

**Fellowship Recipients on the Path to  
Public Interest Careers**



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**CUNY DAY**



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**F**or almost a year now, I've had the opportunity to see CUNY School of Law from the Dean's chair—and the view is spectacular! The panorama of the extended CUNY School of Law community in action is so inspiring that it has been my dream to give all of you a glimpse of that view.

Those of you who have been students here know that there have been some changes here over time. But, one of the things that remains constant is the remarkable energy that overflows the classrooms into the halls and, at the end of each year, propels our students into their summer internships and our graduates into their careers with a spirit of service and a passion for justice that sustains their aspirations. I've come to understand that this energy is the result of the synergy created by choosing remarkable students who have a commitment to public interest and public service, choosing faculty who have distinguished careers in public interest and public service, and imbedding in the curriculum the doctrine, theory and practical skills that students need to be excellent lawyers for the underserved and the marginalized.

I hope, as you read this magazine, you get a flavor for our students' drive and excellence. The Profiles, as well as the Class Notes, reflect not only personal successes, but also the many ways in which they are changing the lives of their clients and their communities for the better. The faculty and staff accomplishments are all the more impressive given the energy and time they devote daily to the academic program and the needs of our students.

It's too bad that energy and commitment to justice and equality can't be quantified. Or, so I thought until the Law School participated in the Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE), a national survey designed to measure the level of engagement of students and the quality of professional training of law students in their law school programs. Last year's survey included CUNY School of Law students along with more than 21,000 students from 53 different law schools.

CUNY law student responses to the survey indicated, virtually across the board, a significantly higher level of engagement and satisfaction than the mean. Areas in which CUNY Law students' answers were well above the mean include:

- **The level of students' engagement with the academic program** (including participation in class, interactions with faculty members outside of class, and how often students worked harder than they thought they could to meet faculty members' standards or expectations);

- **The design of the program to encourage and support active, inclusive, collaborative learning** (including whether assignments required integrating ideas from various sources or different classes, the strength of the academic support programs, how often diverse perspectives were included in class discussions and writing assignments, how often students had serious conversations with students of a different race or ethnicity, and whether the school encouraged contact among diverse groups of student);

- **How well the law school experience contributed to the acquisition of work-related knowledge and skills** (including working effectively with others, solving complex real-world problems, and opportunities for supervised practice and internships);

- **How well the law school experience contributed to the development of the values inherent in the best tradition of the legal profession** (including opportunities for and encouragement of the development of a personal code of values and ethics, how often students did volunteer work or were involved in law school governance or law school organizations, and whether the law school encouraged development of a sense of the importance of giving back to the community).

It's heartening to have the value of a CUNY School of Law education measured and validated. The school was similarly buoyed by the results of a national questionnaire detailing the career choices of law graduates. CUNY Law had the highest percentage of graduates in public interest—double the percentage of graduates doing public interest law at the number two school! I think it's no coincidence that, more and more frequently, our students, alums, and faculty members are finding each other in the public service sphere at work, on listservs, in organization newsletters, at bar association and guild meetings, and in the press.

I hope that you will join me in late April (when the CUNY Board of Trustees makes its decision) in congratulating our new Dean on having been chosen to lead the Law School in its third decade. As I have said many times this year, it will not be long before the world thinks of CUNY School of Law as the little law school that could...change the world.

— Mary Lu Bilek



## Garnett Celebrates 10 Years with a Promotion

*“In Academic Affairs, I was the first line of defense. If there was an issue, Mary Lu would handle it. But there’s no fall back now.”*

Andrea Garnett was a little nervous at first. Who wouldn’t be? After nearly 10 years as a receptionist and assistant in the Dean’s Office and Academic Affairs Office, respectively, Garnett wasn’t offered a commemorative pen for her time at the School. She was offered a promotion. And a big one at that.

In January, Garnett became the Director of Registration and Student Records, which was an expansion of the responsibilities previously overseen by Leslie Hayes, who retired last winter. “I knew it would be a challenge,” said the Jamaica, Queens native who received her Bachelors Degree in Business Administration from Baruch College in 1991. “But I realized I was capable.”

“When Andrea worked with me in Academic Affairs, she quickly mastered every new task, she never shied away from taking on more responsibility, and she remained organized and calm no matter how hectic things got,” said former Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Mary Lu Bilek, who also praised Garnett for her “wisdom, discretion, and good judgment.” Bilek considered her “a natural” for this new challenge that requires both meticulous attention to detail and strong interpersonal skills.

Garnett and her team (full-time assistant Sheeja Pillai and part-time assistant Jill Crosby) are intimately involved with the students from the moment they are accepted to the School to long after they have graduated. Garnett’s office is responsible for everything from compiling demographics on the incoming class, registering students for their courses, entering grades, and readying transcripts to working as a liaison with CUNY Central and Queens College regarding student data, verifying that students have met the graduation requirements, and certifying students to take the Bar Examination.

“I’m still learning the scope of the position,” Garnett said, quickly adding—unaware of the irony—that she already has ambitions to expand her office’s capabilities and efficiency with the implementation of the University’s

electronic student information management system. The program, which will permit second- and third-year students to register on line, is likely to be up and running in the fall, she said.

Perhaps Garnett’s biggest challenge is that she is no longer only a go-between for students and former Academic Dean Mary Lu Bilek during difficult times. “In Academic Affairs, I was the first line of defense. If there was an issue, Mary Lu would handle it. But there’s no fall back now. As Director, ‘the buck stops with me.’”

Garnett said that her direct contact with students has enabled her to foster close working relationships with nearly everyone. But there is a downside to working within such a small community. “It’s hard to say no!” Garnett quipped about students who seek assistance during her staff’s lunch hour or after the office is closed.

On a more serious note, however, Garnett said she wished she was able to do more for students who come to her in immediate need of transcripts, which are currently generated by Queens College. Reliance on Queens College means that there is a 48-hour turnaround time on all transcript requests—not much help, for example, to students who discover a scholarship opportunity only days before the application deadline. “Unfortunately, there’s nothing I can do in those situations,” she said, adding that in-house transcript production is high on her list of future goals.

When she came to the Law School in 1995 as a part-time receptionist, Garnett never imagined she would be an office director 10 years later. Just as she was initially nervous to take the promotion, Garnett originally shied away from the idea of being the subject of this article. But as with everything she seems to do, Garnett faces her opportunities and challenges head on.

Congratulations, Andrea!

– Tally Goldstein (3L)



# A Call To Public Service

It is a wonder that Natalie Gomez-Velez ever made it into public interest law. “I hated my first semester of law school,” said CUNY Law’s newest Public Institutions professor, who graduated from New York University Law School in 1989, but very nearly quit after her first semester. “It was like living in another dimension,” she said. “There was a lot of pressure to do corporate law and most of the students were very privileged. I was really struggling financially and living on peanut butter sandwiches.” But Gomez-Velez said she decided to stick it out thanks to encouragement from a few persistent friends from the Latino and Black Law Student Associations.

The pressure, however, to go into corporate law was initially too intense to withstand. “I felt very pushed into working at a ‘white shoe’ law firm,” she said about her second summer internship. And by the time she graduated, she said, “I needed the money.” In an effort to find a balance, Gomez-Velez turned down a full-time offer from that firm and, instead, took a position at the smaller corporate firm of Richards & O’Neil. “I liked them very much,” she said, adding that the firm gave her great experience and the opportunity to play key roles in major cases.

However, it only took one phone call from a friend to lure her into the public sector, which is where she had always wanted to be. Gomez-Velez joined the Department of Youth Services as General Counsel and Agency Chief Contracting Officer. “It was an exciting time to be at DYS. A number of new youth initiatives were being launched under Mayor Dinkins’ Safe Streets, Safe Cities Plan, which required the drafting of several new requests for proposals and contracts.”

After about two years at DYS, however, Gomez-Velez realized just how much she missed litigation. Another friend steered her to the National Reproductive Freedom Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, where she helped battle against Medicaid restrictions on medically-necessary abortions for poor women in various states. Her clients included a mother of two who had kidney disease, a woman suffering mental illness, and a woman carrying a fetus with anencephaly, which had no chance of survival. “It was the most emotionally—and politically—challenging and rewarding work I’ve ever done,” she said.

But two-and-a-half-years later, Gomez-Velez’s telephone rang for a third time with a friend prompting her to consider a new job opportunity. This time, the position was to teach at her *alma mater*, where, as a student, she had participated in protests against the under-representation of minorities on the law school faculty. “I figured I’d apply and let them say no,” Gomez-Velez said of her job application, which eventually led to three years as a Lawyering Seminar professor and one

year with the Judicial Independence Project at NYU’s Brennan Center for Justice. Of that experience, she said “to my surprise, I found that I loved teaching law students and engaging with the law from an academic perspective.”

Gomez-Velez had planned to stay with the Brennan Center and later move into the law teaching market, when the organization’s Legal Director encouraged her to apply for a job in New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer’s office as an Assistant Deputy Attorney General for Public Advocacy—an opportunity too good to pass up. Gomez-Velez spent three years at the Attorney General’s office, where she helped supervise the Consumer, Antitrust, Internet, Telecommunications and Energy, and Health Care Bureaus. She also participated in the first state lawsuit against gun manufacturers for contributing to a public nuisance by their failure to take action to stem the tide of crime guns entering New York State. “It was a great experience,” she said. “Eliot Spitzer is extremely smart and proactive. He is a lawyer’s lawyer.”



Family circumstances, however, required a closer commute to her Bronx home. Fortunately, Gomez-Velez learned of an opportunity to serve as Special Counsel to New York State Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman in nearby Westchester, working at the highest levels of the New York State Unified Court System. While with Judge Lippman, Gomez-Velez engaged in legislative work, served as staff counsel to the Commission on Public Access to Court Records, and assisted Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye during her tenure as President of the Conference of Chief Justices. “Judge Lippman and Chief Judge Kaye are among the smartest, hardest-working and warmest people I know. They are just spectacular—it was a privilege and joy to work with them.”

However, the desire to teach remained with her, and one day Gomez-Velez heard about yet another job opportunity. She began work at CUNY Law in August 2004 and now teaches the fall semester of Lawyering Seminar, in addition to Public Institutions.

“We’ve got such talented and multi-dimensional students here. I’ve been extremely impressed with the combination of real-world life experiences, analytic ability and enthusiasm for learning this craft,” she said, adding that Lawyering Seminar students are dealing with advanced Constitutional issues and complex analysis in their first semester. “They really rise to the occasion.”

What will Gomez-Velez do the next time her telephone rings? “I’m not taking any more calls,” she said, “I’m where I need to be.”

# Supreme Court Roundtable

March 2006

We hope you enjoy these faculty summaries of cases on the Supreme Court's docket this spring.

## **Kansas v. Marsh, et. al.**

- Professor Jeff Kirchmeier

Several capital cases are before the United States Supreme Court this term. Three of these cases, two of them still pending, evaluate how courts consider aggravating and mitigating evidence at capital sentencing hearings.

In *Brown v. Sanders*, 126 S. Ct. 884 (2006), decided in January, the Court reinstated the death sentence and announced a new way of evaluating the effect of invalid aggravating factors. The Court explained that an invalid sentencing factor will not invalidate a death sentence if one of the valid sentencing factors allows the sentencer to consider the same facts.

In *Kansas v. Marsh*, the Court will consider whether the Kansas death penalty statute is constitutional if it allows juries to impose the death penalty when aggravating and mitigating evidence are of equal weight. *See*, 102 P.3d 445 (Kan. 2004), *cert. granted*, 125 S. Ct. 2517 (2005). *Oregon v. Guzek*, 86 P.3d 1106 (Or. 2004), *cert. granted*, 125 S. Ct. 1929 (2005), involves the issue of whether, under the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments, a defendant has a right to present evidence of innocence at a capital sentencing hearing.

*Guzek* is not the only case with innocence issues that has gained the Court's attention. In *Holmes v. South Carolina*, 605 S.E.2d 19 (S.C. 2004), *cert. granted*, 126 S. Ct. 34 (2005), the Court will address the issue of whether South Carolina rules regarding the standard for evaluating claims of newly-discovered evidence that another person committed a crime violate Due Process. Similarly, in *House v. Bell*, 386 F.3d 668 (6th Cir. 2004), *cert. granted*, 125 S. Ct. 2991, the Court will examine the federal standards of proof for claims of innocence based upon newly-discovered evidence.

## **Ayotte v. Planned Parenthood of Northern New England**

- Professor Julie Goldscheid

This case challenged the constitutionality of a New Hampshire law that requires a minor who seeks an abortion to notify parents before she gets the abortion. It was the first abortion-related case to come before the Roberts Court, and it presented two questions for the Court.

First, the Court considered whether the law was facially invalid because it does not provide an exception for minors whose health is threatened by serious medical emergencies under which they could obtain an immediate abortion without notifying their parents or going to court.

The Court also considered the standard for striking down abortion regulations as

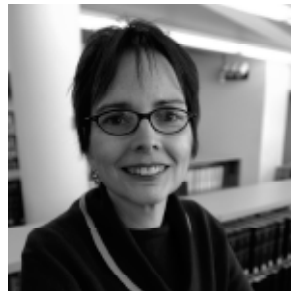
facially unconstitutional. It has previously struck down abortion regulations that impose a "substantial obstacle" in the path of a woman seeking an abortion in a "large fraction of cases" in which the regulation is relevant. New Hampshire urged the Court to grant facial challenges only if the challengers can prove that there is "no set of circumstances" in which the law will be constitutional.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, the Court unanimously affirmed that abortion restrictions must contain medical emergency exceptions to protect a woman's health and safety. The Court sent the case back to the lower courts to determine whether the legislature would have wanted the law to contain a medical emergency exception. If it finds that the legislature did not, the Court would have to strike the law in its entirety. The decision, therefore, appears to have left the scope of permissible abortion regulations undisturbed and has not precluded facial challenges striking a statute in its entirety if the statute unduly restricts access to abortion.

## **Marshall v. Marshall**

- Professor Andrea McArdle

Better known in the popular press as the "Anna Nicole Smith" case, the Court in *Marshall v. Marshall* will consider the scope of the probate exception to federal jurisdiction. The parties in this case are Vickie Lynn Marshall (A.K.A. Anna Nicole Smith) and E. Pierce Marshall, son



Professors Jeff Kirchmeier, Julie Goldscheid, Andrea McArdle, and Joe Rosenberg.

of deceased Texas billionaire J. Howard Marshall.

The jurisdictional issue is based on E. Pierce's argument that a Texas probate court had exclusive jurisdiction over claims to J. Howard's estate, thereby ousting federal bankruptcy courts of jurisdiction to hear claims related to estate assets.

Vickie Lynn, who was 26 years old when she married the then-89-year-old J. Howard, began a proceeding in a Texas probate court claiming that E. Pierce had tortiously interfered with J. Howard's intent to give her an *inter vivos* trust worth many millions of dollars.

In the interim, J. Howard died and Vickie Lynn filed a bankruptcy petition in California. The bankruptcy court rejected E. Pierce's jurisdictional argument and found that J. Howard had intended to give Vickie Lynn a catchall trust. The Texas probate court, meanwhile, rendered a judgment that Vickie Lynn was not entitled to any distribution from J. Howard's estate and declared that it had exclusive jurisdiction over all claims and counterclaims to the estate.

E. Pierce appealed the bankruptcy court judgment to the federal district court in California. Hearing the claim *de novo*, the district court found in Vickie Lynn's favor and awarded her \$88 million in compensatory and punitive damages. Appealing this judgment to the Ninth Circuit, E. Pierce found a more receptive audience for his jurisdictional claim.

