



40 | *Reunion*
YEARS
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW

May 16, 2024
5:30 - 9:30 PM EST





Program

Welcoming Remarks

Sudha Setty

Dean and Professor of Law, CUNY School of Law

Corinthia A. Carter Esq. '17

Union President Legal Services Staff Association 2320

Hera Javaid

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement, CUNY School of Law

Alumni Reunion Honorees

Ruth Lowenkron, Esq. '86

Director, Disability Justice Program, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest

Vickie Neilson '94

Supervising Attorney, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild

Azaleea Carlea '02

Legal Director, Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund

Yasmin Dwedar '11

Executive Director, Vermont Legal Aid

Shoshana M. Brown, Esq. '17

Manager of Equal Opportunity Compliance, New York State Governor's Office of Employee Relations, Anti-Discrimination Investigations Division

Closing Remarks

Corinthia A. Carter Esq. '17

Union President Legal Services Staff Association 2320

A Letter from the Dean

Dear CUNY Law Alumni,

This year, we're excited to convene a reunion that celebrates 40 years of the CUNY School of Law. In the four decades since CUNY Law opened its doors, we have been at the vanguard of diversifying legal education and the legal profession, built a stellar program that trains public interest and social justice lawyers, expanded access to free legal support throughout the city, refocused conversations on civil and human rights, and built a community that focuses on the movements, moments, and people who belong at the center of social change. Our shared mission empowers us to make a collective impact.

Our dedicated Foundation Board, Board of Visitors, Institutional Advancement team, sponsors, faculty, and staff all came together to make this celebration possible for our alumni community and to recognize our 2024 Alumni Reunion Honorees from across four decades of CUNY Law: **Ruth Lowenkron, Esq. '86**, Director, Disability Justice Program, New York Lawyers for the Public Interest; **Vickie Neilson '94**, Supervising Attorney, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild; **Azaleea Carlea '02**, Legal Director at Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education Fund; **Yasmin Dwedar '11**, Executive Director, Vermont Legal Aid; and **Shoshana M. Brown, Esq. '17**, Manager of Equal Opportunity Compliance, New York State Governor's Office of Employee Relations Anti-Discrimination Investigations Division.

In the past year, we debuted the Beacon Gallery with the exhibition *From the Periphery: 40 Years Recentering Justice*, featuring photos from the last 40 years of CUNY Law. We also hosted "A Night at the CUNY Law Archives," where we looked into our past and held lectures on social change, as we shape the future together. We are deeply grateful for your engagement in our community, whether you served as a panelist, volunteered your time, mentored our students, or provided them with opportunities. Your contributions are invaluable to CUNY Law.

As a member of our Alumni community, you're an integral part of a supportive, diverse network of more than 5,000 people. You show the world our commitment to transforming justice in your approach to lawyering, advocacy, and leadership, demonstrating to all what "law in the service of human needs" means. As you reflect on your journey at CUNY Law, I encourage you to also envision the future of our institution and its mission. How can we build upon our past strengths to create a stronger future?

We invite you to stay connected so that together, we can position CUNY Law at the forefront of vital conversations about social change, champion more lawyers for the public interest, and continue to provide one of the country's leading clinical and experiential programs.

Thank you all for joining our 2024 Alumni Reunion!

With gratitude,



Dean Sudha Setty

CUNY Law at a Glance



***Racial Justice
Law School***
preLaw Magazine, 2022

We continue to leverage our founding principles of access and inclusion and our longstanding Centers, Clinics and other initiatives whose work is inextricable from racial justice. We are a founding institution of the Law School Anti-Racist Consortium, offering resources, training, discussions and symposia for law students, faculty and staff from more than 10 New York City law schools.

CUNY Law continues to be the top school for securing public interest and government jobs. Most recently, 61.17% of grads were employed in public interest positions within 10 months of graduation, while the national average is 7.7%.



***for Jobs in Public
Interest Lawyering***



***Alumni Shaping
What Public
Interest Looks
Like***

More than 5,000 alumni put their CUNY Law degrees to work leading not-for-profits, working in city and state agencies, shaping local and national policy, informing international human rights work, bringing a social justice focus to firms big and small, and putting people and their needs at the center of their work.

