

# Brooklyn Law Notes

THE MAGAZINE OF BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL | SPRING 2016

# THE POWER BEHIND THE SCENES

How Brooklyn Law School graduates  
are lighting up the entertainment industry

# Brooklyn Law Notes

Vol. 21, No. 1

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*Brooklyn Law Notes* is published semiannually by Brooklyn Law School for alumni, students, faculty, and friends.

# Dean's Message

## The Brooklyn Law School Legacy



I was proud to hear Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor pay tribute to our great law school during our April 8 event at the historic Plymouth Church in Brooklyn Heights. This was an extraordinary evening that will long be remembered by our students as a highlight of their experience at Brooklyn Law School. She applauded our strong commitment to diversity, acknowledged our stellar faculty “whose depth rivals any in the nation,” and praised the outstanding quality of our students, mentioning in particular Sparkle Sooknanan '10, her former law clerk and currently an associate at Jones Day in Washington, D.C. Speaking to our students, Justice Sotomayor said of our graduates: “They care about you. They do everything in their power to make sure that you’re following your passions in life.” (Full coverage of the event will appear in the fall 2016 issue of *Brooklyn Law Notes*.)

Justice Sotomayor is right about the people of Brooklyn Law School. They make the Law School truly one of a kind and the best of its kind, as it has been for 115 years. Our graduates make an enormous difference in the careers and lives of our students, supporting scholarships, serving as mentors, opening doors, and helping them navigate the job market. They are at the forefront of an astonishing range of fields and leaders with influence and impact. Every day, we learn of a graduate who has been honored for public service; has won a landmark case; or is blazing a trail in a business, high-tech, or entrepreneurial enterprise. They are shining beacons of what our students can accomplish with their J.D. in a time of unprecedented and constant change in the legal field and beyond.

Many graduates I speak with say how much they admire our current students for their talent and achievements, and some confess they do not think they would be accepted at Brooklyn Law School today. I disagree. But their point is well taken. We have first-rate students who enrich us all. They come from all walks of life and backgrounds. They compete at a very high level

in national and international moot court and trial advocacy competitions; they take part in myriad student organization and service activities; they participate in clinics, externships, and internships; and, of course, they excel in the classroom. The fact is, however, it is our students who are in awe of our alumni and the breadth of their accomplishments. Our students see themselves as part of an enduring legacy of Brooklyn Law School graduates who have used the power of law to make a positive difference in the world.

The success of our graduates nationally and in New York City has been recognized in recent months and has brought distinction to the Law School. Here are a few notable mentions:

- The *National Law Journal* placed Brooklyn Law School 36th in the nation on its list of 2016 Go-To Law Schools—those schools with the highest percentage of 2015 J.D. graduates hired as first-year associates at the nation’s 100 largest law firms. We placed 23rd in the nation for alumni promoted to partner in 2015.
- *The New York Times* listed us among the top law schools in the nation with alumni who are partners in New York City firms.
- The Law School was ranked fourth—one spot above Harvard Law School—for having the most alumni (500) selected to the New York Metro Super Lawyers List.

In this issue of *Brooklyn Law Notes*, you will meet some of the alumni who are making their mark in astonishingly diverse fields. We share the stories of six graduates who are the power behind the scenes in New York City’s burgeoning film, television, music recording, and live entertainment industry (see page 24). Although their job duties range from legal affairs to talent development, and from corporate social responsibility to bringing Bruce Springsteen to Barclays Center in Brooklyn, these graduates acknowledge that their degree from the Law School has given them the competitive edge in their careers.

The other alumni we profile in this issue similarly stand out as prime examples of the diverse careers our graduates pursue. **William Gladstone ’55** (see page 51) went from a long career as a leader in the accounting business—retiring as co-CEO of Ernst & Young—to become the proud owner of a baseball team. He spoke to students in February about his remarkable career and answered their questions about the current state of baseball. The business world also drew **Michael Prior ’92** (see page 53), who runs Atlantic Tele-Network, a company that provides telecommunications services to rural and other underserved markets in the United States and abroad. Government service called **Karyn Kenny ’95** (see page 54), who serves for the U.S. Justice Department and the State Department as the resident legal adviser in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Back in Washington, D.C., **Ashley Allison ’11** (see page 58) works for President Barack Obama as a deputy director in the Office of Public Engagement. **Christian Capece ’99** (see page 57) serves as

the federal public defender for the Southern District of West Virginia and is a judge advocate in the West Virginia Air National Guard. **Linda Lightman ’87** (see page 48) took a different path, starting what became a multimillion-dollar online consignment business: Linda’s Stuff. During Business Boot Camp in January, she told our students that her law degree from Brooklyn has been essential to her success.

“Our students see themselves as part of an enduring legacy of Brooklyn Law School graduates who have used the power of law to make a positive difference in the world.”

Alumni like these and many more have been critical to our reputation for offering one of the most innovative legal programs in the nation, one that serves as a model for other law schools. We created ACES—Alumni Committed to Employing Students—to encourage and recognize graduates who dedicate their time and efforts to the career success of both current students and fellow alumni. With the help of our ACES participants and other graduates, today more than 90 percent of the Class of 2015 are employed in meaningful professional positions. That so many of our graduates look for jobs in the highly competitive New York City market makes this success even more impressive.

Now we must build on this success with the involvement of even more alumni in the ACES program and participation in annual giving. I promise you that what you give to support scholarships, mentor students, and help your fellow graduates in their careers, you will get back 1,000-fold—in personal satisfaction as well as by advancing the already stellar reputation of your law school. As the late Ron Brown, who served as U.S. commerce secretary, said: “You have to get involved to get ahead. Most important, when you reach that level of success, keep the door open and the ladder down for others to follow.”

I can think of no better way to honor the Brooklyn Law School legacy.



Nick Allard  
*Joseph Crea Dean and President*

To learn more about how you can help current students prepare for successful careers, please contact the Career Center at [ACES@brooklaw.edu](mailto:ACES@brooklaw.edu).

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“What I like most about Brooklyn Law School is its true commitment to supporting students in every way.”

– **Simone Lamont '18**

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## ON CAMPUS

## Celebrating Magna Carta's 800-Year Legacy

The Law School hosted a full-day program on Constitution Day



Visitors take in the traveling exhibit "Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215–2015" at Brooklyn Law School



Professor A. E. Dick Howard from the University of Virginia School of Law

**THE LAW SCHOOL MARKED** Constitution Day on Sept. 17 with a full-day symposium devoted to the 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta, "From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta." The program included presentations and discussions with an international roster of renowned authors, historians, artists, librarians, archivists, and scholars, including several faculty members from the Law School.

The event was held in conjunction with the international traveling exhibit "Magna Carta: Enduring Legacy 1215–2015," which the Law School hosted on campus and at Brooklyn Borough Hall Sept. 14–28. The exhibit was presented by the American Bar Association in partnership with the Library of Congress and its law library.

"Magna Carta, as it was repeatedly revised and interpreted over the centuries, was integral to the creation of the

American system of laws and still informs our nation's commitment to securing the rights and liberties of all," said Dean Nick Allard. "Brooklyn is known as the 'borough of immigrants' and the 'borough of churches,' and has long been a gateway to the American Dream for people of all backgrounds. So it was particularly fitting to host this event here."

Historian and former BBC journalist Derek Taylor, author of *Magna Carta in 20 Places*, began the day with a keynote. He discussed the history of Magna Carta and dispelled some of the popular myths about the document.

"It's revered all over the world as the most hallowed and ancient beacon of justice and freedom from oppression, but if we take a closer look at the document that the English King John was forced to agree to by his barons in 1215, we soon discover that it actually did next to nothing for 85 percent of the population who remained agricultural slaves," Taylor said.

“Magna Carta is revered all over the world as the most hallowed and ancient beacon of justice and freedom from oppression, but... it actually did next to nothing for 85 percent of the population who remained agricultural slaves.”

—Derek Taylor, *author of Magna Carta in 20 Places*



Brooklyn Law Professor Christina Mulligan

The panel “Secrets of the Archives: Why We Preserve Documents in the Digital Age,” led by Professor Janet Sinder, director of the library at Brooklyn Law School, brought together librarians, archivists, and scholars from the United

States and England to explore what can be learned from physical documents and the impact of digitization on research and preservation. Panelists included Professors Christopher Beauchamp and Christina Mulligan.

The luncheon program “Are the Rule of Law and Constitutional Rights Compatible with Democracy?” featured remarks from Michael Pinto-Duschinsky, senior consultant on constitutional affairs to Policy Exchange, who spoke on the boundaries between judicial and legislative authority. Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law Andrew Napolitano and Professor Joel Gora provided commentary on the topic.

The afternoon kicked off with a conversation between Dean Allard and Hew Locke, the London-based sculptor and contemporary visual artist who created the piece *The Jurors* on permanent display at Runnymede. Locke explained how his work was not intended as a parade of heroes or a memorial, but a prompt for discussion on the often conflicting ideas of justice, which have constantly shifted throughout history and around the world.

The program considered the continuing impact of Magna Carta during the panel “Building a Magna Carta for the Digital

Era—Collaborative Drafting of a Citizens’ Charter for Cyberspace,” moderated by Professor Jonathan Askin. Former FCC chairman Reed Hundt began the discussion, which included more than a half dozen notables from the world of Internet activism, law, and civil liberties. More than a thousand people watched the live stream of the panel.

“The problem of Internet governance arose when the technology shifted, to everyone’s surprise, into the cable platform,” Hundt said, explaining that before the shift to cable, the Internet was more like a service that ran on top of existing telephone infrastructure, governed by the rules of telephony.

Renowned scholar A.E. Dick Howard, professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, brought the day to a close with his lecture “Magna Carta’s American Adventure.”

“At the core of Magna Carta’s legacy in the United States is the rule of law,” said Howard, “the idea that no one, including those in government, is above the law.” He was introduced by Professor and Vice Dean William Araiza, and Professors Susan Herman and I. Bennett Capers provided expert commentary. ■

Watch the video [brooklaw.edu/magna-carta](https://brooklaw.edu/magna-carta)



Former FCC Chairman Reed Hundt



Dean Nick Allard with London-based artist Hew Locke

## Student Groups Build Bridges

Making connections is at the heart of Brooklyn Law's student organizations



L-R: Andrew Fleming '16, BBLA vice president; Alexi Knock '16, BBLA president; Roger Griesmeyer '04, honoree and keynote speaker; Vaughn Bobb-Willis '17, BBLA co-alumni chair; and Anya Tirelli '18, BBLA co-alumni chair at the BBLA alumni dinner

“Student organizations are really important because they give you a sense of ownership in your Brooklyn Law School experience.”

— Alexi Knock '16, BBLA student president

IN SEPTEMBER, the Brooklyn Law School Entrepreneurship Club, together with the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE), hosted “Legal Eats,” a daylong food festival in the courtyard on campus featuring local vendors and restaurants, including Mile End Delicatessen, Red Star Sandwich Shop, and Alchemy Creamery. Vendors were also invited to participate in CUBE's consultation center, which provides legal representation and support for new businesses and nonprofits, while training the next generation of business lawyers.



THE LAW SCHOOL IS HOME to more than 40 student organizations, representing a variety of practice areas and affinity groups. Each semester, these organizations host numerous panels and events that bring back to campus alumni and legal experts who offer valuable networking opportunities and professional insights.

In March, the Brooklyn Business Law Association (BBLA) honored Roger Griesmeyer '04, a partner at Andrews Kurth LLP in New York City, at its annual alumni dinner, where he shared his experiences as an attorney in transactional law. More than 70 students are members of BBLA, including 25 1L delegates and 12 executive board members. The dinner drew graduates who are now with major firms and companies, including Skadden Arps; Paul, Weiss; PwC; and Ernst & Young.

“Your experiences at Brooklyn Law School will serve as a bridge to your future business success,” Griesmeyer said. “How you handle both the good and the challenging parts now can translate into the kinds of skills and knowledge you'll use later in your career.”

“Student organizations are really important because they give you a sense of ownership in your Brooklyn Law School experience,” said BBLA Student President Alexi Knock '16. “Hearing from successful graduates definitely made me want to work harder to achieve what they had. As my classes prepared me for writing and research, being part of a student organization like BBLA prepared me for my career.”

After graduation, Knock will join Ropes & Gray as a corporate associate. She joined BBLA as a 1L delegate, then served as the bankruptcy chair in her second year, before being elected as president for 2015–16. Knock founded a new mentorship program this year that pairs 1Ls with 2Ls and 3Ls. More than 60 students are participating in the program. ■

For more information on student organizations, visit [brooklaw.edu/students](http://brooklaw.edu/students).

## Celine Chan '10 and Stephen Popernik '13 Appointed to the Board of Trustees



**THE BROOKLYN LAW SCHOOL** Board of Trustees recently appointed Celine Chan '10 and Stephen Popernik '13 as recent graduate trustee members.

“At a time when innovation is more important than ever to legal education, these highly accomplished young attorneys bring valuable expertise to our leadership,” said Stuart Subotnick '68, chairman of the Board of Trustees. “We look forward to working with Celine and Stephen on exciting initiatives that will benefit the entire Law School community.”

Celine Chan '10 is an associate in the employment litigation practice group at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP. Prior to joining the firm's New York office in 2012, she worked as a special assistant corporation counsel in the labor and employment division of the New York City Law Department.

“I look forward to adding my perspective to the board,” Chan said, “and being a part of exciting changes on the horizon. The most fulfilling part of my experience at Brooklyn Law School was learning from esteemed professors and making long-lasting friendships.”

As a law student, Chan served as an associate managing editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review*, and was on the executive board of the Moot Court Honor Society as its first-year competition coordinator. She served as a mentor to students in the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and as an admissions ambassador for the Office of Admissions. Chan also served as a summer judicial intern to Magistrate Judge Michael H. Dolinger of the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Brooklyn Law School and received her bachelor's degree from Cornell University.

Stephen Popernik '13 is an associate in the litigation practice group at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. Before joining the firm's New York office, he served as a law clerk to Judge Brian M. Cogan of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, and was an associate at Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

“It is an honor to be asked to lend my voice to the board and to work with others who aspire to continue enriching our community,” Popernik said. “As a student who came to the Law School after having another career, I considered it a gift to be in a place where I could focus each day not just on learning what the law is, but on sitting down with thoughtful people and asking what the law should be.”

As a law student, Popernik served as a notes and comments editor of the *Brooklyn Law Review*, was a Trade Secrets Institute fellow, and was a member of the Moot Court Honor Society. He also served as a research assistant to Professor Maryellen Fullerton. Popernik graduated *magna cum laude* from Brooklyn Law School and received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College. Before law school, he served in the U.S. Navy as a surface warfare officer, and he worked in film and television production. ■

## Linda Harvey Named COO and Chief of Staff



**LINDA HARVEY** has been appointed chief operating officer and chief of staff for Brooklyn Law School. Harvey has been with the Law School for more than 20 years, most recently as the dean for external affairs.

“Linda has been an indispensable part of the Law School's leadership team and a trusted and valued advisor to me on a number of matters that involve our day-to-day operations,” said Dean Nick Allard. “Her long-standing and unrivaled breadth of experience as a senior administrator at the Law School—who daily works with

faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of the school—makes her uniquely qualified for this role.”

In addition to continuing her oversight of alumni relations, communications, and events functions, Harvey now oversees the Law School's public safety, facilities management, and IT departments. She also works closely with all of the administrative offices and coordinates the infrastructure and operations support necessary for faculty success in teaching and scholarship and for addressing the needs of students. ■

## IN THE COMMUNITY

## Students, Faculty, and Alumni Partner with Brooklyn High Schools

**IN FEBRUARY**, the Law School welcomed to campus nearly 100 students, teachers, and administrators from six Brooklyn high schools—Cristo Rey Brooklyn, Midwood, New Utrecht, St. Joseph's, Secondary School for Law, and Urban Action Academy—for the inaugural Youth Law Day. The program, created by the New York State Bar Association's Special Committee on Youth Outreach, aims to "expose young minority students to the great potential of a law-related career." This year, the event at the Law School was coordinated by David Craft '16.

Professor I. Bennett Capers, an expert in criminal law and procedure and evidence law, presented a hypothetical case during which one student took the stand and other students acted as jurors.

"Although they were high school students, it was clear that I was speaking to future patent lawyers, family law lawyers, prosecutors, defense lawyers, and corporate lawyers," Capers said. "Nothing is more personally rewarding than encouraging such talent."

The day included panel discussions and Q+A sessions with law students, alumni, and faculty members. Dean Nick Allard greeted students during lunch and discussed the power of a law degree to bring about positive change in society.

**A MONTH LATER**, eight high school students from the Urban Assembly School of Law and Justice (SLJ) became "Law Students for the Day," as part of a longtime program supported by the Law School's Public Service Office. This year's event was co-chaired by Stephanie Michael '16 and Asmika Dangol '18.

Selected from a large pool of applicants, the high schoolers spent the morning shadowing law students as they attended classes and went to work at local courthouses. The experience concluded with a tour of the school and lunch.

"The students have a law-related course load in high school, and we send them cases to review in advance, so

they're really prepared to participate," said Michael.

"We've been working with SLJ since its inception in 2004," said Danielle Sorken, the director of the Law School's Public Service Office. "The high school students are very insightful and it's inspiring to hear their perspective on the law."

"The student who shadowed me was so enthusiastic, well on her way to college, and I'm sure something great after that," said Dangol, a student in the Law School's

“Although they were high school students, it was clear that I was speaking to future lawyers. Nothing is more personally rewarding than encouraging such talent.”

— Prof. I. Bennett Capers

part-time program who works as a paralegal with Legal Aid Society. "She started the day thinking she wanted to be a prosecutor like she had seen in *Law & Order*. But after spending the day in criminal court, she left seriously considering a defense career."

The Public Service Office has worked closely with SLJ on a variety of enrichment programs, including Race Judicata, the annual 5K race in Prospect Park. More than 20 students from the Law School serve as mentors each year to SLJ students, and they continue to support them long after graduation.

"This program has been an invaluable opportunity for our students, many of whom will be the first in their families to go to college," said Laura Hecht, director of student enrichment at SLJ.

Lauren Jones Watkins '08, a litigation partner at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP, started working with SLJ as a first-year law student and now serves as a junior board member for the high school.

"I was drawn to the idea of working with youth in the neighborhood who expressed an interest in pursuing a career that I, too, had chosen," Jones Watkins said. ■



Co-chairs of the "Law Students for a Day" program Stephanie Michael '16 (front row, third from right) and Asmika Dangol '18 (front row, far right) take a break from lunch to pose with students from SLJ high school

## Brooklyn Book Festival Marks 10th Anniversary



As a cultural and programming partner for the Brooklyn Book Festival—the largest free literary event in New York City—the Law School hosted more than a dozen panels on campus in September with best-selling authors and renowned academic experts from around the world. Dean Nick Allard moderated a discussion on writing about history with authors Derek Taylor (*Magna Carta in 20 Places*) and Dina Gold (*Stolen Legacy*), which aired on CSPAN.



### **Crain's New York Business Praises Innovative Work-Study Program**

**AS PART OF A PARTNERSHIP** with Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School and New York employers, 11th grader Charms Savery (*left*) has spent one day each week working at the Law School in the External Affairs Department since her freshman year. She was featured in *Crain's New York Business* as one of “1,000 economically vulnerable

students earning their way through high school while gaining valuable, real-world work experience.” Every Cristo Rey Brooklyn graduate last year got at least one acceptance to a four-year college with full financial needs met. Former Law School trustee Robert B. Catell is chairman of the high school's board of directors. ■

## Brooklyn Law Ranked 16th for Practical Training

*The National Jurist* lists the Law School in its top 20 for the third consecutive year

**FOR THE THIRD** consecutive year, *The National Jurist* ranked Brooklyn Law School as a top 20 law school in the United States for practical training—the highest-ranked law school in New York. The rankings are based on experiential learning opportunities, with data from the American Bar Association and individual law schools, emphasizing categories that include clinics, externships, simulation courses, interschool competitions, and pro bono opportunities.

Taking an externship or clinic is a requirement for every student at Brooklyn Law School. With New York City as the extended campus, students have countless opportunities to get real-world experiences in courthouses, government agencies, nonprofits, law offices, and local businesses. They also can choose from among 25 in-house and “hybrid” in-house clinics, in which the Law School partners with an outside office or agency. Students represent asylum seekers, secure benefits for adults with intellectual disabilities,

advise new media startups, assist small businesses, find relief for individuals in economic distress, mediate disputes in courts, and represent defrauded investors in securities arbitrations.

“Brooklyn Law School cares about preparing students to be effective, confident professionals,” said **Professor Stacy Caplow**, associate dean of professional legal education. “We provide unlimited opportunities so that every student, regardless of his or her area of interest, can see the law come to life, learning the skills that will ensure their successful legal careers.” ■



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— **Prof. Stacy Caplow**, associate dean of professional legal education

## Clinics Provide Pro Bono Services

Students gain transactional skills while supporting social justice and affordable housing initiatives

**LAST FALL**, students in the **Urban Economic Development Clinic**—Monica Martini '16, Valerie Geffard '17, and Brian Gilbert '17—provided transactional legal assistance to the Precedential Group, a local organization working to reduce gun violence in Brooklyn neighborhoods by engaging young people, local police, schools, and residents. Under the supervision of the clinic's director, **Professor Ted De Barbieri '08**, the three Brooklyn Law School students helped the group incorporate in New York by drafting bylaws and counseling the leaders on related business law issues.

The Precedential Group was founded in 2014 by Marlon Peterson, who was recognized as a Power 100 Honoree by *Ebony Magazine*. He recently received the Soros Fellowship Award from Open Society Foundations. The group receives office space and funding from the Brooklyn Accelerator Incubator Project at the Brooklyn Community Foundation, a nonprofit that works to build the capacity of up to three small, innovative organizations dedicated to sparking change for a more fair and just Brooklyn.

“The Urban Economic Development Clinic is thrilled to help students gain transactional skills while supporting emerging Brooklyn-based nonprofit organizations,” De Barbieri said.

Meanwhile, students in the **Corporate and Real Estate Clinic** provided free legal assistance to individuals living in financially distressed low-income cooperatives across New York City. They conducted loan closings as borrowers' counsel, which in turn enabled the co-ops to pay delinquent real estate and water charges and, in one project, to complete crucial rehabilitation. In deals totaling \$1.9 million, the students helped draft board resolutions, negotiate loan documents, obtain subordinations, review title reports, and resolve issues for buildings in Inwood, the Bronx, and Harlem. The students involved were Benjamin P. Chananie '16, Shea Cunningham '16, Alexandra C. Kuykendall '16, Jack L. Rukab '16, Shelby S. Tamayo '16, Jennifer L. Gesualdi '17, Shawn R. Sinclair '17, and Jonathan S. Wong '17. ■

## Students Help Swing Court Decision

With legal assistance from the Law School, a man with Down syndrome maintains his rights

**A 29-YEAR-OLD MAN** with Down syndrome has maintained his right to marry and start a family, thanks in large part to the work of the **Disability and Civil Rights Clinic** (previously known as the Advocates for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities), directed by **Professor Natalie Chin**.

In late 2015, Brooklyn Surrogate Court Judge Margarita López Torres denied a guardianship petition sought by family members of the man, “D.D.,” ruling that his family’s objection to his marriage was an insufficient basis for appointing them guardians. In response to the family’s request for an Article 17-A guardianship, the judge appointed a guardian ad litem from the Law School’s Disability and Civil Rights Legal Clinic, which provided an 18-page report based on interviews with D.D., his family, his coworkers, and his friends.

“In an Article 17-A proceeding, the person for whom the guardianship is proposed has no due process rights at all,” Chin told the *New York Law Journal*. “In an Article 17-A the person loses all their autonomy, the right to vote, the ability to marry, [the right] to have a say in healthcare and financial matters.”

Chin said the courts don’t have the resources to do what the legal clinic can do “because there are no funds available to pay for a guardian ad litem.”