The Court held that the exercise of federal bankruptcy jurisdiction in this case interfered with the state court's probate jurisdiction. The federal courts were bound by the state court's holding that it had exclusive jurisdiction over all matters related to estates, including gift, tax, debt, and tort claims.

It can only be assumed that the Supreme Court granted Vickie Lynn's certiorari petition because it credited her argument that there was a split in the Circuits about the scope of the probate exception, with the Ninth Circuit taking the broadest view, thus requiring the Court's clarification — and not

because she was a former Playboy centerfold, reality TV star and TrimSpa spokesperson.

### ***Arkansas Dept. of Human Services v. Ahlborn***

- Professor Joe Rosenberg

This case addresses whether a Medicaid lien can attach to the full amount of a Medicaid recipient's personal injury award or only to the portion of the award that represents payment for past medical expenses. This case has significant consequences for people who suffer personal injuries as a result of another's negligence and qualify for Medicaid, pending the resolution of their lawsuit.

The Court will interpret the relationship between an Arkansas statute that gives the state the right to recover from a tortfeasor the full amount of Medicaid payments made

to the injured plaintiff and various federal Medicaid laws that limit the right to recover from third parties only to the extent that the third party is liable for payment of medical expenses provided by Medicaid.

The case will determine whether injured plaintiffs who receive Medicaid and subsequently obtain a settlement or an award from a tortfeasor will be made whole for their non-medical damages, or whether the scope of Medicaid's right to recover will be enlarged and take priority over the compensation of the injured Medicaid recipient.

This case might serve as a bellwether for the direction of the Roberts Court, the Court could either interpret the plain meaning of the statute and find for the plaintiff or take an activist position in favor of a government agency.

## **Former Dean Returns to the Judiciary**

Kristin Booth Glen was inducted as the Judge of the Surrogate's Court, County of New York on January 3, 2006. The ceremony was held at Borough of Manhattan Community College. Judge Glen was the Dean of CUNY School of Law from 1995–2005.

Participating in the robing ceremony, from left to right, Hon. Robert Carter, Senior United States District Judge and 1999 Haywood Burns Chair in Civil Rights at CUNY School of Law; Hon. Kristin Booth Glen; Hon. Eve Preminger, former Judge of the Surrogate's Court; and Hon. Juanita Bing-Newton, NYS Deputy Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives and a member of CUNY School of Law Board of Visitors.





## Philadelphia Landlords Beware

**T**hird-year CUNY Law student Jeni Wright's entire world changed in just under a week this fall after spotting a Career Planning Office announcement about a Philadelphia-based Independence Foundation Fellowship with the Senior Law Center. "I had never even considered a fellowship," Wright said. "They seemed so competitive, I never thought I'd get one."

Wright's insecurity, however, was overcome by her desire for two things: to help protect a uniquely vulnerable population and to work in a smaller city with a tightly-knit community of public interest advocates.

Wright submitted her fellowship application to the Senior Law Center one Friday in mid-October. By that Monday she had landed an interview and two days later she was offered the position.

Wright, who is the first CUNY Law student to win the two-year fellowship, will represent senior citizens living in both public and private housing with landlord-tenant matters, as well as develop a cadre of pro bono attorneys trained to assist clients in the area. The Center has a large pro bono base, Wright explained, but landlord-tenant cases deal with a specialized area of law and often arise on short notice.

"Philadelphia has the highest percentage of adults over 60 of any city in the country and, although the Center has an active program to protect elderly homeowners, it does not yet have a program in place for elderly renters," Wright said. Elderly renters, however, are more than twice as likely to be living in low-income households than their home-owning counterparts. "They don't know how the system works," Wright said of her future clients, adding that housing laws in the city are egregiously

pro-landlord; a single missed rent payment can lead to eviction in 10 days!

In a full day spent at Philadelphia's civil housing court, Wright witnessed only one case in which a tenant won a motion; not coincidentally, that tenant was the only one who had legal representation. "To say the judge was pro-landlord is an understatement," said Wright, who heard the judge tell two unrepresented female tenants to "shut up." Wright added that many tenants never even make it to court because of pressure to meet with arbitrators to resolve their disputes.

Not only will Wright represent senior citizens defending against eviction, but she will also pursue their affirmative claims against landlords who ignore requests for household repairs, do not provide adequate utilities, and take retaliatory measures against elderly tenants who seek to protect themselves.

Wright's position is funded by the Independence Foundation, which invites Pennsylvania-based organizations to apply for its grants and requires the recipient of its public interest fellowship to provide direct representation to clients in an area of need that usually has not yet been addressed in that community. She will be reporting to Karen C. Buck, executive director of the Senior Law Center and Angel Recchia, managing attorney and CUNY Law alumna.

Wright, who grew up in Massachusetts, feels very fortunate to find a school where not only has she been able, as a black lesbian, to "slip comfortably into place," but where she is constantly inspired and reenergized by the dedication and passion for equality and justice of her colleagues.

A warning to Philadelphia landlords: Wright is on the way.

— Tally Goldstein (3L)



# A Safer Future

## for NYC School Children

**T**hird-year CUNY Law student David Palmer, a 30-year-old white male with short dark hair and no visible piercings or tattoos, probably looked much like any other businessman during his recent meetings at Morgan Stanley. But he wasn't there to discuss mergers and acquisitions: Palmer was there to talk about environmental injustices facing New York City neighborhoods that are primarily populated by low-income people of color.

"I'm passionate about racial justice issues, and I have always been outraged by the environmental problems that disproportionately burden communities of color," said the native of Rockland County, New York, who credits his parents' socially-conscious spirit for opening his eyes to the inequities around him and moving him to do something about them.

Palmer made two trips to the investment bank last fall as part of his successful effort to win funding for an Equal Justice Works Fellowship with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, where he will lead a three-part campaign to address loopholes in state and city laws governing the new use of pre-existing buildings for public schools. The two-year fellowship, which begins in September, is sponsored by Equal Justice Works and partially funded by Morgan Stanley.

Palmer explained that when a new school is built in New York City, there are statutory and regulatory requirements in place to ensure the location has been properly investigated and deemed environmentally safe, and that the communities nearby must also be given the opportunity to be heard about the plan. However, no such precautions or opportunity for community involvement exist when the city seeks to lease an existing building as a new school site. "School officials seeking to build a new school must meet requirements that mandate public notice, an opportunity for communities to be heard, environmental review, and even a separate approval process by the City Council inapplicable to the leasing program," he said. "As a result, school officials have avoided accountability to both communities and elected representatives when they choose to lease a building."

Thus, over the next two years, Palmer plans to organize communities where the New York City Department of Education has proposed lease sites for future schools and

to draft state and city legislation to close the gap resulting from the current interpretation of the law. In addition, he will, as necessary, use litigation to overturn bad law, to force school officials to comply with safety regulations, and to seek compensation for school children with tort claims resulting from problems that would have been uncovered in a site investigation.

Palmer got his professional start in environmental justice activism with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), where he spent six years after college as a community organizer and, eventually, a lobbyist. There, Palmer worked on a number of government reform and environmental justice efforts, including a campaign to pass a bill to protect children from lead poisoning. "My legislative advocacy work inspired me to go to law school," he said. "I saw how useful a lawsuit could be when we weren't able to win a battle or to just really help move the process along."

NYPIRG's Community Mapping Assistance Project confirmed Palmer's sense that certain communities—primarily low-income areas whose residents were predominantly people of color—were much less environmentally safe than some other communities—wealthier, predominantly white neighborhoods. The Project's maps illustrated the phenomenon using bold colors to identify the neighborhoods where children with the highest rates of asthma and lead poisoning lived.

This visual representation of the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards on poor communities of color made an indelible impression on Palmer. "It has inspired me to do what I can to tip the balance of law toward equality," he said.

— Tally Goldstein (3L)





## CUNY Law Selects First Alumna as Dean's Medal Recipient

CUNY Law has selected alumna Jaribu Hill to receive the 2006 Dean's Medal, which honors an individual whose lifework exemplifies the Law School's mission and serves as a model for its graduates.

CUNY Law has selected **alumna Jaribu Hill**, '95, as the first CUNY Law graduate to receive the Dean's Medal, which has been awarded at graduation for the past 10 years to individuals whose commitment to public service or public interest serves as a model for graduates and who have lent support to the School. "Jaribu has spent every minute since graduation passionately and skillfully advocating for society's most vulnerable and marginalized people and represents everything we stand for," said Mary Lu Bilek, Interim Dean of CUNY Law. "She meets seemingly hopeless causes head on, with a lawyer's mind and an activist's heart."

The former union organizer and adult-education teacher was a 42-year-old single mother with two children when she decided to attend law school in 1992. "I saw the law as another vehicle to chip away at the structures confining people of color from the equal opportunity to have a quality life," she said.

Hill, however, didn't even plan to apply to CUNY Law. "I didn't think I'd be able to get a job," she said, explaining her concern that as an "untraditional" student, it was especially risky for her to graduate from a new and different—and still only provisionally-accredited—law school.

One fateful night, though, Hill ran into an old friend at a fundraiser who helped change her mind. "Haywood and I went way back," Hill said of former CUNY Law Dean Haywood Burns. "We had been friends forever." When Burns found out that Hill was planning to attend law school, he made her promise to visit CUNY. "By the time I left, I was hoping I'd get in," she said. "I felt privileged to be accepted."

A few months after she started law school, Hill read a Mississippi newspaper article that documented the story of a black teenage boy who was arrested for stealing a car and found a few hours later hanging by a pair of shoelaces from his jail cell ceiling. "The boy was 19-year-old Andre Jones," Hill said. "[He] had taken his girlfriend out in her uncle's borrowed truck to celebrate leaving the next day for college on a scholarship. Jones had permission to use the truck, but he was arrested nonetheless." Hill added that "he was first

taken to a city jail, but later moved to a county jail infamous for mistreating African American detainees."

Hill was so affected by the injustice and tragedy of what happened to Jones that she called an attorney she knew who was working on the case and volunteered to go down and help.

Classmates Camille Massey, Desiree Hopkins-Hosannah and Robert Rose joined Hill in persuading 17 of their classmates to spend 2 weeks of their winter break in Mississippi. On the first of what was to become an annual sojourn to the Deep South by CUNY Law students, they conducted legal research, wrote memoranda of law and interviewed parties involved in the case.

Hill won a Skadden Fellowship upon graduation in 1995, which enabled her return to the state on a full-time basis. The one-time New Yorker, who was born in Indiana, but raised in Ohio, had found her new home. As a Fellow, she first worked with North Mississippi Legal Services and, later, with the ACLU. When Hill completed her fellowship, she launched the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights, the only non-profit organization in the Mississippi Delta dedicated to protecting the human rights of low-wage workers. The staff of six focuses on advocacy, education and organizing.

"People will sometimes ask me, 'Jaribu, why are you always so angry?' I tell them it hasn't changed. It's not that different," she said about the racial and misogynistic hatred that continues to infect the state, the south and, in fact, the country at large. "It's going on right now, as we speak. And when the best and brightest are in denial, that's when we're really in trouble."

To illustrate her point, Hill said that 65 people in Mississippi suffered a fate similar to Andre Jones' between 1987 and 1991, all of whom were poor and a disproportionately high number of whom were black. Originally, these deaths were deemed suicides, but later they were reclassified as "unknown." "Even though no murder charges have ever been brought," she said, "I call them lynchings."

*continued on page 11*

# Skadden Grant Makes Dream Come True

If there is such a thing as professional fate, it certainly smiled on **CUNY Law graduate Hollis Pfitsch**, '05, who learned this winter that she has been awarded a Skadden Fellowship that will enable her to pursue her dream job.

In September, Pfitsch will join the Legal Aid Society's Civil Division in Brooklyn, where she will spend two years working on a three-part project on behalf of female immigrant workers' rights. "This is exactly what I envisioned doing after law school," she said. "It's my ideal job, and it's a huge privilege."

Pfitsch was first exposed as a child to what she described as "solidarity work" through her parents' involvement in Latin America. She followed their lead after college and moved to Guatemala as a human rights observer, where she heard first-hand stories about what life was like for undocumented immigrant workers in the United States. "It was an eye-opening experience to hear how they were treated," the Wisconsin-born Pfitsch said. "I guess I was somewhat naïve."

Upon her return from Guatemala, Pfitsch pursued full-time work with immigrant communities in Washington State before entering CUNY Law, where she joined the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic and volunteered at The Workplace Project, a Long Island-based group that organizes low-wage Latino immigrants to fight for better working and living conditions.

At Legal Aid, Pfitsch will litigate cases on behalf of unpaid employees and employees who have suffered discrimination on the job. She will also develop community outreach programs that will include information about where workers can file complaints against employers who have withheld their pay and how best to navigate the layers of bureaucracy in the system.

The context of the final stage of her project will emerge from an assessment of the needs of women immigrant workers during the first two stages of her work. After identifying a specific target of advocacy related

to the enforcement of employment laws, she will develop and implement a plan for change. Although she will seek input from established community-based worker centers, she is, however, already aware of two pressing issues: long delays in addressing workers' claims filed at the Department of Labor and a culture of hostility in small claims courts toward immigrant workers.

Before she jumps into her fellowship project, Pfitsch will first finish her one-year clerkship with United States Magistrate Judge Ronald L. Ellis, who was a long-time civil rights litigator with the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. before becoming a judge. "I never imagined I'd do a clerkship. I wanted to get right back to non-profit work after graduation," she said. "But it's been amazing to learn from someone who is both an experienced judge and public interest litigator."

— Tally Goldstein (3L)



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*continued from page 10*

Not only has Hill's work made a difference in the lives of the hundreds of clients she and the Workers' Center have served over the years, but through the Mississippi Project she has supported the dreams of dozens of CUNY Law students. Each year, she welcomes the students who give up two weeks of their break between semesters to work with the Mississippi Project. She helps them find meaningful work, orients them to the communities they will serve, and supervises their efforts. Her unflagging energy, steadfast

determination, eloquent advocacy, and boundless appetite for the pursuit of justice provide them with inspiration, a benchmark, and proof that—even in 2006—it is possible to live a life dedicated to ensuring that the law means justice for all.

"There was a reason why I was sent to Mississippi," Hill said. "Your passion can save your life."

— Tally Goldstein (3L)



## LALSA Hosts 'Latinos in Judiciary' Panel

A panel of three Latino state and municipal judges spoke to CUNY Law students in October at the first Café con Leche ("Coffee with Milk") event hosted by the Law School's Latina/o American Law Students Association (LALSA).

The panel, "Latinos in the Judiciary," included Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick, Associate Judge, New York Court of Appeals; Hon. Gilbert Badillo, Civil Judge, Queens County Civil Court; and Hon. Faviola Soto, Civil Judge, New York County Supreme Court. James Castro-Blanco, from the Mayor's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, also joined the panel to provide insight into the judicial nomination process. The panelists, who first met informally with students, faculty and alumni/ae in the CUNY garden, were introduced by LALSA president Katsi Colon, (2L). Professor Jenny Rivera moderated the event.

The panelists spoke forthrightly about their early legal careers and the challenges they encountered as they made the transition from being practicing attorneys to life on the bench. A congenial and lively group, they shared insights into the judicial election and selection process in New York and answered students' questions on a range of topics – from how to find a mentor to whether an LGBT Latina/o would be welcome on the bench.

