistence that the Constitution does not apply at Guantánamo. “If I start looking for places where my conscience doesn’t apply, what does that say about what I intend to do?”

Take Back Your Narrative

The Paper Chase author gives—and takes—advice at a Law School symposium

By Christine Pakkala

Using Charles Dickens's Bleak House as an example of a victim eventually finding her voice, author John Jay Osborn Jr. challenged law students to take back their “narratives” at a symposium on “Writing About the Law: Bluebooks, Blogging, and Beyond,” co-sponsored by the Program in Law & Journalism and the New York Law School Law Review. In his keynote speech at the February 16, 2007 event, Osborn said that traditional law schools force students to give up their narratives, erasing their individuality and experiences to teach them how to think like a lawyer.

“It’s the job of students to get that narrative back,” Osborn said.

Osborn boldly expressed his own individuality during the event’s Q&A session. A law professor at the University of San Francisco and author of the 1973 novel The Paper Chase, he was asked to compare his book to Scott Turow’s One L. Both books have become unofficial required reading for prospective law students and both focus on surviving the first year at Harvard Law. But Osborn, damning with faint praise, said, “One L is competent, but it doesn’t have a heart.”

Osborn also took law schools to task for employing the Socratic method, criticizing professors who create an unhappy classroom of anxious students waiting to be called on. In a New York Times op-ed, law blogger Ann Althouse, a panelist at the symposium, offered her rebuttal: “We show the greatest respect for their [law students’] individual autonomy if we deny ourselves the comfort of trying to make them happy and teach them what they came to learn: how to think like lawyers.”

But there is no denying that The Paper Chase’s seminal story of a young man who holds onto his own individuality in the face of an autocratic law professor has found a receptive and enduring audience.

Osborn also advised students not to worry about what will happen after law school, saying, “The nice thing about law is you can go away and come back. Don’t be afraid to go off and do different things. They’ll always take you back.”
Leaders in Conflict:
LINECNO LIN AND CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY: SLAVERY, SECESSION, AND THE PRESIDENT’S WAR POWERS
By Diana Barnes-Brown

With seven acclaimed books to his name, New York Law School Professor James F. Simon is by all estimates an incredibly successful author. His work focuses on the tensions that arise between people in conflicting and powerful leadership positions, responsible for decisions that greatly affect the United States.

Simon’s most recent book, LINCOLN AND CHIEF JUSTICE TANEY: SLAVERY, SECESSION, AND THE PRESIDENT’S WAR POWERS (Simon & Schuster, 2006), explores the rivalry between President Abraham Lincoln and Chief Justice Roger Brooke Taney before and during the Civil War. “I wrote the book for three reasons,” he says. “One, the [story] could be the plot for a great political novel. Two, the issues they disagreed about were critical to the future of the United States. And three, the issues of race, states’ rights, and the president’s war powers are still important today.”

But simply narrating the facts was only part of the challenge—Simon also wanted to express the intense drama of the debates between Lincoln and Taney, which centered on slavery, secession, and war. To get inside the heads and lives of both men, Simon says, “I tried to immerse myself in the period and the subjects.” He did this, in part, by spending time in places that held significance to his subjects. Simon traveled to the plantation in southern Maryland where Taney grew up and to Frederick, Maryland, where he practiced law and was buried. He also visited the Maryland Historical Society to read Taney’s private letters. In Springfield, Illinois, he saw where Lincoln based much of his legal and early political career, visiting Lincoln’s home and the state legislative chamber where he delivered the famous “House Divided” speech. And standing at Gettysburg, Simon “tried to imagine the scene when [Lincoln] delivered the Gettysburg address.”

Throughout his research, Simon found that the two leaders were similar in many respects. Both were highly intelligent, ambitious men who fiercely defended their values. And surprisingly, both opposed slavery. While Taney voiced more conservative beliefs as a lawmaker, his private views on slavery were far less clear-cut; in fact, he freed his own slaves and provided pensions for those who were too old to work.

In 1857, Lincoln voiced his opposition to Taney’s Dred Scott decision, the infamous ruling that African American slave Dred Scott was property and had no citizenship rights under the U.S. Constitution, and thus was not entitled to file suit for his freedom in federal court. Lincoln further alleged that Taney was in cahoots with then-President James Buchanan, conspiring to undo the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854. In 1861, Taney argued that President Lincoln’s wartime suspension of the writ of habeas corpus was illegal. Spurred onwards by the disparate views they held, the men’s relationship as embattled leaders was cemented.

The stories that grew out of this relationship provided ample fuel for a compelling historical text. “I hope my book illuminates the men and the issues and creates a dramatic historical narrative,” says Simon, adding that “understanding the issues that divided Lincoln and Taney provides insight into current national problems.”

In relating such struggles with accuracy, Simon’s work will no doubt help lawmakers and history buffs alike understand today’s legal and political climate with respect to civil liberties and other issues, now more crucial than ever.
Full-Time Faculty Activities

Richard C.E. Beck

Publications

Andrew R. Berman

Media References and Appearances
Real Estate Is Hot, NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL (February 2007).
Surprise: Real Estate Boom Is Padding Lawyers’ Accounts, NEW YORK SUN (February 2007).

Robert Blecker

Media References and Appearances
The Needle and the Damage Done, THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE (February 2007).
Wider Death Penalty Sought, USA TODAY (February 2007).
Prof Wants Execution Saved for “the Worst of the Worst,” THE STAR-LEDGER (October 2006).

Michael Botein

Media References and Appearances
Municipal Wi-Fi, NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL (January 2007).

Scholarly Presentations

James Brook

Publications

Elizabeth Chambliss

Appointments
Secretary, the Law & Society Association (November 2006).

Scholarly Presentations
Spoke about the status of women of color in the legal profession in New York and in general at the New York State Bar Association annual meeting (January 2007).

Tai-Heng Cheng

Scholarly Presentations

Pamela R. Champine

Appointments
Elected member, American College of Trust & Estate Counsel (March 2007).

Publications


Media References and Appearances
For These Law Students, the Next Stop Is Tehran, The National Law Journal (September 2006).

Kris Franklin
Appointments
Voted Chair-Elect, Association of American Law Schools Section on Academic Support (January 2007).

Awards and Recognition
Honored at reception hosted by GO NYC Magazine as one of its “100 Women We Love” (November 2006).

Lawrence M. Grosberg
Scholarly Presentations

Spoke on the use of simulation at “Pedagogy of Interviewing and Counseling,” UCLA/Brigham Young conference, Los Angeles (October 2006).

Presented to the New York State Bar Association Special Committee on Legal Competence on possible ways to reform the bar exam (September 2006).

Publications
How Should We Assess Interviewing and Counseling Skills? accepted for publication in the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education (September 2006).

Seth D. Harris
Scholarly Presentations
Advisor and participant, Big Sky Project consortium, Omaha, Nebraska (February 2007) and Washington, D.C. (November 2006).


Publications


Faith S. Kahn
Scholarly Presentations
“Fraud, Freezeouts and Federalism,” Corporate Federalism conference at the University of Maryland (October 2006).

Publications

William P. LaPiana
Scholarly Presentations
Co-presented a special session workshop, “One Size Fits All: Tailoring a Form Power of Attorney to Meet Individual Client Needs,” at the 41st Annual Heckerling Institute on Estate Planning; was also ABA advisor to the drafting committee (January 2007).

Media References and Appearances
IRS Taxation of Online Game Virtual Assets Inevitable, CNET (December 2006).

Arthur S. Leonard
Appointments
Board of Trustees (three-year term), Harvard Law School Association of New York City (January 2007).

Publications
HIV Privacy Loss in Court, Gay City News (February 2007), one of 74 articles written between September 1, 2006–February 16, 2007 as contributor to Gay City News.

**Media References and Appearances**
Wal-Mart kämpft gegen Imageverlust, **Financial Times Deutschland**, about the certification of a class action by female Wal-Mart employees under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (February 2007).


**Richard A. Matasar**
**Scholarly Presentations**

Participated in Student Debt Symposium, National Association of Law Professionals (January 2007).


**Media References and Appearances**
Colleges Cram to Cope as Costs Take Off, School Executives Fit More Buildings into Tight Budgets, **Crain’s New York Business** (December 2006).

Featured as entrepreneur of the week on TrueNYC.com (December 2006).


**Howard S. Meyers**
**Media References and Appearances**
Discussed stock options regulation on CNBC’s “Morning Call” (January 2007).

**Stephen A. Newman**
**Scholarly Presentations**

**Beth Simone Noveck**
**Appointments**
Appointed Professor of Law with tenure, New York Law School (December 2006).

**Scholarly Presentations**
Gave a talk on patent reform at a conference at the Moritz Law School, Ohio State University (February 2007).

**Publications**

**Media References and Appearances**


Firms to Submit Patents for Peer Review, Associated Press (October 2006).


**Rudolph J.R. Peritz**
**Scholarly Presentations**


**Michael L. Perlin**
**Awards and Recognition**
Recipient, Lifetime Achievement Award, The International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology (ICSPP) (October 2006).

**Scholarly Presentations**
Spoke to faculty and administrators of several Chinese law schools, universities, NGOs, and to administrators of the ABA’s Asia Law Initiative Project and...
the Ford Foundation’s Law and Rights Program, about creating partnerships between the Law School and Chinese law schools to offer one or more of NYLS’s online mental disability law programs (December 2006).