The Disability and Civil Rights Legal Clinic was established in 2014 with a \$1 million grant from the Taft Foundation through the efforts of Howard Rothman ’71. It offers students an opportunity to address the pressing legal needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families by providing direct legal representation in securing government benefits and services, health and financial planning, and the protection of due process rights in housing, employment, and education. The clinic also undertakes policy initiatives, provides advice, and disseminates information to individuals and institutions about the legal environment that service providers must navigate. ■



Professor Natalie Chin (top) with students in the Disability and Civil Rights Clinic

## Congratulations to 2016 New York State Pro Bono Scholars

Eleven Brooklyn Law School students are participating in this year’s New York State Pro Bono Scholars Program. These fellows take the New York bar exam in February of their 3L year, spend their final semester of law school working full time to provide critical legal services to low-income individuals, and are potentially admitted to the New York State bar in June.

**Jerehme Bamberger**

The Bronx Defenders

**Caitrin Coccoma**

Public Defender Service of DC

**Michael Feldberg**

Brooklyn Legal Services

**Andrew Goodman**

Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation

**Maura Heron**

The Legal Aid Society, Juvenile Rights Practice

**Marcin Nadgorski**

Brooklyn Legal Services Corp A

**Douglas O’Donovan**

Brooklyn Defender Services

**Charles Perez**

Brooklyn Legal Services

**Brenden Ross**

MFY Legal Services

**Jessica Soricelli**

New York Legal Assistance Group

**Meghan Walsh**

NJ Public Defender—Essex Co.

## John Rudikoff '06 Named to Lead CUBE



**JOHN RUDIKOFF '06** has joined the Law School as CEO and managing director of the **Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE)**. He is managing the center's operations and strategy, cultivating partnerships, and leading fundraising efforts to expand opportunities for students, faculty, and alumni. Rudikoff previously served as

general counsel and director of business development for the international architecture firm MASS (Model of Architecture Serving Society) Design Group.

"I'm thrilled to be back at Brooklyn Law School," he said. "The sky's the limit as far as the opportunities we have through CUBE."

Founded in 2013, CUBE is an innovative legal consortium of clinics, course work, and programs that prepare the next generation of lawyers for an entrepreneurial world and to be dynamic advocates and counsel for new businesses. Recent programs have included the CUBE Innovators Competition; global opportunities for students to work with businesses, startups, and nonprofits; consultation sessions with small businesses in Brooklyn; and networking events that give students an edge in their career.

"The mission of CUBE is threefold," Rudikoff said. "We're focused on training our students to have a competitive advantage

in the job market. We want to provide essential legal services that startups need to scale up and become sustainable. And we will continue to serve as a high-profile platform for the dissemination of scholarship and thought leadership on innovation and the law."

Rudikoff has a decade of experience as an attorney. He served as an assistant district attorney in Kings County, Brooklyn, where he created the environmental crimes unit within the rackets division. Three years ago, he became general counsel at MASS Design Group, which provides infrastructure, buildings, and the human and physical systems necessary to promote the growth and well-being of individuals and communities around the world. Rudikoff also managed the firm's development and marketing efforts, and he helped triple the company's size.

"We look forward to working with John and CUBE's supporters," Dean Nick Allard said, "as we continue the center's dynamic programming." ■

**More about CUBE: Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship**  
[brooklaw.edu/CUBE](http://brooklaw.edu/CUBE)

**"We're focused on training our students to have a competitive advantage in the job market."**

**—John Rudikoff '06**

## Annual Business Boot Camp Prepares Law Students for Changing Job Market



As part of Business Boot Camp—a winter session course sponsored by Deloitte Financial Advisory Services in collaboration with Brooklyn Law faculty and alumni affiliated with the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation—Kevin Zuzolo '08 of Otterbourg P.C. (*left*) shares his career insights and CeCe Cuza-Howard '16 (*right*) participates in a Q+A with Linda Lightman '87 (see page 48).

## Zaretsky Roundtable Examines Bankruptcy and Credit

**INTERNATIONAL AND MULTILATERAL** organizations have spearheaded efforts to modernize and harmonize the law of bankruptcy and secured credit. These projects, often sponsored by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), have for the most part presented as international standards rules that are generally consistent with U.S. law and practice.

Last fall, the annual Barry L. Zaretsky roundtable, co-sponsored by the **Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation** and the American Bankruptcy Institute, brought together experts to discuss current UNCITRAL projects, including harmonization of the law governing the obligations of officers and directors in corporate groups, as well as the enforcement of insolvency-related judgments and orders.

The Barry L. Zaretsky Roundtable Series honors the late Professor Barry L. Zaretsky, a distinguished scholar of bankruptcy and commercial law, a beloved mentor, and a dedicated classroom teacher. His work inside and outside the classroom bridged the worlds of theory and practice in these fields. The roundtable program brings together a distinguished panel of practitioners, judges and academics to discuss bankruptcy and commercial law topics. Zaretsky Fellows help draft the extensive materials that are central to the roundtable discussion.

The day after the roundtable, the Law School hosted the annual **Young Bankruptcy Scholars' Work-in-Progress Workshop**, drawing promising young scholars in the areas of bankruptcy, commercial law, and consumer financial protection



L-R: Professor Edward Janger, Hon. James Peck, Hon. Nancy Hershey Lord '80, Hon. Carla Craig, Robert Schmidt '89, Hon. Martin Glenn, William Schrag '78, and Professor Michael Gerber

who presented their work before leading national bankruptcy scholars. Organized by **Professor Edward Janger**, the workshop was developed to offer senior scholars a meaningful opportunity to mentor junior scholars and raise the profile of bankruptcy scholarship within the academy and the profession. ■

**More about the Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation** [brooklaw.edu/CSBLR](http://brooklaw.edu/CSBLR)

## Experts Discuss the Ethics of Deception and Dishonesty



Brent Snook, professor of psychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland

**JUDGES ARE PRESENTED** with dishonest statements by lawyers and witnesses alike. But not all dishonesty is created equal, either in the eyes of the law or in the way people speak. In February, the **Center for Law, Language, and Cognition** sponsored a roundtable—organized and led by **Professor Lawrence Solan**, director of the center, and **Professor Adam Kolber**—that explored lawyers' experiences with the treatment of dishonest conduct in court. Discussions focused on the differences among flat-out falsity (lies), true statements that are designed to persuade someone to believe in the truth of what the speaker knows to be false (deceit), and statements intended to aggrandize the speaker without regard to the truth or falsity of the statement (BS).

In October, the Center for Law, Language, and Cognition hosted another roundtable that explored deception in

earlier stages of the justice system. Other countries have long banned deceptive interrogation tactics, using instead a method of investigative interviewing known as PEACE (preparation, planning, engage, explain, account, closure, evaluate). The presentations included remarks by **Saul Kassin**, distinguished professor of psychology at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and an expert on false confessions; **Brent Snook**, professor of psychology at Memorial University of Newfoundland; Inspector **Todd Barron** of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary; and **Glenn Garber**, founder and director of the Exoneration Institute in New York, and an adjunct faculty member at the Law School. ■

**More about the Center for Law, Language, and Cognition** [brooklaw.edu/CLLC](http://brooklaw.edu/CLLC)

## Scholars Reimagine International Tax Policy



L–R: Professors Allison Christians from McGill University and Fadi Shaheen from Rutgers Law School at the IBL Symposium

**IN JUST A FEW YEARS**, the foreign tax credit will celebrate its 100th birthday. That legislative action paved the way toward the modern network of reciprocal tax measures. The international tax regime grew into a tall oak from that small acorn, but recently has begun to show its age. Will today's efforts—from BEPS to FATCA—reinstantiate the tax treaty or help us move past it?

**“The insights these stellar thinkers shared at the IBL symposium will help to push international tax cooperation in the right direction.”**

—Prof. Steven Dean

brought the focus of global leaders and the public on the inadequacy of international tax enforcement,” said Dean. “We may be at an inflection point, and the insights these stellar thinkers shared at the IBL symposium will help to push international tax cooperation in the right direction.” ■

More about the Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law [brooklaw.edu/CSIBL](http://brooklaw.edu/CSIBL)

## TSI Symposium Addresses Cybercrime Risks

**IN NOVEMBER**, at the annual symposium sponsored by the Trade Secrets Institute (TSI) and organized by Professor Christopher Beauchamp (see page 20), experts from government, academia, and private practice discussed how companies can defend themselves against cybercrime attacks and how to prosecute those responsible.

During the first panel, “Investigating and Prosecuting Digital Trade Secret Theft,” Austin Berglas, senior managing director, K2 Intelligence, and former assistant special agent in charge of the FBI’s New York cyber branch; Glenn Graham, deputy attorney general in New Jersey; and Serrin Turner, assistant U.S. attorney and cybercrime coordinator, U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, talked about cybercrime investigation tactics and how law enforcement is dealing with domestic and foreign threats.

“State-sponsored cybercrime predominantly comes from China, Russia, and Iran,” said Berglas. “These countries are generally looking to gain economic, political, or social advantage over the United States by stealing anything and everything in the IP space. And just like criminal groups involved with corporate espionage or insider threats, nation states use the path of least resistance. Something like 80 percent of successful cybercrime attacks are due to human error.

In the second panel, “Representing and Protecting the Targets of Cybercrime,” Berglas was joined by Joseph V. DeMarco, partner, DeVore & DeMarco; and Alexander Southwell, partner, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, to examine the industries that are most vulnerable to damaging cybercrime incidents. The panelists also addressed precautionary steps that companies can take to protect their intellectual property and confidential information, as well as the challenges of recovery after a cyberhack. ■

Watch the video [brooklaw.edu/media](http://brooklaw.edu/media)

More about the Trade Secrets Institute [brooklaw.edu/TSI](http://brooklaw.edu/TSI)



Serrin Turner, cybercrime coordinator at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, at the TSI Symposium

# A Day in the Life

2/10/16



On a chilly Wednesday in February, an award-winning photojournalist spent more than 12 hours at Brooklyn Law School, documenting the dynamic activity that happens in a single day. From 8 a.m. until long past 8 p.m., the energy and enthusiasm on campus is palpable.

Since its founding 115 years ago, the Law School has been a leader in legal education and a gateway of opportunity for talented and promising students, regardless of race, religion, gender, or socioeconomic background. Today, that legacy is stronger than ever.

“When I walk through our bustling hallways,” said Dean of Admissions Eulas Boyd, “and hear the diverse voices coming from our classrooms, I’m immensely proud of the legacy we continue to build upon at Brooklyn Law School. Our students inspire us every day, and we put them first in everything we do here.”

The variety of degree programs available today means that students can take an accelerated track to earn their J.D. in two years. Or, if working is a priority, they can take classes on a part-time basis over four years. This kind of flexibility brings some of the country’s most hardworking, ambitious, and tech-oriented students to Brooklyn—where they can work, intern, and volunteer in one of the world’s most exciting job markets; participate in more than 40 student organizations; serve on competitive Moot Court teams and elite law journals; gain practical experience in more than two-dozen clinics; and attend hundreds of stimulating events on campus.

“What I like most about Brooklyn Law School,” said Simone Lamont ’18 (*above, second from right*), “is its true commitment to supporting students in every way.”

By Jen Swetzoff | Photography by Todd France

## 8:30 a.m.

Asmika Dangol '18 reads in her apartment at Feil Hall, the Law School's student residence in Brooklyn Heights, just three blocks from campus.



## 9:00 a.m.

Katherine Zhang '17 and Tahir Boykins '16 study at the Law School's library, which holds one of the largest law collections in NYC.

## 9:30 a.m.

Anthony Beneduce '16 and Myra Din '16 fundraise for the Dean's Giving Challenge.



## 9:45 a.m.

Students participate in Professor Steven Dean's class on corporate taxation.



## 10:30 a.m.

Students and faculty head to class.



## 10:45 a.m.

Professor and Vice Dean William Araiza lectures on administrative law.



**12:45 p.m.**

Dean Nick Allard speaks with William Gladstone '55, former chairman of Ernst & Young (see page 51), at a lunch event with students.



**1:15 p.m.**  
Robert J. Raghunath '16, president of the Student Bar Association, takes a break from classes in his apartment at Feil Hall.

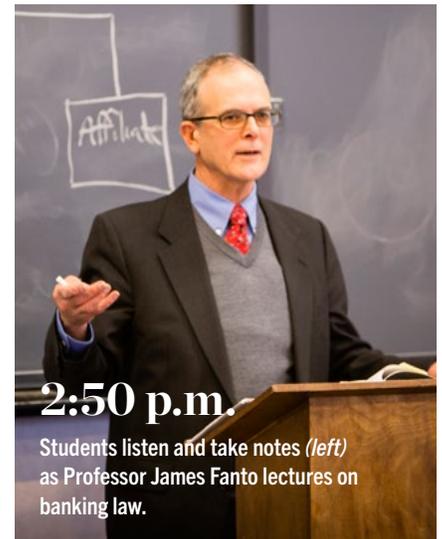


**2:10 p.m.**  
Professor Beryl Jones-Woodin discusses international intellectual property law.



**2:30 p.m.**

The front doors of the main academic building at 250 Joralemon Street.



**2:50 p.m.**  
Students listen and take notes (*left*) as Professor James Fanto lectures on banking law.

## 3:20 p.m.

Sam Cohen '16 (*left*) engages in a bioethics and public policy discussion with Professor Adam Kolber (*right*).



## 4:00 p.m.

Professor Joy Kanwar (*left*) teaches fundamentals of law; students set up coffee before class.



## 4:30 p.m.

Desiree Alexander '16, president of the Black Law Students Association, conducts legal research.



## 5:00 p.m.

Professor Natalie Chin leads the Disability and Civil Rights Clinic.

**5:45 p.m.**

Lillian Smith '16 (*left*), editor-in-chief of *Brooklyn Law Review*, leads a meeting in the Moot Court Room.



**6:50 p.m.**

Professor K. Sabeel Rahman lectures on constitutional law.



**7:15 p.m.**

Adjunct Professor Mark Yosowitz '94, president of Mentored, leads a class on transactional skills for startups.



**7:30 p.m.**

Christina Rhode '18 (*front*) and Kayla Bargeron '18 (*back*) participate in a class discussion.



**7:40 p.m.**

Students gather in the library, open every day from 8 a.m. until midnight.



**8:00 p.m.**

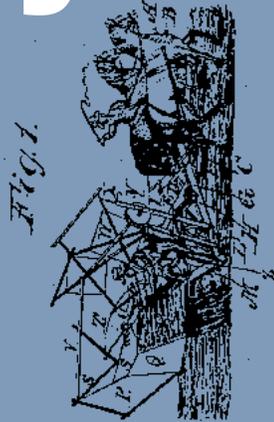
The Law School that never sleeps, with evening classes and frequent on-campus events.

C. H. McCORMICK.  
REAPER.

No. 5,335.

Patented Oct. 23, 1847.

# Everything



# Old

# Is New



# Again

By Professor  
Christopher Beauchamp

# The last time patent trolls and a litigation explosion created a crisis in the U.S. patent system, America's spirit of invention not only survived—it thrived.

**Y**ou may have heard that the patent system is in crisis. Every year, the U.S. Patent Office pumps out a record number of patents, many of them vague, overbroad, or drafted to claim inventions that are old or obvious. Worse still, a class of opportunistic entrepreneurs and lawyers have begun to weaponize these patent grants, adopting a business model based on acquiring and enforcing patents and spreading out across the country to threaten everyone from large industrial companies to startups and small family firms. The result is a “patent litigation explosion” that has swamped the federal courts in the hardest-hit jurisdictions and tangled thousands of defendants in vexatious lawsuits. Members of Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court worry that the patent system has become a tool for “speculative schemers” trying to assert patents over “every shadow of a shade of an idea.”

Welcome to the patent predicament of 19th-century America.

The rise of “patent trolls” and rampant patent litigation has been a common lament lately, but it’s not a new phenomenon. In fact, the 19th-century patent system not only prefigured many of the present dramas, but was actually far more controversial and litigious than that of the early 21st century.

## The 19th-century patent system not only prefigured many of the present dramas, but was actually far more controversial and litigious than that of the early 21st century.

The numbers alone are startling. Compared with the great wave of patent suits in the middle of the 19th century, the modern-day patent litigation explosion is more of a muffled pop. The rate of lawsuits per patent was more than 10 times higher in 1850 than it is today. At least one federal judicial district in the late 19th century had as many as 1,000 patent cases filed in a single year. For comparison, that amounts to about one-fifth of the number filed in the whole United States in 2014, when the patent system, the economy, and the business of the federal courts were vastly larger.

Next, consider the range of technologies touched by patent contests. Recent hot-button patent fights have involved claims for podcasting, scan-to-email technology, and the various design features embroiled in the “smartphone wars”

between Apple, Samsung, and other rivals. In the 19th century, almost every high-profile new technology passed through the courts. Patent battles broke out over water wheels, woodworking, mechanical harvesters, sewing machines, railroad cars, telegraphs, telephones, bicycles, and the electric light—as well as rubber goods, baking powder, barbed wire, fountain pens, cash registers, firearms, photography, and refrigeration. As the eminent historian Daniel Boorstin observed of that period: “The importance of any new technique in transforming American life could roughly be measured by the quantity of lawyerly energies which it called forth.”

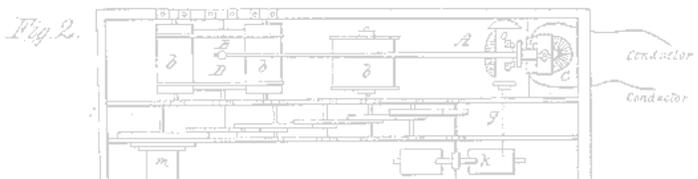
**F**or a good example of some misplaced “lawyerly energies,” one might look 19th-century America squarely in the mouth. Rubber dentures became a popular new dental item in the 1850s, following Charles Goodyear’s development of vulcanized rubber. Shortly after the Civil War, a group of lawyers and businessmen acquired the rights to key patents and organized an enforcement entity—a patent troll, in current parlance—called the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company. They then embarked on a nationwide campaign to extract license payments from every dentist supplying rubber products. By all accounts, it was a cruelly probing effort. *The New York Times* reported that “servants of dentists were bribed, next-door neighbors were questioned, and intimidation was often resorted to.” Attractive lady spies, “whom no dentist would suspect,” were sent into dental offices to gather evidence of rubber sales. Inflamed by the company’s demands, dentists mounted collective resistance, resulting in more than 2,000 patent suits being filed across the country. The Vulcanite Company’s reign of terror ended only after the architect of its legal strategy, company treasurer Josiah Bacon, was shot to death in San Francisco by a desperate dentist accused of infringement.

Similar patterns of large-scale patent enforcement recurred elsewhere, albeit in different settings and with different technologies. Early versions appeared in the 1840s, when the owners of valuable patents for water wheels and wood-planing machines started to file hundreds of suits (a huge number for the time) against mill owners and carpenters across New England, the Mid-Atlantic, and the South. Other mid-century patent holders followed suit in seeking to establish patent control, including several who subsequently became famous names in the history of U.S. invention: Samuel Morse of the telegraph; Cyrus McCormick, pioneer of the harvester; Samuel Colt, of the eponymous revolver; and Charles Goodyear himself.

After the Civil War, enforcement campaigns grew even larger. Again, some involved famous inventions. The Bell

No. 1,047.

Patented Jun. 20, 1860



Telephone Company, for example, filed around 600 suits under Alexander Graham Bell's telephone patents of 1876 and 1877. In the West, the owners of crucial barbed wire patents brought hundreds of infringement actions against farmers using that vital new farming technology. Other efforts concerned patents no one would remember today. In the booming oil fields of western Pennsylvania, the feared Colonel E. A. L.

## Suits against large numbers of small-scale technology users were common, with farmers a particular target.

Roberts flooded the region with lawsuits under his patent for well-blasting charges. Thousands of suits were filed over a few short years against the "moonlighters" who dared, often under cover of night, to defy his monopoly. And the biggest campaign of all involved an even simpler technology, a widely used technique for obtaining groundwater using a pointed pipe driven into the ground, which was known as the "driven well." The man behind the driven well patent was Nelson W. Green of Cortland, N.Y., an erratic character who, while commanding a wartime volunteer regiment, had shot one of his captains, been expelled from his church, faced accusations of insanity, and become involved in litigation against his own pastor. Having somehow found the time to invent a driven well in camp, Green obtained a patent in 1868 and began a licensing-and-litigation operation that stretched from Long Island to Oregon. When farmers revolted against demands to pay \$10 licenses for a device they considered basic and freely available, Green's agents filed innumerable lawsuits—hundreds in some counties and several thousand nationwide.

What caused this broader explosion of patent litigation across the 19th-century economy? As you might imagine, systematic data from a century and a half ago is hard to come by; examples like those above have to be painstakingly reconstructed from contemporary newspaper accounts and surviving court documents. Even so, the historical record suggests at least two likely sources of the litigation boom.

One is that the patent system proved, for a while, particularly open to certain kinds of opportunism and rent-seeking behavior. Patents could be extended on a case-by-case basis, either by Congress or the Patent Office, from their standard 14-year term to 21 or even 28 years (and in at least one notorious instance, to more than 40). Well-funded lobbying battles over patent extensions repeatedly erupted in Congress, with "costly and extravagant entertainments" laid on for "ladies and

Members of Congress and others" in support of private extension bills. Many of the most-litigated patents were prolonged in this fashion, making them into political as well as legal flashpoints. At the same time, the Patent Office allowed patent owners to "reissue," or amend, their patents with improved wording, supposedly to correct minor errors but in practice usually to update the patent for use against newer technologies. This practice became so brazen, and so frequently employed to turn obscure old patents into valuable reissued claims, that the Supreme Court eventually decried such grants as "instruments of great injustice and oppression."

Another engine of litigation was the use of highly aggressive mass-enforcement practices. Attorneys and agents often collected royalties and damages on a commission or contingency-fee basis, which in turn allowed for large and highly motivated assertion campaigns. Suits against large numbers of small-scale technology users—what we would now call "end users," as opposed to manufacturers or retailers—were common, with farmers a particular target. Especially in the West, patentees took full advantage of the costs facing those sued in a faraway federal court. As one Iowa senator pointed out: "Our people are paying day by day \$10, \$15, \$20... just because it is cheaper to do it than to defend a suit." To be sure, the reasons for suing small defendants were not purely tactical. One major driver of the number of suits was the scale of business itself. Patentees often had to target individual infringers because their sector contained no large-scale manufacturing firms or retailers to sue, at least before the rise of big business at the end of the 19th century.

The first patent litigation explosion took place in a world very different from our own. Neither the typical business organization nor the typical lawsuit of the 19th century looks much like their modern counterparts. Patent litigation used to be much less expensive, in both absolute and relative terms. Even so, there are some resounding echoes between the two periods.

First, in both eras the patent enforcement system itself became entrepreneurial. Middlemen, lawyers, and business models evolved to become particularly attached to patent litigation and creative in pursuing it. Specialized "patent assertion entities" emerged, including the Goodyear Dental Vulcanite Company and its modern successors, notorious patent trolls such as the Acacia Research Corporation. These are the firms that stretch the limits and norms of patent law. They also tend to account for a disproportionately large number of cases. Just 35 plaintiffs sued a quarter of all patent defendants in the U.S. courts in 2012, for example, mirroring the small number of patentees who dominated the 19th-century scene by filing hundreds or thousands



of suits. Some of the most intriguing parallels between the periods of patent activism are cultural, in the form of a “gold rush” mentality enveloping the patent system and altering the self-identity of patent owners and the patent bar.—Sheet 2.

The second striking similarity lies in the backlash against runaway patent enforcement. Today’s litigation explosion has produced fierce reactions in Congress and the courts, including proposals to improve patent quality, shrink the range of inventions that can be patented, limit end-user suits, reduce damages awards, and require losing parties to pay their opponents’ litigation costs. State governments have prosecuted abusive patent trolls for sending bad-faith demand letters. Firms have joined collective defense associations to resist infringement suits. On many of these points, the parallels with the late 19th century are remarkable. In the 1870s and 1880s especially, farmers and other targets of aggressive patent enforcement formed a political movement to push back against patent abuse and to reform

**Just 35 plaintiffs sued a quarter of all patent defendants in the U.S. courts in 2012, mirroring the small number of patentees who dominated the 19th-century scene by filing hundreds or thousands of suits.**

the patent law. The proposed reforms would sound very familiar today: wiping out trivial patents, prohibiting end-user suits, cost-shifting, and reining in damages. Similarly, state governments in the rural Midwest tried to legislate against dubious sellers of patent rights, and big businesses like the railroads organized patent defense associations to smother litigation.