LALSA leaders created the Café con Leche series in the summer of 2005 with the goal of initiating public dialogue about the growing presence of Latinos in the legal profession, drawing attention to the diverse roles Latinos play in legal advocacy, and introducing students to the range of job opportunities available to them. "Latinos in the Judiciary" coincided with Hispanic Heritage Month and the day on which the Supreme Court reconvened.

– Maria Salazar (3L)



Left to right: Professor Jenny Rivera, Mayra Rodriguez (2L), Maria Salazar (3L), Rosalba Davis (2L), James Castro-Blanco (2L), Clarissa Gomez (2L). Front: Katsi Colon (2L), Hon. Faviola Soto, Hon. Gilbert Badillo, and Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick.

## 'Emmett Till' Director Packs BLSA Event

More than 100 people turned out for the Black Law Students Association (BLSA)'s annual fall "meet and greet" party on September 8, which featured first-time documentary film director and producer Keith Beauchamp.

Beauchamp had recently screened *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*, a film that documents the story of a 14-year-old black boy who was kidnapped and murdered in Mississippi after whistling at a white woman. Public outrage over the 1955 crime helped launch the civil rights movement, and the documentary helped reopen investigations into Till's murder. The movie features Till's mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, his cousins and others who witnessed the events surrounding Till's death.

The documentary suggests that there were several people—other than the two white men who were acquitted by an all-white jury in just 67 minutes, although they later confessed to the crimes—who were involved in Till's kidnapping and murder and are still alive today. The Justice Department decided to reopen the case in May 2004 after Beauchamp uncovered new information about the murder. Meanwhile, the FBI has since completed an investigation of the crime and submitted its files to a district attorney in Mississippi, who has the power to pursue charges against new suspects.

Beauchamp grew up in Louisiana and financed the movie with money his parents had saved for him to attend law school. He said he was inspired not to let racial injustice go unresolved and unnoticed after he was beaten up by police officers for taking a white girl to a high school dance. "The whole goal of this film was to get the case reopened," Beauchamp told the audience. "We're waiting for indictments, but regardless of the outcome we've brought awareness of the case to a new generation."

BLSA members invited Beauchamp to speak at CUNY Law after Professor Frank Deale made viewing the film an extra credit assignment for his Constitutional Structures class. Beauchamp's appearance garnered press attention by the *New York Law Journal* in its September 12, 2005 edition, and prompted BLSAs from several other law schools to seek out Beauchamp as a featured speaker.

– Tahesha Gilpin (3L)



Standing behind the seated Director Keith Beauchamp, from left to right are second year BLSA officers Joyce Sallah, Tahesha Gilpin, Stephanie Jean, Martine Joseph, Tajuana Johnson, Nicole Young, Randy Sinkler, and Sara Peloquin.



Students listen to Director Keith Beauchamp (at podium).

## OUTLaws Protest JAG with 'FAIR' Lawyer

It was standing room only for about 100 CUNY Law students, faculty and alumni/ae who gathered on October 6 to hear Jean-David Barnea, Esq., plaintiffs' attorney in *FAIR v. Rumsfeld*, the Supreme Court case involving military recruitment at law schools that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The event was held the day before JAG representatives were scheduled to conduct on-campus recruiting at the Law School.

Academic institutions that accept financial funds from certain government departments are required to allow military recruiters to use their career services offices under the Solomon Amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. The Solomon Amendment enables the government to withhold federal funding from any academic institution that does not provide military recruiters "equal access" to the same career service facilities that other potential employers use. FAIR is an association of law schools, law professors and law students who took the position that the Solomon Amendment violated the First Amendment.

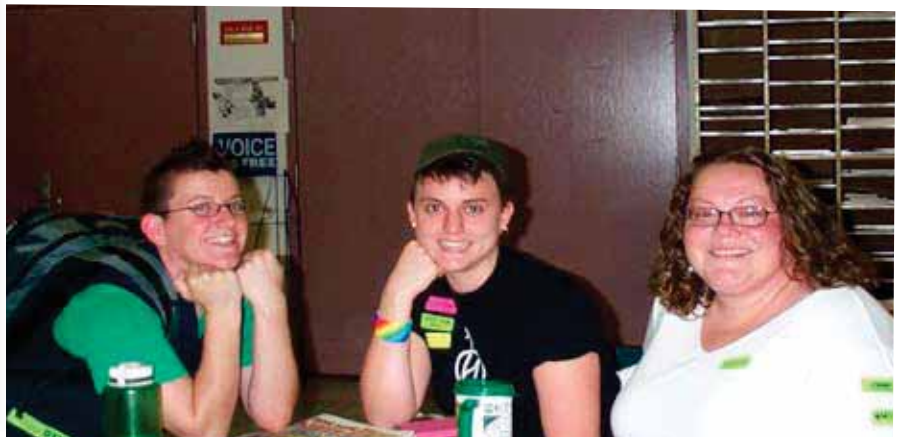
Buoyed by a victory in the Third Circuit, Barnea energetically detailed

FAIR's First Amendment arguments, and described the deliberations that resulted in the strategy chosen by the team of lawyers who represented the plaintiffs. Following his presentation, students peppered him with questions about the law, about advocacy choices and about his predictions for the outcome of the case in the Supreme Court.

The event was organized by OUTLAWS, CUNY Law's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender law students association. OUTLAWS has organized protests against JAG's annual on-campus recruiting because of the military's longstanding tradition of open and aggressive discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation, a practice that violates both the Law School's own non-discrimination policies and ABA and AALS Standards on non-discrimination.

– Caitlin Daniel-McCarter (2L)

*Editor's Note:* On Monday, March 6, the Supreme Court ruled that universities that receive federal funds must allow military recruiters equal access to on-campus recruiting.



Left to right: Outlaw members Sally Curran (1L), Caitlin Daniel-McCarter (2L), and Kelly Kuterback (3L) raising awareness on "Coming Out Day."



# CLRN Receives \$50,000 in City Financing

With a check for \$50,000, the New York City Council has more than tripled its funding for the Community Legal Resource Network (CLRN) in a powerful show of support for the CUNY-based network of lawyers, whose members are encouraged to help increase access to civil justice in underserved communities.

"I think City Council members realized it was a 'win-win' situation," said Fred Rooney, CLRN Director. "The inaccessibility of civil justice to moderate- and low-income New Yorkers does not make headlines, but City Council members deal with its effect on a daily basis. Elected officials can better serve their constituents by increasing the opportunities for attorneys to connect with clients who might not otherwise have access to legal representation."

Queens Councilman LeRoy Comrie was one of the key officials behind the City

to be elected to the State Assembly and City Council, respectively.



Fred Rooney, '86, Director of the Community Legal Resource Network at CUNY School of Law; Shelly Singh, Outreach Coordinator, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Pastor Sarah Geddada; Attorney Roberta Chambers, '98; Councilman David Weprin; CUNY Law Interim Dean Mary Lu Bilek; and Attorney Katya Plotnik, '94.

Council's decision this June to increase its grant from its first-time financing of \$15,000 last year, Rooney said. CLRN has also received \$5,000 grants from Assemblyman Jimmy Meng and Councilman John Liu, enabling outreach into Flushing, which has large immigrant Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian and Korean communities. Meng and Liu are the first Asian Americans

they face immediate crises, such as losing their homes. I am so delighted that I can collaborate with the Community Legal Resource Network to bring this critical service to my community."

– Tally Goldstein (3L)

## CUNITY

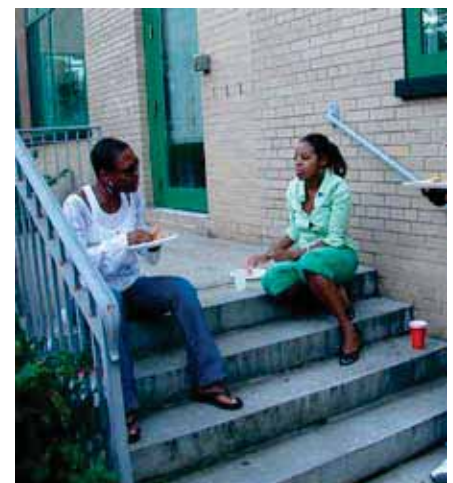


Carly Meyer, Eileen Choi, and Pooja Galliar.

At our first CUNITY Party this fall, coordinated by Student Government, 3Ls and 2Ls hosted a reception for 1Ls to welcome them to the community and make sure they know the upper class students could be called upon for support. We hope this will become an annual tradition at CUNY.



Zoe Rawson, Valmiki Reyes, and Andrew Sta. Ana.



Tajuana Johnson and Stephanie Jean.



**The Community Legal Resource Network** (CLRN) at the CUNY School of Law helps alumni/ae establish and maintain successful solo or small-firm practices that provide affordable legal services to working poor, lower-middle income and historically underserved communities. Organized in 1998, the network connects CUNY attorneys with mentors, experts and other attorneys in similar practice areas, as well as enabling access to lawyers who specialize in other areas and can provide advice or service when clients' needs extend beyond their lawyers' expertise. In addition to client referrals and professional support and encouragement, CLRN offers advice on practice management and office technology and regularly offers Continuing Legal Education (CLE) courses on topics specifically selected as relevant to CLRN members. CLRN currently offers its free support services to members throughout the tri-state area in general practice, family law, labor and employment, immigration, landlord/tenant, elder law and issues facing the LGBT communities.

*I have been doing immigration cases since I started practicing, but with CLRN support I have been able to handle cases for clients in other areas such as family, divorce, criminal and real estate. CLRN has helped shorten the learning curve for breaking into these areas of law. The time I save on research is a savings that is passed on to the client. (Katya Plotnik, '94)*

In addition to regularly-scheduled practice group meetings, CLRN members communicate on a more frequent basis through CLRN's 260-member listserv. This e-network enables members to increase their fee-generating client base through referrals from other members, to receive virtually immediate advice and support—a real boon to the small-firm and solo practitioners who comprise CLRN's membership—and to develop meaningful professional relationships. Recently, relationships with organizations such as the Queens Bar, Queens Legal Services and the offices of elected officials, have greatly increased referral opportunities for CLRN members.

*As a member of the Referral Service, I have had the opportunity to tailor my fee schedule to meet the needs of low- and moderate-income level individuals, who may not otherwise qualify for Legal Aid services. If it were not for the resources of CLRN, many of us who are small-firm practitioners would have greater difficulty being of service to such individuals. (Linda Dardis, '98)*

In 2005, CLRN's **CLE programs** attracted over 700 participants in 46 different courses. These very low-cost courses (\$10) focus on legal problems faced by low- and moderate-income clients, as well as cost-effective ways to deliver service to these clients. For instance, CLEs for the labor and employment group have included Early Stage Representation in Employment Discrimination Cases, Workplace Rights of Survivors of Domestic Violence, and Basics in Fair Labor Standards Act. Upcoming family law topics include enforcement of attorneys' fees, trial techniques, adoption and relocation, and immigration and family law.

CLRN has also created a **Contemplative Practice program** (CCULP) for its members and the CUNY Law community. CCULP, described as the most advanced program of its kind in any American law school, provides for members and students free yoga and meditation classes designed to reduce stress, to enhance focus and concentration, and to teach participants how to achieve a better sense of balance in the everyday demands of life. An article featuring this program appeared in the March 2006 issue of the *National Jurist*.

CLRN connects back to the Law School by providing **summer internship opportunities** for CUNY Law students in CLRN members' small firms or solo practices. Students have an opportunity to learn how attorneys in private practice can make a real difference in underserved communities and members appreciate the helping hands that interns lend. Given the success of past internships, CUNY Law's Office of Career Planning recently instituted a year-round internship program.

CLRN has recently launched two new initiatives that are increasing legal awareness in underserved communities

through partnerships with local elected officials. **The Community Legal Education program** places CLRN members in community centers—churches, senior centers, libraries—to provide information and counseling in areas such as immigration law, landlord/tenant law, elder law, estate planning law and real estate law. City Council members and state legislators have been enthusiastic about identifying venues and funding this program.

**The Institute for Legal Awareness** is being established to provide law-related education to City Council and NYS Legislative staffers in areas that are of frequent concern to their constituents, including housing, consumer protection, public benefits, employment issues (discrimination and workers' compensation) and small business development. Training for staffers—provided by CLRN members—will make it possible for them to answer simple questions and to make appropriate referrals. Through the Institute, CLRN leverages its members' knowledge, and provides yet another framework for meeting the legal needs of the City's communities.

CLRN is a member of a consortium of law schools with similar programs, including New York University, Northeastern, Touro, Rutgers, Syracuse and the University of Michigan. The CLRN office is located in Room 200B at the CUNY School of Law. For further information about CLRN membership and services, contact Fred Rooney, (718) 340-4451.

**CLRN can make a difference for you—as you make a difference for others.**

— Fred Rooney, '86



*CLRN can make a difference for you—as you make a difference for others.*

**Professor Penny Andrews** has had quite a year. Perhaps it was the fact that she spent the last year (January to December 2005) as the Ariel F. Sallows Professor of Human Rights Law at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada which enabled her to write four law review articles, a book review, and a chapter in a book about poverty and rights in sub-Saharan Africa, including an article in the *New York Law School Law Review*, "Perspectives on Brown: The South African Experience," and her article forthcoming this spring in the *University of Tulsa Law Review*, "Some Middle-Aged Spread, A Few Mood Swings and Growing Exhaustion: The Human Rights Movement at Middle Age."

In addition to her written scholarship, Professor Andrews participated in the Feminist Legal Theory Workshop at Thomas Jefferson Law School and was the organizer of two Comparative Constitutionalism Conferences—one in Durban, South Africa and one at the University of Saskatchewan. Last, but not least, the University of KwaZulu-Natal instituted the Penelope E. Andrews Human Rights Award in her honor, and she was a short-list candidate for the South African Constitutional Court.

**Professor Sameer Ashar** continues to work on his scholarship on the rights of immigrant and marginal workers, including an article currently titled, "The Law Clinic as a Site of Radical Democratic Resistance." (Perhaps



it was his experience this year supervising students in the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic and their victories in two significant wage and discrimination cases on behalf of immigrant workers that inspires him in this work.) In addition, Professor Ashar has been a speaker or facilitator at 14 different conferences since last January, ranging from his appearance as a speaker in a series sponsored by the UCLA School of Law called "Cause Lawyers and Social Movements" to his presentation at the

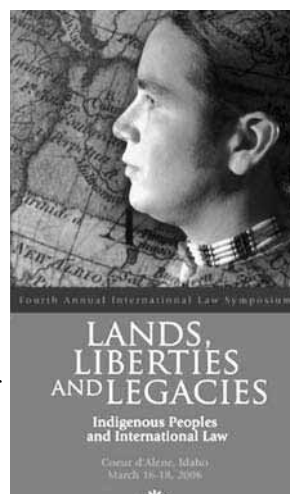
AALS Clinical Education Conference and his speech at Washington University on "Community Advocacy, Community-Based Lawyering and Community Development as it Relates to Immigrant Workers."

**Professor Paula Berg**, who has developed a new specialty in teaching Torts to first-year students in addition to her continuing work with the Health Law Concentration, has a chapter on health care forthcoming in *Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

**Professor Beryl Blaustone** continues her scholarship and work on both evidence and mediation. After presenting at a UCLA conference last year, her article, "Teaching Law Students to Self-Critique and to Develop Critical Clinical Self Awareness in Performance," was selected for publication this fall. In December, she lectured at the Administrative Law Judge Training Institute on the subject of hearsay and she is about to start a three-year term as Co-Chair of the AALS Clinical Legal Education ADR Committee. Her work in the Mediation Clinic will be expanding to include a project on housing discrimination, as well as a project on disability discrimination in which she will partner with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.