“International Human Rights and Comparative Mental Disability Law: The Universal Factors” at a conference co-sponsored by American University Law School and the International Center for the Study of Psychiatry and Psychology (ICSPP) (October 2006).

“An Internet-based Mental Disability Law Program: Implications for Social Change in Nations with Developing Economies” at the “Mental Health, Ethics, and Social Policy” international symposium sponsored by the Philippe Pinel Institute and the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Montreal (October 2006).

Spoke in Montreal to the Board of Directors of the International Academy of Law and Mental Health about the Law School’s projected plans for an online mental disability law program to be taught in partnership with Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda (October 2006).

Publications


Sadiq Reza

Appointments

Member, three-person executive committee of the Section on Islamic Law, a provisional AALS section (January 2007).

Scholarly Presentations

Presented on Egypt at “Comparative Criminal Procedure: Lessons for Emerging Democracies,” a conference at the Indiana University School of Law-Bloomington (October 2006).


Publications

The EPA’s Faustian Bargain, REGULATION (Fall 2006).

Saving Our City from D.C., NEW YORK SUN (December 2006).

Saving Our Environment from Washington, Washingtonpost.com (September 2006).
Media References and Appearances

The EPA’s Faustian Bargain, Regulation (Fall 2006), was quoted and extensively relied upon in Nature’s The Politics of Breathing (November 2006).

Richard K. Sherwin

Scholarly Presentations


“Levinas and the New Metaphysics of Law,” Centennial Conference on Levinas and Law, McGill University Faculty of Law (September 2006).

Publications


Introduction and Chapter 6 in Popular Culture and Law (Dartmouth/Ashgate, 2006) (Editor).

James F. Simon

Scholarly Presentations


Publications


Cameron Stracher

Publications


Nadine Strossen

Appointments

Goodwin Distinguished Visiting Professor, Nova Southeastern University Law School, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (Fall 2006).

Scholarly Presentations

Goodwin Distinguished Lecture, “Freedom and Fear Post-9/11: Are We Again Fearing Witches and Burning Women?” Nova Southeastern Law School, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (November 2006).


Ruti G. Teitel

Scholarly Presentations

Humanity Law: Conflict and Legality in Global Politics, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government (February 2007).

Media References andAppearances

Discussion of civil liberties issues with Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia at the ACLU National Membership Conference in Washington, D.C., televised by C-SPAN, network TV, and National Public Radio (October 2006).

Scalia Debates Law, Liberties With ACLU Chief, Los Angeles Times (October 2006).
Adjunct Faculty Activities

Marc S. Bekerman
**Scholarly Presentations**
Co-chair and speaker, “What You Need to Know to Qualify as a Guardian Ad Litem in the Surrogate’s Court,” a seven-week program presented by the American Bar Association Community Outreach Committee (October and November 2006).

**Publications**

Julia Cort
**Publications**

Lindsay A. Curcio
**Scholarly Presentations**
“Strategies for Investment-based Nonimmigrant and Immigrant Visas for the U.S.,” International Business Immigration Law/The Expatriate as Private Client Seminar, Center for International Legal Studies, Kitzbühel, Austria (January 2007).

**Publications**

Henry A. Dlugacz ’91
**Publications**


Lucas A. Ferrara
**Media References and Appearances**

David M. Fish ’96
**Media References and Appearances**

David L. Glass
**Appointments**
Chair, Business Law Section of the New York State Bar Association (January 2007).

**Publications**

Virtual World Law, *Chapter in Business and Legal Primer for Game Development* (Charles River Media, 2006).

Thomas Hughes ’85
**Scholarly Presentations**
“Gilles Deleuze and Ernst Cassirer: A Study in the Virtualization of the Mathematical in Cassirerian Philosophy,” as part of his Ph.D. coursework in philosophy at the New School for Social Research (December 2006).

**Testimonies and Legal Consultation**
Orally argued an appeal of an $18.5 million judgment before the Appellate Division, First Department (September 2006).

William Jannace ’92
**Scholarly Presentations**
Panelist, “SRO Rule Harmonization,” presented at the BD Week Annual Compliance Conference (October 2006).

Peter Johnson ’96
**Awards and Recognition**
2006 Alexander Scourby Narrator of the Year Award from the American Foundation for the Blind (2006).

**Publications**

Margaret Sipser Leibowitz
**Appointments**

Oscar Michelen ’85
**Media References and Appearances**
Featured on *Wrongful Conviction* on My9 News (WWOR-TV) regarding his work with Rubin “Hurricane” Carter; they are trying to free David McCallum, whom they believe did not commit the murder he has been imprisoned for since 1986 (February 2007).
Russell Pinilis
Scholarly Presentations
“Equity Based Compensation” at the New York State Bar Association CLE panel, “Deferred Compensation Under Section 409A of the Internal Revenue Code” (December 2006).

Labe M. Richman
Scholarly Presentations
Delivered lecture on challenging convictions on behalf of defendants facing deportation at a seminar sponsored by the Immigration Defense Project of the New York State Defenders Association (September 2006).

Publications

Gideon Rothschild ’80
Appointments
Finance officer of the Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law (RPPT) Section of the ABA (August 2006).

Scholarly Presentations
Spoke about the ethics of asset protection planning, University of Miami Law School Heckerling Institute of Estate Planning (January 2007).

Presented for UJA-Federation and the AICPA (September 2006).

Media References and Appearances
Top 100 Attorneys, WORTH magazine (December 2006).

Mitchell Rubinstein
Publications
Attorney Labor Unions, NEW YORK STATE BAR JOURNAL 23 (2007).

Lawrence P. Schnapf ’84
Scholarly Presentations

Spoke about the impact of the Supreme Court's Aviall decision on brownfield redevelopment at “Contaminated Property Transactions: Navigating Complex Deals,” RTM Communications conference (October 2006).

Participated in “Deal or No Deal: Brownfields Transactional Issues from the Redeveloper’s Perspective,” a panel at the 14th Section Fall Meeting of the American Bar Association Section on Environment, Energy, and Resources (October 2006).

Publications
The New All Appropriate Inquires Rule, PRACTICAL REAL ESTATE LAWYER (January 2007).

Paul Schneiderman
Appointments
Managing Counsel at Industry Programs Manhattan, where he was previously Acting Deputy Area Counsel (February 2007).

Kim A. Taipale
Scholarly Presentations

Publications


Testimonies and Legal Consultation

Barry R. Temkin
Publications

Media References and Appearances
Meet the Chairs, NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (NYCLA) newsletter (January/February 2007).

Alan Vinegrad
Appointments
President of the Eastern District Association, the alumni organization for current and former members of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York (Fall 2006).

Scholarly Presentations

Publications
Below-the-Range Sentences: Appellate Review, NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL (October 2006).

Lis Wiehl
Publications
THE 51% MINORITY: HOW WOMEN STILL ARE NOT EQUAL AND WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT. (Random House, 2007).
This section presents a snapshot of some of the many alumni events that have taken place throughout the school year. For more information about these and other alumni events visit www.nyls.edu/alumni.
September 26, 2006: Tea on Tuesdays—Intellectual Property

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations initiated a new series, Tea on Tuesdays, on September 26. Tea on Tuesdays offers students an opportunity to meet and speak with alumni representing different practice areas. The inaugural Tea focused on intellectual property and featured David H. Kagan ’81, Partner at Schulte, Roth & Zabel, and Eric S. Zohn ’92, Senior Vice President of the William Morris Agency.

October 9 and 10, 2006: California Alumni Receptions

In October 2006, Dean and President Richard A. Matasar and Suzanne Davidson, Associate Dean and Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations, hosted two receptions for alumni living in California. One was held in San Francisco on October 9, and the other—co-hosted by Lawrence N. Field ’63, Chairman and CEO of NSB Associates—took place in Los Angeles on October 11. Both events enabled West Coast alumni to reconnect with old classmates, make new friends, network, and learn about recent developments at the Law School.
October 18, 2006: Alumni Breakfast Series for Students—In-House Counsel
The new Alumni Breakfast Series for Students began on October 18 with a panel discussion on in-house counsel. Guest speakers included two members of the Class of 1996: Tim O’Neal Lorah, an executive director and the Global Head of Morgan Stanley’s Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Compliance Group, and Lino A. Solis, Vice President and General Counsel at Thor Equities, a leasing developer, owner, and manager of commercial properties across the country.

October 18, 2006: Scholars/Donors Luncheon
The annual Scholars/Donors Luncheon on October 18 celebrated the donors of named scholarship funds and the students who benefit from their generosity. Speakers included Stuart Leyton 3L, the Vincent A. Smyth ’74 Scholar; Catherine Corwin 3L, the John J. and Marion R. Tormey Scholar; and New York Law School Board of Trustees Chair Arthur N. Abbey ’59 and Trustee Vincent Carbonell ’00—both scholarship donors.
October 18, 2006: Alumni Mentor Event

On October 18, the Office of Development and Alumni Relations hosted its first mentor event of the 2006 fall semester. Mentor events bring together students and alumni from a variety of practice areas who are interested in serving as mentors. More than 450 alumni have registered as mentors. The Chair of the Alumni Association Mentor Committee is Eric Yee ’95.