The lessons of the 19th century for today’s patent reform efforts are mixed. On the one hand, the most sweeping legislative attacks on the patent system failed. In the 1880s, farmers’ representatives in Congress had a real chance to transform or weaken patent law, but those efforts were stymied in the Senate. The political furor showed the dangers of a popular backlash—it turns out that going after the little guy is dangerous, if you want to keep patent law above politics—but statutory change ultimately did not do much to improve the situation. The previous patent litigation explosion did ebb, however. By the 1890s and early 1900s, the

number of suits was down, and litigation was shifting away from mass enforcement against individuals and toward fewer contests between bigger companies. Some of the decline resulted from courts cracking down on abusive practices by patentees. But much of the reduction in litigation may have followed from economic factors beyond the control of courts or Congress, such as the consolidation of the manufacturing industry into larger and less litigious entities. As big business took hold of the innovation economy, the 20th-century experience of patent law became more stable, with the number of suits rarely creeping above 1,000 per year until the 1990s.

“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it rhymes,” as Mark Twain (himself a patent owner) is reputed to have said. The history of the first patent litigation explosion at least suggests that current events are not unprecedented, which may be reassuring to some. However, it remains an open question whether we should see the 19th-century experience as ominous, because it shows the inevitable rot of opportunism lurking within the patent system, or as reassuring, because it did not break the high-technology economy, which subsequently delivered a golden age of invention and a so-called “second industrial revolution.” In any case, today’s patent lawyers can hold their heads high. No matter how much criticism they may hear about the expense and dysfunction of the patent system, they can rightly respond that they are partaking of a great American tradition. ■



**Christopher Beauchamp** is an associate professor at Brooklyn Law School, where he teaches courses on intellectual property and legal history. His first book, *Invented by Law: Alexander Graham Bell and the Patent That Changed America*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2015. His recent scholarship includes “The First Patent Litigation Explosion,” 125 *YALE L. J.* 848 (2016), which was selected for inclusion in the

prestigious Yale/Stanford/Harvard Junior Faculty Forum last year. He earned his Ph.D. in history from Cambridge University and has received numerous awards, including the Cromwell Dissertation Prize of the American Society for Legal History, the Yorke Prize of the Cambridge University Faculty of Law, and the Levinson Prize of the Society for the History of Technology.

This article has been adapted from “The First Patent Litigation Explosion,” published in the *Yale Law Journal* earlier this year.



# THE POWER BEHIND THE SCENES

How Brooklyn Law School graduates are lighting up New York City's entertainment industry— from music to television to film

Story: Andrea Strong '94 | Photography: Ron Hester

**L**ong considered a global cultural capital, New York City in recent years has been experiencing a renaissance in the music, film, and television industries. In 2015, more than 46 episodic television series, such as *Girls*, *The Americans*, *The Good Wife*, and *Law & Order*, and 336 films, including *Brooklyn*, *Bridge of Spies*, and *The Intern*, were shot on locations around the city—including the Law School—generating at least \$8.7 billion for the local economy. Brooklyn, in particular, has become an increasingly popular home for movie and television studios, as well as live music, creating thousands of job opportunities.

Brooklyn Law School is right at center stage in New York as well as in Hollywood, and was recently ranked number 10 on *The Hollywood Reporter* list of “Top 12 Entertainment Law Schools.” The Law School’s vast and strong alumni network in the entertainment world from coast to coast includes the six leaders profiled here, all working in New York City at powerhouses like the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, HBO, BET Networks, Universal Music, ASCAP, and Barclays Center.

“Brooklyn was my first choice because of its reputation in entertainment law,” said Keith Bloyd ’16, co-president of the Brooklyn Entertainment and Sports Law Society. “The school does a phenomenal job of preparing students to excel in what has become one of the most competitive industries in the world.”

## Nicole George-Middleton ’01

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP  
ASCAP

In 2011, Nicole George-Middleton ’01 (*left*) was named one of *Billboard* magazine’s “Top 40 Women in Music,” and it’s easy to see why. As senior vice president of membership at the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), George-Middleton has worked with some of the group’s top talent, including Drake, Kendrick Lamar, Jay Z, and Usher. She advocates for the musicians’ interests, develops creative partnerships, puts songwriters together with producers, hosts workshops and events, and connects emerging artists with mentors.

“My job is to promote and nurture everyone in our organization, from developing songwriters to accomplished composers like Ne-Yo,” she said.

George-Middleton has spearheaded a number of initiatives for ASCAP’s more than half a million members, including a lunch series called “Break Bread” that invites songwriters to participate in jam sessions at its offices in New York City, Los Angeles, and Atlanta.

“We were hearing that our members want to spend time with other artists,” she said. “They come here to have fun and just vibe and play and eat lunch. It’s been amazing.”

“My job is to promote and nurture everyone in our organization, from developing songwriters to accomplished composers.”

— Nicole George-Middleton ’01

She and her team are also responsible for creating ASCAP’s annual “Women Behind the Music” event, which celebrates women in music during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October, and “Check It Out” events, where the organization rents space for songwriters to play their music in front of studio heads and industry heavyweights. The idea is to give ASCAP members more opportunities to get their music in front of important audiences. Even if it doesn’t result in a strategic partnership, the writer receives helpful feedback and benefits from having a broader network of contacts.

George-Middleton, who holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, began thinking about focusing on entertainment law while she was a student at Brooklyn Law School. During that time, she had an internship at Arista Records, which gave her valuable opportunities to sit

in on negotiations with artists and to help draft their contracts. After graduating, she joined what was then known as Woods & Middleton, a small boutique entertainment firm (now the Middleton Law Group), where she spent seven years representing talent like DMX, Kelly Price, and Foxy Brown. “The work allowed me to form strong relationships in the entertainment industry and build my knowledge of copyright law and issues facing songwriters and artists,” she said.

Returning to the label side, she joined the RCA Label Group’s Jive Records in house as director of business and legal affairs. For three years, she negotiated recording agreements and music publishing agreements. Then in 2008, ASCAP recruited her to join its urban rhythm and soul department, largely because of her legal training and the strong relationships she had built in the music industry.

“Music is the soundtrack to life,” she said. “At ASCAP, we want people to enjoy it, and we want to make sure that writers and musicians are properly compensated for it.”

## Daniel Getz '95

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS  
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

**Universal Music Group, Republic Records**

“I don’t sing or play instruments very well myself, but I’ve always been a music lover,” said Daniel Getz, senior vice president of business and legal affairs for Republic Records at Universal, the largest U.S. music company. “After law school, I worked hard to build up my credentials so that I would be ready when the right job came along.”

That job certainly came along for Getz, who now negotiates and drafts contracts in connection with some of the biggest names in the music business—including Nicki Minaj, The Weeknd, Zac Brown Band, Jessie J, and the recent winner of *The Voice* Jordan Smith. He received his bachelor’s degree in literature and economics from the University of Michigan, then attended Brooklyn Law School as the first step toward a career in entertainment law. Following graduation, he held a variety of jobs including managing bands and working with record companies, while always trying to network and make connections in the industry. In 1998, he landed his “first legit gig,” representing artists and companies at the law firm of Leibowitz, Roberts & Ritholz, where clients included NSYNC, Lisa Loeb, and the New Kids on the Block.

“The music business is always changing, which makes it interesting and challenging.”

— Daniel Getz '95



Getz relished his time at the firm, but an opportunity presented itself that seemed too good to pass up: He was offered the position of general counsel at a startup called Music Vision, which handled advertising and representation for website publishers in the music and entertainment world. Unfortunately, the company folded a couple of years later during the first Internet crash, but that cloud had a silver lining: Universal hired Getz in 2002 as the junior lawyer in the Universal Motown Republic Group. Today, he manages the negotiation and structuring of deals with major talents on the Republic label.

Having been in the business for more than 20 years, Getz has seen a dramatic transformation of music technology, from CDs to the streaming trend that currently dominates how people purchase and listen to songs. It hasn’t been an easy storm to weather, but Getz is optimistic.

“I’ve watched the industry shrink from a \$14 billion business to around half of that, as technology and the Internet allowed albums to be disaggregated from downloads of singles,” Getz said. “Now I think we’re seeing more people purchase streaming subscriptions, which is leveling out revenues for artists and their labels. It may be a real savior for the industry.”

He advises young lawyers with a passion for music to get traditional legal experience and to be aware of key players in the entertainment world. “The music business is always changing, which makes it interesting and challenging,” Getz said. “To succeed, it’s critical to be thoughtful and dynamic.”

## Anne del Castillo '11

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER  
AND GENERAL COUNSEL

### New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

“Our city is the backdrop for some of the most iconic moments in cinema history; our streets and skylines are coveted around the world,” said New York City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito.

A key force in making the city such a vibrant hub for movies and television shows is Anne del Castillo '11, chief operating officer and general counsel of the New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME). The agency supports the filmed entertainment industry, which contributes nearly \$9 billion annually to the local economy.

Del Castillo oversees MOME's operations, including policy development and strategic initiatives. With a staff of nearly 80 people, MOME comprises two divisions: the Office of Film, Theatre, and Broadcast, which manages all production activity throughout the five boroughs, and NYC Media, the city's official broadcast network and media production group. MOME also supports a number of industry development initiatives, such as the “Made in New York” Marketing Credit Program, which

promotes New York City-based film and television projects, and the “Made in NY” Production Assistant Training Program, which has already prepared more than 600 New York residents for careers in film and television.

“As a born-and-bred New Yorker, I just love this city and all it has to offer. It's extremely rewarding to know that every day, I get to go to work and help find ways to sustain our city's role as a true creative capital,” Del Castillo said. “By supporting content development, production innovation, and investment in industry, we are creating more and more opportunities for New York City residents in media and entertainment.”

Del Castillo brings to her position more than 20 years of experience in media and the arts, focusing on film production, fundraising, business development, and legal affairs. After receiving dual bachelor's degrees in English and mass communications from Boston University, she began her career in film and television. She got her start at the Independent Feature Project and went on to work with some of the most prestigious producers at PBS: Sesame Workshop, *American Masters*, and *Frontline*. Del Castillo later moved to Austin, Texas, where she worked for the Austin Film Society and was part of the task force that developed the Austin Studios. Upon her return to New York in 2002, she joined American Documentary, producers of the acclaimed PBS series *POV*, where she oversaw fundraising and business affairs.

“I truly value the education I got at Brooklyn Law. I got to learn from some of the best and brightest minds in the legal field.” — Anne del Castillo '11



It was during her tenure at American Documentary that Del Castillo realized just how much she enjoyed the business aspects of her job, and she decided to pursue a law degree. Del Castillo enrolled as a part-time student at the Law School, taking classes in the evening, while working full time as vice president of development and business affairs for American Documentary during the day.

“It was a bit of an adjustment returning to school after being in the field for 15 years,” she said. “But ultimately I think I got more out of it. I truly value the education I got at Brooklyn Law. I got to learn from some of the best and brightest minds in the legal field.”

She took a break from media to work as head of development at the 14th Street Y, before she was recruited to join MOME in 2014. Looking ahead, one of Del Castillo’s priorities is ensuring

that New York City’s media endeavors continue to embrace diversity and inclusion.

“As a child,” she said, “when I saw shows with diverse characters in urban settings, like *Sesame Street* or *The Electric Company*, I felt a connection, a recognition of sorts that my experience was valuable enough to be reflected on TV. While advancements have been made, we still have a long way to go for media to truly reflect the depth, breadth, and richness of human experience in all its forms. We live in one of the world’s most culturally rich and diverse cities. With the recent expansion of MOME’s portfolio that now includes music, digital content, and advertising, I am looking forward to maximizing opportunities for more New Yorkers to participate in the evolution of media and entertainment in the city. In doing so, we will move the industry forward in a more inclusive and meaningful way.”



## Keith Sheldon '07

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMMING  
**Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment**

Bruce Springsteen. Stevie Wonder. Rihanna. Ed Sheeran. Justin Bieber. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Today they are among the major performers and events hosted by Barclays Center in Brooklyn—and Keith Sheldon '07, senior vice president of programming for Brooklyn Sports & Entertainment (BS&E), has been instrumental in bringing them to the stage. In fact, he’s done his job so well that *Pollstar* magazine last year ranked Barclays Center number two nationally and in the top 10 in the world based on concert and entertainment ticket sales.

“I think we’ve done a great job of creating a cool vibe at Barclays Center, which makes it an aspirational place to play for up-and-coming artists, and one that established artists view as a key stop on their tour,” Sheldon said.

“Keith is a star himself in the world of major venue entertainment programming,” said Jeff Gewirtz '94, executive vice president of business affairs and chief legal officer for the Barclays Center, Brooklyn Nets, New York Islanders, and Nassau Coliseum. “In addition to his wide network of key

“My priority is to make the content providers happy, while always considering the company’s bottom line.”

— Keith Sheldon '07

“It’s rewarding to engage with our audience beyond entertainment and help move issues forward in an innovative way.”

— Nneka Norville '01

contacts in the music industry, Keith is a tactical negotiator and understands what will move business objectives forward. His legal training really sets him apart from other programming executives, particularly when it comes to complex booking transactions.”

Sheldon joined BS&E in 2014, after nearly a decade of working in the events arena. He started his career with AEG, one of the world’s leading sports and entertainment presenters, working in business and legal affairs at the XL Center, an 18,000-seat venue in Hartford, Conn.

“We weren’t in a ‘must-play’ market,” he said. “So I did a lot of hustling, looking for unique content opportunities and getting to know promoters, agents, and managers.”

From there, AEG transferred him to Louisville, Ky., where he ran events for the 23,000-seat KFC Yum! Center. “That venue was set up for major events, in a prime location on most musicians’ tour routes, so it opened my eyes to a different subset of the business,” Sheldon said. “I learned about what your space can do for an artist’s brand identity. So much of my job now is about making deals, so I really focus on relationships and building bridges with the entertainers. My priority is to make the content providers happy, while always considering the company’s bottom line.”

Sheldon is also excited about other projects in the BS&E pipeline, including the historical LIU Brooklyn Paramount Theatre with an opening slated for 2019; the reimagined Nassau Coliseum set to reopen within a year; and The Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk, a new 5,000-seat covered amphitheater scheduled to open this summer. He credits the organization’s growth to the vision of Brett Yormark, CEO of BS&E.

In his own capacity to further drive business at each of the BS&E properties, Sheldon works closely with a 40-member advisory board, which features some of the most influential executives in sports, entertainment, arts, and media. He also manages a Los Angeles office that mines content relationships on the West Coast.

“It’s great to get other perspectives about what live events people want to see,” said Sheldon. “We’re focused on continuing to put Brooklyn and Barclays on the map—nationally and internationally.”



## Nneka Norville '01

DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE  
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY  
BET Networks

With the U.S. presidential election campaign in full swing, Nneka Norville, the director of corporate social responsibility at BET Networks, is focused on engaging her audience. Leveraging the strength and reach of BET’s brand, she has developed a national initiative—as she has done in past election years—to empower voters with valuable tools and resources. BET VOTE cuts across the network’s portfolio, including an on-air PSA, a custom website, and complementary messaging on social media platforms, amplifying the reach and impact of these important calls to action.

“As in a traditional marketing campaign, every place our audience engages with us, they will see our messaging about the importance of voting,” Norville said.

This is just one example of Norville’s work at BET. For the last eight years, she has leveraged the brand’s content, platforms,

and employees for social good. She serves as a liaison to community, business, and government organizations. She develops mentorship and volunteer programs. She manages public service campaigns, including one related to the recent water crisis in Flint, Mich.; education initiatives, such as BET Next Level, which promotes dropout prevention and diversity in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); and programs highlighting health disparities including BET Goes Pink, which promotes women's health through breast cancer awareness.

Norville has received several awards for her dedication to cause marketing and corporate philanthropy. In 2015, Women in Cable Television named her a rising leader and the *Network Journal Magazine* included her as one of its "40 Under Forty Achievers." In 2008, *O, Oprah Winfrey's* magazine, honored her as one of its "80 Leaders in Training."

Norville has spent most of her professional career in the entertainment industry. After receiving her bachelor's degree in communications and marketing from Boston University, she worked in public relations at Sony Music Entertainment before coming to Brooklyn Law School. Norville enrolled in law school to help her develop skills in research, writing, and public speaking that would benefit her career in the long term.

"I felt that with a law degree I could do anything and it would make me more marketable," she said.

After graduating, she practiced entertainment law briefly before pursuing her passion for social good. She managed corporate sponsor relationships for the nonprofit LIFEbeat, an organization dedicated to using the power of music industry celebrities to inform young people about HIV/AIDS and wellness. In 2005, she won the National Urban Fellowship (NUF) award, which offers a 14-month academic and leadership development experience in the public sector. Through NUF, Norville earned her MPA from the Bernard M. Baruch School of Public Affairs and worked with the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, a \$1 billion family foundation focused on global education, reproductive rights, and environmental sustainability. At Packard, Norville supported the head of communications with domestic and international grantmaking as well as grantee communications strategy.

"I was able to travel to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and help rebrand a communications strategy for a national health program," she said. "It was an incredibly rewarding experience."

In 2006, Norville was hired as a program officer in the entertainment media partnerships division at the Kaiser Family Foundation. In this role, she managed campaigns with public- and private-sector partners such as Viacom, BET, CBS, FOX, Univision, and the NBA to leverage brand equity for social good. In 2008, BET Networks recruited her to join its corporate social responsibility team.

Norville takes seriously her responsibility at BET. Recently, she worked with producers of the hit BET show *Being Mary Jane*, to address a storyline in which a character commits suicide. Norville put together a campaign that included suicide preven-

tion information embedded in the show, as well as suicide prevention hotline information on screen at the end of the episode. She also hired a psychologist do a live Twitter chat during and after the show, highlighted facts about suicide on all BET social media platforms, and engaged talent from the show to leverage their social media for the same messaging. The result? The partner for the episode, the American Association of Suicide Prevention, reported a 50 percent increase in web traffic, a 60 percent increase in hotline calls, and a 45 percent increase in followers on its Instagram account.

"I feel so fortunate to have this role," she said. "It's rewarding to engage with our audience beyond entertainment and help move issues forward in an innovative way."

## Meeka Bondy '94

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS  
HBO

Meeka Bondy, senior vice president of legal affairs at HBO, has had a front-row seat to the television industry's dramatic change from network cable TV to multiple—and multiplying—platforms like Netflix and Hulu for original television content. Throughout her career, she has worked at the center of disruptions in media and technology.

"The TV business is still going through a lot of change now," Bondy said. "There's talk about whether Internet-delivered content cannibalizes the core business, but I think that you have to put it all out there and see how consumers react. There was a time when HBO was the only one doing original content, but now so many people are in the game. We are in the golden age of television."

Bondy has worked with HBO for more than a decade, joining the company as senior counsel in 2004. Her role at that time focused heavily on film acquisitions that pushed the boundaries of technology. She worked on the first wireless mobile content deal with Cingular wireless, for example, and executed the first international wireless deal with Vodafone.

Today, she is responsible for HBO's global licensing business, licensing of original HBO programming to networks in other countries, and the licensing of HBO library collections to Amazon Prime. She also manages corporate services, real estate, facilities, vendor relations, research, and foreign regulatory matters such as the European Union's Digital Single Market reforms.

"We only license earlier seasons of shows, not the current seasons," she said. "We want to expand access to our programming while being mindful of our own subscribers and our own bottom line."

Bondy, like George-Middleton, received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Pennsylvania before enrolling at Brooklyn Law School. An involved student at the Law School, she served as the president of the Asian



“There was a time when HBO was the only one doing original content, but now so many people are in the game. We are in the golden age of television.”

— Meeka Bondy '94

American Law Students Association (AALSA) and as executive editor of the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*. She also met and later married classmate Joseph Bondy '94, a well-known criminal defense attorney, with whom she has three children. After graduation, she spent several years at a computer and technology law firm before joining the new media group at Time, Inc., as associate counsel in 1998.

Hooked on the entrepreneurial side of the media business, Bondy jumped at a chance to join Time Warner Interactive Video Group in 2002, acting as general counsel for Mystro TV. The main initiative there was to develop and commercialize on-demand cable television service. Her team also developed a service that would sell interactive advertising and collect data (within the boundaries of privacy law) on viewers' watching habits and then sell it back to programmers.

In 2011, HBO selected Bondy to attend the Women in Cable Telecommunications (WICT) Betsy Magness Leadership Program, a group of 27 women leaders from across all areas of the cable industry. She attended five sessions starting at the Center for Creative Leadership on work-life topics such as how

to manage your time, stay energetic, manage a team, deal with crisis at work, and develop a personal brand.

“The program changed the way I approached my job,” she said. “It helped me correct my blind spots, things I never saw in myself. In addition, I now have a group of women who I can count on and learn from.”

Bondy continues to attend the WICT's annual Betsy Magness Graduate Institute. “We discuss things like how to inspire others, and that makes work more meaningful,” she said. “It's not just about writing a contract, it's being able to negotiate well and involve people so they feel like they're part of something. You can't just sit in a room and work. You have to learn to lead.” ■

## New Faculty Members Join the Law School

Brooklyn Law School continues to attract the finest legal scholars and clinicians in the nation. Welcome four new distinguished faculty members: **Heidi Brown**, who joined the faculty in April (see page 35); and **Susan Hazeldean**, **Christina P. Skinner**, and **Alex Stein**, who will begin teaching this fall. They join a faculty already renowned for excellence in teaching and scholarly influence, which has been recognized with a prestigious Leiter Top 40 ranking.



**Susan Hazeldean**, an assistant clinical professor at Cornell Law School, will create and direct the new LGBT Advocacy Clinic. She previously taught at Yale Law School, where she served as a Robert M. Cover Fellow in the Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was an Arthur Liman Public Interest Law Fellow.



**Christina P. Skinner**, an associate in law at Columbia Law School, will teach in the areas of securities regulation, financial institutions, international business transactions, and corporations. She previously was an associate at Zuckerman Spaeder LLP, where she worked on a variety of commercial law cases and served as counsel to the New York State White Collar Crime Task Force. She received her bachelor's degree from Princeton University and her J.D. from Yale Law School.



**Alex Stein**, a professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, brings his expertise in torts, medical malpractice, evidence, and criminal law to the Law School. He is a renowned scholar who has published three books and numerous articles in leading law reviews. He received his law degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and his Ph.D. from the University of London. ■

Full profiles of the Law School's newest faculty members will appear in the fall issue of *Brooklyn Law Notes*.

For more information, visit [brooklaw.edu/faculty](http://brooklaw.edu/faculty).

# Faculty Notes

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## Nick Allard

### PUBLICATIONS

- *A Letter to Tyler*, LEGAL STUDIES FOR THE CURIOUS: WHY STUDY LEGAL STUDIES (The Curious Academic Publishing; first edition, Jan. 1, 2016)
- *The Enduring Power of Law*, PRELAW MAGAZINE, Winter 2016

### PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Participant, Panel Discussion: A Landmark Decision Turns 40: A Conversation on *Buckley v. Valeo*, Brooklyn Law School
- Host, Book Talk and Reception: JUDGING STATUTES by Robert A. Katzmann, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, Brooklyn Law School
- Panelist, Roundtable Discussion: Deans' Responses to Town Hall (Reacting, Reflecting, and Reforming), 2016 ABA Deans Workshop, San Francisco, Calif.
- Participant, Towards a More Democratic, Modern Lobbying Process, New America, Washington, D.C.
- Host, Conversations with Derek Taylor (Magna Carta in 20 Places) and Dina Gold (Stolen Legacy), Brooklyn Book Festival, Brooklyn Law School
- Panelist, "The Artist and the Law," Symposium: From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta, Brooklyn Law School

### SELECT MEDIA

- Radio interview, *Are Today's Emerging Lawyers Unfit for The Task?*, YOU ARE HERE/WERS (Oct. 26, 2015)
- Opinion, *The Bar Exam Is Not the Best Test of a Good Lawyer*, THE NEW YORK TIMES, Room for Debate (Sept. 24, 2015)

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## William Araiza

### PUBLICATIONS

- *Enforcing the Equal Protection Clause: Congressional Power, Judicial Doctrine, and Constitutional Law* (NYU Press, 2016) (see page 41)
- *The Enforcement Power in Crisis*, 17 U. PA. J. CON. L. ONLINE (2015)

### PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Time Management and Scholarship as a Vice Dean," Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.
- Panelist, Animus and Its Discontents, Constitutional Law Colloquium, Loyola University School of Law, Chicago
- Speaker, Congressional Power to Enforce the Reconstruction Amendments, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, N.Y.