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Dave Fields

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Daniel L. Greenberg

Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP (Retired)

Kenneth Greenstein

Nixon Peabody (Retired)

Steven J. Hyman

McLaughlin & Stern LLP

David Palmer '06

Ballot Freedom Project

Yogi Patel '06

Outside Legal Counsel LLP

Hon. Diccia T. Pineda-Kirwan '86

New York Supreme Court of Nassau County

Irina C. Rodriguez

Federal Trade Commission

Steven P. Salsberg '89

Global Access Advisors

Flora Schnall

Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy (Retired)

Sudha Setty

Dean

CUNY School of Law

Carmen R. Torrent '86

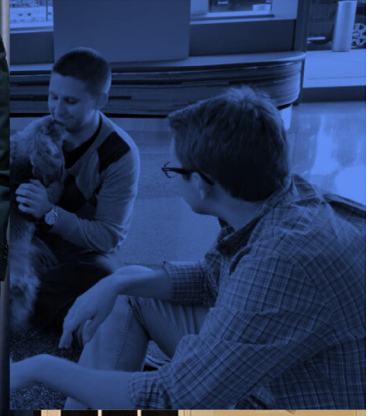
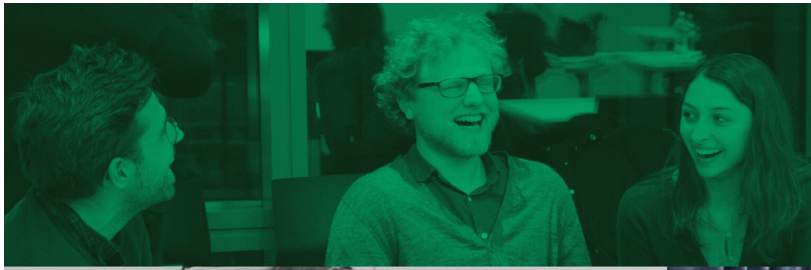
Office of the New York State Attorney General (Retired)

Hon. Elena Goldberg Velazquez '06

Yonkers City Court Judge

Lois Whitman

Human Rights Watch, Children's Rights Division (Retired)





Ruth Lowenkron '86



Ruth Lowenkron, Director of the Disability Justice Program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, has been active in disability law since 1981. She has assisted countless persons with physical, mental, and other disabilities via impact litigation, legislative advocacy, and community outreach. Lowenkron has worked at Untapped Resources, Inc., the Community Health Law Project, the Education Law Center, and Disability Rights New Jersey. She teaches disability law at Seton Hall Law School and CUNY Law and serves as a special education hearing officer for the New York State Department of Education. Her honors include awards from Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, Essex County Bar Association, Hofstra University School of Law Public Justice Foundation, New Jersey Association for Advancement of the Mentally Handicapped, ARC of New York State, and New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services's Public Policy Leadership Award, and being named as a Crain's New York Business Notable Women in Law.

1980's Alumni Honoree

Vickie Neilson '94



Victoria (Vickie) is a 1994 graduate of CUNY School of Law, where she has also taught as an adjunct professor. Since graduating, her work has focused on immigration law. She is currently a Supervising Attorney at the National Immigration Project (NIPNLG) where she provides training and advocacy on asylum, border and removal, and removal defense issues. She is co-chair of AILA's National Asylum Committee and she regularly conducts trial skills trainings with the National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA). Before joining NIPNLG, Vickie was Managing Attorney of the Defending Vulnerable Populations program at the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. Vickie worked previously as the Legal Director of the Immigrant Justice Corps, as an attorney for the Refugee and Asylum Law Division of USCIS, and as Legal Director of Immigration Equality and the HIV Law Project. She has taught as an adjunct professor at CUNY School of Law and NYU School of Law.

1990's Alumni Honoree

Azaleea Carlea '02



Azaleea has dedicated her career to advancing social justice for underserved communities, with a particular focus on supporting survivors of gender-based violence. She has extensive litigation experience in the Family, Integrated Domestic Violence, and State Supreme Courts and has supported policy efforts aimed at improving systemic responses to violence against women. Currently, the Legal Director at Legal Momentum, The Women's Legal Defense and Education, Azaleea oversees the organization's gender-based violence, reproductive rights, and workplace and educational equality initiatives. She is a proud CUNY Law alum and still lives in Queens.