October 26, 2006: Alumni Breakfast Series for Students—Tax Law

The second Alumni Breakfast for Students, held on October 26, focused on tax law. The panelists included Michael Costa ’81, Partner and Managing Director at Ernst & Young LLP; Robert J. Firestone ’90, Commissioner for the New York City Tax Appeals Tribunal; Marc Lewis ’95, Vice President of Tax Planning for Sony Corporation of America; Philip J. Michaels ’76, Partner at Fulbright & Jaworski; and Basil F. O’Connor ’75, Partner with Schenck, Price, Smith & King’s Tax and Trust and Estate Department.
November 1, 2006: Spotlight Luncheon on Real Estate

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations hosted a Spotlight Luncheon on Real Estate on November 1. The three alumni guest speakers were Steven B. Jason ’90, Chief Operating Officer of Pantheon Properties; Andrew S. Penson ’84, founder and President of Argent Ventures; and Alan J. Schnurman ’71, Senior Partner in the Wall Street law firm of Zalman & Schnurman.

November 6, 2006: Dean’s Council Dinner

Richard Haass, President of the Council on Foreign Relations, was the guest speaker at the Dean’s Council Dinner at the Carlyle Hotel on November 6. The author of 10 books on American foreign policy, Haass was a director of policy planning for the U.S. Department of State and a principal advisor to Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The Dean’s Council recognizes generous individuals who each year provide gifts of $5,000 or more to the Annual Fund.
November 9, 2006: Spotlight Luncheon on Finance and Banking

Mark J. Ashenfelter ’85, Senior Vice President of Haebler Capital; Bruce Czachor ’87, a partner at Shearman & Sterling; and J. Keith Fell ’79, CEO and President of Hilton Capital Management LLC, presented three very different views of careers in banking and finance at the Spotlight Luncheon on Finance and Banking on November 9.

November 15, 2006: Harlan Fellows Cocktail Reception

More than 70 Harlan Fellows and their guests attended the 2006 Harlan Fellows Cocktail Reception at the home of New York Law School Trustee Susan Mendik on November 15. The Harlan Fellows are generous individuals who contribute gifts from $1,000 to $4,999 to the Annual Fund each year. These gifts support:

• Scholarship funds.
• Faculty development, writing, and research.
• Moot Court Association and New York Law School Law Review.
• Innovative academic centers and programs.
• The Mendik Law Library.
December 3, 2006: Washington, D.C. Reception for Supreme Court Inductees
On December 3, New York Law School hosted a reception at the Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill for alumni being admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court the next day. This year, nine alumni, accompanied by friends and family, were inducted.

December 4, 2006: Supreme Court Induction
Nine New York Law School alumni were admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court in an induction ceremony held on December 4 at the Court. This year’s inductees were: Lawrence Robert Gelber ’81, David H. Kaplan ’77, Mellissa Layla Longo ’01, Ross Franklin Moskowitz ’84, Thomas Hoff Prol ’01, Christa Hoeher Reddy ’79, John J. Reddy Jr. ’79, Lino A. Solis ’96, and Raymond Zutell ’57.
December 7, 2006: Alumni Association Holiday Party
The Alumni Association held its 2006 Holiday Party on December 7 at Il Cortile in Little Italy. Among those celebrating the holiday season were Dean Richard A. Matasar; Edward Held ’66, the outgoing President of the Alumni Association; and John J. Reddy Jr. ’79, the incoming President.

January 3, 2007: Spotlight on Evening Division
The first Spotlight program of 2007, Spotlight on Evening Division, was held on January 3. Vincent Carbonell ’00, President of United Reprographic Services, and Scott H. Jacobs ’97, Partner at Tannenbaum, Helpern, Syracuse & Hirschtritt, discussed the challenges of being an Evening Division student and the rewards of their careers after law school.
January 24, 2007: Spotlight Luncheon: A Conversation with Marc Lasry ’84

On January 24, a Spotlight Luncheon featured “A Conversation with Marc Lasry ’84.” Lasry is Chairman and CEO of Avenue Capital Group, a hedge fund he founded, which manages assets valued at approximately $12.5 billion. He also is the founder and Senior Managing Director of Amroc, one of the nation’s largest broker/dealers of distressed securities; a well-known philanthropist; and a major supporter of, and fund-raiser for, the Democratic Party.

January 25, 2007: Hospitality Suite at the New York State Bar Association Meeting

On January 25, the Law School hosted a reception for alumni attending the annual meeting of the New York State Bar Association at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square. The alumni were greeted by Dean Richard A. Matasar and John J. Reddy Jr. ’79, President of the Alumni Association.

Correction: In the Fall 2006 issue of In Brief, in the photo at the bottom right-hand corner of page 127, the man pictured with Nadine C. Johnson ’92 is Norman L. Reimer, Executive Director of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL), not Manuel A. Romero ’82, as identified in the caption. Reimer is the former president and a current board member of the New York County Lawyers’ Association.
With more than 40 New York Law School graduates on staff, Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP has provided a challenging setting where many alums have put the skills and knowledge they gained at the Law School to use. A full-services law firm that employs more than 800 people, Wilson Elser has 20 offices in the United States and one in London, serving clients in the United States, Latin America, Europe, and Asia. Only 28 years ago, Wilson Elser—then known as Kroll Edelman—was a 40-person operation. And since then, New York Law School graduates have been a large part of the firm’s growth, serving in diverse practice areas and levels of experience—from partners to freshly-minted graduates.

“New York Law School graduates have made their mark at my firm,” says Partner Victoria Contino ’85, as well as “in government, in the lobbying community, and within the hierarchy of a number of our clients.”

Alums describe the work environment as one that provides lawyers, including its youngest associates, with a great deal of autonomy and variety. Reflecting on her own experience, Senior Associate Deborah I. Meyer ’98 says that “the firm allows me to utilize my years of experience, and it welcomed me with open arms to take on challenging case loads immediately.” Partner Harry Brett ’78 adds that Wilson Elser is an excellent place for young lawyers, as it holds out career opportunities for those with a “realistic long view” who are willing to work hard, “roll up your sleeves,” and stay focused.

Wilson Elser is one of the premier litigation defense firms in the United States, with 35 practice groups covering a range of specialty areas, including accounting, admiralty and marine law, government, health care, and trusts and estates. The firm encourages a spirit of volunteerism among its members, and demonstrates a strong commitment to diversity.

Wilson Elser’s White Plains office received the Family Friendly Employment Policy Award of the Westchester Women’s Bar Association. Associate Angela Pilla Soares ’02, the mother of 1-year-old Giuliana, agrees that while Wilson Elser expects hard work, at the end of the day she heads home to feed her daughter dinner.

“I make lots of lists of all the things I need to do and accomplish, and just make sure that I get it done during the day so that I can go home and spend time with my daughter,” she says. “I will never be able to get these precious moments of her life back, and I want to be there for them.”

Associate Gregory Dell ’00 is the parent of almost 1-year-old Justin. Dell, who oversees more than 100 cases, appreciates the fact that at Wilson Elser, “there is a lot of autonomy over cases. The buck begins and ends with you.” He adds that he manages his time—and makes time for family—by knowing what his deadlines are. “There’s always a lot of work to do,” he says. “That’s the nature of the beast.”

Among other awards and recognition, Wilson Elser has ranked among the “American Lawyer 100” and The National Law Journal’s “Top 50 Law Firms” for the past four years.
Harry Brett ’78

“It takes a sophisticated fish to know it’s wet.”

Professor Robert Blecker’s colorful quotation (originally from legal expert Laurence Tribe) struck Harry Brett ’78 so much that he wrote it down and committed it to memory. His 28 years of trial and appellate experience—first as an associate and now as a partner at Wilson Elser—have cemented the truth of Blecker’s aphorism for Brett. Like fish immersed in water, he says, “Americans are very wet”—accustomed to an environment where they have freedom of expression and of ideas. And lawyers must learn that not all cultures are “part of that continuum of development.”

Brett, who has extensive trial and appellate experience in both the state and federal court systems, came head to head with such cultural differences in a 2003 trial involving the Inter-Continental Hotel in Cairo, Egypt. Ten years earlier, a man had stood up in the hotel’s mezzanine restaurant, said “God is great,” and opened fire, killing several foreign tourists present for a law conference, including a Syrian legislator, an Italian judge, a French law professor, and two Americans who worked for the Brooklyn Union Gas Company. A lawyer traveling with the Americans was injured and sued the hotel, claiming insufficient security.

Brett had to prove that the hotel had, in fact, done an adequate job, and he encountered a few unusual stumbling blocks along the way. He selected Egyptian witnesses “who could absorb a very expedited civics lesson.” In Egypt, the judicial system uses affidavits rather than live witnesses, so no one was familiar with cross-examination. Also, because Egyptian formal conversation is rooted in politeness, witnesses might “tell you what you want to hear.” As Brett explains, cross-examination is the art of suggesting an answer, so a witness unused to the system might “give you a lot of useless information if you don’t play it right.”

But the head of hotel security performed heroically on the witness stand for four days, withstanding the skillful questioning of seasoned plaintiff lawyer Harvey Weitz. The trial took place about 2,000 yards from Ground Zero, and Brett had to assure his clients that they would receive a fair trial so soon after 9/11. The fact that they not only received a fair trial but also won their case was a huge diplomatic overture, Brett feels.

“Discussion of this case could jump-start the communications between these cultures,” Brett says. “It could be used as a springboard for talks.”