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## Julian Arato

### PUBLICATIONS

- *The Logic of Contract in a World of Treaties*, 58 WM. & MARY L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016)
- *Corporations as Lawmakers*, 56 HARV. INT'L L. J. 229 (2015)
- Book review of Erik Bjørge's THE EVOLUTIONARY INTERPRETATION OF TREATIES, BRITISH YEARBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (2015)

### PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Speaker, "The Logic of Contract in a World of Treaties: American Society of International Law International Economic Law Interest Group Workshop," the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania; Junior International Law Scholars Association Annual Meeting, University of Pennsylvania School of Law
- Moderator, American Society of International Law, Mid-Year Meeting Research Forum, Washington, D.C.

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## Jonathan Askin

### PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Introductory Remarks, Symposium: Protecting Trade Secrets in a World of CyberCrime, Brooklyn Law School
- Panelist, Technology Transfer Days: National Security Technology Accelerator & Requirements, New York University Tandon School of Engineering
- Moderator, "Building a Magna Carta for the Digital Era— Collaborative Drafting of a Citizens' Charter for Cyberspace," Symposium: From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta, Brooklyn Law School

### SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted in *New York's Attorney General and Law Clinics Aid Entrepreneurs*, ABA JOURNAL (Jan. 1, 2016)
- Quoted in *Mayor de Blasio and Chief Technology Officer Tantoco Launch Neighborhoods.nyc, Innovative Neighborhood Website Platform*, NYC.GOV (Oct. 14, 2015)
- Quoted in *Chicago taxi drivers ready to strike over Uber provision in proposed budget*, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR (Oct. 8, 2015)
- Quoted in *Marco Rubio Hopes Sharing Economic Plan, Outreach To Young Tech Entrepreneurs Will Undercut Hillary Clinton*, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES (Oct. 6, 2015)
- Interview, *Talking about the internet and revolution with law professor Jonathan Askin*, TECHNICALLY (Sept. 23, 2015)
- *Does The Internet Need An 'E-Magna Carta'? New Website Aims To Create Charter For The Digital Age*, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS TIMES (Sept. 18, 2015)

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**Miriam Baer**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Too Vast To Succeed*, Book review of Brandon Garrett's *TOO BIG TO JAIL: HOW PROSECUTORS COMPROMISE WITH CORPORATIONS*, 114 MICH. L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, Whistleblowing and Corporate Change, New York University School of Law, Classic Liberal Institute
- Panelist, Anti-Bribery Panel, International Law Weekend-West, Brigham Young University Law School

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**Jodi Balsam**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Discussant, "Fostering Entrepreneurial Lawyering in Curricular Design," Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.
- Co-host and Presenter, "Training and Reception for Supervising Attorneys of Legal Externs: Effective and Ethical Supervision," New York Law School
- Panelist, "The Case for Intellectual Diversity in Clinical Legal Education," Southern Clinical Conference, University of Memphis

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Treasurer, Association of American Law Schools Section on Law and Sports
- Member, Externships Committee of the Clinical Legal Education Association
- Co-chair, Information and Technology Subcommittee of Externship Committee of Association of American Law Schools Section on Clinical Legal Education

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Quoted in *Is Football Just Too Dangerous?*, THE NEW YORK TIMES UPFRONT MAGAZINE (Dec. 14, 2015)
- Appeared on *NYAG Schneiderman's Attempt to Shut Down Daily Fantasy Sports Firms*, CTV NEWS (Nov. 12, 2015)
- Quoted in *Does playing fantasy sports amount to gambling? Debate intensifies*, LOS ANGELES TIMES (Oct. 26, 2015)
- Contributor, *Ideas in Brief: the Material Facts Game*, ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS SECTION ON TEACHING METHODS 2015 NEWSLETTER (Oct. 2015)

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**Christopher Beauchamp**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *The First Patent Litigation Explosion*, 125 YALE L. J. 848 (2016) (see page 20)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- "The First Patent Litigation Explosion," New York University Stern School of Business, Creativity and Innovation Research Initiative, Dec. 2015; Federal Circuit Historical Society
- "Invented by Law," New York Public Library and U.S. Court of International Trade
- Commentator, Tri-State Intellectual Property Workshop, New York University School of Law

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Book talk, "Alexander Graham Bell and the Telephone," C-SPAN AMERICAN HISTORY TV (Jan. 11, 2016)

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**Anita Bernstein**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Just Jobs*, 45 U. BALT. L. REV. 209 (2015)
- *Common Law Fundamentals of the Right to Abortion*, 63 BUFF. L. REV. 1141 (2015)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- "Good Enough for a Brandeis Brief," University of Louisville School of Law
- "The Reciprocal of *MacPherson v. Buick Motor Co.*," Torts and Compensation Section, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.
- "Common Law Fundamentals of Abortion...and Beyond," Keele University Faculty of Law; Oxford University Medical Law and Ethics Discussion Group
- "Gender in United States Law," New York University/Tel Aviv campus

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Elected to Associate Membership of the Common Room and Honorary Membership of the High Table at Christ Church College

**SELECT MEDIA**

- NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL columns: *Legal Malpractice in Defending Civil Actions* (Jan. 26, 2016); *Legal Malpractice Liability for Criminal Defense: Rare, Yet Possible* (Dec. 30, 2015); *Judiciary Act § 487 Claims for Attorney Misconduct* (Nov. 24, 2015); *Matrimonial Malpractice Before, During and After a Client's Divorce* (Oct. 30, 2015); *Avoidable and Actionable Errors by Personal Injury Lawyers* (Sept. 17, 2015)

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**Bradley Borden**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Reforming REIT Taxation (or Not)*, 53 HOUS. L. REV. 1 (2015)
- *Section 1031 Drop-and-Swaps Thirty Years After Magnuson*, 19 J. PASSTHROUGH ENT. 11 (Jan.–Feb. 2016)
- *Section 1031 Drop-and-Swaps Thirty Years After Bolker*, 18 J. PASSTHROUGH ENT. 21 (Sept.–Oct. 2015)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- "Capital Structure of Noncorporate Business Entities," J. Reuben Clark Law Society Faculty Group Conference, New York, N.Y.
- "Can the Tenant Provide Tax-Free Financing of the Landlord's Construction Costs?," American Bar Association, Section of Taxation, Sales, Exchanges & Basis Committee Meeting, Los Angeles, Calif.
- "Proposed Anti-Fee Waiver Regulations: A Blueprint for Waiving Fees?," Bloomberg BNA Tax Management Advisory Board Meeting, New York, N.Y.
- "The State of Section 1031 Drop-and-Swaps Thirty Years After Bolker and Magnuson," The University of Texas School of Law 63rd Annual Taxation Conference, Austin, Tex.

## Professor Heidi K. Brown Named New Director of Legal Writing



Professor Heidi K. Brown joined the Law School this spring as director of the legal writing program and associate professor of law, bringing two decades of experience in legal practice and academia to the position. Brown previously served as associate professor of law at New York Law School, where she helped launch the school's legal practice program. Before that, she was an associate professor of legal research and writing at the Chapman University Dale E. Fowler School of Law in Orange, Calif.

"Heidi's years of practical expertise, combined with her passion for and dedication to teaching, make her an outstanding

addition to the Law School's world-class faculty and our distinguished legal writing program," said Dean Nick Allard.

Brown spent numerous years with Moore & Lee, LLP, a boutique litigation firm with offices in the Washington, D.C., area and New York City, where she handled all aspects of litigation and arbitration of complex construction contract and building development disputes. She specialized in brief writing for state and federal cases throughout the United States, and mentored the firm's junior associates in civil procedure, litigation strategy, and legal writing. Before that, she was an associate at the Manhattan firm of Thacher, Proffitt & Wood and at the Washington, D.C., area firm Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald, LLP.

"I'm thrilled to join Brooklyn Law School," Brown said. "I look forward to building on the already strong writing program, established by Professor Marilyn Walter, and continuing to innovate in ways that directly prepare our students for success in law school, the job market, and their future practice."

Brown has published three books on legal writing and federal litigation, as well as numerous scholarly articles for law journals. She is currently working on her forthcoming book *The Introverted Lawyer*, which aims to help law students and lawyers "find their authentic lawyer

voices" and overcome anxiety about Socratic legal discourse. Brown was inspired by her own experience overcoming the fear of public speaking as a law student and litigator.

"I was an introverted student, and I suffered from public-speaking anxiety during the early part of my career, which definitely posed a challenge as I sought out my niche in the tough construction litigation world, negotiating contracts and resolving contentious disputes," Brown said. "However, I felt most comfortable and natural in my role as a legal writer, and eventually established my advocacy voice through writing briefs, drafting transactional agreements, and crafting deposition and trial outlines. Now as a teacher, I try to convey to my students how writing can serve as a solid backbone for every other activity we undertake as lawyers, and strengthen how we orally communicate."

Brown recently was appointed to the Fulbright Specialist Roster, making her eligible for two international teaching grants in the next five years through the J. William Fulbright Scholars Program. She received her bachelor's degree in foreign affairs and French literature, and her J.D. from the University of Virginia. She enjoys studying Italian, and recently spent a month teaching legal writing at the University of Trento in Italy. ■

- "Maximizing Capital Gains in Real Estate Transactions," New York University 74th Annual Institute on Federal Taxation, San Francisco, Calif., and New York, N.Y.
- "Did You Really Mean What You Wrote in that IRR Distribution Waterfall?," American Bar Association, Business Law Section, LLC Institute, Alexandria, Va.
- "Probability, Professionalism, and Protecting Taxpayers," Standards of Practice and Their Implications in Law and Accounting Firms, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law
- "Hot Topics Regarding Section 1031 Exchanges," Philadelphia Bar Association Tax Section CLE, Philadelphia, Pa.

### SELECT MEDIA

- *XIRR Guessing Games and Distribution Waterfalls*, BUS. L. TODAY, (Jan. 2016)
- Author, *Who Cares About Taxing REIT Spinoffs?*, THE HUFFINGTON POST (Dec. 17, 2015)

### Dana Brakman Reiser

#### PUBLICATIONS

- *Alternative Business Organizations and Social Enterprise*, in ROUTLEDGE COMPANION TO BUSINESS ETHICS (forthcoming 2016)

#### PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- "Nonprofit Governance Basics," Practising Law Institute Seminar on Financial and Reporting Issues for Nonprofit Organizations 2013, New York, N.Y.
- Panelist, "Oversight Under Siege: An International Comparison of Regulatory Models," 43rd Annual Conference of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, Chicago, Ill.
- Presenter, "Foundation Law: A U.S. Country Report," German Comparative Law Society Biennial Conference, Bayreuth, Germany



**Professor Garrison (front row, center) at Yangon University on a Monday, when the Myanmar government decrees that teachers wear a blue uniform**

## Teaching Law in Myanmar

By Professor Marsha Garrison

AS I HEADED OFF for my first day of teaching, PowerPoint slides in hand, I thought I had a pretty good sense of what to expect; I had already sat in on classes and talked with teachers at the Yangon University Law Department. But Myanmar offers daily surprises. As I entered the law building, Yangon's erratic power supply crashed. My students and I groped our way to a gloom-shrouded classroom, where we pulled out flashlights and cell phones to see the day's assignment. We proceeded in this manner for the next hour, when the power suddenly came back on. At that point, I was able to show my PowerPoint slides and try to relate them to the discussion in the dark that had preceded them.

Law teachers at Yangon University cope, day in and day out, with power outages plus a long list of other difficulties. They work in dilapidated classrooms where students sit on benches that may well have been abandoned by the British in 1948 when Myanmar became independent. Their Internet access is just as unreliable as the power supply. The instructional materials they use are photocopied compilations of excerpts from whatever was available. The library is typically under lock and key; there is no money for a librarian. There is only one complete set of equipment to show

PowerPoint slides. There is virtually no support staff. And, because teachers are government employees, they are expected to take on responsibilities that have nothing to do with teaching. The Yangon University Law Department, for example, has been tasked with grading thousands of examinations taken by judicial and prosecutorial candidates.

The difficulties that law teachers at Yangon University—and at all of Myanmar's 18 law faculties—confront every day result from decades of government hostility to academic freedom and excellence. During Myanmar's half century of military rule, educational spending was a low priority; in 2011, Myanmar's educational expenditures were equivalent to only 0.79 percent of GDP, one of the lowest percentages in the world. As a result of repeated student demonstrations against the government, "distance learning" was also introduced in the 1970s and soon became dominant. Even in 1975, its first year, the distance-learning program admitted 6,500 first-year law students, roughly 20 times the number admitted to Yangon University. Entrance qualifications for distance learning in law "were consistently the lowest among all professional schools," and the small number of overworked teachers assigned to the enormous program could not provide

adequate textbooks or instruction. The result was a system in which law teachers could not teach and law students could not learn.

Despite this history, the current mood at the Law Department, among both teachers and students, is buoyant. After decades of military rule, a new, civilian government took power this year. Nobel Prize-winner Aung San Suu Kyi and other leaders of the victorious National League for Democracy (NLD) have urged that rebuilding Myanmar's universities will be a government priority. Professor Dr. Khin Mar Yee, chair of the Yangon University Law Department, thus feels "optimistic." We "need resources and staff," she noted. But "our lady is interested in legal education and has very good ideas."

The task of rebuilding Myanmar's law departments will not take place overnight. But change is in the offing. As an example of the new mood, the Board of Studies, which prescribes the law curriculum nationwide, recently made human rights law a required course. After decades of military rule, teachers and students alike are eager to bring human rights into the classroom as well as national life.

Legal education will play a vital role in Myanmar's transition to the rule of law. After spending the better part of a semester at the Yangon University Law Department, I feel immense admiration for the enthusiasm and talent that both teachers and students are bringing to the work ahead. I have learned something every day of my stay in Yangon. I'm sure I will continue to learn from Myanmar's dedicated legal educators and aspiring young lawyers. ■

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**Marsha Garrison** is the Suzanne J. and Norman Miles Professor at Brooklyn Law School, where she teaches courses on law and policy pertaining to families and children. During the spring semester, she served as a senior Fulbright Scholar at Yangon University in Myanmar.

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**Heidi Brown****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, Emboldening the Quiet Law Student: Why 'Just Do It' Censors But 'Just Be It' Amplifies, Southeastern Legal Writing Conference, University of Miami School of Law

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**Michael Cahill****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Organizer/host/commentator, Criminal Theory "Markelloquium," Brooklyn Law School
- Presenter, "The Meaning(s) of Punishment," Vanderbilt Law School; Suffolk University Law School

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**I. Bennett Capers****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- "Rape Shields, Rape Judgments," Violence Against Women Symposium, Rape Panel, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.; and Drexel Law School
- Panelist, "AALS Arc of Career Program: Scholarly Engagement Post Tenure," Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.
- Techno-Policing, Problems in Urban Law Enforcement Lecture, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- Commentator, "Magna Carta's American Adventure," Symposium: From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta, Brooklyn Law School

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Quoted in *Perjury USA: Rampant Police Lying Taints Criminal Justice System*, SALON (Jan. 6, 2016)
- Quoted in *NYPD Wants Civilian Complaint Review Board to Show How its Members Vote on Police Cases*, N.Y. DAILY NEWS (Jan. 5, 2016)
- Interview, *Police Technology from Body Cameras to Facial Recognition*, TALKSONLAW (Winter 2016)

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**Natalie Chin****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, "Working with Clients with Intellectual Disabilities and Utilizing the Americans with Disabilities Act as an Advocacy Tool," Conference: Because All Families Matter: Enhancing Parental Defense in New York, Albany, N.Y.
- Presenter, "Know Your HCBS Waiver Rights for People Living in Group Homes" and "Supported Decision Making: An Alternative to Guardianship," Self-Advocacy Association of New York State Conference, Albany, N.Y.

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**Neil B. Cohen****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Possible PEB Commentaries on the Uniform Commercial Code, Annual Meeting of the Permanent Editorial Board for the Uniform Commercial Code, Chicago, Ill.

- "International Secured Transactions Reform," Barry L. Zaretsky Roundtable, Center for the Study of Business Law and Regulation, Brooklyn Law School
- Principal Presenter, American College of Commercial Finance Lawyers, Annual Advanced Seminar on Commercial Law, Chicago, Ill.
- Secured Transactions Reform Efforts, United States Department of State Advisory Committee on Private International Law, Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Appointed to World Bank/International Finance Corporation team to assist St. Lucia government in reforming its secured transactions law

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Served as member of the delegation of the United States to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group on Secured Transactions, Vienna, Austria
- Served as Member of Working Group of UNIDROIT (the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law) for its work on international commercial contracts, Hamburg, Germany

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**Edward De Barbieri****PUBLICATIONS**

- *Do Community Benefits Agreements Benefit Communities?*, 37 CARDOZO L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, "Do Community Benefits Agreements Benefit Communities?," New England Clinical Conference, Harvard Law School; Local Government Law Works-in-Progress Conference, Rutgers Law School Center on Law in Metropolitan Equity; Third Annual Junior Faculty Exchange, UMass—Dartmouth School of Law; and Clinical Writers' Workshop, New York University School of Law
- Testimony before the New York City Council Committee on Small Business on curtailing harassment of small business and other nonresidential tenants

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Authored *The World Series, Public Trust Doctrine and Small Businesses*, THE HUFFINGTON POST (Oct. 28, 2015)

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**Steven Dean****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Panelist, Addis, Post-2015, and Future Efforts Against Illicit Financial Flows, Global Justice Post-2015 Conference, Yale University
- Organizer, Symposium: Reconsidering the Tax Treaty, Dennis J. Block Center for the Study of International Business Law, Brooklyn Law School
- "Social Enterprise and the Law," McGill Tax Policy Colloquium; Arizona State University Faculty Workshop

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**Robin Efron**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Anti-Plaintiff Bias in the New Federal Rules of Civil Procedure*, JOTWELL, Jan. 2016 (reviewing Patricia W. Hatamyar Moore, *The Anti-Plaintiff Pending Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Pro-Defendant Composition of the Federal Rulemaking Committees*, 83 U. CIN. L. REV. 1083) (2015)

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**Elizabeth Fajans**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, “Best Practices for Supervising Seminar Papers and Other Scholarly Writing,” Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.

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**James Fanto**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Surveillant and Counselor: A Reorientation in Compliance for Broker-Dealers*, 2014, B.Y.U. L. REV. 1121 (2015)
- *The Vanishing Supervisor*, 41 J. CORP. L. 117 (2015)
- BROKER-DEALER LAW AND REGULATION, (Wolters, Kluwer Law & Business 2016 updates)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Participant and session presenter/moderator, Investment Funds Roundtable, Boston University School of Law
- Participant, University of Pennsylvania Institute for Law and Economics Conference
- Organizer/moderator, Abraham L. Pomerantz Lecture: “The New Governance,” Brooklyn Law School
- Host, session moderator and Associate Reporter, ALI Project on the Principles of the Law, Compliance, Enforcement, and Risk Management, Brooklyn Law School

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Quoted in *Everything You Need to Know About the Exxon Climate Change Probe*, BLOOMBERG BUSINESS (Nov. 10, 2015)
- Quoted in *New York’s Public Law Report: Bharara backs off insider trading charges*, POLITICO (Oct. 23, 2015)

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**Nina Farber**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- “Breathing New Life into the ‘A’ in ‘CRAC’: CPR + Compare, Introducing a New Method for Teaching the Analysis Section of a Brief,” Southeastern Legal Writing Conference, University of Miami School of Law

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**Maryellen Fullerton**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Refugee Law: The Most Powerful International Human Rights Mechanism*, Book review of THE LAW OF REFUGEE STATUS, by James C. Hathaway and Michelle Foster, 109 AM. J. INT’L L. 908 (Oct. 2015)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, “The Refugee Definition in the 21st Century,” and “Refugee Challenges in the Americas,” University of Brasilia
- Moderator, “Obstacles to Asylum,” University of Brasilia
- Keynoted Second Annual International Refugee Law Course in Latin America, University of Brasilia, Brazil
- Presenter, “Asylum Crisis in Europe,” University of Iowa Law School

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Op-ed, *Spare the Rhetoric, Save the Refugees*, ORLANDO SENTINEL (Dec. 16, 2015)

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**Cynthia Godsoe**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Marriage Equality and the New Maternalism*, 6 CAL L. REV. CIRCUIT 145 (2015)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- “Vulnerable Offenders: Girls in the Juvenile Justice System,” Workshop on Children, Vulnerability and Resilience, Emory Law School
- “Recasting Vagueness: The Case of Teen Sex Statutes,” Faculty Workshop, Hofstra Law School

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Letter to the Editor, *Helping Women and Girls in Prison*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Dec. 10, 2015)

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**Joel Gora**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Speaker and organizer, Panel Discussion: A Landmark Decision Turns 40/A Conversation on *Buckley v. Valeo*, Brooklyn Law School
- Panelist, DEMOS Program on *Buckley v. Valeo* at 40, National Press Club, Washington, D.C.
- “The Origins and History of the Pro Se Law Clerk’s Office of the Second Circuit,” Second Circuit Staff Attorney Lunch Lecture
- Introduction, “Are the Rule of Law and Constitutional Rights Compatible with Democracy?,” Symposium: From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta, Brooklyn Law School

**SELECT MEDIA**

- *The Roberts Court and the Future of Free Speech*, CONCURRING OPINIONS (Oct. 5, 2015)

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**Susan Herman**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- U.S. Treasury Roundtable Discussion on Economic Inclusion with Secretary Lew (Jan. 2016)
- Panelist, Towards Dystopian Democracies in Europe and the USA? From Prejudice in Immigration Policies to Mass Surveillance in Counter-Terrorism Operations, New York University

- Commentator, “Magna Carta’s American Adventure,” Symposium: From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta, Brooklyn Law School

**SELECT MEDIA**

- *What Are You Going to Do About It?*, STAND, Winter 2016
- Interview, *Individual Liberty in Post-9/11 America*, TALKSONLAW, Fall 2015
- Op-Ed, *ACLU President: We Didn’t Always Have Free Speech*, TIME (Nov. 20, 2015)
- Op-Ed, *The ACLU of the Future May Protect Robot Rights*, TIME (Sept. 11, 2015)
- Op-Ed, *Heritage Foundation Agree: Reform Forfeiture Laws*, THE DES MOINES REGISTER (Sept. 9, 2015), with John Malcolm

**Edward Janger****PUBLICATIONS**

- *Implementing Symmetric Treatment of Financial Contracts in Bankruptcy and Bank Insolvency*, 10 BROOK. J. FIN. & COMM. L. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016) (with John Pottow)
- *Asset Sales in Bankruptcy*, ELGAR HANDBOOK ON CORPORATE BANKRUPTCY, Barry Adler, ed. (Elgar, forthcoming 2016) (with Melissa Jacoby)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- “Realization: Allocating Bankruptcy-Created Value in Chapter 11 Cases,” John C. Akard Lecture, University of Texas Law School
- Organizer, Young Bankruptcy Scholars’ Work-in-Progress Workshop, Brooklyn Law School, Cosponsored by the American Bankruptcy Institute
- Convener/Moderator, “International Harmonization of Bankruptcy and Secured Credit: Security v. Rescue,” Barry L. Zaretsky Roundtable Discussion, Center for Study of Business Law and Regulation, Brooklyn Law School
- Presenter, “BAPCPA and Loss Mitigation: A Case Study,” New Deal for Consumer Bankruptcy Conference, Hudson Valley Bar Association
- “The Emerging Architecture for Coordinated Restructuring of International Corporate Groups,” NCBJ/ACB Joint International Program, National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Annual Meeting, Miami Beach, Fla.

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- American Bar Association Delegate to UNCITRAL Working Group V (December 2015)
- Member, FDIC Expert Group on SIFI Bankruptcies (Single Point of Entry, 2016)

**Roberta Karmel****PUBLICATIONS**

- *The Law on Insider Trading Lacks Needed Definition*, 68 SMU L. REV. 757 (2015)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Moderator, “Harmony and Discord: The Current State of Cross-Border Derivatives Regulation,” Sidley Austin, New York, N.Y.

- Participant, “Women in Compliance Panel” and “Special Presentation: 75th Anniversary of the Advisers Act—How Far We’ve Come,” Ascendant Conference, Scottsdale, Ariz.