2000's Alumni Honoree

Yasmin Dwedar '11



Yasmin Dwedar, a Muslim-American Attorney of Egyptian and Filipino descent, currently serves as Vermont Legal Aid's first woman of color Executive Director. She is also owner and founder of Radical Synergy, a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) consulting company. In her career, Yasmin has led legal teams, served as litigator, and clerked in state and federal court in New York. She also served on various nonprofit boards where she developed and implemented DEI-focused initiatives and strategies. Yasmin was recognized for her work in Crain's New York Business Top 100 Women Lawyers in New York City (2018) and Hunter College's 40 Under 40 (2023). She was also featured in Moustafa Bayoumi's book, "How Does It Feel to Be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America" (2008) and Vice Media's "Next-Gen Women Lawyers Explain How They're Creating Change in a Complex System" (2021). Yasmin has over a decade of experience as a public interest and social justice attorney and is licensed to practice law in New York, New Jersey, and Texas.

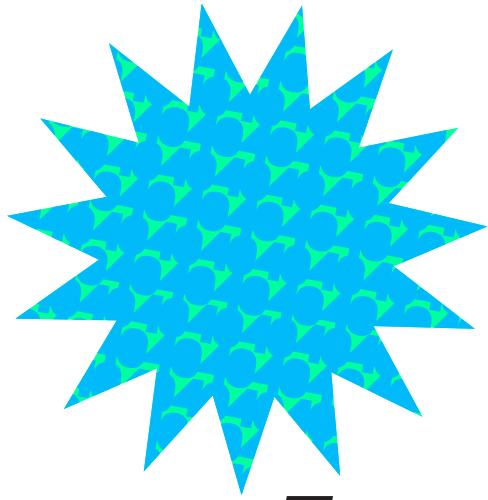
2010's Alumni Honoree

Shoshana M. Brown '17

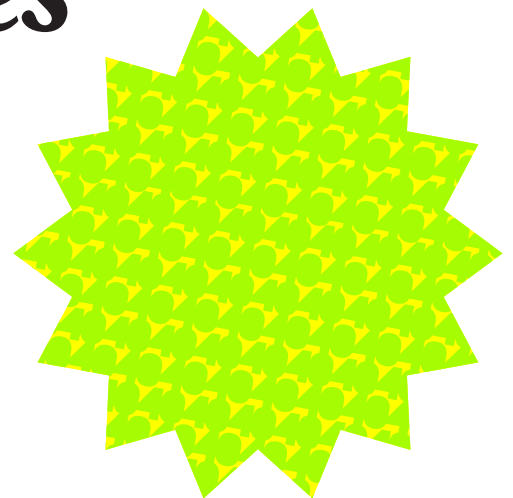


Shoshana M. Brown, Esq. (she/her) is currently a Manager in Equal Opportunity Compliance for New York State's Office of Employee Relations, Anti-Discrimination Investigations Division ("ADID"). Before working for ADID, Shoshana served as an Appellate Court Attorney for New York State's Appellate Division, Third Department, in Albany. Shoshana is a proud alumna of CUNY School of Law, serving as an Inaugural Fellow of the Sorensen Center for International Peace and Justice and a Pipeline to Justice Program graduate. Before law school, Shoshana dedicated several years of community work as Director of Programs at the Caribbean Women's Health Association in Brooklyn. Shoshana earned her Master of Public Health Degree from New York University and her Bachelor's from the University of Miami.

2010's Alumni Honoree



***Institutional
Advancement
&
Alumni Relations
Congratulate all of our
Distinguished
Honorees***



BABE HOWELL

*Congratulations Vickie!
Love you, Ralph, Bryan, and Babe*

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**BRIDGETTE BISSONNETTE,
ERIN TOMLINSON, HERA JAVED,
MADHURI KUMAR,
NELL HIRSCHMANN-LEVY,
REKA BALA**

Class of 2010

***Dedicated to those fighting bravely
to end genocide, apartheid, and
occupation of Palestine, embodying
the law school's mission in the service
of human needs.***

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Immigration Equality is proud to celebrate & support CUNY Law Alumna Victoria Neilson her lifelong dedication to LGBTQ & HIV justice. Her passion and commitment have made an impact on thousands of lives.