Yet insurance defense—whatever the cultural ramifications—wasn’t what Brett imagined himself doing back in Professor Blecker’s class. Formerly a criminal investigator, Brett had planned to return to work in the public sector. But the Legal Aid Society (LAS), whose funding had been cut by the financially troubled city, could not guarantee Brett a job. Kroll, Edelman, Elser & Wilson offered him one, at a starting salary of $19,000. Then, the LAS came through with an offer of $8,600 a year.

“I couldn’t figure out how to go home and tell my wife I was taking the job that paid $11,000 less,” he jokes.

Brett remains grateful to the Law School, which he attended as an Evening Division student, for preparing him to “practice law at a major league law firm.” Considering he is Chairman of Wilson Elser’s hiring committee, Co-chairman of the general liability practice group, and a member of the aviation, product liability, and construction practice groups—one could argue he made a fine choice.
Victoria Contino ’85

Victoria Contino ’85 views joining Wilson Elser as “the easiest career decision I ever made.” Now lead partner for New York City government relations at the firm, she was drawn to Wilson Elser in part by the “skill and integrity” of its leadership.

Her recent work has focused on Manhattan’s West Side waterfront. The Intrepid Sea, Air, & Space Museum needed government funding to restore its pier and relocate and renovate its ship. At the same time, she explains, Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) was looking to increase its presence in New York City, but would only do so if the city promised to overhaul the West Side cruise terminal at Pier 88 in Manhattan and guarantee NCL preferential berthing rights there.

For both cases, Contino was the go-to lawyer. She specializes in providing strategic advice on high-profile issues that require complex governmental solutions. And each client needed the cooperation of state, federal, and New York City agencies to make reciprocal commitments.

“Managing multiple interdependent strategies is always a special challenge,” she says.

Contino’s thirst for challenge dates back to law school, where she was a member of the Moot Court Association, Articles Editor of the Journal of International and Comparative Law, and President of the School’s chapter of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

Gregory Dell ’00

Gregory Dell’s (’00) most challenging case involves every New Yorker’s nightmare: the free-fall of an elevator down 10 to 20 floors. Two passengers filed a multimillion-dollar lawsuit seeking punitive and compensatory damages. They alleged that a Midtown Manhattan high-rise swayed in strong winds and that the building’s owner neglected to install a device that would detect movement and prevent elevator malfunction. Dell, a senior associate at Wilson Elser whose practice focuses on the litigation defense of personal injury, wrongful death, and property damage claims, argued that none of what occurred amounted to a wanton disregard of safety and, therefore, the punitive damages claims must be dismissed.

After years of litigation, more than 20 depositions, and multiple appeals, Dell argued the matter before the First Department and was successful in reversing the lower court, which had denied his motion for summary judgment to dismiss the punitive damages claims.

“Our arguments never changed,” he says, “but we were able to convince the majority on a panel of judges that the lower court judge got it wrong.”

Dell’s fondest memories of law school include taking excellent writing classes, being a finalist in a Moot Court competition, and—most importantly—meeting his wife Carol Dell ’01.

“Our son, Justin, will be a year old in August. So we have New York Law School to thank not only for our careers, but our family as well.”

Deborah I. Meyer ’98

Deborah I. Meyer ’98 speaks with the precise and light-speed vernacular of a native New Yorker. It’s no surprise that while at New York Law School, she won both a Moot Court competition and the Justice William Kapelman Award for excellence in oral argument. During the competition, she argued for the state on physician-assisted suicide before a final round bench that included Justice Antonin Scalia. Her team’s fictitious case was similar to the 1997 ethics case Quill v. Vacco.
“The Quill case was being heard before the U.S. Supreme Court a few months after our oral argument, so it was one of the only times a U.S. Supreme Court judge heard a mock argument on facts and law related to a real case he was going to hear,” Meyer says. She recalls the excellence of Moot Court advisor Hon. Gerald Lebovits in guiding the students to a victory.

As a senior associate at Wilson Elser, Meyer is using the skills she acquired in a previous role as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of New York to litigate cases related to negligent premise security, general tort claims, the Dram Shop Act, municipal liability, false arrest, and malicious prosecution.

A second-generation New York Law School graduate, Meyer enjoyed the special honor of having her father, former Assistant Attorney General Morton H. Meyer ’56, give her a diploma at her commencement.

Angela Pilla Soares ’02

“It just hit me one day in third grade,” Angela Pilla Soares ’02 says about her emphatic decision in Miss Kerdonkoff’s Bronx classroom to be a lawyer—the first in her family.

Although her chosen career hasn’t always been as glamorous as she imagined at age 8, Pilla Soares loves the fact that no two days are alike as an associate in Wilson Elser’s White Plains office. Pilla Soares defends large construction companies being sued for structural defects, personal injury, property damage, and economic loss caused by delays.

She recently defended a recycling truck company in a case involving a motorcyclist who was killed in a collision with one of its trucks. As the second-seated lawyer at the trial, Pilla Soares learned to “cross my t’s and dot my i’s” in managing the myriad facts of the case. Currently, she is working on a “very high-exposure construction defense case,” with the new challenge of managing multiple defendants.

Pilla Soares “loved every minute” of law school, especially Professor Eugene Cerruti’s Evidence class and Professor Joseph L. Marino’s New York Practice class. She notes that both classes taught her useful skills that are applicable to real-work scenarios.

Of the latter class, she laughs, “Do you know I still use the 90-page outline?”

Carl Steccato ’86

The best career advice Carl Steccato ’86 ever received came from his mentor at Wilson Elser, James P. Donovan, who advised him to be genuine when trying a case before a jury.

“If you are not a flamboyant, animated person by nature, don’t try to become one at trial because juries sense that you are not being who you really are,” says Steccato, a partner in Wilson Elser’s New York and White Plains offices.

Steccato, a member of the Law School’s Alumni Association Board of Directors, had an opportunity to put that advice to use in a recent dental malpractice trial. The judge surprisingly decided to allow prior acts of negligence into the trial. However, Steccato won the case on behalf of his very grateful—even tearful—client.

“It was my longest closing statement—almost two hours,” he says. “I had to attack five different counts of negligence.”

With more than 20 years in litigation defense of personal injury and property damage cases, Steccato has faced other great challenges throughout his career, including negotiating reasonable settlements for severely injured plaintiffs at mediation. “Most times,” he notes, “the hardest and most satisfying settlement resolutions came after all-day negotiations with opposing counsel.”
Kelly A. Waters ’91

Recently, Kelly A. Waters ’91, a partner in the New Jersey office of Wilson Elser, faced a case that hit home. A young man suffered burns over 75 percent of his body in an automobile accident, and Waters had to depose both him and his caregiver. She brought not only her experience as a trial lawyer to bear on the case, but an empathy that comes from a personal understanding of caring for a loved one. Waters’s younger brother John was diagnosed at 17 with multiple sclerosis, an often-debilitating illness that affects the central nervous system. Ever since, Waters has been a passionate advocate not only for her brother, who uses a wheelchair, and for others who live with MS, but also for justice itself.

“Knowing the dynamics between a caregiver and the one being cared for, and knowing the challenges my brother faces every day, I was able to be compassionate, but also able to obtain the relevant testimony to evaluate the potential financial exposure to the client in defense of the case,” Waters says.

Waters also uses compassion in her new role as Municipal Court Judge for the Township of Union, New Jersey, a position to which she was appointed in January 2007. She was inspired to serve in part by New York Law School professors such as Joseph H. Koffler, Michael L. Perlin, Kim M. Lang, and Arthur S. Leonard, whom she describes as constantly “dedicated to the community they serve.”

Just two months into her three-year tenure, Waters has presided over dozens of cases. To each one, she brings a strong vision of what she wants her courtroom to be—a place where all parties can feel that “justice was done,” regardless of the decision.

“For most people, municipal court will be their only court experience,” she says. “It’s important to me that every individual—whether the party involved in the matter, a witness, or someone present in court to support a party—believes that justice was done, that I gave them the time to present their case, and that they were heard.” While municipal court is a court of limited jurisdiction, the decisions rendered there can have a direct impact on a defendant’s life; for example, one could lose his or her driver’s license.

Waters remembers the Law School fondly, saying, “We didn’t learn in a bubble” to describe an environment in which she and her classmates not only took classes but also held internships. She interned at the Court of International Trade with Law School alum the Honorable Nicholas Tsoucalas ’51 and at the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Waters maintains many personal and professional relationships with former classmates, who have gone on to diverse careers, including government and in-house positions, she notes.

“Our 1L class was very strong and committed to each other. I remember when Professor Koffler was picking on me and the class got upset with him. However, from that point on, I made sure that I knew the answer in case he called ‘Waters,’ which is how he referred to me!” she laughs.

After law school, Waters clerked for the Honorable Herbert S. Friend ’64, Superior Court of New Jersey, from 1991 to 1992. She was a family law associate at Brach Eichler until December 1995. In January 1996, she became an associate in the products liability practice group at Wilson Elser, where she became partner in 2002.

In addition to her work responsibilities and her commitment to helping care for her brother, Waters is the mother of a 7-year-old boy. Sometimes her life gets very busy, yet she has no complaints.

“I try to live life to the fullest and be thankful for my good health and my son’s good health,” she says. “I am very fortunate.”
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1951

Hon. Frederic Berman was named Adjunct Professor Emeritus on May 2, 2006, after 45 years as an adjunct professor at the Law School. He continues to serve as a judge in the New York City Criminal Court.