**SELECT MEDIA**

- NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL columns: *The Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Investment Advisers Act* (Oct. 15, 2015); *Crowdfunding: Narrative and Financial Disclosures* (Dec. 17, 2015)

**Adam Kolber****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- “Memory Editing as Human Enhancement,” American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Human Performance Enhancement Workshop, Cambridge, Mass.
- “Two Views of First Amendment Thought Privacy,” Hofstra Law School; and Harvard Law School, Petrie-Flom Center

**Rebecca Kysar****PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- “Interpreting Tax Treaties,” Faculty Workshop, Pace University School of Law
- Discussant, Symposium: Reconsidering the Tax Treaty, Dennis J. Block for the Study of International Business Law, Brooklyn Law School
- “The Affordable Care Act and the Origination Clause,” Yale Law School Federalist Society

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Association of American Law Schools Section on Legislation and Law of the Political Process, Chair-Elect (2016-17)

**Brian Lee****PUBLICATIONS**

- *Emergency Takings*, 114 MICH. L. REV. 391 (2015)

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Advisers and Members Consultative Group Meeting, RESTATEMENT (4TH) OF PROPERTY, American Law Institute, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Gregg Macey****PUBLICATIONS**

- *The Natech: Right-to-Know as Space-Time Puzzle*, in RISK ANALYSIS OF NATURAL HAZARDS (Springer, 2016)
- *Boundary Work in Environmental Law*, 53 HOUS. L. REV. 103 (2015)

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Appointed to the National Advisory Board for *Virginia Environmental Law Journal*

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**Christina Mulligan**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- “Founding-Era Translations of the Constitution,” Georgetown University Law Center
- Commentator, 6th Annual Tri-State Region Intellectual Property Workshop, New York University School of Law
- “Killing Copyright,” Intellectual Property & Innovation Speaker Series, Case Western Reserve University School of Law
- Panelist, “Secrets of the Archives: Why We Preserve Documents in the Digital Age,” Symposium: From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta, Brooklyn Law School

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Quoted in *How Hoverboards Epitomize Our Broken Patent System*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (Dec. 20, 2015)

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**Minor Myers**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Aggregation by Acquisition: Replacing the Class Action with a Market for Legal Claims*, 101 IOWA L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016) (with C. Korsmo)
- *Interest in Appraisal*, 42 J. CORP. L. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016) (with C. Korsmo)
- *Reforming Modern Appraisal Litigation*, 41 DEL. J. CORP. L. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016) (with C. Korsmo)
- *Do the Merits Matter? Empirical Evidence on Shareholder Suits from Options Backdating Litigation*, 164 U. PENN. L. REV. 291 (2016) (with Q. Curtis)
- *Appraisal Arbitrage and the Future of Public Company M&A*, 92 WASH. U. L. REV. 1551 (2015) (with C. Korsmo)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- “Aggregation by Acquisition,” Section of Securities Regulation, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.
- “Reforming Modern Appraisal Litigation,” Vanderbilt Law & Business Colloquium

**SELECT MEDIA**

- *Appraisal Arbitrage and the Future of Public Company M&A*, JOTWELL (Nov. 25, 2015)
- Quoted in *Forbes Sues Integrated Whale Over Media Deal*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Nov. 5, 2015)
- Quoted in *Delaware Judge Rules Against Hedge Funds in BMC Buyout*, REUTERS (Oct. 21, 2015)

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**K. Sabeel Rahman**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- DEMOCRACY AGAINST DOMINATION (Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2016) (see page 41)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, “Private Power and Public Purpose,” Business Associations/Law and Economics Sections, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.

- Lecturer, Reinventing the Social Contract—Convening at the New America Foundation, Washington, D.C.
- “Regulating the Sharing Economy,” *Boston Review* forum series, San Francisco, Calif.
- Speaker, “Reinventing the Social Contract,” Stanford Workshop on the History of Capitalism
- Presenter, “Democracy Against Domination,” U.S. Society for Intellectual History Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Presenter, “The Constitution and Inequality,” Yale Law School/American Constitution Society Law and Inequality Conference
- Presenter, “Private Power, Public Utilities, and the Curse of Bigness Revisited,” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, Calif.
- Presenter, “Civic Engagement and Economic Inequality,” W. K. Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, Mich.
- Presenter, “Transcending the New Deal Idea of the State,” Beyond the New Deal Conference, University of California—Santa Barbara

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- New America Fellowship, Sept. 2015

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**David Reiss**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Redesigning the Federal Housing Administration for the 21st Century*, WESTLAW JOURNAL BANK & LENDER LIABILITY (forthcoming 2016)
- *Underwriting Sustainable Homeownership: The Federal Housing Administration and The Low Down Payment Loan*, 50 GEORGIA L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Speaker, “Equitable Subrogation in Mortgage Refinancing and Land Purchase Transactions,” Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Section of the American Bar Association “Professors’ Corner”

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- REFinBlog nominated as best education blog, Expert Institute Blog Contest
- Appointed Judge, 2015 Judge John R. Brown Award for Excellence in Legal Writing
- External Reviewer, GEOFORUM

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Quoted in *15 Gastos Escondidos al Comprar Una Casa* (15 Hidden Costs When Buying a Home), TELEMUNDO (Jan. 22, 2016)
- Quoted in *Playboy Mansion for Sale—With One Tenant for Life*, FOX NEWS (Jan. 11, 2016)
- Quoted in *A Consumer’s Guide to the Fed Interest Rate Hike*, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT (Dec. 17, 2015)
- Quoted in *Asking for Help with Down Payment Can Often Be Difficult*, DALLAS MORNING NEWS (Dec. 13, 2015)
- Quoted in multiple REALTOR.COM articles and a half dozen articles on THESTREET.COM, as well as numerous articles in LAW360.COM, CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, MONEY, WISEBREAD, DEPOSITACCOUNTS.COM, UNIVISION and other outlets on a variety of real estate finance legal issues.

# Brooklyn Law Bookshelf

*New publications from faculty*

## ***Enforcing the Equal Protection Clause: Congressional Power, Judicial Doctrine, and Constitutional Law*** (NYU PRESS, 2016)

**By William D. Araiza**



Drawing on the history of American thinking about equality in the decades before and after the Civil War, Vice Dean and Professor William D. Araiza argues that congressional enforcement and judicial supremacy can coexist if—and only if—the court limits its role to ensuring that enforcement legislation reasonably promotes the core meaning of the Equal Protection Clause.

In his timely new work that is both intellectually rigorous and accessible, Araiza explores the 14th Amendment, which guarantees “the equal protection of the laws.” By looking at issues such as separation of powers, federalism, and constitutional rights, Araiza offers a new perspective on understanding Congress’s

enforcement abilities and its relationship to the court’s claim to supremacy when interpreting the Constitution.

Much of the court’s equal protection jurisprudence stops short of stating such a core meaning, thus leaving Congress free (subject to appropriate judicial checks) to enforce the full scope of the constitutional guarantee. Araiza’s thesis reconciles the Supreme Court’s ultimate role in interpreting the Constitution with Congress’s superior capacity to transform the 14th Amendment’s grand principles into living reality.

Araiza’s teaching and scholarly interests focus on administrative and constitutional law. Prior to joining the faculty at Brooklyn Law School in 2009, Araiza served as the associate dean for faculty and the Rev. Richard A. Vachon S.J. fellow and professor of law at Loyola Law School Los Angeles. Previously, he practiced as an associate with two large law firms in Los Angeles, after clerking for Judge William Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and for Justice David Souter of the U.S. Supreme Court. ■

## ***Democracy Against Domination*** (OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2016)

**By K. Sabeel Rahman**



Does the modern economy pose a challenge to democratic ideals? Do market forces and corporate power undermine the prospects for economic well-being, while seeming to exist beyond the capacities of ordinary citizens? Professor K. Sabeel Rahman answers “yes” to both questions in his first book, forthcoming later this year.

Rahman, a 2016 fellow at the New America Foundation, argues for a more democratic approach to economic governance. He examines the moral challenge of the modern economy in terms of domination, whether in the concentrated private power of corporations or the diffuse system of the market itself. He then argues that such domination must be counteracted by democratic politics, through the use of institutions and practices that empower citizens to mitigate these forms of authority.

Such democratic economic governance draws on a tradition of U.S. politics rooted in the thought and reform politics of Progressive Era thinkers like John Dewey and Louis Brandeis. Using

the case of financial regulatory reform after the 2008 financial crisis, Rahman’s book outlines how this focus on domination and democracy suggests a different approach to economic regulation. The focus on domination implies economic regulations that attempt to limit the concentrated power of corporations like too-big-to-fail financial firms through structural constraints. The focus on democratic agency suggests a regulatory process that, rather than prioritizing insulated expertise, cultivates a more participatory and inclusive form of collective decision making.

Rahman’s scholarship and teaching focuses on administrative and constitutional law, with a specific interest in examining democratic and participatory governance, public law, and economic policymaking. Rahman joined the faculty in 2015, following a year as special advisor in the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development in New York City. He received his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his Ph.D. from Harvard University. He also holds an MSc in economics for development and an MSt in sociolegal studies from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He has extensive experience in economic development strategy and policy work with several government and community organizations. In March 2015, Rahman was appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to serve on the New York City Rent Guidelines Board. ■

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**Elizabeth M. Schneider**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Revisiting the Integration of Law and Fact in Contemporary Federal Civil Litigation*, 15 NEV. L. J. 1387 (2015) (invited contribution to symposium honoring Professor Stephen Subrin)

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**Jocelyn Simonson**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- *Copwatching*, 104 CALIF. L. REV. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016)
- *Beyond Body Cameras: Defending a Robust Right to Record the Police*, 104 GEO. L. J. \_\_ (forthcoming 2016)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Panelist/Moderator, Panel on Responding to the Money Bail Crisis, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting, New York, N.Y.
- Keynote Speaker, Panel on Technology and Policy Accountability, *Georgetown Law Journal* Symposium, Police/State: Race, Power, and Control, Georgetown University Law Center
- Presenter, *Copwatching*, *California Law Review* Public Lecture Series, UC Berkeley School of Law
- Presenter, “When the Community Posts Bail,” LatCrit Conference, Anaheim, Calif.

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Quoted in *Jurors asked not to talk, documents filed under seal in Freddie Gray case*, BALTIMORE SUN (Jan. 3, 2015)
- Quoted in *Some details unclear in Cuomo’s plan for 10,000 pardons*, POLITICO (Dec. 22, 2015)
- Quoted in *A body cam caught a Cleveland cop acting heroically. So why are cops afraid of them?*, WASHINGTON POST (Oct. 9, 2015)

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**Janet Sinder**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Moderator, “Secrets of the Archives: Why We Preserve Documents in the Digital Age,” Symposium: From Runnymede to Philadelphia to Cyberspace: The Enduring Legacy of Magna Carta, Brooklyn Law School

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Appointed to Publications Committee of the American Bar Association Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar

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**Lisa C. Smith**

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Presenter, “Brooklyn Law School Community Prosecution Clinic: Can a prosecution clinic teach engagement and connection with local communities?,” Association of Canadian Clinical Law Professors, University of Saskatchewan College of Law

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Executive Board, Association of American Law Schools Clinical Section
- Member, Kings County Judicial Screening Committee

**SELECT MEDIA**

- Quoted in *How a Stanford Student Accused of Assaulting Multiple Women Graduated*, THE HUFFINGTON POST (Jan. 22, 2016)
- Quoted in *Rape by Strangers*, THE NEW YORK TIMES (Jan. 22, 2016)
- Quoted in *Prosecutors Weigh Next Step in Brooklyn Gang Rape Case*, WALL STREET JOURNAL (Jan. 16, 2016)

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**Lawrence Solan**

**PUBLICATIONS**

- THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF LANGUAGE AND LAW, co-edited with Peter Tiersma (Oxford Handbooks in Linguistics, 2016 paperback edition)
- *Transparent and Opaque Consent in Contract Formation*, in COERCION AND CONSENT IN THE LEGAL PROCESS: LINGUISTIC AND DISCURSIVE PERSPECTIVES, S. Ehrlich, D. Eades, and J. Ainsworth, eds. (Oxford University Press, 2016)
- *Expert Witness Communication*, in COMMUNICATION IN INVESTIGATIVE AND LEGAL CONTEXTS: INTEGRATED APPROACHES FROM FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY, LINGUISTICS, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT, G. Oxburgh, T. Myklebust, T. Grant and R. R. Milne, eds. (Wiley 2015) (with L. Fadden)

**PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS**

- Commentator, Association of American Law Schools Emerging Scholars Program on Legislation and Statutory Interpretation, New York, N.Y.
- “Precedent in the EU and the US: A Comparative View,” Conference on Precedent in EU Law: The Linguistic Aspect, sponsored by Exeter University and the Irish Centre for European Law, Dublin
- Keynote, “Communicating with Experts,” Conference on Expertise in Language and Law, Cardiff University, Wales
- “How Dishonest May Lawyers Be?” Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid
- “The Interpretation of Multilingual Legislation: Some Costs and Benefits,” International Conference on Law and Social Order, Spiru Haret University, Romania
- “Can Posting a Poem on Facebook Land You in Prison? Putting Peter Tiersma’s Work to Work,” Aston University, England

**HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS**

- Editor (with Janet Ainsworth), Oxford University Press Language and Law Book Series

## Professor Aaron Twerski Receives Prosser Award



**PROFESSOR AARON TWERSKI**, the Irwin and Jill Cohen Professor of Law, was honored in January with the William L. Prosser Award, given by the Association of American Law Schools in recognition of outstanding contributions of law teachers in scholarship, teaching, and service in torts and compensation systems. Twerski, a preeminent authority on products liability, has been a faculty member at Brooklyn Law School for nearly 30 years.

“There is no one more deserving of this award than Aaron Twerski,” said Dean Nick Allard. “His influential and prolific scholarship is well known and admired not only by his colleagues in the academy, but by the judges, practitioners, and students who also have been the beneficiaries of his wisdom and brilliant teaching.”

“It was an emotional moment for me,” Twerski said of the award ceremony. “To be inducted into an exclusive club that includes such legendary scholars as Leon Green, Guido Calabresi, Wex Malone, and Page Keeton was meaningful.

When I began my career some 50 years ago, I could not in my wildest dreams have imagined that I would receive such recognition from my colleagues.”

In his remarks upon receiving the award, Twerski, a Hasidic Orthodox Jew, reflected on a career that was almost derailed by religious prejudice. When he was interviewing for teaching positions in the mid-1960s, he was told by interviewers that he was “too religious” and was asked: “Do you really have to wear that distinctive garb?” While discouraged, he persevered and was finally offered his first position at Duquesne Law School in Pittsburgh. Twerski worries that Muslim and Sikh job candidates may face the same prejudice today. His essay on the topic, “A Career in Law That Almost Didn’t Happen,” appeared in the Jan. 19 edition of the *New York Law Journal*.

A prolific writer on torts and products liability law, Twerski has published dozens of articles in leading law reviews, and coauthored widely used textbooks including *Products Liability: Problems and Process* (eighth ed.) and *Torts: Cases and Materials* (third ed.) with Cornell Law Professor James Henderson, and *Choice of Law: Cases and Materials for a Concise Course on Conflict of Laws* with Professor Neil Cohen.

Among his numerous distinctions, he was appointed as a special master in the federal 9/11 cases dealing with the injuries claimed by those involved in the cleanup of the World Trade Center site. He was co-reporter for the American Law Institute’s *Restatement of the Law (Third) Torts: Products Liability*, and he was named the R. Ammi Cutter Reporter for his distinguished performance. Twerski also was honored as an icon of Brooklyn Law School at a gala on Ellis Island last June. ■

### Nelson Tebbe

#### PUBLICATIONS

- *Religion and Social Coherencism*, 91 NOTRE DAME L. REV. 363 (2015)
- *Religious Institutionalism—Why Now?*, in THE RISE OF CORPORATE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: HOBBY LOBBY AND THE NEW LAW OF RELIGION IN AMERICA, Micah Schwartzman et al., eds. (2015) (with Paul Horwitz)

#### PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

- Presenter, “Religion & Equality,” What’s Next for the LGBT Movement after the Marriage Cases: Defects in Anti-Discrimination Laws and Religious Freedom Challenges, Panel of the Section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues, Association of American Law Schools, New York, N.Y.
- Commentator, Childress Lecture by Lawrence Sager, Saint Louis University Law School

- Presenter, “When Do Religion Accommodations Harm Others?” The Conscience Wars: Rethinking the Relationship Between Religion, Identity, and Equality Conference, Cardozo Law School

#### SELECT MEDIA

- Quoted in *States deal with religious and gay rights in the wake of same-sex marriage ruling*, ABA JOURNAL (Sept. 1, 2015)

### Aaron Twerski

#### HONORS/AWARDS/APPOINTMENTS

- Recipient of the William L. Prosser Award, Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting

#### SELECT MEDIA

- *A Career in Law That Almost Didn’t Happen*, NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL (Jan. 19, 2016)

# Alumni Events

## ON THE ROAD Brooklyn Law Graduates Reconnect in Connecticut, Washington, and California



In October, **Janine Waldman '01** and her husband, Marcus, hosted an alumni gathering at their home in Stamford, Conn. Guests, including members of the development and alumni relations staff, spent the afternoon catching up with one another and hearing from **Dean Nick Allard** about the latest news from the Law School.

Seattle-area graduates attended a November reception at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, where they were joined by **Karen Eisen**, dean of career and professional development. The group included graduates at various stages of their careers, but they shared a strong Brooklyn Law School bond and now look forward to staying connected with one another.

**Susan Rits '05** hosted a reception in Palo Alto, Calif., where local graduates enjoyed the opportunity to reconnect with one another and hear from **Professor Jonathan Askin**, founder and director of the Brooklyn Law Incubator and Policy Clinic (BLIP) and innovation catalyst for the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE). ■

**TOP, L-R: Clifford Kleinbaum '64, Dean Nick Allard, and Louise Kleinbaum; BOTTOM, L-R: Emily Turner '07, Elliot Turner '07, Devin Taylor '08, and Maria Taylor '08 at the alumni gathering in Stamford, Conn.**



## Brooklyn-Based Whiskey Distiller Draws a Crowd

**ONE OF BROOKLYN'S** most popular artisanal beverage companies, Kings County Distillery, held a sold-out tasting event on campus for more than 100 alumni, friends, and faculty members in December. Co-owner and master blender Colin Spoelman (*above, right*) gave an in-depth overview on the history of whiskey production in New York City before sharing five popular spirits from the distillery's award-winning collection, including bourbon, moonshine, and chocolate whiskey. A reception followed, sponsored by the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association, featuring whiskey—of course—in addition to beer, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. ■

## Recent Grad Council Mingling with a Purpose

LAST FALL, the Recent Graduate Council hosted a networking and informational event for Brooklyn Law students, in partnership with the Office of Career and Professional Development and the Office of Alumni Relations. Professional recruiting experts offered tips for making meaningful business connections in professional and social settings. Then council members shared their own insights and best practices. Finally, participants tried out the new strategies they had learned while making new connections with other guests.



L-R: Karla Cabral '17, Ashley Haripal '18, Brian Hoffman '17, Dmitry Nam '15, and Clifford Tucker '13



L-R: Giovanna Mabile Ferreira dos Santos '16, Quincy Auger '13, and Morgan Spina '16

## Foreign-Trained Lawyers Celebrate in Brooklyn Bridge Park

FOR THE SECOND consecutive year, the Office of International Programs and the Office of Alumni Relations cosponsored an event for LL.M. students and graduates at Fornino, a pizzeria in Brooklyn Bridge Park. In September, Dean Nick Allard, Professor and Director of Graduate Education Lawrence Solan, and Director of International Programs Julie Sculli welcomed guests and talked about exciting developments at the Law School. LL.M. graduates shared their advice and experiences with current students over wood-fired pizza and drinks, while enjoying spectacular views of lower Manhattan and the Statue of Liberty. ■



Julie Sculli (far left), Professor Lawrence Solan (front, fourth from left), and Dean Nick Allard (front, center) with LL.M. students and graduates dining al fresco on the roof at Fornino

# Brooklyn Law School Celebrates Alumni at the Plaza Hotel

IN JANUARY, MORE THAN 250 ALUMNI and their guests, faculty, students, and staff filled the grand ballroom at the famed Plaza Hotel in New York City for Brooklyn Law School's Annual Alumni Association Luncheon.

"I hope you share the pride I feel as president and dean of Brooklyn Law School," said Dean Nick Allard in his welcome remarks. "Our great law school is increasingly known for what it has always been—a leading center for learning how to use the power of law in the service of people and society at home and abroad. Your achievements as Brooklyn Law graduates give us a sterling reputation, and your engagement and encouragement and support propel us forward."

After Allard's remarks, Valerie Fitch '88, president of the Alumni Association, introduced this year's honorees. Martin A. Fischer '64, former chairman of the Board of Commissioners of the New York State Insurance Fund, and the Honorable Nelson S. Román '89, a U.S. District Court Judge for the Southern District of New York, were recognized as "Alumni of the Year." Honored as "Rising Stars" were Winston M. Paes '03, chief of the business and securities fraud section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, and Nithya B. Das '06, senior vice president and general counsel of AppNexus Inc.

**Martin A. Fischer '64** had an eventful first year at Brooklyn Law School. Fischer's congressman from Brooklyn, John J. Rooney, helped him leave his service in the Navy early so he could begin law school. To thank Rooney, Fischer traveled to Washington, D.C., and hours after arriving in the congressman's office, he found himself at a party with top government officials.

"I was 25 years old, in a room with Lyndon Johnson, the vice president of the United States, and half the cabinet, and one of the senators asks me for my thoughts on the Peace Corps," Fischer recalled. "It was a highlight of my life."

The next day, Congressman Rooney introduced Fischer to Congressman Hugh L. Carey (who went on to become New York governor). Years later, Fischer was appointed by Governor Carey to serve as commissioner of the New York State Insurance Fund in 1977 and he served as its chairman until 1995.

Fischer began his law career as an associate at Otterbourg, Steindler, Houston & Rosen. After two years, he joined Warner Communications as associate general counsel and held many positions, including executive vice president and director of the subsidiaries Kinney System and the Katz Parking System. In 1981, he became president and chief operating officer of these subsidiaries and served in this role until 1986. In 1987, he joined Warshaw Burstein Cohen Schlesinger & Kuh as counsel, where he remained until 2001.

Today, Fischer serves on the Board of Directors of the Berkshire Bank, one of the oldest and largest independent

banks in Massachusetts. He is also a member of the Brooklyn Law School Board of Trustees, which he joined in 1995; he sits on the finance committee. Fischer and his wife, Susan, have been longtime supporters of the Law School. When the addition was being built in 1994, the dining mezzanine was named in honor of them and their son, Michael Fischer '92. He and his wife also have endowed a scholarship, which is awarded annually to a student in need of financial assistance to continue his or her education.

In 2013, President Barack Obama appointed the Honorable **Nelson S. Román '89** as a judge of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Judge Román's career in public service began in the 1980s as a New York City police officer. He patrolled the South Bronx during the day and attended the Law School at night. After

“There is no better feeling, from my perspective, than to say in a courtroom that you represent the United States.”

—Winston M. Paes '03

graduating, he joined the Kings County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney working in the domestic violence bureau and the felony trial division. He later joined the New York County District Attorney's Office as a special narcotics assistant district attorney, where he prosecuted major felony narcotics cases. In 1995, he became a law clerk to the Honorable Jose A. Padilla of the New York City Civil Court.

His judicial career began in 1998 when he was appointed to the Housing Court of the New York City Civil Court in Bronx County. Three years later, he was elected to the New York City Civil Court in Bronx County. Then in 2002, he was elected as a justice of the New York State Supreme Court in Bronx County, where he served for seven years. In 2009, Governor David Paterson appointed Judge Román as an associate justice of the Appellate Division, First Department. After four years on the Appellate Division, he was appointed as a United States District Court judge for the Southern District of New York.

Judge Román is on the New York State Task Force on Mandatory Retirement of Judges and on the Special Commission on the Future of New York State Courts. Previously, he was president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association and was a founding member of the Cervantes Society.