**Professor Caitlin Borgmann**, who joined the faculty in September 2004, has spoken at three conferences on topics related to her areas of specialty – reproductive rights and religious refusal clauses. Her article, "Legislative Arrogance and Constitutional Accountability," is forthcoming in the *University of Southern California Law Review*. In addition, she continues her service on the Board of Trustees of the ACLU of New Jersey.

**Professor Rebecca Bratspies**, who also joined the faculty in September 2004, made numerous presentations in her areas of expertise—environmental constitutionalism and the regulatory challenges posed by genetic engineering. She organized a conference last year entitled "Progress in International Organization" with Russell Miller of the University of Idaho. The proceedings from the conference will be published by Martinus Nijhoff Press. She



also organized a conference this year – "Indigenous Peoples Under International Law: Land, Liberty and Legacy," and the proceedings will be published by the American Journal of Law. She and a colleague have written a book called, *Transboundary Harm in Inter-*

*national Law: Lessons from the Trail Smelter Arbitration*. She is currently at work on a book titled, *Progress in International Institutions*. In addition she has written a book review, two treatise entries and three articles in the past year.

**Professor Susan Bryant** has also had a busy year. In addition to her responsibilities as Director of Main Street Legal Services and her participation in the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic, Professor Bryant has done two CLE presentations for CLRN, been a speaker at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association meeting, and a speaker at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, as well as speaking at the AALS Annual Meeting. While she continues to develop her interest and scholarship on the ethics and practice of working with interpreters, she keeps alive her work on cross-cultural lawyering and looks forward to the publication this year of a chapter that connects these two areas through a discussion of working with interpreters as a way of connecting with clients across culture. In addition, she continues her service as a member of the Board of Governance of the Society of American Law Teachers and the Board of Legal Services of New York.

**Professor Angela Burton** has continued to balance her two areas of scholarly interest. Her





work in the area of children's rights was reflected in her speech at the International Congress on Law and Mental Health in Paris, where her topic was "Responding to Black Children's Mental Health Needs in the Juvenile Justice System: A Reparations Perspective." She continues her service as a member of the Board of Directors of the *Clinical Law Review*.

**Professor Janet Calvo**, who has recently developed a new Civil Pre-Trial Practice Lawyering Seminar, continues her focus on health law and citizenship and immigration law, both in her teaching and scholarship. She made presentations this year in Durban, South Africa and at the University of Saskatchewan on "Constitutionalism and the Security State" (exploring restrictions on non-citizens that have arisen since September 11<sup>th</sup>). She is currently working on an article on proposed immigration law reforms that restrict or prevent family unification for legal permanent residents.

**Professor John Cicero** still takes the management position in his simulated labor disputes with his Labor Law students and continues to develop his scholarship on sexual harassment on the picket line and the relevance of the crime fraud exception in determinations related to good faith collective bargaining.

**Professor Rhonda Copelon's** scholarship continues to coincide with her work in the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, which prepared an amicus curiae brief in the *City of Castle Rock v. Gonzalez* on behalf of human rights organizations (arguing federal obligation and 1983 remedy for failure to protect against gender violence under international law). Professor Copelon's numerous presentations in this past year included a judicial training seminar on gender crimes and procedures for the Special Court for Sierra Leone, a presentation in Malaysia on gender in human rights treaty practice, and a presentation in Switzerland on due diligence and violence against women, as well as presentations closer to home at SUNY Buffalo Law School and the United Nations. In addition, Professor Copelon was a plenary speaker at the U.S. Human Rights Network Organizing Conference in November 2005. With three co-authors (two of whom are CUNY alums), she published an article

on international law and the claim of fetal rights in the fall of this year. She also published a treatise entry and a conference publication on violence against women and rape in war and conflict.

She continues her service as a board member at the Center for Constitutional Rights, as a member of the Advisory Council on Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice at the Hague, and as a board member for the National Economic and Social Rights Initiative

**Professor Frank Deale**, who this year expanded his teaching portfolio to include our required second-year course, Constitutional Structures, was a panelist at the AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on the topic of "Human Rights and Economic Theory."



**Professor Pamela Edwards**, who has assumed the title of Acting Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in addition to a nearly full teaching load, found time to moderate two panels on "US News and World Reports," the LSAT, and Law School Admissions," one at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco last January and the other at St. John's School of Law last fall. She has a publication forthcoming in the *St. John's Law Review* entitled, "The Shell Game: Who is Responsible for the Overuse of the LSAT in Law School Admissions."

**Professor John Farago** continues his work as a Special Education Impartial Decision Writer, as a member of the editorial board of the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction, as a consultant for the Practicing Law Institute Program on Education Law and as a member of the Executive Committee of New York State Administrative Law Judges. His works-in-progress include his multi-media simulation packages, as well as articles on law teaching and progressive legal education.

**Dean Emerita Kristin Booth Glen** received the "Distinguished Columbian

in Teaching Award" from Columbia Law School this year during the AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., where she spoke on "Alternatives to the Bar Exam" and was a panelist at the AALS Clinical Workshop in Chicago last April at a program entitled, "Transforming Legal Education, Act II: Clinicians Take on the Bar Exam."

**Professor Julie Goldscheid**, who joined the faculty in September 2004, continues her responsibilities with the Commission on Domestic Violence, but has still found time to make three presentations on "Equality in Violence Against Women Law Reform," locally and at Thomas Jefferson School of Law. In addition, she was the co-author of an amicus brief in the Supreme Court case of *Ayotte v. New Hampshire* on behalf of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (arguing the unconstitutionality of the parental notification provision in the New Hampshire State abortion law) and has published two articles in legal news publications on violence against women. She continues her service as the co-chair of the Commission on Domestic Violence Workplace Committee and as a member of the ABA Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities.

**Professor Natalie Gomez-Velez**, who also joined the faculty in September 2004, continues her pioneering work in the emerging field created by the intersection of public access to judicial records and technology. She presented on this topic on both coasts last year (San Francisco and Albany), and has an article forthcoming in the *Loyola Law Review*—"Internet Access to Court Records: Addressing the Balance Between Public Access and Privacy."

**Professor Victor Goode** concluded a four-year term as Chair of the New York City Open Housing Center this year. In addition, he presented at the national Clinical Teachers Conference last spring and was a keynote speaker at the Midwest Clinical Teachers Conference, speaking on "The Legacy of *Brown* and Its Message for Clinical Teaching." In addition, along with Jeanne Anselmo, he presented a workshop at the AALS Annual Meeting this past January, entitled "Connection to Purpose," in which they described the Law School's trailblazing work on the integration of



habits of mindful practice into our program of clinical legal education.

**Professor Sidney Harring** continues his prolific publication record in the area of the law of indigenous peoples with two publications in the past year: a book chapter on “Canadian Law and the Plains Indian Nations” and the entry on Native American Law in the *Oxford Companion to the Supreme Court of the United States*.

**Professor Dinesh Khosla**, in addition to developing a new course in Lawyering for Non-Profits, was a moderator on a panel at the *New York City Law Review*’s symposium on non-profit organizations, “The Regulatory Scheme and its Enforcement.”

**Professor Judith Kimerling**, whom we share with Queens College where she is jointly-appointed in the Political Science Department, continues her work on sustainable development and the interests of indigenous peoples. In addition to other presentations, Professor Kimerling (with Moi Enomenga, an indigenous Huarani leader from the Amazon Rain Forest) gave keynote addresses at conferences at Harvard and Yale on “Oil and the Amazon: Corporate Accountability, Legal Struggles and Community Organizing.”

**Professor Jeffrey Kirchmeier**, who has just completed his term as Chair of the Capital Punishment Committee of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, has also completed an article on assessing the accuracy and fairness of New York State’s death penalty system (to be published this year), as well as two entries in the *Encyclopedia of Civil Liberties* on capital punishment. Professor Kirchmeier has also been the key organizing and motivating force behind the student-run moot court organization which this year mounted nine teams in six regional and national moot court competitions.

**Professor Donna Lee**, who joined the faculty in September 2004, is now teaching in the Battered Women’s Clinic and continues her work as General Counsel of the New York Asian Women’s Center. In addition, she continues her research on proportionality in non-capital criminal

sentencing, on which she made a presentation this year.

**Professor Steve Loffredo** continues to direct the Economic Justice Project (EJP). This year he has been working with Professor Mimi Abramowitz of the Hunter School of Social Work and colleagues from the Welfare Rights Initiative (WRI) on a quantitative study that examines the effect of evolving welfare reform policies on low-income CUNY undergraduates and attempts to measure the impact over the past nine years of advocacy efforts by WRI and EJP to secure and expand access to higher education for people receiving welfare.

**Professor Shirley Lung**, who serves on the Board of Directors of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Chinese Staff and Workers’ Association Advisory Board, continues



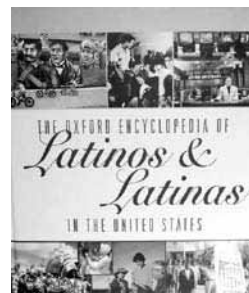
her research and scholarship at the intersection of immigration law and employment law. She was a presenter at the Break the Chains Alliance Conference in Chicago in May and her article, “Overwork and Overtime,” was published by the *Indiana Law Review* this year.

**Professor Andrea McArdle**, the Director of our Legal Writing Program, was awarded tenure by the Board of Trustees of CUNY this year. In addition to giving the keynote address at the third annual Legal Rhetoric Symposium in Washington, D.C., she has completed three articles this year. She has also co-written the introduction and a chapter in the forthcoming book, *Uniform Behavior: Police Localism and National Politics*, as well as a chapter, “Legal Texts as Cultural Narratives of Postwar Suburbia: Gender, Power and Consumer Protection” in a forthcoming book, *Redefining Suburban Studies: Searching for a New Paradigm*.

The Director of the Special Skills Center, **David Nadvorney**, continues to provide

academic support for students, as well as ongoing assistance to teachers on best practices and effective teaching. In addition, he was a presenter at the AALS Annual Meeting this past January on “Critical Reading in Law School.”

**Professor Jenny Rivera**, who has written three entries in the *Encyclopedia of Latinos/Latinas in the United States* published by Oxford University Press this year, was also a presenter at the AALS Annual Meeting last January on “Feminism and Domestic Violence in the Latino Community.” In addition, this past year, Professor Rivera received the Puerto Rican Bar Association Women’s Committee Flor de Maga Award and was included in the list of “80 Elite Women” by *Hispanic Business Magazine*.



**Professor Ruthann Robson** has continued her work as a faculty scholarship mentor and advisor of our Law Review. In the past year, Professor Robson has published two articles in the Legal Studies Forum, as well as an article on the questions of judicial review and sexual freedom in the symposium publication of the Fifth Annual Women and the Law Conference. She is also awaiting the forthcoming publication of a chapter, “Reinscribing Heterosexuality?” in *Transgender Rights: History, Politics and Law*.

**Professor Joe Rosenberg** continues teaching in the Elder Law Clinic, as well as first-year Lawyering Seminar, and the Wills, Trusts and Estates elective. Joe’s writing included the annual update for the elder law practice treatise he co-authors, *New York Guide to Tax, Estate & Financial Planning for the Elderly*, and continuing work on an article examining online teaching and learning based on his experience teaching his Lawyering Seminar as a “hybrid” online course. Joe also continues to serve on the board of the Community Living Corporation, Inc., a not-for-profit organization which provides

housing and other services to adults with developmental disabilities.

**Professor Rick Rossein** is working on the 33<sup>rd</sup> update of his three-volume book, *Employment Discrimination Law and Litigation*, which has achieved recognition as a “National Legal Title of Distinction” and been called “one of the leading treatises in employment discrimination.” He continues to serve as a member of both the Executive Committee and the ADR Committee of the New York State Bar Association, Section on Employment and Labor Law. He was honored last year by the U.S. EEOC New York District Office for his role as a leading scholar and practitioner in developing equal employment opportunity law.

**Professor Debbie Zalesne** continues her service as a board member of Beyond the 11<sup>th</sup> (a charitable foundation dedicated to helping Afghan widows affected by war and terrorism). In addition, this past year, she has published two law review articles in her field of teaching expertise, contract law. One explores the boundary between private contract law and the public interest. The other, which she co-authored, was published in the *Syracuse Law Review* and is entitled “A Unifying Theory of Contract Damage Rules.” In addition, she has written three entries for the *Encyclopedia of American Civil Liberties*.

**Professor Steve Zeidman**, in addition to his work in the Defender Clinic, has published three articles this year: one on judicial politics in the *Albany Law Review*; a co-authored article on jury reform in *Judicature*; and an article, “Policing the Police: The Role of the Courts and the Prosecution” in the *Fordham Urban Law Journal*. He also serves as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Jury Trial Project and as a member of the New York County Lawyers Association, Criminal Justice Section Task Force. He has made three presentations in the last year, including a presentation at the University of Saskatchewan on “Judges and the Constitution: Separation of Powers, Judicial Independence and Judicial Training” and a presentation on the recent developments in criminal law at the New York State Appellate Judges Seminar.

Congratulations to **Patricia Kennedy** in the Student Affairs Office who just became a grandmother! Pat’s daughter, Julie, and her partner, George, are the proud parents of Keira Elizabeth Kiladitis, who was born on March 14.

**Fatai Lawal**, one of the Law School’s peace officers, practiced law in Nigeria before coming to the United States. He was admitted to practice in NY this year, recently left the Law School to become a legal advisor at Rikers Island, where he will help the inmates research their cases, file appeals, and prepare for court appearances.

**Latoya Matthew**, a member of the support staff in the clinic, earned her Masters in Public Administration from Rutgers University. Latoya’s not finished with school yet, though—she hopes to go to law school.

In October, **Frank Shih** was awarded the “Fight for Justice Award” by the Organization of Chinese Americans’ Long Island Chapter at its 24th Anniversary Gala “in Recognition of Outstanding Contribution in the Pursuit of Social Justice.” The award was presented by James Yee, the former Army Captain and Muslim Chaplain at the US Naval Base Guantanamo Bay who was falsely accused of espionage.

The longstanding civil liberties case, *Handschu v. Special Services Division*, in which **Franklin Siegel**, counsel to the Dean and Adjunct Professor of Law, is one of four lawyers to the plaintiff-class, has been in the public eye since the holiday season. Three front-page *New York Times* articles by Jim Dwyer discussed possible violations of the court-ordered Handschu rules which apply when police in New

York City investigate activities involving First Amendment advocacy. The court is expected to rule in early spring on the question of whether the police department may photograph and videotape lawful public gatherings without restriction.

**Prince Adeboye B. Subuloy**, a College Security Assistant at CUNY Law School, received the Humanitarian Award from The Nigerian-American Community Association (U.S.A.), Inc. at its 2005 Award Dinner Dance on October 22. He was recognized for organizing and providing support for an orphanage and the physically disabled in Nigeria.



Left to right: Adeboye Subuloy accepts the award from the Nigerian-American Community Association Vice President Wunmi Green and President Olu A. Ajayi.

In February, Professor Andrea McArdle and the CUNY Law Writing Center staff—Writing Fellows **Fritz McDonald**, **Audrey Raden**, **Sergio Gallegos**, and former Fellow and now Writing Center Associate **Lori Wallach**—participated on a panel at the Southeastern Writing Center Association Conference in Chapel Hill, NC.

#### Staff Development Committee Workshops

On October 19, 2005 a **Stress Management Workshop** was held for staff. DC 37’s Health and Security Plan sent two social workers, Beatrice Rivera and Andree-Maryse Duvalsaint, to conduct the workshop.