Hon. Nicholas Tsoucalas, Chief Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, was honored by the Hellenic Lawyers Association (HLA) in celebration of his 20 years on the federal bench. (Hellenic Times)

1952

Edward Minzner is certified as a qualified arbitrator with advanced training by the Florida Supreme Court. He is also a member of the Collier County Democratic Executive Committee.

1958

Joseph N. Friedman is Executive Vice President and General Counsel at Vanguard Title Agency, Inc. He handles underwriting analysis and provides legal counsel for its New York, multi-state, multi-site, and international high-liability transactions.

1961

Michael Quigley joined White & Case LLP as a partner and head of its U.S. tax controversy practice. He will oversee the practice in both Manhattan and Washington, D.C. (New York Law Journal)

1962


1964

Marvin E. Jacobs, a retired partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, was appointed to the State Commission on Judicial Conduct. Jacobs is a consultant and mediator for litigation and bankruptcy cases, as well as matters involving the Securities and Exchange Commission. (NYLJ)

Hon. Richard Lee Price received an outstanding service award from the New York County Lawyers Association for his long-time continued service as the Chair of the Law Related Education Committee.

1965

Jeffrey L. Sapir celebrated his 27th year as Standing Chapter 13 Trustee for the Southern District of New York U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

1969

Bruce W. Albert is Of Counsel to the Law Offices of Russell I. Marnell in East Meadow, New York. (TownNews.com, HeraldOnline.com)

1972

Don E. Secunda has become a partner at Weber Law Group LLP in Melville, New York. (NYLJ)

1974

Robert S. Evans, a semi-retired solo practitioner, works primarily with DWI defense and with summonses returnable in criminal court for trucking and environmental violations. He has also developed a concentration in corporate criminal defense.

1975

Ronald C. Goldfarb is Vice President for Legal and External Affairs at Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey.

Hon. Douglas E. McKeon of the Bronx Supreme Court is Presiding Justice of the Appellate Term covering Manhattan and the Bronx. He sits on the five-member court, which hears appeals from the civil and criminal courts in both boroughs. (NYLJ)

James J. Ruddy joined McDermott & Radzik, LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

1976

Robert F. Kennedy is a private equity partner with Jones Day in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

1979

Wayne A. Schultz was profiled in “Your Golden Years Don’t Just Happen” in the October 18, 2006 edition of the weekly New Jersey newspaper the Hunterdon County Democrat. The article explored why Schultz became a financial planner and why he wrote his book Financial Strategies for Seniors, and it reported his financial advice for pre-retirees and seniors.

Schultz is an attorney and the Vice President of Your Money Matters Brokerage Services, Inc. in Annandale, New Jersey. He presents free “Meet the Author” programs at community organizations and to senior clubs as part of the “Your Money Matters Community Outreach Program,” which launched in September 2006.
David H. Lee is a partner in the corporate and finance department in Kaye Scholer LLP’s Chicago office.

Benjamin Ostrer is a partner at Ostrer Rosenwasser, LLP in Goshen, New York. (NYLJ)

1977

Hon. Loren Baily-Schiffman and Hon. Betty J. Williams ’84 have been elected to the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Women Judges. Baily-Schiffman sits in the Civil Court of Kings County.

Richard B. Cohen is a litigation partner at Fox Rothschild LLP in Manhattan.

James A. Tricarico Jr. is General Counsel at Edward Jones in Manhattan, where he concentrates his practice in the areas of financial services litigation and regulatory counseling and enforcement. He first joined Edward Jones’s legal department in 2006 as a principal. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the New York State Bar Association, and the Compliance and Legal Division of the Securities Industry Association, of which he is a former president. For the last four years, he has been Editor in Chief of the Journal of Investment Compliance.

1978

Alan Cohen is a partner in the corporate department of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP in Manhattan.

Elliot H. Lutzker is a partner in the corporate department of Phillips Nizer LLP in Manhattan. Lutzker will continue to concentrate his practice on corporate and securities matters including mergers and acquisitions, private placement, public offerings, and enforcement matters with the SEC and the NASD. (NYLJ)

1979

Carl T. Grasso co-authored the New York Trial Notebook (James Publishing, Inc.); the 2006 supplement was published in December 2006. Grasso is a partner at Herzfeld & Rubin, PC in Manhattan.

Jonah Triebwasser has been teaching criminal and environmental law as a member of the adjunct faculties of Marist and Vassar colleges in Poughkeepsie, New York. He has also been acting in films and on TV, including appearances on the History Channel, NBC’s 30 Rock, and NBC’s Law and Order: Special Victims Unit.

1980

Reverend Edward T. Kelaher was officially inducted as Rector of All Saints Parish, Waccamaw Episcopal Church in Pawleys Island, South Carolina. (The Georgetown Times, ZWire.com)

Kenneth Sciara is President of Hagedorn & Company, an insurance brokerage firm in Manhattan.

1981

Louise S. Horowitz is a solo practitioner specializing in civil litigation trademarks and copyrights general practice. She has three grown children and one grandchild.

Edward V. O’Connor Jr. is a substitute judge for the 19th Judicial Circuit of Virginia. He presides over traffic, misdemeanor, criminal, civil, and family cases.

Kevin M. Purcell is an associate in the real estate group at Nixon Peabody LLP in Rochester, New York.

Charles A. Ross’s firm, Charles A. Ross & Associates, focuses on criminal defense matters and also handles select civil cases. (NYLJ)

Lisa Savitt is in the Washington, D.C. office of Akerman Senterfitt, concentrating in international litigation.

Craig M. Scully is a partner in public finance at Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP in Manhattan.

Barry Washor represented plaintiffs in a $10.5 million construction settlement. (NYLJ)

1982

Suzanne Albin is Of Counsel to Finkelstein Newman LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

Robert G. Hicks is a partner at Javerbaum Wurgaft Hicks & Zarin in Springfield, New Jersey.

James R. Panepinto formed a consulting firm, Pinnacle Professional Services Corporation (PPSC), headquartered in Red Bank, New Jersey. PPSC provides consulting and advisory services to the real estate, home building, and financial services industries. (www.rismedia.com)

Manuel Romero was appointed Chairman of the New York State Grievance
Committee for the 2nd and 11th Judicial Districts on November 1, 2006. The Committee monitors complaints against attorneys in Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island. On December 1, 2006, he was nominated to the Board of Directors of “Best in Brooklyn,” a committee that obtains and provides funding for children’s programs throughout the borough. On February 8, 2007, Romero was appointed to sit on the Independent Screening Panel for New York State, which determines the qualifications of candidates for judicial seats in the state.

Francine L. Semaya has been elected to a second term on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Insurance Receivers (IAIR) and was also elected Second Vice President. She is a member at Cozen O’Connor in Manhattan and is Chair of the firm’s insurance corporate and regulatory practice group.

Bruce M. Cohn is Assistant Vice President, Risk Management and Insurance Services, at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York. He is responsible for patient safety, loss prevention, insurance, and legal issues. He was previously in private legal practice, representing physicians and hospitals in medical malpractice litigation.

Pamela Goldberg is the Senior Supervisor of the Staff Attorney’s Office of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan. She helps to supervise eight staff attorneys who focus on the asylum law docket.

Mitchell D. Kessler is a solo practitioner specializing in personal injury. In 2006, he settled a case on behalf of a brain-injured boy for $1,750,000.

David S. Neufeld is serving as Chairman of The Synergy Summit for the 2006–07 year. He is a delegate to the Summit from the American Bar Association’s Real Property, Probate, and Trust Law Section. Neufeld is a partner at Markuson & Neufeld LLP in Princeton, New Jersey, and is also a principal in Integrity Financial Partners of Woodbridge, New Jersey.

Derek Wolman is a member of Snow Becker Krauss PC in Manhattan. He practices in corporate health care and real estate law. (NYLJ)

Michael A. Arcuri (pictured above at far left with Dean Matasar, Associate Dean Davidson, and former President Bill Clinton) was elected to New York’s 24th Congressional District seat in November 2006. (CNN.com)

Hon. Betty J. Williams and Hon. Loren Baily-Schiffman ’77 have been elected to the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Women Judges. Williams sits in the Criminal Court of Kings County.

David C. Berman is on the advisory board of Lakeland Bank in Morristown, New Jersey. (Straus Newspapers)

Cathy Hershkopf is a partner in the Bankruptcy & Restructuring practice group at Kronish Lieb Weiner & Hellman LLP in Manhattan. She concentrates on debtor and creditor’s rights in Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and out-of-court restructurings and workouts. (Cooley.com)

Michael McSherry was ordained a parish minister in the United Church of Christ in May 2006 and serves Central Congressional Church in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts. He still practices law part time.

Nicholas F. Pellitta has been named Second Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce (HCCC). He will continue to serve as Legal Counsel to the Chamber. He is a member in the Somerville, New Jersey, office of Norris Mc Laughlin & Marcus, PA.

Jeffrey Scheine is a tax partner at Kaye Scholer LLP in Manhattan. He specializes in tax issues relating to cross-border transactions between the United States and Canada. (NYLJ)

Hon. Bernice Siegal is President of the Brandeis Association, an organization of Jewish lawyers, judges, and others dedicated to the administration of justice in Queens County. She is also Deputy Supervising Judge of the Civil Court, Queens County.

Susan Cohen is Special Counsel in the corporate/mergers and acquisitions department at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

Marc S. Dobin is a trustee of the Jupiter Police Pension Fund in Jupiter, Florida. He was recently designated a Certified Public Pension Trustee and will be instructing other trustees who are studying for their certification.