SUPPORTS

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TOM MARSH *Class of 1991*

SUPPORTS

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JASON STEVENS

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YEARS
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SUPPORTS

40
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**REBECCA A.
SEAWRIGHT**
Class of 1992

**AND THE CUNY LAW
BOARD OF VISITORS**

SUPPORT

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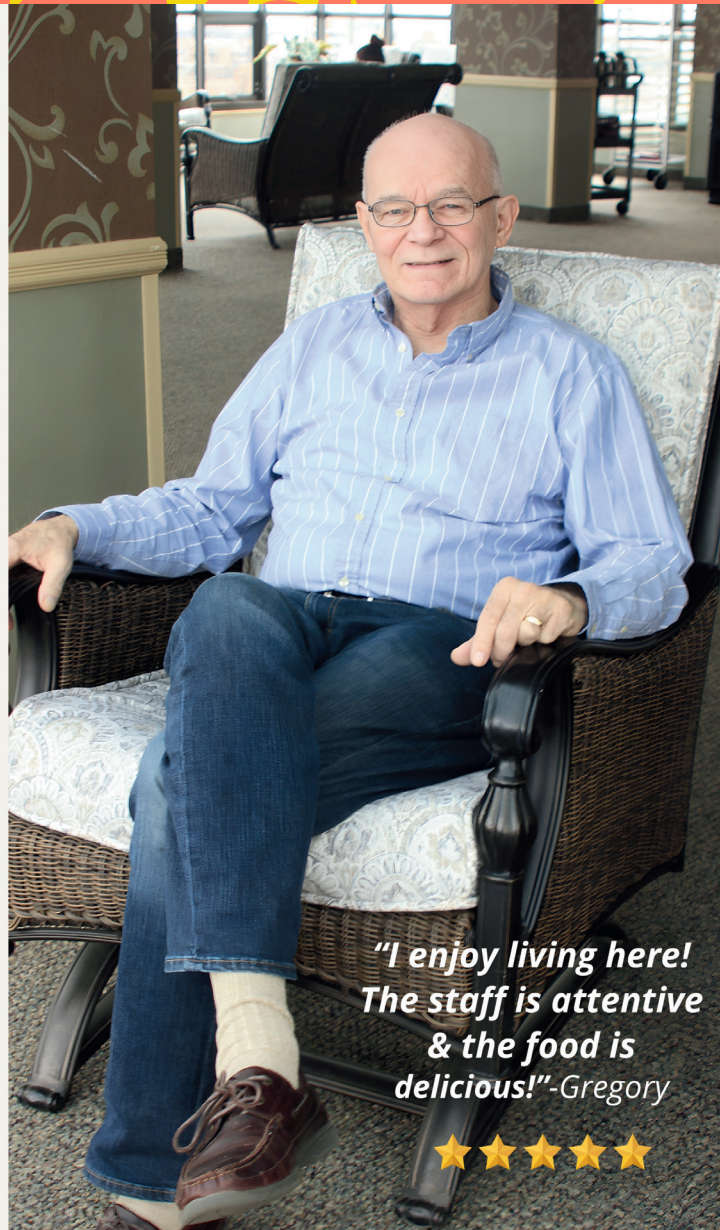
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A heartfelt congratulations to CUNY School of Law on its 40th anniversary!

For 40 years, CUNY Law has equipped countless individuals like myself with the legal expertise they needed to succeed as a lawyer, and the zeal to make a positive impact on the world!

This foundation has been instrumental in building Torregoza Legal PLLC, a firm dedicated to upholding the motto: **LegalEase**, we make the law easy to understand so you can focus on what matters to you - making your American Dream a reality.

Thank you to CUNY Law!
Here's to many more years of excellence in the service of human needs!

Angela Torregoza, '12

DAVE FIELDS

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40
YEARS

| Reunion

CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW

MARTHA S. JONES

Class of 1987

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**HON. JAMES C.
FRANCIS IV**



SUPPORTS

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YEARS | *Reunion*
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MARGARET MCINTYRE
Class of 1995

***Congratulations to Vickie
Neilson! Honoree of CUNY Law
Alumni Association You make
us all proud!!!***

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YEARS
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JUANITA BRIGHT
Class of 2017

***As a fellow 2017 alumni,
I am beyond proud to celebrate the
accomplishments of honoree Shoshana
M. Brown, Esq. Shoshana is an
outstanding attorney, mother and
friend. She is a shining example of the
excellence in the legal field that CUNY
Law continues to produce.
Congratulations Shoshana!!***

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YEARS
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LESLIE THROPE
Class of 1994

***Congratulations to my fellow
movers and shakers from the
Class of 1994! 30 years of rebel
rousing and making change!
And a special shout out to our
classmate and honoree
VICKIE NEILSON!***

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YEARS
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**JENNIFER
FRANKOLA-CRAWFORD**
Class of 2007

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