Judge Román has received numerous honors and awards including the Outstanding Service Award from the Puerto Rican



L–R: Nithya B. Das '06, Winston Paes '03, the Hon. Nelson S. Roman '89, Martin A. Fischer '64, Dean Nick Allard, and Valerie Fitch '88 at the Plaza Hotel

Bar Association, and the President’s Award for Outstanding Judicial Service from the Bronx County Bar Association. He has twice been honored by the Latin American Law Students Association at the Law School. Over the years, numerous Brooklyn Law students have served as his interns and law clerks.

**Nithya B. Das '06** is the senior vice president and general counsel at AppNexus Inc., a venture-backed global technology company that powers Internet advertising. AppNexus provides the technology that determines which ads appear on a website’s sidebar. The company employs more than 1,000 people in 23 global offices, and places \$2.5 billion in advertising each year.

Das oversees the global corporate, commercial, M&A, privacy, intellectual property, and regulatory legal affairs for AppNexus and serves as its corporate secretary and compliance officer. She was awarded the 2014 Women of Power and Influence honor by the National Organization for Women and was recognized as a 2011 Legal Rebel by the American Bar Association.

“A former colleague of mine recently described me as being confident and persistent, and as having a strong sense of business acumen,” Das said. “Those characteristics were formed and furthered at Brooklyn Law School, and for that I really thank the school.”

As a law student, Das was an editor of the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law* and a member of the Moot Court Honor Society. She was also an International Business Law Fellow and cofounded the South Asian Law Students Association.

After receiving her J.D., she began her career at Goodwin Procter LLP as an associate in its technology company practice, where she represented public and private tech companies in a wide variety of corporate and transactional matters. While at Goodwin, she also helped create the Founder’s Workbench, a free, online legal resource for entrepreneurs.

Today, Das continues to be involved with Brooklyn Law School. She has participated in Business Boot Camp and regularly participates in career and academic panels.

“There is no better feeling, from my perspective, than to say in a courtroom that you represent the United States,” said **Winston M. Paes '03**, chief of the business and securities fraud section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York. “No matter how many times I say it, I still get goose bumps.”

Moving from Goa, India, to New York City when he was 18 years old, Paes had no knowledge of the American legal system. But he quickly figured it out and credited the Brooklyn Law School faculty for helping him become a prosecutor. Today, Paes leads investigations and prosecutions in a variety of criminal matters, specializing in fraud involving publicly traded companies and corporate executives and violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and the False Claims Act.

Paes began his career as a litigation associate at Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP, where he worked on a number of white-collar and regulatory matters. He joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office in 2008, and was appointed to the business and securities fraud section the following year. He became deputy chief of the section in June 2014, and eight months later, he was promoted to his current position. Paes has worked on some of the office’s most significant white-collar cases and has received numerous awards including the 2014 Department of Justice’s Award for Superior Performance by a Litigative Team and the 2013 Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Award for Excellence in Investigation.

As a board member of the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association and a longtime mentor to students, Paes maintains close ties with the Law School. “I am standing here today because of the hard work and dedication of many people who have helped me along the way,” he said, “and I am grateful to be able to give back in some small way now.” ■

# Q&A **A Conversation with Linda Lightman '87**

The founder and CEO of Linda's Stuff explains how she made millions selling used clothes and accessories online.

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“Science was not my thing, so I went to law school. And I loved it. Brooklyn Law School helped prepare me for the success that I have now.”

Linda Lightman '87, a former labor and employment attorney, returned to Brooklyn Law School in December for the first time in more than 25 years to share her expertise as a fashion and technology entrepreneur. She spoke with students participating in Business Boot Camp, an intensive winter session course sponsored by Deloitte Financial Advisory Services in collaboration with Brooklyn Law faculty. The program, which was featured in *The New York Times* last year, aims to teach lawyers how to think like businesspeople by exposing them to accounting principles, financial statements, asset valuations, and other corporate basics. Boot Camp students also hear from innovative leaders like Lightman and network with other distinguished alumni.

Dean Nick Allard interviewed Lightman in a packed Moot Court Room about the secrets to her success. In 2001, the Philadelphia-based entrepreneur created what is now eBay's leading luxury consignment retailer, generating more than \$25 million per year and sustaining a 99.5 percent positive feedback rating from customers. During their conversation, excerpted below, Lightman shared her insights on how to be successful by doing what you love.

### **How did your career begin?**

When I graduated college in 1984, traditional success meant becoming a doctor or an attorney. Science was not my thing, so I went to law school. And I loved it. Brooklyn Law School helped prepare me for the success that I have now. It also prepared me for the New York bar exam, which I passed the first time I took it.

I initially thought I'd become a public interest attorney because I had an incredible experience working at the NOW Legal Defense Fund while I was a law student. But as graduation approached, I got an offer with a higher salary from a large law firm called Jackson Lewis, so I took it and became a labor and employment attorney. Working at Jackson Lewis was a great experience for me—I liked the job and I met my husband, who

at the time was also practicing law, but at another firm. We just celebrated our 27th wedding anniversary and continue to work together today.

Soon after we got married, we moved to Philadelphia and I joined a local law firm, but I wasn't happy. I was more passionate about fashion designers, particularly vintage pieces, than my work as an attorney. When I was a lawyer, I'd sometimes say I was in the library doing research, but really I was shopping.

### **So when did you get the idea for your retail company, Linda's Stuff?**

I left the legal field to raise my two children, and I worked part time for my husband, who had a business as a wholesale distributor. During one Christmas break, about 15 years ago, my kids wanted to sell their video games. We went to a local video game store, and they offered my kids \$5 for games that we paid \$50 for, which didn't seem fair. My son said, 'let's put them on eBay.' So we did, and that's how Linda's Stuff began.

We figured out how to post the video games on eBay, which was a relatively new company, and the games sold for close to what my kids originally paid. Eventually, the supply of games that my kids were willing to part with ran out, but I was hooked on the idea of selling things online. I decided to put my own



designer clothes that I didn't want anymore on eBay, which I previously would have brought to a local consignment store.

I wasn't particularly computer savvy at the time, but my kids helped me, and my clothes sold. Most of my friends from law school still lived in New York. I had college friends who lived in Connecticut and California. As they heard about what I was doing, they started sending me their stuff to sell too. To keep momentum going, I created a UPS account, and told people I'd send UPS to pick up their things for free. Soon enough, people started sending me their stuff in droves, and I had to hire people to help me with the volume. I went online and I put ads up at the local college, and I started hiring.

Today, the global resale business accounts for more than \$34 billion a year. It's chic to buy on consignment and to sell your stuff, especially in our sweet spot, which is luxury and designer goods. It just makes my head spin to think that I've contributed, even in a small way, to the industry's massive growth.

### **Why do you think you've been so successful?**

I'm very competitive and very driven. I'll never do something halfway. If you give me something to do, even if it's as simple as untangling a knot in a necklace, I will make sure that it's done, and I won't leave until I finish the job.

### **What was one of the largest challenges you faced with the business?**

Space has always been a challenge. We started the company out of our house, and we grew to have about 14 employees working there before we moved to an office in 2006. We first moved to a 5,000-square-foot warehouse space, and I remember thinking we'd never outgrow it. But two years ago, we moved to a 58,000-square-foot office. This time, we hired a lawyer who made a deal to get us the right of first refusal to the contiguous space. That was smart—because after just a year, we expanded to 72,000. Six months ago, we moved to 93,000 square feet.

### **What do you look for when you hire an attorney?**

Confidence. I also respect a lawyer who is articulate, and who can admit it when he or she doesn't know something. No one knows everything, and I respect the honesty of saying, 'I'll have to get back to you about that.'

### **When did you recognize your own success?**

When my husband said he wanted to quit his job to work with me, I felt pretty proud of what I had accomplished. We started drawing up contracts and we hired an accountant to look over everything. We developed a process by which we were going to pay our clients, we hired bookkeepers, a customer service team, professional photographers, and a warehouse manager. Today, we employ 110 people and I still own 100 percent of the business. I built it with pure sweat equity, no venture capital. ■

# Class Notes

**1948 I. Leo Glasser** and **Arthur Spatt '49**, both judges in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, discussed their military service and judicial careers during "A Conversation with the Eastern District's 'Greatest Generation'" in September as part of a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Eastern District of New York. The event was sponsored by the Federal Bar Council.

**1956 David N. Dinkins** was honored by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio at a ceremony in October, when the Manhattan Municipal Building was officially renamed the David N. Dinkins Municipal Building—in appreciation of his service to the city. Dinkins began his extensive career in public service in 1966 when he was elected to the N.Y. State Assembly. He then served as president of the New York City Board of Elections, city clerk, Manhattan borough president, and 106th mayor of the city of New York from 1990 to 1994.

**1966 Sterling Johnson Jr.**, a senior judge in the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York, and **John M. Leventhal '79**, an associate justice in the Appellate Division, Second Department, were honored at the Brooklyn Bar Association Foundation's annual dinner in December.

**1967 Victor Huggard** was elected as a lifetime member of the Greenfield Fire District and the Wilton Emergency Squad in Saratoga, N.Y. He has volunteered with both organizations as an emergency medical technician, firefighter, and fire policeman since his retirement in 1996. He continues to serve as chairman of the board and chief executive officer of the Wilton Emergency Squad.

**1968 Sidney D. Bluming**, senior counsel at Meister Seelig & Fein LLP, retired from the practice of law in December. Bluming worked for more than 40 years in the areas of corporate, commercial, and

intellectual property law. He continues to sit as an arbitrator, and provides advice and counseling in the areas of arbitration and intellectual property.

**Emily Jane Goodman** reviewed the book *Sisters in Law*, about Supreme Court justices Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in the *New York Law Journal* in September. She is a retired New York State Supreme Court Justice.

**Alan E. Weiner**, a partner emeritus at Baker Tilly, recently wrote a guest editorial, "It's Amazing What CPAs Can Do: Practicing Internationally and Leading Locally" for *The CPA Journal* (September 2015).

**1969 Stephen F. Anfang** recently opened a boutique in Palm Beach, Fla., called Quintessentials, which specializes in luxury sterling silver and leather creations, both vintage and ones that he designs himself. Anfang also continues to travel to NYC to oversee his various real estate operations.

**Ira B. Warshawsky** of Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein P.C. was recognized as an "Alternative Dispute Resolution Champion" by *The National Law Journal* and *Legal Times*. Warshawsky is of counsel to the firm's alternative dispute resolution and litigation practices and NAM Neutral. He was a New York Supreme Court justice in Nassau County's commercial division from 2002 until his retirement in 2011.

**1970 Perry E. Meltzer** retired as town justice of Thompson, N.Y., after 38 years in office. Meltzer continues to maintain a private practice in Monticello, N.Y., which he started in 1972.

**1971 Harold J. Bauman**, town justice of Liberty, N.Y., was sworn in by Lieutenant Governor Kathleen Hochul as president of the New York State Magistrates Association (NYSMA) at its annual conference in August. NYSMA provides mandatory training and continuing education opportunities for the state's more than 3,000 town and village justices, and

outreach to the communities they serve. It also makes recommendations for judicial reform and accountability.

**1972 Howard M. Liberman**, formerly with Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP, joined the Washington, D.C., office of Wilkinson Barker Knauer LLP as a partner. Liberman represents broadcasters (television and radio, commercial and noncommercial), cable TV operators, and private radio licensees in matters relating to regulatory proceedings, transactions, strategic planning, and litigation, including FCC hearings and appeals of FCC decisions. Prior to joining the private sector, he worked for more than 40 years at the Federal Communications Commission's Cable Television Bureau.

**1976 Barbara E. Weltman**, who founded Big Ideas for Small Business, Inc., after practicing as a tax and business attorney for more than three decades, was named one of the 100 Small Business Influencers in the U.S. for the fifth year in a row. Her company provides tax, legal, and financial advice to small businesses and entrepreneurs. Weltman also speaks and writes extensively in the area and has published more than a dozen books.

**1978 Richard Grayson**, who maintains his practice in White Plains, N.Y., was named a 2016 "New York Area Best Lawyer" in the area of ethics and professional responsibility law. He represents judges and lawyers facing charges of misconduct.

**1980 Kenneth P. George**, a partner at the intellectual property law firm of Amster, Rothsten & Ebenstein, LLP, argued before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, sitting en banc, resulting in the precedent-setting decision in *SCA Hygiene Products v. First Quality Baby Product*, where the court decided that laches remain an available defense to claims of past damages in

## William Gladstone '55

### *Winning in Business and Baseball*

**W**illiam Gladstone '55, former co-chief executive of Ernst & Young (E&Y) and current president and principal owner of the minor league baseball team Tri-City ValleyCats (the Troy, N.Y.-based Class A affiliate of the Houston Astros), added another item to his already long list of accomplishments last year: He was crowned the King of Baseball for his long-time dedication and service to the sport. He received the award in early December at the Baseball Winter Meeting Banquet in Nashville, Tenn.

"Winning this award was a great honor, of which I'm very proud, and winning three New York-Penn League championships over the years has been exciting," Gladstone said. "But for me, the highlight of owning the ValleyCats is watching the team play and seeing some of our players move up to the major leagues. My wife and I go to every home game."

In February, Gladstone and his wife, Millie, who have been married for 62 years, returned to the Law School for a special luncheon with students. He was interviewed by Dean Nick Allard and then took questions from students who were eager to hear his thoughts on the state of baseball today and his successful career as a major business leader.

Gladstone certainly knows a few things about business success, having overseen the merger in 1989 between Ernst & Whinney and Arthur Young & Company, where he served as chairman. That groundbreaking transaction created the world's largest accounting firm at the time. Today, Ernst & Young remains one of the world's leading professional services firms and one of the "Big Four" audit firms.

Gladstone spent his entire career at the company, interrupted only by his tour of duty with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Lehigh University in 1951, he was offered a job by Arthur Young & Company. While working full time, he attended Brooklyn Law School in the evenings.

"I wasn't sure what the future of accounting would hold for me, so I thought it would be smart to become a lawyer and have some flexibility," Gladstone said.

With his J.D. in hand, he quickly rose in the ranks at Arthur Young, becoming a partner in 1963, managing partner in 1981, and chairman in 1985. Gladstone served as co-CEO with Ray Groves, former CEO of Ernst & Whinney, at the newly formed E&Y. The two men remain close friends today.

"As co-CEOs, the key was really trusting each other and not second-guessing the other fellow. When you have big responsibilities, like we did at the time of the merger and following it, it's critical to be knowledgeable about all aspects of the business—that's how people respect you, when you know what they know and more. Listening is also important, but the most significant thing is having trust at the highest levels of an organization."



“It’s critical to be knowledgeable about all aspects of the business—that’s how people respect you, when you know what they know and more.”

Gladstone retired from E&Y in 1991 and has since focused on his love of baseball. As the owner of the ValleyCats, he worked with the state to build a new stadium on the grounds of Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y., that has since set numerous attendance records. He and his wife also have built one of the world's most important collections of baseball artifacts, paintings, and folk art. Gladstone serves as a member of the board at the Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown, N.Y., and was on the board of Minor League Baseball for 12 years.

During the off-season, Gladstone enjoys spending time with his family in the Boston area and traveling with his wife. He has seen much of the world—citing London and Paris as his favorite cities, with Egypt as the most fascinating place he has visited.

"Success didn't come quickly for me. My starting salary was just \$3,300," Gladstone said. "You really have to work hard, be prepared, use good judgment, and be fair. It's important to distinguish yourself by just doing a good job and being devoted to it."  
—Jen Swetzoff ■

patent infringement actions. George represents consumer products companies in all aspects of intellectual property law. He also represents research and academic institutions in securing, protecting, enforcing, and monetizing their intellectual property.

**Jeffrey S. Sherman**, vice president and general counsel of Becton Dickinson and Company, and **Jeffrey B. Gewirtz '94**, executive vice president of business affairs and chief legal officer for the Barclays Center, Brooklyn Nets, and New York Islanders, are both at the helm of legal departments that were named to *The Legal 500's* "GC Powerlist—U.S. Teams 2015," recognizing "the most influential and innovative in-house teams working in the U.S."

**1983 Roselyn R. Bar** was promoted to executive vice president of Martin Marietta, a leading supplier of aggregates and heavy building materials. Bar joined the company in 1994 as assistant general counsel and has held positions of increasing authority, most recently serving as senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary.

**David Edelberg** has joined the firm of Sokol Behot, LLP, as a partner, and he will chair the firm's bankruptcy practice. He was previously a partner at Nowell Amoroso Klein Bierman, where he served as lead counsel in the Chapter 11 reorganizations of *Country Inns Magazine* and the Governor Morris Hotel, and participated in the reorganizations of several large corporations.

**Michael Grohman**, managing partner of Duane Morris's New York office and chair of the wealth planning practice group, accepted the 2015 Cornerstone Award on behalf of the firm. The award is presented by the Lawyers Alliance of New York and recognizes outstanding pro bono legal services provided to nonprofit organizations. The Duane Morris New York office provides extensive pro bono services to communities in need, including support to commercially and sexually exploited girls and young women in collaboration with the Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS), where Grohman serves as a member of the board.

**1984 Rose Ann Branda**, formerly of Caruso, Caruso & Branda PC, joined the Brooklyn office of Abrams, Fensterman, Fensterman, Eisman, Formato, Ferrara & Wolf, LLP. She concentrates her practice exclusively in the field of family and matrimonial law. She currently serves as president of the Colombian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn.

**1985 Mary Bergmann** joined Rawle & Henderson LLP as an associate in the firm's New York City and Long Island offices. She concentrates her practice in the area of workers' compensation.

**Michael H. Peskowitz** joined the firm of Thompson & Knight LLP as a partner in the real estate and banking practice group. Based in the firm's New York office, he focuses his practice on commercial real estate finance.

**1986 Michael Butler** is the author of *Avenging al Mohammed*, available through Amazon. The book is a sequel to his previous book, *Once a Noble Endeavor*. Butler is a retired police captain and attorney who served in the U.S. Army Security Agency as a military intelligence analyst.

**James Williams** was elected president of the Onondaga County Bar Association. He is a staff attorney at Legal Services of Central New York, where he represents workers in employment matters. Williams is also an adjunct professor of employment law at Syracuse University College of Law.

**1987 Joseph Ranni** received an LL.M. in elder law from Stetson University College of Law. He concentrates his practice in employment, elder law, and disability. He was also appointed to the board of directors of Independent Living Inc., a nonprofit that provides community services to the disabled and elderly in New York's Hudson Valley.

**1988 James D. Diamond** earned a doctoral degree in law from the University of Arizona College of Law. He now teaches criminal law and criminal procedure at the University of Arizona.

**Alice Fisher Rubin**, a retired New York City Civil Court judge, was elected

chair of the board of directors of the New York City College of Technology Foundation. She is the college's first woman chair. Rubin was also named to the board of trustees of the Supreme Court Brooklyn Law Library. She served as a judge for 12 years.

**1990 Michael Markhoff**, partner at Danziger & Markhoff LLP, was selected by Best Lawyers as a "2016 Trusts & Estates Lawyer of the Year." He concentrates on estate planning and estate administration, representing professionals, executives, and small business owners.

**Atea Martin** joined Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance as head of claims for life agent and broker dealer professional liability insurance. She was previously director of life agents broker dealer claims at CNA Specialty Claim.

**1991 Y. David Scharf** and his wife, Cheryl Scharf, were the recipients of Ezer Mizion's Service for Life Leadership Award. This organization offers an extensive range of medical and social support services to help Israel's sick, disabled, elderly, and underprivileged populations. Scharf is a partner at Morrison Cohen LLP, concentrating his practice in business litigation, real estate, and bankruptcy and restructuring.

**David A. Walsey** joined Alder BioPharmaceuticals, Inc. as vice president of corporate communications. Based in Bothell, Wash., Alder BioPharmaceuticals is a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company.

**1992 Maria E. Pasquale** has joined the board of trustees of SAGE Eldercare, a nonprofit organization serving clients in Union, Essex, Morris, and Somerset counties in New Jersey. She is senior vice president, legal, and deputy general counsel, at Celgene Corporation, where she manages corporate legal affairs including intellectual property, litigation, and international matters.

**1993 Jacqueline R. Doyle**, director and global head of product risk management for global custody, alternative investments, and issuer services at Citigroup, was

## Michael T. Prior '92

### *Investing Wisely in Telecom, Solar Power, and People*

**M**ichael T. Prior '92 has spent his career growing one of the most successful businesses most people have never heard of: Atlantic Tele-Network (ATN), a \$1.2 billion company. Prior is president and CEO of the Beverly, Mass.-based firm, which provides telecommunications services to rural, niche, and other underserved markets and geographies in the United States, Bermuda, and the Caribbean.

"I was always focused on getting into business," said Prior. "I went to law school because I thought it would give me more intrinsic value than business school—the opportunity to learn a way of thinking."

ATN provides both wireless and wireline connectivity to residential and business customers, including a range of mobile wireless solutions, local exchange services, and broadband Internet services. The company also has solar power systems in the United States that serve corporate, utility, and municipal customers, and it owns and operates terrestrial and submarine fiber-optic transport systems.

A Brooklyn native, Prior received his bachelor's degree from Vassar College and attended the Law School as an International Business Law Fellow. He also served as an editor for the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*. After graduation, he worked as a corporate attorney with Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, first in New York, then London. He returned to New York after several years, remaining with the firm until he and his family decided to move out West in an effort to work in a smaller company environment.

After a short stint at a firm in Seattle, he took the leap into entrepreneurship, joining the seed investment and advisory company Comspace, which invested in new and developing telecom and satellite companies. His business savvy led him to Q Advisors LLC, a Denver-based investment banking and financial advisory firm that focuses on the technology and telecommunications sectors. Prior joined the firm as a partner in 2001.

Prior's father, who was leading ATN, asked Q Advisors to analyze the company's growth potential. After a presentation on risk and opportunities, the board pushed for Prior to become ATN's chief financial officer. They wanted him to help the firm diversify its value, which was concentrated in the incumbent telephone company in Guyana.

"The company, which had an enterprise value of around \$70 million, was running on a risky investment that was doing well," Prior said. "But the company had no analyst coverage, no following, and it needed to diversify its sources of revenue. My job was to change that, and so I spent a lot of time looking at different deals, trying to get U.S. bankers and investors to pay attention, trying to lower the risk profile. In 2005, we acquired Commnet Wireless, which, with a \$60 million investment, was a very large transaction for the company at that time. Less than a year after that deal, we did a stock offering and added some liquidity."

Prior soon was named CEO of the company. Under his leadership, ATN has grown significantly by making other acquisitions



“I went to law school because I thought it would give me intrinsic value—the opportunity to learn a way of thinking.”

of telecom assets. Now the company has also started to invest in renewable energy.

"My background has been transactional since my Cleary days," Prior said. "So it makes sense that ATN runs almost like a portfolio of operating assets. We have succeeded by investing wisely in companies that have a positive long-term horizon. We believe that the renewables business has good basic economics, as well as real potential for growth and disruption."

ATN currently employs more than 1,000 people across all its subsidiaries, including about 35 people in its Beverly headquarters.

"I'm proud of building ATN to the next level, in terms of profitability," Prior said. "But I'm most proud about how we've managed to do that—we've built a great team, with smart people in a good-natured work environment. Everything else flows from that. I think the real secret of our success has been getting the right people in place."

Prior's career and life have come full circle back to the East Coast. He lives near his company's Beverly office with his wife and two teenage sons; his older daughter lives and works in D.C. "We're very happy to have settled here, and I'm glad it all started in Brooklyn," he said. —*Jen Swetzo* ■

## Karyn Kenny '95

### Promoting Justice Around the World



Sometimes, life takes us in unexpected directions. Perhaps no one knows this better than Karyn Kenny '95, who has traveled a long way from where she started, to do work she didn't even know existed when she began her career.

Today, Kenny is the resident legal advisor for the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, focusing on issues related to counterterrorism, anti-money laundering, and trafficking. Previously, she held the same role in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In both places, she serves as a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State, while remaining an employee of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), where she plans to eventually return.

"The best part of my job," she said, "is responding to another country's needs, while also interweaving America's interests. I know this might sound sappy, but the most rewarding part of my career is how proud and honored it makes me feel to be American."

Kenny didn't always want to be an attorney. In the early 1990s, she aspired to become an English professor. While a student in a master's program in literature at New York University, she worked as a paralegal in the U.S. Attorney's Office to pay the bills. But she proved to be so good at her day job that she was asked to be the paralegal assigned to the John Gotti organized crime racketeering and murder case. (The case ended in 1992 with the sentencing of Gotti to life imprisonment without parole by Judge I. Leo Glasser '48.)