Robert “Bruce” Easter is Senior Vice President and General Counsel at InfoSpace, Inc. He was previously with Seattle-Northwest Securities Corporation, where he served as a vice president and general counsel responsible for legal affairs. (InfoSpace, Inc.)
1987
Kenneth Allen Brown is an associate at Harras Bloom & Archer LLP in Melville, New York, where he specializes in litigation. (Harras Bloom & Archer)

Joanne Clark practices in the legal areas of estate planning, estate administration, taxation, and real estate in Bergen County, New Jersey.

Bruce D. Derenzi is a partner at Crowell & Moring LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

1988
Pamela B. Goldsmith is a partner with Harris Beach PLLC in New York City. (NYLJ)

1989
Jo Ann Brighton has published “Hedge Funds: Lessons Learned from the Radnor Decision” and “Hedge Funds Part II: Northwest—Be Careful What You Wish For” in the American Bankruptcy Institute Journal. In April 2006, she spoke on deepening insolvency at the American Bankruptcy Institute Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.; she is also booked to speak on hedge funds to the North Carolina Bar Association’s Bankruptcy Section in Wilmington, North Carolina, in November 2007.

Frank Levin is a vice president in the private client group of Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., Inc., advising high net worth individuals on their investment management needs; he spends considerable time working with trusts and estates lawyers.

1990
Elizabeth Barna chairs the Committee on Asylum in the New York chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

1991
Slava Hazin is a partner at Warshaw Burstein Cohen Schlesinger & Kuh, LLP in Manhattan, specializing in commercial and real estate litigation.

Howard M. Merkrebs is a partner in the Uniondale, New York, office of Rivkin Radler LLP.

Bradley D. Shaw runs his own full-service immigration practice, serving clients in the New York City and Tristate areas. He is also an active member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA).

1992
Jack M. Dalgleish, co-founder of the production company Carjac Productions, is a producer of the Broadway musical SPRING AWAKENING.

Marie-Ann Greenberg was the 2006 moderator and chair of the New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education’s Bankruptcy Basic Skills class. She is an active member of the Lawyers Advisory Committee to the Board of Judges for the District of New Jersey Bankruptcy Court.

Charles LaChaussee relocated to Huntington Beach, California, after becoming Vice President in the compliance department at WM Financial Services.

John F. Lynch is a partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

1993
Christopher P. Giordano is a partner in the corporate department of Winston & Strawn LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

1994
Joseph Farelli is a partner at Pitta & Dreier LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

In January 2007, Ian S. Marx was named as a shareholder at the international law firm Greenberg Traurig, LLP in its Florham Park, New Jersey, office. Previously of counsel at the firm, Marx is a business litigator with extensive experience in complex commercial litigation. He has appeared before many state and federal courts, as well as bankruptcy courts, surrogate’s court, arbitration tribunals, and in mediation proceedings.

Jeffrey Padilla served as counsel to plaintiffs in a $2.6 million work accident settlement. (NYLJ)

Reed Podell is a partner at Smith & LaQuercia, LLP in Manhattan.
Edward T. Sieban Jr. was elected Mayor for the Village of East Rockaway, New York. For the past eight years, he has served on the East Rockaway Board of Trustees. He practices law in Bellmore, New York, in the areas of real estate, zoning and municipal law, commercial litigation, and trust and estates. He is also Counsel and Chief of Staff to the Hempstead Town Board and Assistant Adjunct Professor of Business Law at St. John’s University.

Edward Zelmanow has been appointed by the Town Council of Gorham, Maine, to a three-year term on the town planning board. The board reviews and approves all land development plans to ensure they are in compliance with applicable zoning ordinances and state and federal laws.

1995

Michael T. Conway is a bankruptcy partner at LeClair Ryan in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

Scott I. Davidson is Counsel in the business reorganization and creditors’ rights group at Kaye Scholer LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

Jean Joyce is a senior attorney in the Manhattan office of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Ryoko Mochizuki is a benefits partner at McDermott, Will & Emery in Manhattan, advising Japanese companies on U.S. compensation and benefits matters. (NYLJ)

Eric Sherman is a partner at Pryor Cashman Sherman & Flynn, LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

Daniel Stewart is a partner at White Fleischner & Fino, LLP, where he handles auto negligence and general liability cases in New York and New Jersey.

Shawn M. Weakland is a member of Smith Mazeur Director Wilkins Young & Yagerman, PC in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

1997

Kevie Ann Aulbach is a partner at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker, LLP in Manhattan.

Alexis Axelrad is a partner at Barst & Mukamal, LLP in Manhattan. She is active in the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and was a speaker at the AILA chapter meeting in December.

Michael Solomita is a partner at Amster Rothstein & Ebenstein in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

Monika Szabo is an associate at Greenberg Traurig, where she manages the U.S. corporate immigration group.

1998

Matthew J. Henderson is an associate in the business and intellectual property practice groups of Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP. He works in the firm's Rochester, New York, office. (Jaeckle Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP)

Scott Jolowayski is a partner in the Hong Kong office of Morrison & Foerster.

Beverly W. Lubit is a partner in the intellectual property practice at Wolf, Block, Schorr and Solis-Cohen LLP in Manhattan. She concentrates on Hatch Waxman issues, patent litigation, patent interferences, IP due diligence, IP strategy, patent opinions, and patent prosecution in the life sciences.

Fernando Bohorquez is a partner at Baker & Hostetler LLP in Manhattan. He is also the Chair of the New York State Bar Civil Rights Committee and is active in the New York chapter of the American Constitutional Society.

Matthew L. Kaufman is a partner in the patent department of Dreier LLP in Manhattan. His patent practice concentrates in both litigation and prosecution, with emphasis on the areas of telecommunications, software, and Internet technology. (NYLJ)

Mark A. Taustine is a member of Smith Mazeur Director Wilkins Young & Yagerman, PC in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

Lisa Weiss is a partner at Morrison & Foerster, LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)
2000

Michael J. D’Angelo is a senior associate with Pitta & Dreier LLP, a labor, employment, and employee benefits firm affiliated with Dreier LLP. He has extensive experience in representing clients in complex employment litigation matters involving a wide variety of federal common law and statutory claims arising under the Fair Labor Standards Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, ERISA, MEPPA, OBRA, and other similar federal and state statutes. He also handles claims of alleged retaliation, breach of contract, and wrongful discharge in state and federal courts and before various administrative agencies.

D’Angelo also concentrates his practice on traditional labor and management relations where he represents clients in connection with union organizing drives, employer card check recognition and neutrality agreements, negotiations for collective bargaining agreements, NLRB representation proceedings, and related court litigation.

Peter Fazio is a partner at Aaronson Rappaport Feinstein & Deutsch, LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

2001

Bradley Schreiber, formerly a Congressional staff member, was appointed Counselor to the Director of the Office of Counternarcotics Enforcement (CNE) in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. CNE coordinates federal policy and operations to stop the entry of illegal drugs into the country. He advises the Director on legislative, policy, and legal matters.

2002

Jason Bolio founded Bolio & Fabiano, LLP in Dedham, Massachusetts. The firm provides full services with a concentration on criminal and civil litigation. Bolio was previously an assistant district attorney in Norfolk County, Massachusetts.

Justin M. Cordello is an associate at Phillips Lytle, LLP in Rochester, New York. (NYLJ)

Greg Gomez works in the Brooklyn Public Defender’s Office.

Nicholas H. Kappas is an attorney at Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, Missouri. (Thompson Coburn LLP)

Edward Maggio is the youngest professor in the Department of Behavioral Sciences at the New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), where he handles all criminal justice studies. He is also the Director of the NYIT Center for Security and Disaster Response, which offers conferences and training for corporate officers, attorneys, law enforcement personnel, and government personnel in the areas of counterterrorism, security, and emergency management. (http://iris.nyit.edu)

Maggio’s professional projects have included traveling to Israel to train Israeli police and military in the area of counterterrorism. He has also taken students to train with the Las Vegas Police Department in areas such as aviation, corrections, and forensics.

Maggio has also been involved with relief work in the Ninth Ward in New Orleans, training programs for teachers and parents to prevent child exploitation and cyber-bullying, executive development for police officers in Detroit and Dallas in conjunction with a grant from the Rand Corporation, and a training program for police officers in Nigeria in April 2007.

Syracuse University School of Law will publish an article of his in 2007; he has also published the following:

• A Violent Roman Tradition, 13 NATIONAL ITALIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION LAW JOURNAL 35 (2005).

Jennifer A. Napuli opened her own practice in real estate law and was married in March 2006.

Diane Young gave birth to a son, John Patrick Neal, on August 6, 2006.

2003

Christopher DeCicco was featured in the September issue of CITY HALL NEWS in the article “Rising Stars: 35 under 40—The Next Generation of Political Leaders in New York.” He is Legislative Director on the staff of Councilmember James Oddo ’91 in Staten Island, New York. He has helped strengthen penalties for graffiti and focused on numerous bills related to the Department of Buildings.

Maria DeSimone has been promoted to Senior Assistant District Attorney in Rockland County, New York, in the Narcotics Bureau.

Neena Dutta has joined the immigration practice group at Hodgson Russ LLP in Manhattan.