The **Transgender Awareness Workshop** on January 11, 2006 was a huge success. Dean Spade, staff attorney at the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, was the facilitator. The focus of the workshop was how to make services welcoming and accessible to transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming people, and how to spot and properly address gender identity-related issues in legal/educational situations.

The **Task and Project Management Workshop**, facilitated by Tony Lu, a faculty member in the Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic, was held on March 1st. Based on the book, *Getting Things Done* by David Allen, Tony presented valuable techniques and tools for “getting things done.”



# The Mississippi Project 2005-2006

Following tradition, sixteen committed students went to Mississippi and Louisiana during their winter break to work with organizations fighting for civil rights.

**T**he Mississippi Project has been organized and run entirely by students for the past eight years and this year all the participants were first year students!

Typically, students who participate in the Project work with the Mississippi Center for Workers and Human Rights (MCWHR) and the Innocence Project in New Orleans. The MCWHR, founded by one of our alums, Jaribu Hill, '95, provides organizing support, legal representation and training for low wage, non-union workers in the state of Mississippi. Students at the Innocence Project provide investigative and research assistance to improve access within the criminal justice system by representing inmates in appellate cases where there is substantial evidence that they were wrongfully convicted and where private or public defender services are not available.

This year, however, was anything but typical: the largest natural disaster in the history of the U.S. left the poor in the Delta in need of urgent legal assistance. In the words of Shelley-Ann Quilty, one of the participants of the 2005-06 Delegation:

*One day we were picking through the remnants of peoples' homes and lives in the lower 9th Ward, building a record for their claims for compensation. The next, we were picketing to prevent the illegal eviction of some of the displaced residents of that same neighborhood from a Quality Inn.*

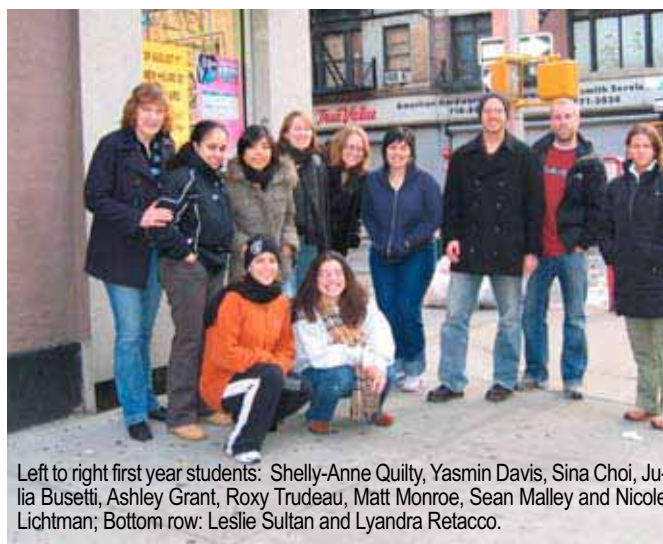
Students worked with local attorneys, grass root organizers, community activists and other law students from across the

country to obtain temporary restraining orders designed, in the words of one judge, to stop the "shockingly unconscionable" treatment of local residents.

The Delegation also traveled to the coastal regions of Mississippi—to Biloxi and Gulfport—to reach out to those most affected by Hurricane Katrina. Students interviewed residents in the poorest communities to learn about their immediate problems and challenges, ranging "from insurance issues, immigration issues, tenant rights issues, as well as the plethora of issues arising from the inadequacy of governmental response."

This Project was and continues to be a transformative experience for students who come to CUNY School of Law to make a difference. Our law school attracts students who want to use their legal education to empower the marginalized and underserved, and this Project is one of many which embody the commitment and vision of our past and present students. This year's students, with barely three months of training, were energized by "the opportunity to put into practice, their knowledge and skills so early in their law school careers." In the spirit of community, upon their return to NYC, they began coordinating a much needed summer internship with MCWHR.

The Project was made possible this year by students' own fundraising efforts and the support of one of the members of our Board of Visitors—Stephen Freidus. Stephen and his wife, Helen, generously took this project on and held a fundraiser in January. Their guests heard stirring presentations by the student participants. Guests found both the project and the students'



Left to right first year students: Shelly-Anne Quilty, Yasmin Davis, Sina Choi, Julia Buseti, Ashley Grant, Roxy Trudeau, Matt Monroe, Sean Malley and Nicole Lichtman; Bottom row: Leslie Sultan and Lyandra Retacco.



Rally organized in response to the eviction of displaced residents from hotels.





Homes our students were inventorying.

experiences so compelling that they are still sending the school donations.

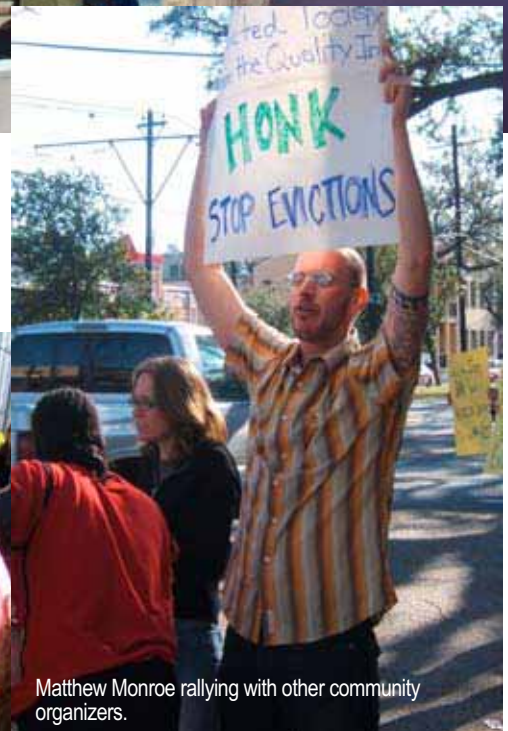
The Law School is happy to announce an endowment plan to ensure that CUNY Law students continue to have the opportunity to participate in the Project. Stephen and Helen Freidus, together with the rest of the Board of Visitors, have taken on a leadership role in raising the \$100,000 necessary to endow the Project. If you are interested in contributing to this effort, please contact the Alumni/ae & Development Office at (718) 340-4386.

The following students participated in the Mississippi Project 2005-2006: Christine Back, Julia Buseti, Sina Choi, Kiersten Daniel, Yasmin Davis, Ashley Grant, Denver Latimer, Nicole Lichtman, Sean Malley, Megan McDaniel, Matt Monroe, Shelley-

Ann Quilty, Lyandra Retacco, Andrea Siebert, Leslie Sultan and Roxy Trudeau.



Shelley-Ann Quilty interviewing clients to build records for compensation claims.



Matthew Monroe rallying with other community organizers.



# Student Internships and Honors Summer 2006

Since September, CUNY Law students have received the following **fellowships/grants/awards**:

Three Association of the Bar of the City of New York Fellowships  
Six C. Bainbridge Smith Committee Grants  
Haywood Burns Fellowship  
Konofsky Award from Brooklyn College  
Legal Aid Society 2005 Pro Bono Award  
New York County Lawyers Association  
Minority Judicial Fellowship  
Seventeen Revson Fellowships



**Revson Fellowship Recipients** - front row, left to right: Rosanna Roizin (1L), Dawn Philip (2L), Jennifer Ganata (2L), Jessica Reed (2L), Elana Redfield (1L); second row, Annie DeChung (1L), Pat Tynan, Career Planning Office Manager, Sam Sue, Director of Career Planning, Yasmin Tabi (2L), Stephanie McGregor, Associate Director of Career Planning; third row: Shelly-Ann Quilty (1L), Annie Syed (1L), Jodi Hawkins (1L), Rebecca Greenberg (1L), Gurpal Singh (1L), Angelina Ongkeko (1L), Amanda Allen (1L), Joshua Espstein (2L), Ashley Grant (1L), and Tiane Patterson (1L).

Among the **employers** for our students' Summer 2006 internships/jobs are:

Administration for Children's Services  
AFL-CIO  
AIDS Center of Queens County  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.  
Carter Ledyard & Milburn  
Center for Death Penalty Litigation  
Children's Law Center  
CONNECT-Legal Advocacy Program (NYC)  
CUNY Office of General Counsel  
DC 37  
D.C. Public Defender  
HIV Law Project  
Human Rights First  
Innocence Project  
Judge Ronald Ellis, U.S. District Court (SDNY)  
Judge Margaret Parisi-McGowan, Housing Court, Queens County  
Judge Sterling Johnson, U.S. District Court (EDNY)  
Kings County District Attorney's Office (two students)  
LAMBDA-GLBT Legal Defense Fund

Law Office of Richard Obiol  
Legal Aid Society-Prisoners' Rights Division  
Legal Service for the Elderly  
Make the Road by Walking (five students)  
Mental Hygiene Legal Services  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Neighborhood Defender Services of Harlem  
New York City Council Legal Department  
New York City Department of Investigation  
New York City Law Department-Summer Honors Program (two students)  
New York State Defenders Association-Immigrant Defense Project  
Prudential Financial  
Semel, Young and Norum (two students)  
South Brooklyn Legal Services  
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP  
Urban Justice Center-Street Vendor Project (two students)  
U.S. Department of Justice (three students)  
U.S. District Court (SDNY), Pro Se Office  
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (two students)  
Westchester County District Attorney's Office  
Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs

## **CUNY Graduate Fellowships:**

**David Palmer**, 3L, **Jeni Wright**, 3L, and **Hollis Pfitsch**, '05, (featured in the Student and Alumni/ae profiles) join other CUNY graduates who started their legal careers with a fellowship that enabled them to tailor their practice to the needs of the community they hoped to serve. (This list contains only those fellowships awarded since 2000.)  
**Ann Cammet**, '00, at Women's Law & Public Policy Fellowship Program, Domestic Violence Clinic, Georgetown University law Center  
**Paul Garlinghouse**, '00, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Connecticut Legal Services  
**Keith Miller**, '00, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Legal Aid Society, Bronx Neighborhood Office  
**Lisa Winter**, '00, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Center for Disability Advocacy Rights, Inc.  
**Heather Betz**, '01, Echoing Green Fellow, Lesbian and Gay Refugee Advocacy Project  
**Sandra Munoz**, '01, Equal Justice Works Fellow, InMotion  
**Anya Mukarji-Connolly**, '02, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Urban Justice Center, Lesbian and Gay Youth Project  
**Andrea Rodriguez**, '02, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation  
**Kavita Pawria**, '03, Soros Community Development Fellow, DRUM  
**Natasha Johnson-Lashley**, '04, Equal Justice Works Fellow, Sanctuary for Families  
**Carrie Miller**, '04, Equal Justice Works Fellow, South Brooklyn Legal Services  
**Alexis Danzig**, '05, and **Megan Dorton**, '05,

Pride Law Fund Tom Steel Fellows, LGBT Elder Law Project

**Davim Horowitz**, '05, Soros Community Development Fellow, Sylvia Rivera Law Project

**David Mickenberg**, '05, Dorot Fellowship, Judicial Selection Project with the Alliance for Justice, Washington DC

**Michael Oppenheimer**, '06, Prettyman Fellowship, Georgetown University, Criminal Defense Clinic

## **Student Publications:**

**Anna Boksenbaum**, Note, *Shedding Your Soul at the Schoolhouse Gate: The Chilling of Student Artistic Speech in the Post-Columbine Era*, 8 N.Y. CITY L. REV. 123 (2005)

**Jota Borgmann**, Article, *Hunting Expeditions: Perverting Substantive Due Process and Undermining Sexual Privacy in the Pursuit of Moral Trophy Game*, 15 UCLA WOMEN'S L.J. (forthcoming 2006)

**Erin Lloyd**, Article, *From the Hospital to the Court Room: A Statutory Proposal for Recognizing and Protecting the Legal Rights of Intersex Children*, 12 CARDOZO WOMEN'S L.J. (forthcoming 2006)

**Ellen Ruth Magid**, Note, *Will There be a Freeze on Cold Hits? Safeguarding the Constitutionality of DNA Collection Statutes*, 8 N.Y. CITY L. REV. 185 (2005)

**Hollis Pfitsch**, Article, *Homosexuality in Constitutional and Asylum Law: Rhetoric of Acts and Identity*, 15 L. & SEXUALITY (2005)

**Katerina Semyonova**, Note, *In the Big House with the Good Book: An Examination of the Constitutionality of Faith-Based Prisons*, 8 N.Y. CITY L. REV. 209 (2005)

**Nasoan Sheftel-Gomez**, Article, *Your Revolution: The Federal Communications Commission, Obscenity and the Chilling of Artistic Expression on Radio Airwaves*, CARDOZO ARTS & ENT. L.J. (forthcoming 2006)

**Rita J. Verga**, Article, *An Advocate's Toolkit: Using Criminal "Theft of Service" Laws to Enforce Workers' Rights to be Paid*, 8 N.Y. CITY L. REV. 283 (2005)

**Sanja Zgonjanin**, Article, *No Child Left (Behind) Unrecruited*, CONN. PUB. INT. L.J. (forthcoming Spring 2006)

# Main Street Legal Services Docket



Life goes on...even during spring break. The clinics are busy working on cases for clients whose lives do not neatly fit the semester timeline.

One case, pending in Immigration Court, involved a client seeking a suspension of deportation based upon special rules developed for victims of domestic violence. This client has been represented by eight students over four years: the first group of students did research and documentation; another group of interns filed and won a motion to reopen the case after new legal provisions created a remedy; and current clinic students prepared the case for hearing. When the judge granted the suspension of deportation, the client cried tears of joy and gratitude. This year's students accepted her hugs and thanks on behalf of all the clinic students who have worked on this case over the years.

Spring break also found the **Battered Women's Right Clinic** students working on a complicated custody and support case involving multiple jurisdictions. They prepared their client for a deposition that occurred via a telephone hook-up in the clinic. **Immigrant and Refugee Rights** students were here filing briefs and a motion to the Bureau of Immigration Appeals and working late into the night on TRO papers for a Fair Labor Standards Act case. The **International Women's Human Rights** students were appreciating the lull that comes after filing a significant brief in a case and waiting for the reply. The brief, a 45-page response to a motion to

dismiss, argued many sophisticated points including a cause of action based on tortious interference of a right to an education where their client, a woman who was trafficked to the U.S., was not allowed to go to school.

What goes around comes around...one of the rewards of being a clinical teacher is the opportunity to meet our alumni/ae practicing in New York City courts. For example, recently, I ran into **Evelyn Tucker**, '90, and **Lisa Reiner**, '90, in Immigration Court. Lisa was able to give us some advice about the judge we were about to appear before. Evelyn, who recently left GMHC to open a firm with **Shoshanna Malett**, '90, agreed to come to a clinic class and talk to us about HIV-positive and LGBT clients whom they are representing on asylum claims. It is always a pleasure to introduce the current students to our grads who are successfully living the Law School's mission.

So, as we wind down the work of the semester and this year's clinic students prepare to graduate, I look forward to meeting them in court next year and introducing them to the new group of clinic students.

— Sue Bryant

## A Special 'Thanks' to the Class of 2005

The faculty, staff, and interns of **Main Street Legal Services** wish to thank the **Class of 2005** for their generous class gift. We purchased three Fujitsu scanners, so we are now able to electronically file court papers, upload course materials to the clinic web course on Lexis, and scan closed case files for archiving. Through your generosity and support, the Clinic is operating more efficiently and effectively. Thank you!



We hope “CUNY Views in Print” becomes a regular feature where we will reprint published opinion pieces by CUNY Law faculty, students and alums. If you have published an opinion piece that you would like to see reprinted here, please send us a copy.