"Right from the start," she said, "I loved the courtroom's drama, its stories."

Kenny soon changed course and enrolled as a part-time

student at the Law School, determined to become a prosecutor. "I never felt like a different kind of student because I took classes at night," she said. "I still had the chance to participate in Moot Court and take classes with renowned professors like Lisa Smith and the late Bob Pitler, who had a big impact on me."

After graduation, Kenny worked as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan for five years and then as a federal prosecutor in Las Vegas, where she started specializing in financial crimes such as bank robberies and money laundering. Kenny loved her work—and she met the love of her life while doing it. Her husband, Thomas, a U.S. Army reservist, was an assistant U.S. attorney in Las Vegas as well.

But she dreamed of living and working abroad. A Fulbright teaching scholarship took her to Lithuania, where she taught law students the U.S. criminal law system. After a fellowship with the U.S. Supreme Court, she joined the World Bank, where she worked with candidate E.U. accession countries. She met with local justice officials to create a framework of their justice sector that would demonstrate the required steps to meet certain benchmarks and satisfy the E.U. accession chapters.

"Sometimes, people outside the United States would ask me about how our jury system works," Kenny said. "They were shocked by the idea of a jury, that we would trust anyone off the street with a verdict."

After two years with the World Bank, Kenny joined the Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section at the DOJ in Washington, D.C., where she focused on Mexico and Argentina. "Our job," Kenny said, "was to make sure that the economies were kept clean of dirty money because that's a cancer. The more dirty money you have, the weaker your economic system."

**“The most rewarding part of my career is how proud and honored it makes me feel to be American.”**

When her husband volunteered for a six-month deployment in Afghanistan, Kenny took a DOJ position in Bangladesh, where she focused on money laundering and forfeiture issues. Kenny's husband soon joined her in Bangladesh and they became the third married couple in DOJ history to co-run the justice section of an embassy. Their next stop was Kuala Lumpur, where Kenny now works in the resident legal advisor position.

"Every day here is different," Kenny said. "The most challenging part of the work, of course, is the fact that we can't change the world. I often wish I had a magic wand, so I could fix everything, but I don't. So I try to focus on what I can do and how I can have an impact on a small part of the puzzle." —*Jen Swetzo* ■

named one of the top directors in “Citi’s Women Leaders for 2015.”

**Joshua Kiernan** joined the London office of Latham & Watkins as a partner in the firm’s corporate department. He advises Israeli corporations, investment banks, and venture capital clients on a variety of equity and debt capital market transactions, with a focus on technology and life sciences industries. He previously served as head of the Israeli practice and cohead of the global technology group at White & Case.

**1994 Lisa A. Bova-Hiatt** was appointed executive director of the N.Y. Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery. Bova-Hiatt joined the office in 2014, first as general counsel, then as acting chief operating officer, and most recently as its acting executive director. She previously served in the administration of New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, handling legislative affairs.

**1995 Richard Greenberg** coauthored an article, “New York Enacts Gender Equity Laws,” for the *National Law Review* (Nov. 2015). He is a shareholder in the New York City office of Jackson Lewis P.C., and advises both unionized and union-free clients on labor and employee relations matters.

**Cynthia Hamada** was recently promoted to of counsel to Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP. She concentrates her practice in the area of complex commercial real estate law, representing landlords and tenants, lending institutions, investors, real estate developers, and corporations in the selling, leasing, and refinancing of commercial and residential properties.

**Rebecca Leon** has joined Holland & Knight LLP as a partner in the firm’s Miami office. As a member of the financial services team, she advises broker dealers, investment advisors, fund managers, banks, and wealth managers on a variety of U.S. and international regulatory and operational matters. She previously served as a principal with Bressler Amery Ross.

**Gayle Rosen** was promoted to partner at the firm of Rabinowitz, Galina & Rosen (formerly Rabinowitz & Galina) in Mineola, N.Y. She focuses her practice on commercial construction litigation.

**Philip Rothman** joined Fidelity Investments as head of its capital markets compliance group. He previously served as executive director of Morgan Stanley’s legal and compliance group.

**1996 Jeffrey Scott**, partner in Sullivan & Cromwell’s New York office, was recognized as one of Law360’s MVPs for 2015. Representing Barclays PLC, he convinced a New York federal judge to drop private lawsuits inspired by the exposé book *Flash Boys: A Wall Street Revolt*.

**Peter Thurlow** joined the New York City office of Polsinelli as shareholder. He is a patent prosecution attorney with extensive experience in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and serves on the board of directors of the New York Intellectual Property Law Association.

**1997 William G. Ford** was elected as a Supreme Court justice for the 10th Judicial District in New York. He is the second African-American ever elected to the Supreme Court in Suffolk; the first was **Hon. Marquette Floyd ’60**. Judge Ford previously served as a judge for the Suffolk County District Court.

**Lyle Frank** was recently sworn as a New York City Civil Court judge of the second municipal court district. He previously served as an attorney for the New York City Council.

**William D. Gardner**, an attorney in Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.’s Milwaukee office, was named leader of the firm’s commercial finance team. He is also a member of the business restructuring, creditors’ rights, and bankruptcy team. He represents banks, non-bank lenders, and borrowers in commercial loan originations, corporate restructurings, and bankruptcies.

**Laurie A. Stanziale**, previously with Greenberg, Trager & Herbst, joined Tarter Krinsky & Grogin LLP as a partner in the firm’s construction practice. She represents domestic and international developers and owners, major construction companies, trade contractors, architects, engineers, and consultants.

**1998 Jenifer Minsky** was promoted to senior counsel in the New Jersey office

of Peckar & Abramson, P.C., where she assists contractors in managing risk associated with construction contracts valued from millions to hundreds of millions of dollars. She serves as the program manager for ProjectNotice, a web-based risk management tool that simplifies notice requirements and reduces risk for contractors and subcontractors, and she also has extensive experience litigating construction disputes.

**Richard J. Sobelsohn**, group director of financial practice area modules at Lexis Nexis, presented a CLE program, “The Evolving Transaction Attorney Practice Tools,” at the New York State Bar Association’s annual meeting in January 2016. He also published an article in the *NYLJ*, “Law Firms Adopt Sustainability to Stay Sustainable” (Dec. 2015). Sobelsohn serves as chair of the economics, technology, and practice methods committee of the American Bar Association’s real property, trust, and real estate law section and is also a member of the adjunct faculty at Brooklyn Law School.

**1999 Angela Ferrante** was promoted to senior vice president of operations for Garden City Group, LLC (GCG), in the firm’s Lake Success headquarters. She is responsible for the oversight and management of the hundreds of class action settlement administrations, restructuring and bankruptcy matters, mass tort settlements, regulatory settlements, legal notice programs, and data breach response programs handled by the firm’s East Coast headquarters. She previously spent several years as head of GCG’s restructuring and bankruptcy operations team.

**Gerald A. Gordon** joined Norcom Mortgage & Insurance in Avon, Conn., as director of compliance. He previously practiced in the areas of bankruptcy, corporate restructuring, and foreclosure at several law firms in New York City and Connecticut.

**2000 Lisa Chiarini** joined Reed Smith as a partner in the firm’s intellectual property, information, and innovation group in New York, where she focuses her practice on IP litigation and product development counseling services in the pharmaceutical,



## “Out in the Street” of New York City



On a cold night in January, **Stephanie Bond Cone '05** noticed a wallet on the ground outside Marta, the popular Italian restaurant on 29th Street in Manhattan where she and her husband **Cliff Cone '05** had just finished dinner.

“Like any good New Yorker, we started rummaging through the wallet to see how much cash was inside,” Cliff joked. “When we found the ID, my jaw dropped: It belonged to my law school classmate **Tim Oberweger '05**! The odds of something like that happening were unbelievable.”

The connection among the three graduates goes back to 2002 when they met on their first day at the Law School. They were in the same first-year classes, including civil procedure with the late Professor Margaret Berger and legal writing with Professor Jayne Ressler.

But more than 10 years after graduating, the Cones did not have Tim's phone number or email address—and they were rushing that evening to a Bruce Springsteen show at Madison Square Garden. Stephanie remembered that Tim was a Springsteen fan and wondered if he might be at the show that night. He was. With just a few texts from Cliff to classmates **Adam Seidel '05** and **Bryan Zetlin '05**, who are still in touch with Tim, the wallet was safely returned to its rightful owner.

“Brooklyn graduates are everywhere,” Tim said. “And we look out for each other.” To thank the Cones for returning his wallet, he invited them to join him at the next Springsteen show at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

chemical, and medical device industries. She was previously a partner at Fish & Richardson.

**2001 Kim Alexander**, previously associate counsel at RD Management LLC, joined the firm A.Y. Strauss, LLC, as counsel, specializing in commercial real estate transactions.

**Lauren P. Della Monica** is the founder of LPDM Fine Art Consulting. Her most recent book, *Bodies of Work: Contemporary Figurative Painting*, was published in January 2016.

**Marguerite Dougherty** was sworn in as a Kings County Criminal Court judge after her appointment as interim New York City Civil Court judge. She previously worked as an attorney in the private sector for 14 years, most recently as executive

director and assistant general counsel for JP Morgan Chase.

**David A. Fraiden**, a taxi violation hearing officer in Long Island City, was profiled by the *NY Daily News* (Sept. 2015) about his side career as a fire-breathing bowling pin juggler on one wheel who entertains thousands of New York Jets fans at home games in MetLife Stadium.

**Elchonon “Eli” Golob** is serving as an assistant attorney general in the child and family protection division for Arizona, where he advises and represents state agencies in federal, state, and administrative matters.

**Heather Miller** was appointed vice chair of the board for TrustBridge Heath, a nonprofit organization in South Florida that offers support for families facing any stage of illness with home healthcare, hospice, and caregiver support. She is senior

counsel and member of the health law practice group in Broad and Cassel's Miami and Boca Raton offices, where she acts as general and special counsel to both hospitals and large medical groups.

**2002 Gina Mavica-Farraj** and her husband, Michael, welcomed the birth of their second child, Bianca Grace, in June 2015. Mavica-Farraj is a partner at Baker Hostetler, specializing in commercial real estate transactions and finance.

**Matthew Tully**, founding partner of Albany-based Tully Rinckey, further expanded the firm, opening a new office in Vestal, N.Y. For the seventh consecutive year, the firm has been recognized by the Inc. 5000, an annual list that ranks the country's fastest-growing private companies.

**Stacey (Becker) Wanicur** recently published a memoir, *Knot the One: Why Getting Dumped Before My Wedding Was the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me* (Thought Catalog Books, Oct. 2015). She is the Americas head of regulatory examinations at Credit Suisse.

**2003 Maxine S. Broderick** was elected president of the Amistad Long Island Black Bar Association for the 2016–17 term. She maintains a matrimonial and family law practice in Garden City, N.Y. She is also an active member of the Nassau County Bar Association and Nassau County Women's Bar Association.

**Naomi Johnson** joined Ball Janik LLP as a litigation associate in the firm's Portland, Ore., office. Her principal areas of practice are commercial litigation, employment law, and insurance recovery.

**Deirdre M. Lok**, assistant director and counsel of the Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at the Hebrew Home at Riverdale, was appointed to the 2015 Age-Friendly NYC Commission. The commission works closely with city government, business, and nonprofit sectors to ensure the city is addressing the challenges and leveraging the opportunities posed by a rapidly increasing population of older New Yorkers in four major areas: community and civic participation, housing, public spaces and transportation, and health and social services.

## Christian M. Capece '99

### *Defending Freedom and Justice for All*

Two years ago, Christian M. Capece '99 landed his dream job: He was appointed by the Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit to serve as the federal public defender for the Southern District of West Virginia. He also holds the rank of lieutenant colonel and serves as a judge advocate in the West Virginia Air National Guard.

Capece says it all started nearly 25 years ago when he saw the movie *A Few Good Men*. At the time, he was studying to be a teacher at the George Washington University Graduate School of Education. He then decided on an entirely different career path: military law. With his master's degree in hand, he moved back home to Queens, N.Y., where he started teaching social studies at a parochial school, and enrolled as a part-time student in the evening program at Brooklyn Law School.

"Going to school at Brooklyn Law, those were some of the best years of my life," Capece said. "I loved Professor Stacy Caplow's course on federal criminal defense. Serving as president of the Moot Court Honor Society was also a pivotal experience: It gave me insight into the challenges of leading a group of smart people. It helped me on a path of leadership and it certainly contributed to where I am today."

Between Capece's first and second years at the Law School, he joined the Marine Corps and attended officer candidates school in Quantico, Va. After completing his J.D., he spent the next four and a half years serving as a Marine Corps officer and judge advocate. His first assignment was in Okinawa, Japan, where he met his wife, who was a teacher with the U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools.

He then clerked for Senior U.S. District Court Judge Thomas C. Platt Jr. in the Eastern District of New York, but was recalled in 2007 to active duty in California to represent a U.S. Marine who was charged with a series of war crimes in Iraq. That same year, he was offered a position as an assistant federal public defender in West Virginia, and he transferred his commission from the U.S. Marines to the Air Force and joined the West Virginia Air National Guard.

Now working as the federal public defender and living in Charleston, W.Va., with his wife and two children, he said: "I'm grateful for this opportunity, and I can't think of anywhere I'd rather be than where I'm standing right now—in my office."

Capece also spends one weekend each month at a local Air National Guard base as a judge advocate. He was deployed to Afghanistan in 2012, serving as a team leader in the NATO Rule of Law Field Support Mission.

"Our aim there was to help the Afghan government facilitate the growth of its legal system. Together with lawyers, communicators, engineers, and public affairs folks, we did a range of work, from helping a courthouse get necessary repairs to ensuring that a group of Afghan prosecutors received training in a particular area, such as how to collect fingerprints and provide that evidence in a prosecution against someone suspected of planting an



“Serving as president of the Moot Court Honor Society helped me on a path of leadership and it certainly contributed to where I am today.”

IED. There was no road map. It was unlike anything that had ever been done before, so every day was a challenge—and absolutely fascinating.”

Capece clearly finds his role as the federal public defender equally fascinating. Under his direction, his office, which has 15 staff members, recently launched a monthly podcast series on iTunes, “In Plain Cite,” during which attorneys share their insights about federal criminal law in the Fourth Circuit. Many of his clients have addiction issues, and he is passionate about addressing their challenges, frequently trying to persuade the courts to allow an individual to get access to treatment rather than sit in jail for months awaiting a trial or sentencing.

“Many of our clients have long criminal histories and I can't tell you how many times I've heard someone say, 'You're the first attorney who has really listened to me. You're the first attorney who has spent more than 10 minutes speaking with me.' Seeing people at their worst moments and being able to humanize them, to treat them with the human dignity that they deserve, that's the most fulfilling part of this work.” —Jen Swetozoff ■

## Ashley Allison '11

### *Making Positive Changes from the White House*



When President Barack Obama first ran for office in 2007, Ashley Allison '11 was inspired, like so many other young people, to get involved with his campaign. A journalist and high school teacher at the time, she began volunteering in her Brooklyn neighborhood, and eventually went to work in South Carolina for the primary race there. After graduating from Brooklyn Law School three years later, she moved back to Ohio, where she had grown up, to work full time on Obama's 2012 reelection campaign. Allison served as a regional field director for Organizing for Action, and soon became the state's African-American vote director. She then moved to Washington, D.C., to work on the inauguration. A position with a nonprofit focusing on the Affordable Care Act led to her current job at the White House.

"It's kind of been like a very fast dream since then," she said.

Today, Allison serves as deputy director in the Office of Public Engagement for the Obama administration. She focuses on policy areas including criminal justice, education, and economic ladders of opportunity, working closely with President Obama's senior advisor and director for intergovernmental affairs and public engagement, Valerie Jarrett. She also manages a team of associate directors who work with leaders in the African-American, entertainment, faith, disability, and international communities. Her projects regularly cross over with the communications team and the Department of Justice, among other agencies.

"We're the outward-facing component of the White House," she explained. "We bring folks into the building to make sure they know where the president stands on policies and issues, and what his priorities are. We also host and speak at other events to hear from the public; we want to know what people's thoughts are on issues that are affecting their community, so that we can communicate them to the president and ultimately make positive changes."

**“Every day, we’re dealing with important policies that will impact people for the rest of their lives.”**

In January, for example, Allison coordinated the president's first visit to a U.S. mosque. And last year, she helped create the vision for President Obama's speech on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, in Selma, Ala., which marked the 50th anniversary of the marches from Selma to Montgomery.

"Every day, we're dealing with important policies that will impact people for decades, for the rest of their lives," she said. "It's rarely an eight-hour day, but it's worth it."

Allison's wide-ranging background includes working as the national director of partner engagement and outreach at Enroll America. Prior to that, she was a constituency coordinator for the 2013 presidential inaugural committee, focusing on women and faith outreach. Earlier in her career, as a New York City Teaching Fellow, she was a special education teacher at Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn. She also worked as a freelance journalist.

"Back then, I saw some of the challenges that the high school was facing and I thought that I could probably have a bigger impact if I learned the law," Allison said. "Brooklyn Law School was particularly attractive to me because of its location and its part-time day program."

Allison was an active student at the Law School. She was an Edward V. Sparer Public Interest Law Fellow, participated on the Moot Court Honor Society as a member of the national trial advocacy team, and served as the vice president of alumni affairs for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA).

As the president's second term in the White House winds down, Allison is looking ahead to more opportunities in public service. "Whatever I do next, I want to continue working to help people improve their quality of life. That's what I love most about what I do now," she said. —*Jen Swetzo* ■

**Nicholas J. Minella** is currently deployed overseas with the 10th Mountain Division (LI) as part of United States Forces–Afghanistan. Captain Minella is a U.S. Army reservist, serving as a judge advocate in Afghanistan.

**Camille Joseph Varlack** was appointed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo as deputy director for ethics, risk, and compliance in the executive chamber. She will coordinate the governor's statewide ethics, risk, and compliance program across agencies and authorities, working with the state's chief risk officer. She previously served as special counsel to the superintendent of the department of financial services for ethics, risk, and compliance.

**2004 Erin Hargis** was promoted to partner at Rosenberg & Gluck, LLP, a Long Island–based firm that handles all aspects of personal injury on Long Island and in the five boroughs.

**Richard A. Loconte** was appointed by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to serve as executive deputy superintendent for communications and strategy at the New York State Department of Financial Services. He was previously the deputy head of government affairs and associate general counsel at AIG, Inc.

**Cassandra Porter**, counsel at Lowenstein Sandler LLP, was selected as co-chair of the New Jersey KnowledgeNet Chapter of the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). The IAPP is the largest and most comprehensive global information privacy community.

**2005 Alexander B. Barton** was elected shareholder at Polsinelli PC in the firm's Denver office, where he focuses his practice on commercial real estate transactions.

**Debra J. Farber** was recently named senior director of privacy, data, and risk policy in the global public policy department of Visa, Inc., in San Francisco. She also teaches at IANS and is the cofounder and an executive board member of Women in Security and Privacy, a community in the Bay Area that organizes events, panels, and seminars about the security and data privacy industries.

**Theodore Ghorra** was named partner in Nixon Peabody's New York office. He handles corporate transactions, including M&A, public offerings, and private placements.

**David Kubikian** joined the Herzog Law Firm, of Kingston, Albany, and Saratoga Springs, N.Y., as a senior associate attorney. His practice is focused on estate planning, Medicaid planning, estate administration, matrimonial law, and guardianship.

**Timothy Oberweger** joined TitleVest, a New York City–based title company, as managing director of business development and counsel. He was previously vice president, business development, and counsel at Fidelity National Title. Oberweger recently served as a moderator for a panel discussion on “Brooklyn's Hot Projects and Neighborhoods: An In-Depth Look at the Development Behind the Borough's Growth,” hosted by Bisnow (see sidebar page 56).

**Matthew Porpora** was named partner in Sullivan & Cromwell's litigation group. He represents leading global companies and financial institutions in securities, antitrust, banking, commodities, and other complex commercial litigation, as well as in regulatory and criminal investigations.

**Timothy Sini** was confirmed as the Suffolk County Police Commissioner, the youngest person to lead the department in its history. He previously served as the deputy county executive for public safety.

**Leonard Trivigno** was promoted to counsel of Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP, where his practice focuses on restructuring and bankruptcy matters. He previously was an associate at the firm.

**2006 Robert T. Green** joined Smith Moore Leatherwood as an associate in the firm's transportation industry group in Greenville, S.C. His practice focuses on transportation litigation, as well as regulatory compliance business and commercial litigation. He previously served for five years in the U.S. Air Force as a judge advocate general corps.

**Lori M. O'Brien** was promoted to managing partner of Legal Assistance of Western New York, which provides free legal representation in noncriminal matters

to low-income people in Monroe County and 13 other Western New York counties. O'Brien joined the organization as a staff attorney in 2007 and was promoted to senior attorney in 2008 and supervising attorney in 2011. In her new role, she is in charge of all administrative and program activities for the Rochester office.

**Samuel I. Portnoy** was promoted to director of the business and commercial litigation department of Gibbons P.C. Based in the firm's Newark, N.J., office, he handles large-scale business and commercial litigation matters in state and federal courts throughout New Jersey and New York. His primary areas of focus include securities fraud, common law fraud, and breach of contract.

**Camille Zentner**, previously a supervising attorney at New York Legal Assistance Group, was promoted to director of the public benefits unit, which works to ensure that vulnerable populations have access to their public benefits. Zentner is also an adjunct professor at the Law School.

**2007 Amy Altman** and **Avi Kestenbaum '98** coauthored an article, “Have We Got it All Wrong? Rethinking the Fabric of Estate Planning,” featured in *Trusts @ Estates* magazine (Feb. 2016). Kestenbaum is a partner and Altman is an associate at Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein and Breitstone, with offices on Long Island and in New York City. Kestenbaum is also an adjunct professor at Hofstra University School of Law.

**Ami Aranha** joined Callan Capital in La Jolla, Calif., as a client relationship manager. She is responsible for providing advanced personal financial planning and asset management to individuals, executives, and families. She is also a member of the Callan Capital Investment Committee.

**Nora E. Christenson**, previously a staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society, joined the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) in Albany, N.Y., as Hurrell-Harring Implementation Counsel for Caseload Standards. She is the first person to hold this position and is working to improve New York's public defense system in five counties by implementing the terms of the October 2014 landmark settlement in *Hurrell-Harring v.*

*New York State*, which called for the creation of a system for providing effective representation for criminal defendants. Christenson's specific role is geared toward caseload relief—reducing caseloads and setting caseload standards to ensure quality defense.

**Letitia A. (DeGrasse) Walker** was promoted to partner in the intellectual property practice group at Akerman LLP. Based in Denver, Colo., she focuses her practice on intellectual property issues in the life sciences area.

**Jason B. Klimpl** was promoted to partner at Tannenbaum Helpert Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP. As an employment law attorney in the firm's employment law practice, he advises businesses regarding wage and hour compliance, EEOC issues, and employment agreements. A frequent speaker on employment and staffing issues, Klimpl also serves as associate general counsel of the New York Staffing Association.

**Christian A. Matarese** has been elected partner at the law firm of Dechert LLP. He focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions and various private equity transactions, with an emphasis on domestic, cross-border, private, and public company M&A.

**Maryann Stallone**, a partner in the litigation and dispute resolution department of Tannenbaum Helpert Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP, was named "Woman of the Year" by Festival of Song USA. Festival of Song USA keeps the Italian culture and arts alive through music, dance, and food. The award recognizes an individual's drive to succeed, contribution to the community, and accomplishments in her profession.

**2008 Eric Adler** is an attorney in the Seattle, Wash., office of Miller, Egan, Molter & Nelson LLP. He practices technology-focused corporate and intellectual property law in the firm's emerging tech group. He has also taught in the Law School's BLIP clinic.

**Christopher Kibler** and **Melissa Wu** recently launched a publishing company, EXO Books. Kibler, who practices intellectual property law, is a science-fiction writer and has published two books.

**Lauren (Jones) Watkins** was promoted to litigation partner in the New York office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP. She was also recently selected to serve on the junior board for the Urban Assembly School of Law and Justice in Brooklyn, which has a partnership with the Law School (see page 8).

**2009 Lana Sturdevant** was promoted to partner at the firm of Levene Gouldin & Thompson, LLP in Vestal, N.Y. She focuses her practice on elder law, real estate, and trusts and estates.