Amy Fallon is an associate at Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, LLP in New York City. She is an active member of the New York chapter of the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) as one of the coordinators for CLE.
**Megan MacMullin** has recently been named Vice Chairperson of the Board for the SCARC Foundation, an organization serving people with development disabilities. She previously served as its Board Secretary. (*The Sparta Independent*)

**Michael Mirabella** works in the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office in New York. In 2006, he wed **Andreana Joannidis**, who works in the Employment Law Unit at the Administration for Children’s Services in New York City.

**Megan Penick** joined the corporate practice group at Pryor Cashman Sherman & Flynn LLP in Manhattan. In September she and her colleagues hosted a group of executives from Chinese state-owned enterprises and presented on the legal implications of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 in their various corporate compliance efforts.

Penick also gave birth to her first child, **Juliet Gunhe Lee**, on December 20, 2006.

In summer 2006, **Jean-Michel Voltaire** gave a presentation on dual nationality at the Haitian Diaspora Reconnection Forum in Haiti, where he advocated for the integration of the Diaspora in Haiti’s political, social, and economic affairs. He also traveled throughout Haiti providing medical care as part of a medical mission organized by the National Organization for the Advancement of Haitians (NOAH). Voltaire, who works at the U.S. Department of Justice, has been involved with a number of other projects benefiting Haiti, including raising funds to repair wells in order to improve drinking water.

**Charles R. Walsh Jr.** is a clerk for Judge Aida Delgado-Colon in the United States District Court for the District of Puerto Rico.

**Lori Adams**, who recently completed a two-year clerkship with the Executive Office for Immigration Review (the Immigration Court) in New York City, is now a staff attorney in the Refugee Protection Program at Human Rights First in New York City.

**Melywn W. Hoffman** was profiled in the October 19, 2006 edition of Manhattan paper *West Side Spirit*. He practices special education law, has represented hundreds of special-needs children, and is affiliated with various special-education schools. (*West Side Spirit*)

**Soo-Hyung Lee** moved back to Korea and is an in-house counsel at POSCO E&C, one of the major construction companies in that country. She is in charge of various legal aspects of its overseas construction projects, such as surveying potential projects, negotiating contract terms, and addressing settlement disputes.

**Courtney Rineer** is an associate attorney at Akst & Akst, an immigration law firm.

**Paola Tomabene** is a staff attorney in trademark protection at Major League Baseball Properties in Manhattan.

**Glenn Berezanskiy** is an associate at Cozen O’Connor in Manhattan, practicing in the commercial litigation group. Berezanskiy also concentrates in intellectual property matters, representing various entertainers, musicians, and recording artists. (Cozen O’Connor)

**Justin Coffey** is an associate in the Atlanta, Georgia, office of Ogletree Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, PC, a labor and employment law firm.

**Deborah J. Newman** is an attorney in the litigation practice group at Pryor Cashman Sherman & Flynn, LLP in Manhattan. (NYLJ)

**Abigail Rose Schiller** was a featured guest speaker at The Philadelphia Legal Secretaries Association’s educational dinner on January 17, 2007. Her seminar was titled “Trademarks—It’s in the Bag.” She was also elected in December 2006 to a three-year term on the Executive Committee of the Young Lawyers Division (YLD) of the Philadelphia Bar Association. She is an associate in the litigation department at Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP in Philadelphia, where she is also the Summer Associate Coordinator and Recruiting Director. (Obermayer Rebmann Maxwell & Hippel LLP)

**2006**

**Harley Abrevaya** gave birth to daughter **Lilah Abrevaya Heller** on November 17, 2006.

**Camille Mackler** is an attorney at TN Global, LLC in Manhattan.

**David Schnurman** was profiled on Law.com in January 2007 regarding his video résumé project, which assists self-marketing law students. He is President of online CLE provider Lawline and is the founder of the public access cable television program TrustNYC, which focuses on entrepreneurs. (Law.com)

**2005**

**Glenn Berezanskiy** is an associate at Cozen O’Connor in Manhattan, practicing in the commercial litigation group. Berezanskiy also concentrates in intellectual property matters, representing various entertainers, musicians, and recording artists. (Cozen O’Connor)

**Shawn Tabankin** was profiled in the January 11, 2007 edition of the *New York Post*. In 2004, Lt. Tabankin was in Iraq’s Sunni Triangle as a platoon leader and a member of the “Fighting 69th” of the Army National Guard. (*New York Post*)
## In Memoriam

**Alumni**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Philip Reich</td>
<td>March 1, 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Solomon E. Frankford</td>
<td>February 5, 2007</td>
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<td>1937</td>
<td>Paul Asch</td>
<td>December 19, 2006</td>
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<td>1943</td>
<td>Yorka C. Linakis</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>Alexander Graves</td>
<td>December 13, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Frank Durkan</td>
<td>November 16, 2006</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Robert W. Ostrow</strong></td>
<td>December 21, 2006</td>
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<td>1957</td>
<td>Ivan J. Fox</td>
<td>November 21, 2006</td>
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<td>1959</td>
<td>Eugene J. Kalil</td>
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<td>1963</td>
<td>Myron Domsky</td>
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<td>William H. Imgrund</td>
<td>January 10, 2007</td>
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<td>William F. DeFrancis</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>Paul Kleidman</td>
<td>July 28, 2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Stephanie Wolf Gallup</td>
<td>January 8, 2007</td>
</tr>
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The trustees, dean, faculty, students, staff, and alumni of New York Law School mourn the death of Professor Joseph H. Koffler, who passed away after a long battle with Parkinson's disease on November 13, 2006. Professor Koffler, who was 85, taught at New York Law School for more than 50 years, until he became Emeritus Professor and retired fully in 2003.

Those who knew Professor Koffler (“Joe”) personally continue to be inspired by his brilliance and dedication to students. Current and incoming students will also know of his tremendous qualities through the example and stories of teachers, parents, and employers who learned their craft under his tutelage. His teaching remains legendary.

He has become synonymous with the New York Law School experience, with his Torts class serving as a gateway to learning law with pride and taking action with confidence.

Professor Koffler graduated from City College of New York in 1943 and earned his law degree from Harvard Law School in 1948. Two years later, he came to New York Law School. Of the many courses he taught over 50 years, it is his Torts class, which he described as the “formative part” of the legal education experience, that stands out most in the minds of his former students. His skilled practice of the Socratic method helped create generations of successful lawyers.

At the 2001 Commencement exercises, New York Law School gratefully honored Professor Koffler with a Special Trustees Award in recognition for his many years of teaching and scholarship. The Joseph H. Koffler Scholarship was established in 2003, “to perpetuate his name in the opportunities offered to generations of law students to come,” proclaimed Dean Richard A. Matasar at that year’s Commencement. “To so many graduates, he personifies all that is best at New York Law School; tough, demanding, soft at the core. The time is clearly right to honor Professor Koffler in the best way we can.”

Since then, the Joseph H. Koffler Scholarship has been awarded to four New York Law School students.

Professor Koffler is survived by his wife, Monica, his daughter Lynne, and three sisters. His family asks that donations in his memory be made to the Joseph H. Koffler Scholarship Fund at New York Law School or to the Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, http://www.pdf.org/Giving/.

On April 30, 2007, the Law School hosted a memorial service where friends, family, and colleagues gathered to honor and remember Professor Koffler. Remarks from the ceremony can be viewed at www.nyls.edu/alumni-koffler.

“The most fascinating part of teaching is to see how students develop—and they always surprise me in how quickly they do so.”

Joseph H. Koffler—Emeritus Professor of Law
Teaching with Brilliance and Inspiration for 50 Years
New York Law School Magazine wishes to thank all who shared their recollections of Professor Koffler and gratefully reprints a small selection. Honors and praises from a Spring 2003 In Brief profile are also featured.

Colleagues

“My grandfather, Maurice Joseph ’56, was one of Professor Koffler’s first students. Joe has been the most dedicated teacher we have. Everything he’s concerned about relates to the welfare of the students. He’s given his life to the School, and his spirit and commitment inspires all of us.”

David Chang, Professor of Law
Professor Chang helped lead the initiative to establish the Joseph H. Koffler Scholarship.

“My first professional contact with him was as a fellow member of the Academic Status Committee. What I saw was that nobody seemed more concerned or outspoken than Joe on the issue of due process for students. He frequently argued that a borderline student be given ‘just one more chance’ because he or she was capable of completing the program.”

Arthur S. Leonard, Professor of Law

“When I talk to graduates anytime from the early ’50s to the early ’80s, there are two professors about whom every student inquires: Milton Silverman and Joe. Everyone has a Joe story, everyone recalls Joe teaching them Torts, and everyone speaks with affection, admiration, and warmth. In all these years, there have been no exceptions.”

Michael Perlin, Professor of Law

Alumni

“In my work as a court attorney at the Appellate Division Courthouse, I am constantly studying law. So often I am reminded of, and grateful for, Professor Koffler’s words spoken at my first Torts class on my very first day of law school: ‘Studying law is one of the most exciting things you will ever do.’”

Elizabeth Anne Bannon ’84

“I was lucky to have had Professor Koffler for Torts. His eccentric Socratic style was a big plus, keeping the students engaged and on their toes. His teachings have helped me in practice.”