## Military Matters

Professor Ruthann Robson

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Legal expert **Ruthann Robson** explains the surprising implications of the gay rights case that comes before the Supreme Court next month.

arguing that the case is about the military and the government's power of the purse, and the challengers arguing that this case is a classic infringement of the freedoms of speech and association. Even understanding the case's basics, never mind arguing its details with friends, requires a road map.

which had little compunction about telling African-American, female, or Jewish candidates that they might not “fit in” or “be compatible with clients” despite those candidates' stellar law school academic records.

The United States Supreme Court is set to deliver another judgment on the issue of gay rights. With oral arguments in *Rumsfeld v. FAIR* set for the beginning of December, a decision could come anytime after that. If the past is any indication, the court will probably wait for Gay Pride Month in June to make its pronouncement.

But is this complex case really about gay rights? And what rights, exactly?

Maybe you've heard that the case is about gays in the military, or about law schools, or about free speech, or about discrimination, or even about the congressional “power of the purse.” If you've heard all those things, you've heard right. But trying to figure out how a gay rights case is about all those issues is daunting. The *FAIR* case is no *Lawrence v. Texas*, in which the court declared unconstitutional Texas's sodomy law that criminalized same-sex sexual expression. Instead, *FAIR* seems to have more kinds of laws involved than there are ways of being “queer.”

Further, there are disputes about what laws should apply, with the government

The starting point is the military's prohibition against homosexuality. It's the infamous “don't ask, don't tell” policy, which provides that homosexuality is incompatible with military service. The military code also criminalizes sodomy, both same-sex and opposite-sex. The original defendant is Donald Rumsfeld, the secretary of Defense, but *Rumsfeld v. FAIR* is not a direct challenge to the military's policy, which has been upheld by the lower courts, ruling that deference to the military trumps claims of privacy. The Supreme Court has never reviewed those decisions.

Now turn left into the land of universities, and more specifically, law schools. Most academic institutions, as well as the Association of American Law Schools (which is not a party to this case), have policies that prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, and other categories, including sexual orientation. These policies apply to the admissions process, as well as to career counseling and placement. As a result, employers who discriminate are not permitted to recruit on campus. In fact, the military was not the original focus of these policies. Rather, they were aimed at law firms like “White, Male, and Protestant,”

You might be able to imagine a country in which the military homosexual exclusion policy and a law school prohibition of discrimination policy might coexist. But the United States is not that country. The government argues that an all-volunteer military must actively recruit, including at law schools. The military needs lawyers. And not just to prosecute service members for violating its prohibitions against sodomy (including heterosexual) and homosexuality (including marrying a person of the same sex). The military's lawyers have even represented “unlawful enemy combatants” against the military itself, and won.

From the law schools' perspective, if any other potential employer said “We won't hire your graduates if we do not like their sexual orientation,” it would be banned from the placement facilities. It seemed only fair to apply the same policy to the military, as many queer activists on campuses throughout the country pointed out.

The path taken by many law schools did not please the military and reportedly infuriated some members of Congress. When the federal government is not pleased,

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# To Profit or Not to Profit

Tally Goldstein (3L)

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Irina Rodriguez is black, Puerto Rican, and the first person in her family to pursue a post-high school education. She decided to attend City University of New York School of Law to become a public defender, motivated by the experience of witnessing security guards harass black friends and family members. "It's such a huge contribution to the community. It's a noble thing," Rodriguez says of lawyers who commit themselves to careers in public interest law.

But last summer Rodriguez, 28, interned at an antitrust boutique in New York. Afterward the firm offered her a permanent position as an associate once she graduates and a starting salary she would probably never see as a nonprofit attorney. (On average, law school graduates who take public interest jobs make \$37,500 starting out, compared to \$80,000 in private practice, according to the National Association for Law Placement.)

With family obligations on her mind, Rodriguez says she is likely to take the job after she graduates next year. She is, however, clearly uncomfortable admitting it. Her conflict is not unique. On the basis of their experience as people of color, many minority attorneys feel a strong, personal motivation to do public interest work. Yet they also feel pressure—which, ironically, often comes from within the minority community—to "make it" by taking more lucrative work in the private sector.

Overall, minority law school graduates are more likely to take jobs in the public interest sector or government than white graduates, according to NALP research. Over the past 20 years, however, the percentage of minority graduates who go into public interest or government jobs has declined. In 1982, 7.4 percent of newly minted minority lawyers took public interest jobs, and 21 percent took government jobs. By 2003, those percentages had slid to 4.8 percent and 15.3 percent, respectively.

Meanwhile, the percentage of minority graduates going into private practice grew from 43.5 percent to 50.2 percent.

More than 20 years ago, Jeh Charles Johnson faced the same choice that Rodriguez faces today. "I was of two minds," says Johnson, 47, of his choice to enter private practice. Johnson, an African American, now a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, entered Columbia Law School in 1979 with the intention of joining the nonprofit sector but found he could not resist the temptation of the white-shoe life. "It's a big suction cup," he says. A group of fellow minority students, he notes, had planned on "working for the public good," but also ended up in traditional corporate positions. The inner conflict doesn't end even after the choice is made, Jeh Johnson says: "As successful African Americans, we all want to feel like we haven't sold out."

But James Johnson, a black lawyer who was undersecretary of the U.S. Department of the Treasury before becoming a partner at New York's Debevoise & Plimpton, says that any position of power, whether private or public interest, can strain an attorney's ties to the minority community. "People may question your authenticity because of the position you've risen to," he says. "They may question whether you're still connected to the community and to the issues that affect people who are less successful." Johnson, who is 44 says that he tries to maintain that connection through serving on the board of nonprofits such as the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law and Hale House Center, Inc., a New York-based center for children in need. (Jeh Johnson and James Johnson are not related.)

No matter which path minority lawyers choose, they often face an uneasy trade-off, says CUNY associate professor Penny Andrews, a South African human rights expert who identifies herself as "colored."



The ideology and culture of corporate law can be intimidating and alien to minorities, Andrews says, because "minorities haven't habitually engaged with that world in a positive way. And racism, of course is the subtext." Corporate law offers the lure of money, status, and power, but minorities must also consider their opportunities for advancement in an environment notorious for its lack of racial diversity.

In the nonprofit sector, Andrews says, minority attorneys may feel a significantly larger emotional comfort zone, as well as larger personal connection to the issues. However, they must also contend with the widespread, unstated belief that nonprofit work "isn't real lawyering, and that the mark of a successful lawyer is measured by the amount of money he or she makes," she says.

"Ironically, minorities in top corporate positions in the white world are often the ones held up as role models in their respective communities," Jeh Johnson says, "while the talented minority lawyer who devotes herself to the community does not receive the attention and praise that is deserved."

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*continued from page 24*

it has many ways to express its displeasure, the chief way being money. The power of the purse includes the ability to attach strings. Basically, the federal government says: *If you want some of my money, you must do as I say—but, of course, it's your choice.* If you got an allowance at age 12, you understand the basic idea. And if you're 15 now and enduring abstinence-until-marriage sex education, or 19 now and cannot legally consume alcoholic beverages, or now a lesbian mother on welfare who is being enrolled in classes to help you learn how to "keep a man," you are experiencing the effects of Congress's power to pull the strings on purses full of funds for education, highway maintenance, and the amelioration of children's poverty, respectively.

So, the government decided to impose a cost for disagreeing with it. It wasn't the first time Congress had to defend the military against campus radicals: During the Vietnam War the government curtailed funds to colleges and universities if their antiwar activism included being less than hospitable to military presence or recruiting. Congress followed the same strategy to combat gay rights activism, passing an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill of 1995. Known as the Solomon Amendment for its sponsor (Gerald Solomon, then a Republican representative from New York), there is nothing Solomonic, in the sense of wise compromise, in its provisions. At its most draconian, the law requires the withholding of all federal funds (including federally guaranteed student loans and grants, although this was later changed) to all parts of any university should any "sub-element" of a university, such as a law school, fail to provide equal treatment to military recruiters. For example, say a law school allows the military to interview only at the offices of the university's veteran's association, not the placement office at the law school where other potential employers interview. It's then possible that other parts of the university would be penalized—the medical school, for example, could forfeit all of its federal grants for researching AIDS, cancer, and heart disease.

Law schools, understandably, yielded to such pressure, although there were many confabs, conferences, and calls discussing the ramifications and contours of the various incarnations of the statutes and policies, as well as much lobbying of Congress. Yet, law schools being full of lawyers, a lawsuit was inevitable. FAIR, the Forum for Academic and Institutional Rights (an association of some law schools and law faculty; individual students and faculty members; and other organizations), brought an action arguing their First Amendment rights to free speech and free association were being violated.

Enter the Boy Scouts, and clear the streets for the St Patrick's Day parade. You might recall those cases (from 2000 and 1995, respectively), in which the Supreme Court held that the Boy Scouts could exclude a gay scoutmaster and Boston's St Patrick's Day parade organizers could exclude the city's Irish LGBT group, despite state laws that prohibited discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The Boy Scouts had a message of clean living, and the St Patrick's Day parade had a message of Irishness, and the organizations had a First Amendment right to determine that having gay people in their midst compromised those messages.

You can probably imagine the argument on behalf of FAIR: Law schools have a message of equality, justice, and antidiscrimination, and we have a First Amendment right to determine that having the military, with its ban on homo sexuality, compromises our message.

The path to the courthouse was clear. FAIR's argument failed to convince the trial court but swayed the appellate court, which rendered a decision in favor of FAIR. The fact that the Supreme Court took review may not be a good sign: Many court watchers and constitutional scholars think FAIR's chances of success are not high, whether or not a new justice or two is sitting on the court. Seton Hall law professor Marc Porier, who has been active in combating the Solomon Amendment, fears the court will defer to the military. Certainly in the present climate this fear is more than justified; the history of the

court in times of war and national security concerns has been conservative when it comes to individual rights, including free speech. In this case, the end of the road will likely lead to the military's wishes. The end of the road might lead to the court interpreting the military's wishes as the final say.

Yet, even with the mantra of deference to the military, the court risks declaring that the message of antihomosexuality is entitled to more protection than the message of equality and tolerance. What's good for the Boy Scouts and the St. Patrick's Day parade organizers should be good for the law schools.

Win or lose, however, it is important to remember that litigation is only one strategy of activism. As Professor Porier notes, a benefit of the FAIR suit has been to stimulate organizing support for LGBT issues at law schools, including drawing attention to the military's policy of banning homosexuality. Another strategy, advocated by law professor Diane Mazur, is to promote constructive engagement with the military, rather than seeking to exclude it, in order to exert necessary civilian control.

If you're seeking to infuse your activism with a little fun, there is always the spectacle of the LGBT students lining up for their appointments during military recruitment on campus (dressed for high drama, if not success), complete with buttons or T-shirts emblazoned I AM A GAY AMERICAN and offering invitations to the local queer bar.

We might as well enjoy our journey to liberation.





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Sin Yen Ling, a staff attorney with the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), said her parents did not initially support her decision to pursue a public interest career. In Asian American communities, says Ling, “there is a pressure to go into for-profit, a pressure to make money, and a pressure to do all that is conventionally expected of an attorney.” Many Asian immigrants come to the United States for its economic opportunities and want to see their children excel financially, she says—and parents will ask themselves where they went wrong if their children decide to pursue a career in nonprofit law.

But Ling felt strongly drawn to a career in public interest law. Growing up, she worked behind the cash register at her parents’ Chinese restaurant and regularly heard customers grumble, “I don’t understand why they’re here. They don’t speak English.” At CUNY Law School she became interested in the history of World War II Japanese internment camps and such famous cases as *Korematsu v. United*

*States*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a law that sanctioned the imprisonment of citizens and residents based solely on their race.

“CUNY gave me insight and access to a place like AALDEF,” Ling said. “And when I finally got access, the light bulb clicked on.” That same light bulb also clicked on for Ling’s parents, who are now “very supportive” of her career in nonprofit law. “They began to realize why I chose the career I chose,” she said. “They came full circle.”

By contrast, Korean American Steven Choi, 29, had his parents’ blessing to pursue a career in nonprofit law—largely because they were delighted he graduated from Harvard Law School. He is currently a Skadden Fellow and advocate for Korean workers’ rights with AALDEF and the YKASEC-Empowering the Korean-American Community.

“My identity as an Asian American and a Korean American [is] why I’m doing what I’m doing,” he says. “The discrimination against Asian Americans is subtle,

but it’s real.” Asian Americans may be considered, “the model minority,” but they hit the same glass ceilings in corporate law, just as African Americans and Latinos do, he says. Choi adds that he was also motivated by the notable lack of Korean lawyers doing community-based public interest work and found that, for once, his minority status actually worked to his advantage.

Melanca Clark, an African American attorney who is also a Skadden Fellow, says that her parents job that every time she gets a new job, she cuts her salary in half. In the three years since she graduated from law school, Clark, 30, has worked for a private firm, a judge, and now the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

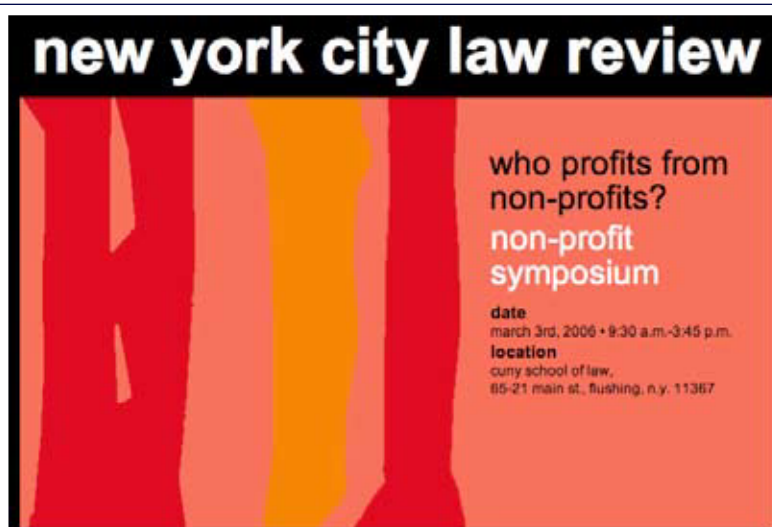
“It can be particularly hard for a minority to walk away from six figures,” she says. “At the same time, minority students often have a strong sense to do something related to social and racial justice.” Following through on that desire, Clark says “is almost a gift to myself.”

— Tally Goldstein (3L)

## New York City Law Review Symposium—“Who Profits from Non-Profits?”

On March 3, 2006, the New York City Law Review hosted an all-day symposium which focused on the major legal topics that affect non-profit organizations: “The Regulatory Scheme and its Enforcement;” “‘Privatizing’ the Public Sector;” and “Regulation for the Future.” Speakers included Robert Pigott of the Attorney General’s Charities Bureau, Commissioner Jeanne Mullgrave of the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development, Cliff Perlman, ’87, Karen Goldstein of the Vera Institute for Justice, Rebekah Diller of the Brennan Institute, CUNY’s own Professor Julie Goldscheid, and Kathleen McCarthy from the Center of Philanthropy and Civil Society.

In addition, Dana Neasu, Eduardo Capulong, ’91, and CUNY Professor Natalie Gomez-Velez presented their papers—to be included in the symposium issue—on critical government theory, unionization of non-profit organization workers and government contract procurement. Professor Jim Fishman of Pace Law gave a lively talk on the myths and realities of the non-profit sector from a historical perspective in his keynote address. Interim Dean Bilek gave the opening remarks and Professors Dinesh Khosla, Debbie Zalesne and Jenny Rivera each moderated a panel. The Law Review Board anticipates publication of the symposium issue this summer. The event was sponsored in part by the CUNY School of Law Foundation.