**2010 Jeremy Raphael** is a senior attorney at Miller, Egan, Molter & Nelson LLP and leads the firm's New York office. He represents emerging technology companies and entrepreneurs.

**2011 Christopher Bouriat** joined the New York office of Proskauer Rose, LLP, as an associate in the labor and employment law department. He was previously an assistant corporation counsel in the labor and employment law division at the New York City Law Department.

**Evan Goldman** joined Hill Wallack LLP as counsel in its franchise law and bankruptcy/creditors' rights practice groups. He will be responsible for expanding the franchise law practice group, which seeks to represent franchisors and franchisees throughout the United States.

**Amy Handler** wrote an article, "Third Circuit Wades into Intersection of IP and Antitrust," for *Metropolitan Corporate Counsel* (Oct. 2015). She is an associate in the litigation and product liability practice groups of Sills Cummis & Gross P.C., based in the firm's Newark, N.J., office.

**Jason Hart** joined Vidaris, Inc. as general counsel, overseeing all of the company's legal functions, including enterprise risk management, dispute avoidance, dispute resolution, mergers and acquisitions, compliance, and transactional-related activities. Vidaris is a leading consulting company in real estate and construction. He was also recently recognized by *Building Design + Construction* as a "40 Under 40" in the architectural, engineering, and construction industry.

**Andrew Samuels** was appointed associate counsel of Stonehenge NYC, a real estate company in Manhattan, where he will focus on rent regulation compliance and tenant relations. He previously served as an associate at Belkin Burden Wenig & Goldman, LLP.

**2012 Antonia Pereira** joined the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, where she handles environmental compliance and enforcement.

**Bev Wilson** is associate general counsel and director of legal and compliance at Plated. Based in New York, Plated is a subscription service that delivers pre-portioned ingredients and recipes. Wilson was previously the assistant general counsel at the Topps Company.

**2013 Joshua J. Card** joined Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz as an associate in the firm's litigation department. Card previously served as a law clerk to Hon. Paul G. Gardephe of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and as a law clerk to Hon. Reena Raggi of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

**Jaclyn DeMais** is an associate in the New Jersey office of Greenberg Traurig, LLP. She focuses her practice on litigation matters.

**Daniel Faessler** joined East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) as a staff attorney and clinical supervisor. EBCLC is the largest provider of free legal services in the San Francisco Bay Area's East Bay.

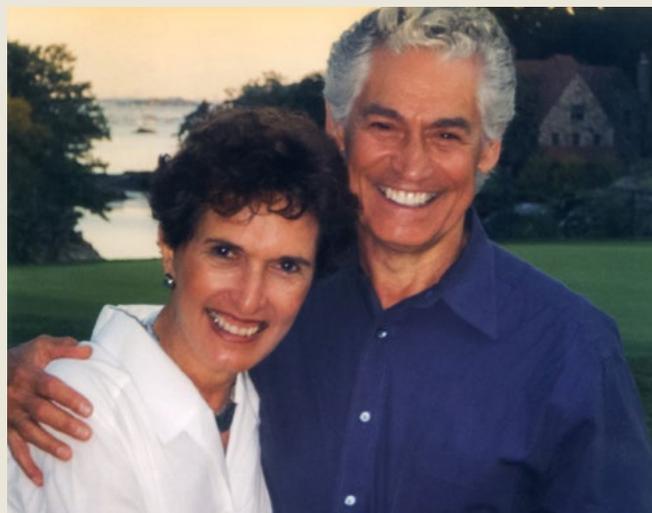
**Danielle Levine** joined the New York City Metropolitan Transit Authority's transit adjudication bureau in a project management role. She was previously the director of continuing legal education for the Brooklyn Bar Association.

**Mikhail Lezhnev** joined Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein & Breitstone, LLP, as an associate in the firm's tax law and estate planning department. He earned his CPA license in May 2015.

**Kate E. Olivieri**, previously of Bracewell, is now an associate at Greenberg Traurig. She focuses her practice on white collar defense and commercial litigation matters, representing clients at both the trial and appellate level. ■

## Samuel P. and Ellen Sporn Establish Million-Dollar Scholarship for First-Generation Lawyers

*Successful graduate gives back with an enduring gift that will change students' lives*



**SAMUEL P. SPORN '53** did not learn until he was a teenager that he and his parents were undocumented immigrants living in New York City. Sporn was born in Montreal and moved with his family to the United States in 1932 when he was a young child. He grew up in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, became a U.S. citizen, and graduated from his local high school at 16. He went straight to work—in the mailroom of a textile company—but soon realized that those who attended college were getting better jobs. So he continued his education, taking classes at Brooklyn College. After just over two years there, before finishing his degree, he was accepted by Brooklyn Law School, where he rose to become the class valedictorian and editor-in-chief of the *Brooklyn Law Review*. He also received the Dean William Payson Richardson's scholarship award.

Sporn has been grateful for the opportunities his education offered him, which is why he and his wife of 65 years Ellen have given so generously to Brooklyn Law School: so that other students may have the same opportunity to succeed. Together, they established a new endowed scholarship through a million-dollar charitable remainder trust called the **Samuel P. and Ellen Sporn Scholarship for First-Generation Lawyers**. This is the second endowed scholarship the generous couple has created at the Law School, and they hope that it will enable students born in other countries to get their legal education in Brooklyn.

"I'm forever grateful and beholden to Brooklyn Law School for accepting me," said Sporn. "I'm proud of what I accomplished there, and went on to accomplish in my life's work as a lawyer."

He and Ellen have been major financial supporters of Brooklyn Law School for more than 33 years. Sporn also has served as an adjunct professor since the early 1980s, giving his time to create a practical training course on civil practice.

"There is really no better way to honor the distinct legacy of Brooklyn Law School, which has been a gateway of opportunity

for so many people, than to make legal education more accessible and affordable for our talented and promising students," said Dean Nick Allard. "Our gratitude runs deep for scholarships like these, which we know will change students' lives for many years to come. Thank you to the Sporns for this true generosity."

Sporn's long career has spanned the public and the private sectors. He served in the Judge Advocate General's Office of the U.S. Army between 1953 and 1955, and then worked as an attorney with the Port Authority of New York. In 1956, he became an associate at Israel & Taubenblatt, specializing in tort and admiralty law. In 1962, he cofounded his present firm, Schoengold & Sporn, P.C., which focused on general commercial law until it began specializing in securities law in 1968. His firm represented a certified class representative in the WorldCom class action in 2005 in which \$6.13 billion was recovered, one of the largest securities fraud settlements of all time.

In addition to achieving many successes as a practicing attorney in New York, Sporn is also a champion tennis player who has won a record number of Maccabiah medals in Israel; he and Ellen have been longtime generous supporters of Maccabi USA. Sporn was recently named a member of the International Jewish Sport Hall of Fame in Israel and received a Lifetime Achievement Award

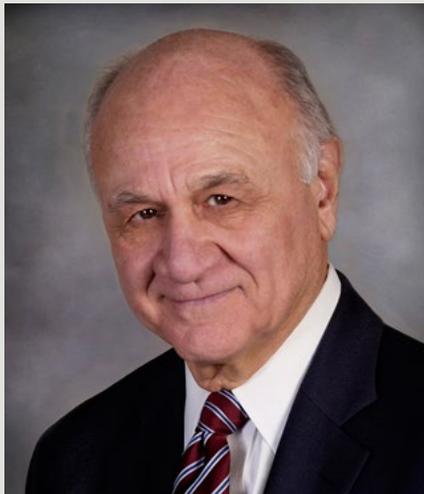
**"I'm forever grateful and beholden to Brooklyn Law School for accepting me. I'm proud of what I accomplished there, and went on to accomplish in my life's work as a lawyer." — Samuel Sporn '53**

of Excellence for his record-breaking tennis masters and grand masters Maccabiah achievements, both in Israel and in the Pan American Maccabiah Games in South America.

Today, Sporn continues to practice law. He recently served as co-lead counsel, with a student recipient of his first endowed scholarship, to help settle a groundbreaking arbitration case against a leading bank in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. He and Ellen continue to live in Brooklyn, where they raised their three children and host many family gatherings at their home in Park Slope with their eight grandchildren. ■

Please visit [brooklaw.edu/giving](http://brooklaw.edu/giving) or contact Kamille James at 718-780-0399 or [kamille.james@brooklaw.edu](mailto:kamille.james@brooklaw.edu) to learn more about giving to Brooklyn Law School.

## Nicholas Scoppetta '62



“He rose from a childhood in a tenement in Little Italy and an orphanage in the Bronx to a distinguished career dedicated to improving the lives of all New Yorkers.” —**Dean Nick Allard**

Nicholas Scoppetta '62, former commissioner of the Fire Department of New York, the first commissioner of the Administration for Children's Services (ACS), and a longtime devoted public servant, died in March at age 83.

“Nicholas Scoppetta represented the best of Brooklyn Law School, particularly in his lifelong commitment to public service,” said Dean Nick Allard. “Against all odds, he rose from a childhood in a tenement in Little Italy and an orphanage in the Bronx to a distinguished career dedicated to improving the lives of all New Yorkers, especially children.”

During his tenure as the commissioner at ACS, from 1996 through 2001, he reformed the city's child welfare system, winning national praise. In 2013,

he was presented with the New Yorkers for Children Lifetime Achievement Award for Child Welfare by the nonprofit New Yorkers for Children, which he had founded more than a decade earlier, at its annual fall gala. Mayor Michael Bloomberg also announced the creation of the Nicholas Scoppetta Children's Center at the gala.

Mayor Bloomberg named Scoppetta fire commissioner, months after the department was devastated by the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. During Scoppetta's tenure, firefighters' response times improved and the number of fire deaths declined to a 100-year low.

Earlier in his career, Scoppetta was appointed and reappointed as investigation commissioner by two mayors. He also served as Mayor Abraham D. Beame's deputy mayor for criminal justice, as associate counsel to the Knapp Commission, as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, and as an assistant district attorney for New York County. In 1978, Scoppetta joined the faculty of New York University School of Law and became director of the Institute of Judicial Administration. In 1980, he founded the law firm of Scoppetta & Seiff, where he was in private practice until his return to public service in 1996.

Scoppetta held numerous board positions, including with the Children's Aid Society, New Yorkers for Children, and the New York City Bar Association. He was also chairman of the Commission to Combat Police Corruption.

After serving in the Army, Scoppetta attended Bradley University, where he earned a degree in engineering. He attended Brooklyn Law School at night while working as an investigator for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. In light of his long track record of public service, many achievements, and his advocacy for children, the Law School recognized him as one of the Alumni of the Year in 2008.

Scoppetta is survived by his wife, Susan, and his children Andrea and Eric. ■

## Claudine K. Brown '85



Claudine K. Brown '85, assistant secretary for education and access for the Smithsonian, died in March at the age of 67. Having spent her entire career involved in arts and education, she said she attended Brooklyn Law School to have a better grounding in the legal aspects of artist advocacy.

Brown joined the Smithsonian in 1990 as director of the National African-American Museum Project; a year later, she became the deputy assistant secretary for the arts and humanities. She left the Smithsonian in 1995 to serve as the director of the arts and culture program at the Nathan Cummings Foundation, where she remained until 2010. There, she positioned the New York-based organization as a leading arts grant maker. She also worked to strengthen community-based arts education programs, which included helping young people to acquire creative and technical skills using new media. In 2010, she returned to the Smithsonian as director of education, and later assistant secretary for education and access.

Earlier in her career, Brown worked at the Brooklyn Museum and as a faculty advisor and instructor in the Leadership in Museum Education Program at Bank Street Graduate School of Education. Brown earned her bachelor's degree from Pratt Institute in New York City and master's degree in museum education from Bank Street College of Education.

She is survived by her sons, Gibrán Khalil Brown and Sangere Ebon Brown, and several grandchildren. ■

## Jerome Weinrib '50

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Jerome Weinrib '50, former chairman of ABC Carpet, one of New York's most successful home furnishing brands, died in February at the age of 86.

The company began as a family business, started by Weinrib's grandfather, Samuel, an Austrian immigrant, who sold carpets and linoleum from a pushcart in 1897. Weinrib took over ABC Carpet from his father and, in 1961, moved the store from East 28th Street to the Flatiron district. He was considered a pioneer for opening a retail store at 881 Broadway, near Union Square, which was then largely a weathered industrial area. He expanded the business across the street to 888 Broadway, which became the flagship store. ABC sold everything from hand-woven Oriental rugs worth tens of thousands of dollars to more modest coverings for a starter apartment.

"We're going to cover the world in carpets," Weinrib once said.

In the 1980s, his daughter Paulette joined the company and created the spinoff ABC Home, which has become a chic design emporium. His other daughter, Madeline, started her own line of popular carpets and furniture. Today, ABC Carpet & Home attracts about a million visitors a year to its stores and generates about \$150 million in annual sales.

Weinrib is survived by his two daughters and his second wife, Bunny. ■

## Margaret Giovanniello '56

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The Hon. Margaret Giovanniello '56, a judge, lawyer, bar association leader, and devoted wife and mother, died in January at the age of 88.

After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1949, Giovanniello moved to New York City and began working for the Department of Welfare, where she met Joseph Giovanniello '56. They married in 1951, and attended Brooklyn Law School together while working full-time jobs. After graduating from the Law School in 1956, they established the law firm of Giovanniello & Giovanniello in Brooklyn, later moving it to Cedarhurst, Long Island, where she later became an administrative law judge with the New York Department of Labor. The National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary presented Giovanniello with the Vic Roskopf Award for her distinguished legal career in October 2015.

She gave her time generously to a variety of local associations, serving as president and as a board member of the Brooklyn Women's Bar Association, treasurer and then president of the Nassau Suffolk Women's Bar, vice president and then president of the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary, executive committee member of the National Conference of Administrative Law Judges, and president of the New York Network Bar Leaders.

Giovanniello is survived by her sister, Helen Exton; her sons, Rocco, Raymond, Joseph Jr., and Earle; and her six grandchildren. ■

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The alumni relations office receives information for the "Class Notes" and "In Memoriam" sections from various sources. All information is subject to editorial revision. *Brooklyn Law Notes* is produced a few months in advance of publication, and any information received after production has begun is included in the next issue.

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1939

**Herbert Epstein**

October 1, 2015

1941

**Alfred Hill**

December 5, 2015

1948

**William Popoff**

February 1, 2016

1951

**Marilyn Romanelli**

August 14, 2015

1952

**Alfred M. Croke**

November 6, 2015

1954

**Leon Lebensbaum**

October 29, 2016

1956

**Morton J. Levine**

March 12, 2016

1957

**Arthur Marvin Lief**

September 1, 2015

1962

**Matthew Aronson**

February 15, 2016

1963

**Edwin Griffith**

February 26, 2016

1968

**John R. Klein**

May 28, 2015

1971

**Arthur S. Block**

October 15, 2015

1972

**Gordon L. MacLeod**

July 1, 2015

1974

**Thomas V. Ognibene**

October 12, 2015

1982

**Barbara B. Elkin**

October 25, 2015



# Closing Arguments

By Professor Maryellen Fullerton

## Spare the Rhetoric and Save the Refugees

» In the early days of the 2016 U.S. presidential race, two Republican candidates spoke proudly of their fathers' flights from oppression. They lauded the 700,000 Cuban refugees who poured into the United States in the 1960s and 1970s, fleeing tyranny, oppression, and state-sponsored terrorism.

Yet Sen. Ted Cruz said it's "absolute lunacy" to resettle refugees from Syria. "Who in their right mind would want to bring over tens of thousands of Syrian refugees when we cannot determine who is and isn't a terrorist?"

Sen. Marco Rubio said that Syrian refugees should stay in the Middle East: "Here's the problem: You allow 10,000 people in. And 9,999 are innocent people feeling oppression. And one of them is a well-trained ISIS fighter. What if we get one of them wrong?"

Both Cruz and Rubio have forgotten history. Cruz and Rubio forget the voices who sought to stop the 125,000 Cuban refugees headed for the United States in the six-month-long Mariel refugee crisis of 1980. Despite the risks and warnings that Castro had infiltrated his agents into the masses of bona fide refugees, the United States was determined to provide safe harbor to the victims of persecution. We are stronger and better for it, even though the Mariel boatlift had no pre-screening at all, in contrast to the multiple levels of security screening in the current refugee process.

Rubio and Cruz and other critics of U.S. efforts to resettle refugees have also forgotten successful U.S. efforts to resettle Hungarian refugees fleeing the failed 1956 revolution and Vietnamese refugees after the fall of Saigon. In those and other resettlement efforts, the refugees escaped from countries hostile to the United States.

Whether it was Cubans, Hungarians, or Vietnamese refugees, it was possible that one unworthy—potentially dangerous—person might try to slip in. We did not falter in our commitment to protecting people escaping persecution. That Syrian refugees are fleeing evil zealots is not a good reason to halt the long tradition of resettling refugees in the United States.

The refugee-resettlement process requires multiple levels of screening and security checks. Federal law requires the president and Congress to agree each year on the number of refugees the United States will resettle. The number for 2016 is 85,000 refugees, of whom 10,000 are to be Syrians.

The U.S. selection process is thorough. The United Nations refugee agency first interviews and screens individuals in refugee camps to determine those who have a well-founded fear of persecution and are truly refugees. U.S. officials then interview in person those refugees considered for resettlement in the United States. These U.S. experts assess the credibility of each applicant, and comb through each candidate's detailed biographical file to determine if there is any negative information that would disqualify the refugee from admission to the United States.

Approved resettlement candidates must provide biometric information and clear multiple intelligence screenings: The post-9/11 security system requires checks by the FBI, the Defense Department, the State Department, the Department of Homeland Security, and other intelligence agencies. Only after approval at each step—a process that typically takes 18 to 24 months—are refugees brought to the United States.

Rubio was right about one thing: It's possible that there's one bad apple in a group of people. But that is true of every group: U.S. citizens, tourists, businesspeople, artists, students, and athletes. That's not a justification for quarantining the United States.

**“Of the 780,000 refugees resettled in the United States since 9/11, not one has committed a terrorist attack in the United States.”**

Of the 780,000 refugees resettled in the United States since 9/11, not one has committed a terrorist attack in the United States. Two have been charged with planning to send resources to terrorist groups abroad; a third was accused of discussing terrorist activity in the United States, but had no credible plans. All three were arrested, convicted, and jailed in the United States.

With good screening systems, effective law enforcement, and vigilant citizens, the U.S. refugee-resettlement program does not risk the safety of the United States.

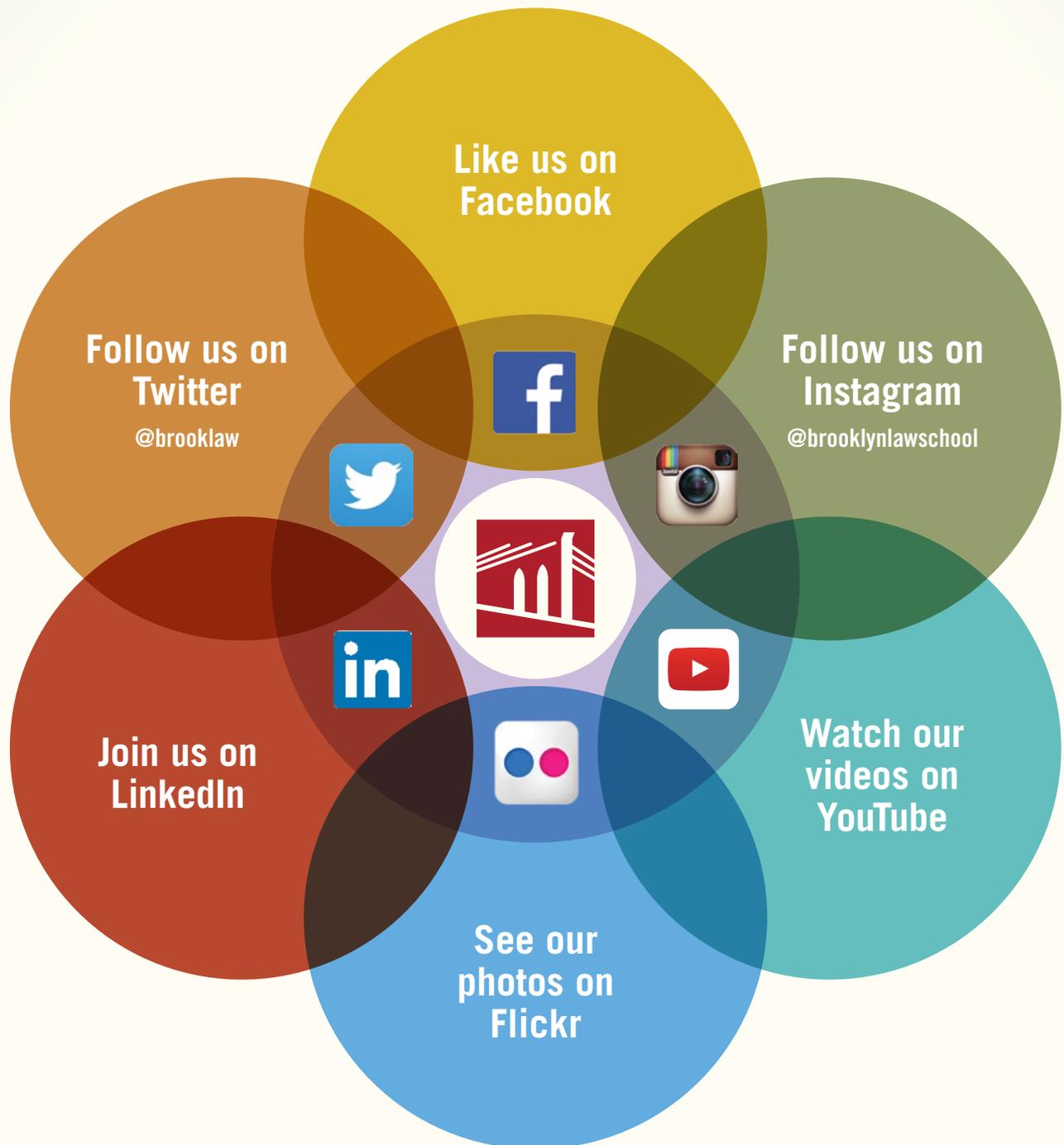
The current Syrian refugee crisis calls for immediate humanitarian action. It did so before the demons the refugees are fleeing attacked Paris and Brussels, and it still does now. ■

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**Maryellen Fullerton** is a professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. She is an expert on asylum and refugee law, with years of experience conducting research and working in Europe. She has been a consultant for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and has been active in projects providing support to refugee law clinics in Eastern Europe. Twice, she has received Fulbright awards, most recently being appointed for the 2012–13 academic year as a distinguished chair in law at the University of Trento in Italy. She has published two casebooks, *Forced Migration: Law and Policy* and *Immigration and Citizenship Law: Process and Policy*, which are used by more than 100 law schools and universities throughout the United States. She is also one of the founding editors of the *Refugee Law Reader*.

This article has been adapted from the original op-ed published in the *Orlando Sentinel* on December 16, 2015.

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## Upcoming Events

- May 16**     **115th Commencement Ceremony**  
SPEAKER: John Sexton, president emeritus  
of New York University  
Brooklyn Academy of Music, Howard Gilman  
Opera House
- May 25**     **Summer Session Begins**
- June 9**     **Alumni Class Reunions**  
Reunions for the classes of 1951, 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971,  
1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011  
Cipriani 25 Broadway
- June 10**    **Alumni Class Reunion Luncheon**  
Feil Hall, Brooklyn Law School
- Aug. 22**    **Convocation Ceremony**  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of New York
- Aug. 29**    **Fall Semester Classes Begin**
- Sept. 18**   **Brooklyn Book Festival**  
Borough Hall and Brooklyn Law School
- Oct. 14**    **2016 Scholars' Roundtable**  
Sponsored by the Dennis J. Block Center for the  
Study of International Business Law
- Oct. 29**    **Professor Robert M. Pitler Annual Program on  
Criminal Law, Procedure, Evidence & Ethics**  
Sponsored by the Center for Criminal Justice  
Brooklyn Law School

[brooklaw.edu/newsandevents](http://brooklaw.edu/newsandevents)

**RIGHT: New students on their way to the convocation ceremony in 2015**