D. Gregory Valenza ’92
“Not more than a few minutes after I got back home after my very first night at New York Law School, I got a telephone call from my Dad, Brian Sr. (‘68, Evening Division), asking how things went. I told him that my first class was Torts. He said that was funny, because he had a short Torts class on his first night, too. He asked me who the professor was; when I told him it was Koffler, he started to howl—he had Koffler too….My brother Jonathan Fahey graduated in 1999 and my brother David is in his second year, Evening Division. New York Law School—and Joe Koffler—are a rich part of our family’s story.”

“I am very saddened at the news of Professor Koffler’s passing. He was my Torts professor at New York Law School and I remember him fondly. His encyclopedic knowledge, spiced with a dry wit, enlivened that class beyond all expectations. A scholar of the ‘old school,’ he will be sorely missed. May his memory be for a blessing.”

“Joseph Koffler was my favorite professor. He named me ‘the Monument’ because he would call on my fellow students according to how close they were sitting next to me: ‘One back and two over from the Monument.’ Soon there was a bombed out area all around me. That man taught me to think and to question things just when I believed I was right. He will remain with me forever.”

“You left each Koffler class not only smarter than when you came in, but more alive. He inspired. You saw how much you didn’t know, but you also started to see that, with his guidance, you were learning how much you could learn. . . . he made you confront unheard-of, impossible-to-comprehend concepts and start thinking about them in a brand new way—that is, to think, God forbid, like a lawyer.”

“Professor Koffler taught me about torts but mostly about life. . . . He had an inimitably fun and inspirational style of calling upon each of the students, requiring an answer with logic and appropriate courtroom demeanor. . . . While being singled out and required to speak before the entire classroom was at first very difficult, it ultimately instilled the courage to stand up for what was right in the face of many bullying judges and adversaries, which—as a public defender for 20 years—has proven a wonderful blessing. I . . . know that his spirit continues on as a guardian angel for me and many others, making this world a better place.”
Francis P. Durkan ’53
Famed Author, Activist, and Defender of Irish Nationalists

Francis (“Frank”) Patrick Durkan ’53 of Rye, New York, died at age 76 on November 16, 2006 after suffering pulmonary lung failure.

Born in County Mayo, Ireland, in 1930, Durkan moved to New York City in 1947 where his famous uncle, William O’Dwyer, then served as mayor. In his obituary, the Associated Press notes that “Durkan did not have an easy start. He held jobs ranging from janitor to racetrack parking attendant.” By 1951, he had graduated from Columbia University and went on to receive his L.L.B. from New York Law School in 1953. As a senior partner at O’Dwyer & Bernstein, Durkan established an excellent reputation as an advocate on behalf of injured plaintiffs in negligence and malpractice cases.

Throughout his career, Durkan fought for the rights and interests of Irish Americans whose involvement with politics in Northern Ireland had landed them in trouble with the law. In 1981, he defended Irish nationalist Desmond Mackin over a shooting of a British soldier. He successfully argued before Magistrate Naomi Buchwald (Southern District, New York) that the shooting was political and thereby defeated Britain’s extradition request. The decision is considered a landmark in the field of extradition law. In 1982, Durkan’s advocacy gained international attention with his successful defense of George Harrison, who had been accused of running guns in the United States for the Irish Republican Army.

A staunch civil rights advocate, Durkan also worked extensively with the Irish government, the White House, and members of Congress to shape American policy throughout the critical process for peace in Northern Ireland.

Frank Durkan was synonymous with the New York Irish American community. He served as a trustee of both the Irish Institute of New York and the Mayo Foundation for the Handicapped, and he represented the Mayo Football Club of New York as a delegate to the Gaelic Athletic Association. He also served as President of the Mayo Football Club of New York and Chairman of Americans for a New Irish Agenda (A.N.I.A.).

Durkan is survived by his wife, two daughters, and two grandsons.
Ivan J. Fox ’57
Distinguished Scholar and Revered Pace Professor

Ivan J. Fox ’57, noted scholar and distinguished Pace University law professor, died suddenly on Tuesday, November 21, 2006.

A lifelong resident of New York City, Fox spent his entire career enriching the academic life of the city, teaching law for 48 years to more than 30,000 students, according to Pace University.

He earned a B.B.A. in accounting from Pace College in 1954, an LL.B. from New York Law School in 1957, and was admitted to the bar in 1958. He went on to receive an LL.M. from New York University School of Law in 1963. Also a certified public accountant, Fox maintained an entertainment law practice.

While at Pace, Fox earned three distinguished teaching awards and served as Chair of the Law Department from 1977 to 1992. The 2002 Lubin School of Business Alumni Achievement Luncheon paid him a special tribute for his service and commitment. He was also beloved by the Pace community for writing the school’s alma mater.

Fox co-authored what has become a law school classic, ANDERSON’S BUSINESS LAW AND THE LEGAL ENVIRONMENT (including supplements). His work also appeared in several law reviews. A member of the Academy of Legal Studies in Business, he presented conference papers annually since 1961, and served as the Academy’s liaison to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants for the CPA exam.

He is survived by his partner, Wayne Smith, and his brother, Dr. Herbert Fox.

Contributions can be directed to a fund established by Fox to endow a professorship at Pace, c/o Pace University, One Pace Plaza, New York, NY 10038, Attn: Magdalena Rybicki, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Lubin School of Business.

Stephanie Wolf Gallup ’85 died in a car accident on January 8, 2007 at age 46 in New London, Connecticut. She was a vice president and director at Merrill Lynch Government Securities, Inc. in New York, where she maintained the business end of trading. Gallup worked at Merrill Lynch for 10 years, originally serving as General Counsel. Previously, she held a variety of legal positions in financial services organizations, including the Bond Market Association and the Securities and Exchange Commission. After graduating cum laude from New York Law School, where she was a member of the Law Review, she began her legal career as an associate at Shea & Gould and later at Rogers & Wells.

Originally from Long Island, Gallup was a resident of both Wakefield, Rhode Island, and New York City. She is survived by her husband and three children, as well as her parents, three sisters, and two nephews.

The Stephanie Wolf Gallup Scholarship Fund at New York Law School has recently been established in Gallup’s honor. For more information or to contribute, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 212.431.2814.
“Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the careers and salaries of the women of today in the law.”

– Elizabeth Johnston Schenkel ’37
Pioneers in any venture are frequently honored and celebrated years after the fact, but what’s often overlooked is the courage and daring that it takes to be a pioneer in the first place. Elizabeth Johnston Schenkel ’37 embodied these qualities when she was thrust into the role of legal trailblazer at age 21 as the first woman to graduate from New York Law School.

Born on September 29, 1915, the Brooklyn native graduated from Packer Collegiate Institute in 1934. She entered law school primarily at the urging of her parents, who believed that a knowledge of the law would be useful to their only child whether or not she practiced. Her parents’ beliefs were unusual for those times. The nation was deep in the Great Depression, and women were under strong societal pressure to confine their ambitions to the home environment and not to “steal” educational or professional opportunities from men with families to support. Even Good Housekeeping magazine, the premier women’s publication, stated in September 1932 that even though women as well as men had lost jobs as a result of the Depression, “that seemed more natural, somehow less tragic.” In fact, some believed that women should voluntarily step down from their positions in order to allow men to remain.

But at New York Law School, the first president of the Board of Trustees, John Bigelow, was committed to equal rights for women. So even though it would be years before many other law schools began to admit women, Schenkel was able to receive her LL.B. degree in 1937.

Upon graduation, Schenkel served a three-year unpaid clerkship to qualify for New York State bar admission, because she did not have a college degree. She remembered being told: “You know, we’re giving you the experience; you should really pay us.” During her clerkship at the New York City Corporation Counsel’s office, she gained “a wealth of experience, not only in law but in lifestyles,” she recalled, and worked with several “brilliant women lawyers.”

Although opportunities for women expanded with the advent of World War II, it was still expected that many jobs held by women would have to be relinquished to returning soldiers. Schenkel declined any offer carrying this caveat and instead joined the Trust Department of the Guaranty Trust Company. Her salary would never equal that of her male colleagues.

In 1946, Elizabeth married James M. Schenkel, a New York insurance executive. While her son and two daughters were young, she slowly developed a law practice from her home. As her daughter Mary Schenkel pointed out, “She wanted to be accessible to her children.” As Elizabeth’s children grew, so did her practice in trusts and estates and real estate, and she took a position as a legal consultant to several law firms. Schenkel recalled that she was criticized by some of her male colleagues for spending too much time and patience on her widowed clients, “but I felt they needed a shoulder to lean on.”

Over the years, Schenkel attended a number of New York Law School alumni events and maintained a cordial ongoing correspondence with the school. In 1992, she received New York Law School’s Distinguished Alumna Award. Several years later, reacting to her graduation photograph, which had been featured on the cover of the school’s 1996 “Women in Law Day” program, Schenkel mused: “How could anyone so young and innocent have stormed the bastions of New York Law School?”

Comparing her experiences with those of the women attorneys of today, Schenkel commented, “Never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined the careers and salaries of the women of today in the law.”

Schenkel and her husband raised their three children in Garden City, New York, where they lived for 22 years. In 1978, they retired to Vero Beach, Florida, where Schenkel was an avid supporter of the arts and served on the Board of Trustees of the Vero Beach Community Church. Prolific travelers, the Schenkels visited many countries and traveled to 49 of the 50 states.

Schenkel died in Vero Beach on May 2, 2001, at age 86. Her name lives on in the collective memory of the Law School, and she continues to serve as a role model for today’s women students—not only for her historic achievement, but for her pioneering spirit, her warmth, grace, and friendship.

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