# Photo Gallery: Reunion for the classes of 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2004.



1.



2.



3.



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9.



10.



11.



12.



13.



14.

**Class of '90:** 1. Cynthia LaCaprucia and Helen Fried. 2. Group photo. 3. Lisa Reiner Sotelo and her husband. **Class of '95:** 4. Theresa Hughes, Norma Francullo and Donna Axel. 5. Group photo. **Class of '00:** 6. Professor Frank Deale, Brenda Okasi and Steve Okasi. 7. Hallie Rubin-Gaines and her husband. 8. Paula Bosco and Professor Rosaria Vigorito. 9. Group photo. **Class of '04:** 10. Edwin Acosta-Diaz and Professor Rick Rossein. 11. Chris McEvilly, Adam Meyer, guest, Farhid Sedaghat-pour, Jennifer Bai and Natasha Johnson-Lashley. 12. Elisa Fischer, David Nadvomey, '86, and Sosimo Fabian. 13. Group photo 14. Carrie Miller, Dana Northcraft and Dawn Barker.





Many of my classmates used to tease me, saying they knew I wouldn't be able to leave CUNY School of Law upon graduation. Well, I guess they were right!

After graduating in the fall of '04, I accepted an interim position at the law school as the Acting Alumni/ae Director. Almost two years later, I find myself still at the law school maintaining our alumni/ae connections and working on fundraising projects while keeping track of past successes and brainstorming for the years ahead. The most challenging aspect of this position is that there is always so much more that could be done, but only 24 hours in a day! Many of my classmates used to tease me, saying they knew I wouldn't be able to leave CUNY Law School upon graduation. Well, I guess they were right!

Although I take great pride in our accomplishments these past two years, and the service I've been able to provide the law school, I will be leaving this position in August when I begin my clerkship for Magistrate Judge James Francis. I will miss the law school's environment—with our incredible students with their vision, enthusiasm, and drive, our inspiring and committed faculty members, and

our supportive environment—which sets us apart from so many other law schools. Every time I attend student events, I am floored by the quality of the guests, the students' engaging questions and, most of all, their unwillingness to accept the status quo. I can't wait for them to go out in the world and make a difference.

No longer a student, now an administrator, I constantly run into alums who tell me how excited they are when they meet other CUNY alums in courts, bar association meetings, and networking events. It's heartening to see that the supportive environment nurtured by the law school is carried with us as alums. It is a pleasure and joy to be able to connect present students with alums and, even more so, to hear stories from recent graduates who find mentors in our alums.

I hope you all stay connected!

—Debbora Gerressu, '04

## Missing Alums

Can you please help us reconnect with our missing Alums? If you know where any of these people are, or even if you have a lead as to how we can find them, please get in touch with the Alumni/ae Office at 718-340-4386 or [alumnioffice@mail.law.cuny.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@mail.law.cuny.edu). Thanks!

### Class of 1986

Danielle Baechle  
Naomi Barchas Price  
Alvin Barksdale  
Jane Berger  
Frank Cocozzilli  
Susan Fink  
Angela Greene  
Gregory Lenert  
John Merola  
Nancy Perlman

### Class of 1991

John Beloch  
Stephen Chan  
Martin Cohen  
Fidelina Escoto  
Barbara Goux  
William Jacobs  
Mary Kronenberger  
Michael Lockworth  
Norman Newman  
Rocco Tricarico  
Angela Vaughan

### Class of 1996

Robert Di Padova  
Stephen Kyprianides  
Anthony Mansfield  
Peter Padovano  
Julie Pozza  
Roland Stokes  
Jessica Toussaint  
Barbara Wainwright

### Class of 2001

John Majowka  
Shantel Rodriguez

**stay connected. keep in touch. we want to hear from you.**





## Remembering Luis DeGraffe: Law Professor, Mentor to Aspiring Attorneys of Color: 1949-2005

Reprinted from *SALT Equalizer*, December 2005.

**L**uis Jorge DeGraffe, Professor of Law at the City University of New York School of Law (CUNY), died suddenly on the early evening of August 8th. He was 56 years old. Professor DeGraffe had spent the day teaching at Third World Orientation, an academic empowerment skills program he founded for students of color entering the first year of study at the school. He had organized the program for seventeen consecutive years.

*He was the kind of lawyer that I want to be and the kind of friend that everyone should be.*

Professor DeGraffe had taught at CUNY Law since 1984, the school's second year, and was an ideal fit for the only ABA-accredited

law school with the organizational mission to train public interest and public service lawyers. Michael Olivas, Director of the Institute for Higher Education Law at the University of Houston, noted that Professor DeGraffe was one of the senior Latino law professors in the United States, and among the first of Puerto Rican and African-American descent.

"Professor DeGraffe was an inspired and inspiring teacher," commented CUNY Law Interim Dean Mary Lu Bilek. "He was a mentor to hundreds of students over the years, treating them with unequivocal respect, unwavering faith in their ability to succeed, unquestioning support, and unflagging insistence on excellence. His professionalism and generosity, as well as his steadfast efforts to bring students from communities underrepresented in the profession into law school and to the bar; not only benefited the law school, but scores of clients who otherwise would not have had access to justice who are now being served by the students he taught and encouraged."

Professor DeGraffe attained academic

honors on the CUNY Law faculty, including a William Fulbright Fellowship to teach U.S. Constitutional Law in El Salvador in 1994, and the Distinguished Professor Award for Excellence in Teaching from the CUNY School of Law graduating classes of 1999 and 2002. He published articles in the *Seton Hall Law School Legislative Journal*, the *New England Law School Journal on Criminal and Civil Confinement*, and the *Syracuse Law Review*. Professor DeGraffe was also an institution builder within the law school, establishing the Academic Empowerment Program known to generations of students as Third World Orientation, and the Interamerican Comparative Law Program, the first academic exchange program for students between a U.S. law school and Cuba's law school at the University of Havana.

Professor DeGraffe's special passion was for mentoring and empowering students of color who aspire to careers in the law. At the time of his death, Professor DeGraffe was not only leading the CUNY Law students who were running the week-long Third World Orientation, but he was simultaneously organizing the first "LawBound Summer Academy" for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF) to take place the next week. LawBound's goal is to identify, motivate and prepare Latino college students for a career in the legal profession by becoming competitive law school applicants. LawBound Summer Academy was a "next step" in Professor DeGraffe's mentoring work at PRLDEF, where he had launched an annual Law Day, held each year since 1983, and where he regularly volunteered his time helping students of color develop their personal essay, a critical component of law school application packages.

Professor DeGraffe was a member of Antioch Law School's founding class in 1975, an institutional forerunner to CUNY Law. Upon graduation he received

a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship to work as a lawyer at Brooklyn Legal Services in East New York, a community-based legal services program in one of the nation's poorest neighborhoods. His romance with teaching began during this period, when he conducted workshops on tenants' rights for several community groups. He later taught at the College for Human Services and the Urban Legal Studies Program of the City College of New York where he was a Charles H. Revson Fellow. Prior to joining the CUNY Law faculty, Professor DeGraffe served as Director of Education at the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund.

Jocelyn Greene, CUNY Law Class of 2006, captured the essence of students' impressions of Professor DeGraffe. "He was a caring and kind human being. He was the kind of lawyer that I want to be and the kind of friend that everyone should be. In any of his classes, you could, have mistaken him for a Lamaze coach with his 'C'mon people, stay with me, just, a little more!'"

Professor DeGraffe's early leading role in mentoring aspiring law students of color was honored at the Ninth Annual National Latina/o Law Student Association Conference held at American University in Washington, D.C. on October 22nd.

Professor DeGraffe lived in Brooklyn. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Dickinson, and two young sons, Jamaal and Khalil. Jamaal and Khalil joined their father when he taught at the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO) "Attitude is Essential" Summer Law Institute in Atlanta this summer and, as often was the case, were both planning their future college and basketball careers with their Pop the day before he passed away. Also surviving Professor DeGraffe are four siblings and his mother.

# First Biennial Haywood Burns Conference on Law and Policy

On Friday, March 24, 2006 over 250 practitioners and students attended the conference on Critical Consequences of Criminalization on Communities of Color at the Law School. Burns Chair Paula Johnson delivered the keynote address. The day also included special tributes to Dean Haywood Burns, Professor Shanara Gilbert and Professor Luis DeGraffe.

Speakers included:

Jeffrion Aubrey, New York State Assembly Member, 35th AD of Queens County  
 Raquel Batista, Director, Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigration Rights  
 Angela Burton, Professor, Juvenile Rights, CUNY School of Law  
 Ann Cammett, '00, Reentry Policy Fellow, New Jersey Public Policy Institute  
 Juan Cartagena, General Counsel, Community Service Society  
 Annette Dickinson, Director, Prison Telephone Justice Campaign  
 Hon. Ronald Ellis, United States Magistrate Judge, SDNY  
 Davim Horowitz, '05, Social Justice Fellow, Research Center for Leadership in Action-NYU/Wagner, Sylvia Rivera Law Project  
 Donna Hae Kyun Lee, CUNY School of Law  
 Rickke Mananzala, Campaign Coordinator, FIERCE

Glenn Martin, Co-Director, Legal Action Network, National H.I.R.E Network

Florence Morgan, Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society  
 Vivian Nixon, Soros Fellow, Project ReEnter Grace  
 Kathy O'Boyle, Deputy Director, Center for Community Alternatives  
 Anthony Papa, Author, *Fifteen Years to Life*, Rockefeller Drug Laws  
 Katya Plotnik, '94, Lawyer, Immigration & Criminal Convictions  
 Jaya Vasadani, Associate Director, Women's Prison Project  
 Christina Voight, Prison Expansion/Sentencing Reform, Soros Foundation  
 Marsha Weissman, Executive Director, Center for Community Alternatives

The workshops included:

(1) Ethics and Discretion in the Criminal Justice System: Focusing on ethical considerations of authority and discretionary decision making by judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys, facilitated by Professor Gail Gray.

(2) State and National Consequences of the Prison Industrial Complex: Focusing on the growth and conditions of adult and juvenile prisons in the U.S., as well as the impact of the Rockefeller Drug Laws and its current state of law, facilitated by Professor Jeffrey Kirchmeier.

(3) Diversity, Intersectionality and Effects of the CJS on Communities of Color: Focusing on concerns of women, youth, members of disability communities, and LGBT communities with regard to their experiences in the criminal justice system, facilitated by Professor David Nadvorney.

4) Consequences on Families, Spouses/Significant Others and Support Systems: Focusing on impact of criminalization on incarcerated persons and their families, including custody issues, social services and economic needs/concerns, facilitated by Professor Maria Arias.

(5) Civil Liberties and International Human Rights: Focusing on the national and international consequences of the PATRIOT Act and related legislation, facilitated by Professor Penelope Andrews.

(6) Social Services and Community-Based Activism: Focusing on the social justice activism of community-based organizations and the responsibilities of social services agencies, facilitated by Professor Shirley Lung.

The Law School would like to thank all our faculty, staff, and students (particularly members of Law Equality and Policy and the student speakers) for making this conference a huge success.



Haywood Burns



Left to right: 2005-06 Haywood Burns Chairholder in Civil Rights Paula Johnson, Michael Oppenheimer (3L), Professor Gail Gray, Professor Donna Lee, Professor Jeffrey Kirchmeier, and Maggie Williams, Director, Voter Enfranchisement Project, Bronx Defenders.



Left to right: Burns Chairholder Paula Johnson, NYS Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubrey, and Interim Dean Mary Lu Bilek.

## Class of 1986

### Don't forget your reunion! Details on page 39.

**Pico Ben-Amotz** is the supervisor of the General Labor Section of the NYS Attorney General's Office Labor Bureau. His ties to CUNY Law are renewed every fall when he supervises several of our Equality Concentration students.

When Susan M. Jones died suddenly less than a year after graduation, Russ Haven established a Fellowship Fund in her honor to benefit students who (like Susan) have a commitment to women's civil, constitutional and international human rights. Lara Rabiee (3L), who received the 2005 Jones Fellowship, spent last summer working in Iran with an NGO, Women Living Under Muslim Law, doing research on issues arising from Iran's recent reforms of marriage and divorce law.

**Suzanne Sangree** is the Appellate Advocacy Director of the Public Justice Center (PJC), a civil rights, anti-poverty, non-profit law firm in Baltimore, MD. She works closely with **Ricardo Flores**, '99, who is the PJC's Director of Public Policy. You can learn more about their work at [www.publicjustice.org](http://www.publicjustice.org).

## Class of 1987

In May, **Frank Alberti** will be handling child abuse and neglect proceedings for the Family Court Bureau of the Suffolk County Attorney's Office.

**Bryan Frankel**, who is relocating to Vermont in the summer, is looking for someone to take over his elder law and estate planning practice in Suffolk County. If you are interested, call Douglas LeRose at 631-777-2358.

**Vineet Kohli**, who works in the General Counsel's Office of Merck & Co., Inc. (NJ), was recently promoted to Assistant Patent Counsel. He continues to teach Patent Law as an Adjunct Professor at Seton Hall Law School.

For the past eight years, **Ruth Lippin** has been in private practice as a therapist on the Upper West Side, using a cognitive-behavioral approach to treat both children and adults with anxiety disorders. Ruth reports that she "enjoyed being a lawyer but loves being a therapist."

**Beth S. Lyons** just finished working as co-counsel on a defense team at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).

**Kary L. Moss**, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), is co-counsel in a first-of-its-kind lawsuit against the National Security Agency (NSA) seeking to stop

the electronic surveillance program that has been in place since 2002, following an order by President Bush to monitor the telephone and email communications of people inside the U.S. with persons abroad. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of a group of prominent journalists, scholars, attorneys, and non-profit organizations.

**Carol Turowski**, who relocated to Charlotte, NC in late 2004, is the Director of the Consumer Protection Program at Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, Inc. Combating predatory lending and other scams designed to bilk low-income families out of their homes requires a range of lawyering skills: litigation (both defending against foreclosure and prosecuting); community outreach; including financial literacy seminars; and networking with other agencies to advocate for systemic change.

## Class of 1988

**Cate Dolan** was recently appointed President of the Backstretch Employee Service Team (B.E.S.T.), a non-profit organization serving barn area workers at Belmont, Aqueduct and Saratoga Springs racetracks. B.E.S.T. provides social services, including: health insurance; substance abuse, alcohol and mental health counseling; on-site primary care clinics; and recreational programs for some 3,000 grooms, hot-walkers and others working in the backstretch. Many are recent immigrants who work seven-day weeks for low wages, caretaking the thoroughbred horses that are the backbone of New York's \$16 billion racing industry. The program management and fundraising skills Cate developed in her prior jobs at The First Amendment Center, The September 11th Fund, and the United Way of New York City will, no doubt, all come in handy.

**James Lawrence**, Nassau County Police Commissioner, is one of six police chiefs from across the country chosen to help rebuild New Orleans' Police Department.

**Jeffrey Malkan's** article, "What is a Copy?," appeared in the Fall 2005 issue of the *Cardozo Arts & Entertainment Law Journal*. Jeff is the Director of the Legal Research & Writing program at SUNY Buffalo.

**James Miskiewicz**, who has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of New York since 1997, was recently promoted to Senior Trial Counsel. In his new post, Jim is responsible for the prosecution of complex cases, including bid-rigging, organized crime, and securities and bank fraud.

## Class of 1989

**Lewis Creekmore**, who has been the Director of Legal Services of the

Hudson Valley (LSHV) for the last 2 1/2 years, lives in Cornwall, NY with his wife of 15 years, Rhonda Shary, and their daughter, Sylvie, who is now a freshman in high school.

**Jerrice Duckette Epps**, formerly Miller, was appointed Deputy Director of the Westchester County Human Rights Commission in fall 2005. To find out more about the Commission, please visit [www.westchestergov.com](http://www.westchestergov.com).

**Cindy Hounsell**, founder of Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER), will be honored in New York City on May 16 as one of *Women's eNews* "21 Leaders for the 21st Century - 2006."

**Cynthia B. Knox** recently resigned after eight years as the Director of the Bronx AIDS Service Legal Advocacy Program to assume the position of Deputy Director of the People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) Law Project. She is now working with **Tracy Welsh**, '91, and a dedicated team of advocates to address direct legal advocacy needs of PLWHA as well as impact litigation and policy initiatives.

**Careen Shannon** is Of Counsel to the law firm of Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Loewy, the world's largest law firm specializing in immigration law. She is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law, where she teaches an upper-level elective in immigration law. Careen travels frequently around the globe but otherwise is still happily living in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn.

## Class of 1990

**Irene Baldwin** and her husband, Mike McGrath, have two little girls—Grace, age 6, and Lucy, age 2. Irene is the Executive Director of the Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development (ANHD), a membership organization of 90 NYC neighborhood housing groups that promotes progressive housing policies and programs, with a special emphasis on poor and working class communities. ANHD has just released a study called, "The Making of A Movement...Transforming Housing in New York City." A copy of this study can be downloaded from its website at [www.anhd.org](http://www.anhd.org).

**Shoshanna Malett** recently left her job with the Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), New York Asylum Office, in order to permit her to spend more time with her children Noah, 7, and Sophie, 2. She has joined classmate, **Evelyn Tossas Tucker**, in her immigration practice.

In 2005, **Matthew Ryan** was elected Mayor of Binghamton.

**Diana Sanabria** gave birth to a girl, Hallie, on May 15th. She and her

husband had this third child in honor of their sons, Harry and Hector, who were killed in the Dominican Republic on the 4th of July, 2004. Diana is currently the Director of Administration at Manhattan Legal Services. She works two days in its Harlem office and two days in its John Street office. Although very busy, those who know Diana may remember that she thrives on multi-tasking!

## Class of 1991

### Don't forget your reunion! Details on page 39.

**Clare D. Cortez** has been working as a history teacher at Humanities High School in Manhattan. She has two children, Gabriel, 14, and Yuri, 7 months. She remarried on December 3, 2004, and, with her husband, is in the process of buying a music school that has been in Brooklyn since 1947.

**Kim Knowles** is now the Water Policy Coordinator for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Rita A. Marcus**, who has worked at Legal Services of Northwest New Jersey since 1990, received the Donna Hildreth Award in November "for outstanding contributions to statewide training...for the expertise and skill [she brought] to Family Law training...and for inspiring others to achieve excellence in their work."

**Rebecca A. Sheehan** is Legislative Counsel to New York City Council Member Tony Avella, who was reelected for the next four-year term. Council Member Avella represents the 19th Council District covering northeast Queens; he is the Chair of the Zoning & Franchises Committee.

## Class of 1992

**Natalia Antrobus** is working as a staff attorney in the Immigration Department at 32B-J Legal Fund. She's happy when her caseload is under 200! Natalie has two children—Olivia who is in the third grade and Adrian who is in kindergarten.

**Daniel Belardinelli** was recently interviewed for the A&E documentary, "I Missed Flight 93," which is based on events surrounding United Flight 93, the plane that crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania on 9/11. His uncle, William Cashman, was unfortunately aboard the flight. Daniel was supposed to be on the flight that day, but canceled a week before.

Daniel, who is a partner at McGlone, McGlone & Belardinelli, LLC, in Boonton, NJ, specializes in civil and criminal litigation. In addition to his work as an attorney, Daniel is involved in "outsider" art—a form of art created by self-taught artists. You can see his work at [www.belardinelli.com](http://www.belardinelli.com).



**Marianne Henry** practices workers' compensation in Philadelphia for Willig, Williams & Davidson, the largest union-side labor law firm in the state of Pennsylvania. Marianne lives just outside the city and reports that she "spends too much time working on her 1920's bungalow."

**Daniel Thomas** is co-producing a film called, "Perfect Stranger," an internet murder mystery thriller, featuring, among others, Halle Berry and Bruce Willis. Dan successfully pitched the idea for the film to his wife's company, Revolution Studios. Filming began in January and should be completed in early April. Because he impressed Director James Foley ("The Chamber," "Fear," "Glengarry Glen Ross," and "At Close Range") during a reading of the script, Dan wears three hats on this production: producer; actor (he will play an Assistant District Attorney); and real-life lawyer for the production.

Dan will continue to actively practice law throughout the film. Juggling a law career and a film career is nothing new for him. He did both when he produced "Queens Supreme," a television series for CBS, which aired in 2003. Dan's practice focuses on plaintiff's medical malpractice, and has recently been fighting for rights of amputees. He won a decision against the State of Connecticut, which tried to deny a one-year-old congenital amputee (missing the lower third of her left arm and hand) a myoelectric prosthetic. Dan was also recently interviewed for an article which is in the current issue of *In Motion Magazine*.

### Class of 1993

**Rebecca Baehr**, who works as a staff attorney at the Support Center for Child Advocates, is also active on the School Board of Independence Charter School. Daughters, Sarah, 10, and Lilah, 9, continue to thrive. Her husband, classmate **Roger Schrading**, continues to work in the Special Defense Unit at the Defender Association of Philadelphia. Rebecca, Roger, and their daughters, live in the Mt. Airy section of Philadelphia.

On January 19, 2006, **Stephen Bergstein** and his law partner won a jury verdict in federal court (White Plains, N.Y.) on behalf of a woman who was fired from her job because she has a disability.

### Class of 1994

**Jessica Carrigan-Broda** has been living in Kingston, Jamaica for three years now. Although she is not Jamaican, she loves living there and has put down roots with her volunteer work as leader of a prison ministry and a volunteer at a pre-school and an orphanage for severely disabled children. Jessica is a co-founder of Random Acts of Kindness (RAOK), a charity whose mission is to

bring an under-resourced pre-school up to standard. In her free time, she raises her three young children and is a freelance photographer who has won a Bronze Medal in the National Photography competition. Classmate **Kathryn Malwitz** has visited several times and recently sent her approximately 1000(!!!) children's books for distribution to needy public school children in Kingston.

**Vickie Neilson** and her partner, Pam Papish, are delighted to announce the birth of their first child, Clara Rose Neilson-Papish, on January 13, 2006. Vickie reports that "when she's not staring at her baby," she works as the Legal Director of Immigration Equality, Inc., which advocates for equality under U.S. immigration law for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV-positive individuals. An article co-written by Vickie, "The Gay Bar: The Effect of the One-Year Filing Deadline on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and HIV-Positive Foreign Nationals Seeking Asylum or Withholding of Removal" was published in the *New York City Law Review* in the Summer 2005 edition.

**Karl Jacob Ruppert** moved from New York City to New Orleans in the fall of 2004 to care for his mother and disabled brother and to play more of an active role in his family's commercial and residential real estate holding company. Now displaced by Katrina and separated from his family, he lives and works in northern Louisiana as clerk for District Court Judge Stephen B. Beasley. Jacob recently wrote a two-part article for *The New York County Lawyer* (Oct. & Nov. 2005) on the NYCLA's role in the repeal of Prohibition. He is still passionate about pre-war Yankee baseball history and German American New York City history. He was interviewed for the upcoming Discovery Channel documentary, "Germans to America," and one of his historical preservation efforts was covered in a recent *New York Times* article. His new life in Louisiana has reunited him with another CUNY Law grad, **John Cucci**, '92, who is a litigator in the Natchitoches, LA area.

**Todd M. Turner** was elected to the seven-member City Council of Bowie, Maryland last November, receiving over 70% of the vote. He is the youngest member of the Council in Bowie, which, with a population of over 55,000 residents, is the third largest municipality in Maryland.

In 2005, **Jeanne M. Walsh** was an instructor at two paralegal seminars—New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Litigation Forum for Paralegals and the Garden State Alliance of Paralegal Association's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Paralegal Convention.

### Class of 1995

**Sylvia Alexander** is happily back in New York City and reports that she is "enjoying an interesting job search (thanks to Sam Sue for brilliant resume and cover letter edits!)." She keeps her sanity by birding in Central Park and playing chamber music.

**Judith Flamenbaum** continues to serve as Director of the Matrimonial Program at the City Bar—an odd choice of practice for someone who will be married to the same man for 43 years this coming August! (She was, she reports, "a child bride.") Judith also sits on the Legal Advisory Board for Sanctuary for Families and is a member of the Matrimonial Committee at the City Bar. Her goal, before she retires, is to help set up a program that will provide pro bono counsel for pro-se, low-income and indigent contested divorce litigants. She expects her third grandchild shortly, and reports that her grandson, Milo, 31-months-old and her granddaughter, Lola, 28-months-old "are, of course, the most wonderful and brilliant grandchildren in the world."

**Meryl Guzman**, formerly Gorelick, is the mother of two beautiful girls, Anabelle Luz, 5-years-old, and Sara Ivalese, 17-months-old. After spending the first seven years of her legal career as a commercial litigator, in 2004, she began working as a Family Court Attorney for the Honorable Gayle P. Roberts in Bronx Family Court. In 2005, she was transferred to Kings County Family Court and is currently the Court Attorney to the Honorable **Bryanne Hamill**, '90.

**Jedd Hall**, in his fifth year with the Berkshire County District Attorney's Office, is currently the Juvenile Court A.D.A. His partner, Sandra, is a Certified Spanish/English Court Interpreter. They have put their "roots" down in MA, and he told us that he is looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming 15<sup>th</sup> year reunion.

In addition to being chosen as the recipient for both the Dean's Medal this year and the PILA award for her commitment to public service (see article in the Alumni Profile section), **Jaribu Hill** will receive the Gloria Award from the Ms. Foundation for Women on May 25th in New York City.

**Margaret McIntyre** was recently elected to serve on the Executive Board of the New York Chapter of the National Employment Lawyers Association (NELA/NY), a civil rights bar association that advances and encourages the professional development of its members and promotes the workplace rights of individual employees. Margaret, who has served as co-chair of the NELA/NY Sexual Harassment Committee

since 2000, is hoping to find ways to coordinate the efforts of NELA/NY and the CLRN Labor & Employment Group, as they each seek to help lawyers assist low-income workers.

**Stephen Scott**, who has been in private practice since 1997, works in the areas of criminal defense and, more recently, immigration.

**Mark Willmann**, who lives in Tucson, AZ, was a Yavapai County prosecutor until June 2001. Now in private practice, focusing primarily on criminal defense work, Mark was accepted to the Federal Public Defense panel of attorneys to represent illegal reentrants—a designation he earned after traveling to Costa Rica to learn Spanish. As of last fall, he had already filed two appeals in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit. Mark and his wife, Diane, have a daughter, Sarah, who is now in the seventh grade. His classmates should all remember Sarah who was born in December of their first year of Law School; Mark is still grateful for the support he and Diane received back in 1992.

### Class of 1996

**Don't forget your reunion! Details on page 39.**

**Bruce Biggins** and **Christine Choi** have built a thriving practice in Minnesota and a cabin on the Rainy River overlooking the Canadian border that they treasure as a place to do research and writing without phones or interruptions. They exhort everyone to "remain true to CUNY's original mission."

For the past 10 years, **Anne Greenberg** has worked as a human rights communication expert for more than 300 NGOs both in the U.S. and abroad. Since 2005, she has worked at the United Nations for the annual Indigenous Peoples Forum and at the Association of Women in Development's 1<sup>st</sup> Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. Anne recently presented a paper at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in Hawaii about the role of law schools in human rights advocacy. Her son graduated from college this June with a degree in acoustic engineering, and her daughter is a junior at Wesleyan.

**Meryl Levy** is in her third year at the Legal Aid Society in Orange County, New York. She is engaged and planning a fall 2007 wedding.

In summer 2005, **Jose L. Orengo**, Executive Director of Advancement at LaGuardia Community College, was appointed to the board of directors of the New York City Industrial Development Agency (NYC IDA), a public benefit corporation that helps small businesses and NGOs expand by providing access to triple tax-exempt bond financing or tax benefits. Orengo hopes to "increase

the organization's allocations to community based organizations."

**Matthew Schneider** and his wife, Rebecca, have been living in Las Vegas for two years. Matthew has recently started a solo practice specializing in child advocacy, representing children with special education and disability issues before the federal court and at administrative hearings. He is also a court-appointed attorney for children in the foster care system and an Adjunct Professor at the Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada. Rebecca is a Professor at the Law School.

## Class of 1997

**Peter G. Buchenholz** is Adjudication Counsel and Director of the Order Preparation Unit for the New York State Division of Human Rights.

**Barbara Hebel**, Assistant District Counsel for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, is headed to Iraq in August 2006 to handle government procurement matters related to the reconstruction effort.

On July 1, 2005, **Geoffrey T. Raicht** was made partner with Sidley Austin LLP in the Corporate Reorganization and Bankruptcy group of the firm's New York office. Most recently, he has represented the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York in several Chapter 11 cases involving not-for-profit hospital systems in the New York area.

**Shannon Seidenstein** (formerly Englebrecht) recently moved to London, England with her husband and two children (four-year-old Lindsey and two-year-old Lucas) when her husband was transferred to Lehman Brothers' London office. She works (from abroad) for a small private firm in Long Island specializing in commercial litigation. Shannon and her family plan to stay in London for the next three to five years. She would like to hear from any CUNY alums who are also living or visiting abroad. Contact her at [saseid@yahoo.com](mailto:saseid@yahoo.com).

**Tito Sinha** and his wife, Madhu Patel, welcomed a baby girl, Arya Sinha, on June 10, 2005.

## Class of 1998

**Lisa Eulau** married Joseph DeTrano on April 9, 2005. She has been working as a matrimonial attorney with District Council 37 Municipal Employees Legal Services for the past five years.

Congratulations to **Jennifer Jefferson** whose novel *Defending Violet* will be published in 2007.

**Giovanni C. Merlino** is practicing at the firm of Brecher Fishman, et. al., concentrating in estate planning, estate administration and litigation for union members, their families and the public.

He lives in Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn with his wife and two children, Michael who is two-years-old and Nicholas, who is nine-months old.

**Christina Roberts** married **Philip Easton**, '00, on November 12, 2005 in Las Vegas. They live in Valley Stream, NY, where Phil has opened a solo practice specializing in elder law. Tina is employed with IBM as a program manager for Global Equal Opportunity.

**Zibilla Wolfe Sylvia** was married in 2004. She moved from Hawaii to Vermont, where she is an associate at Boylan Associates, P.C.

## Class of 1999

After taking a year off to stay at home with her son, Gabriel, **Rachel Haynes Pinsker** is returning to work as a part-time attorney with the Harrisburg (PA) Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, representing victims of domestic violence in family law matters.

**Eliezer Rodriguez** and **Fiordaliza Rodriguez** and Project Club Clemente, Inc. helped realize a 33-year-old promise made by baseball player and humanitarian Roberto Clemente. On December 31, 2005, the Bronx-based non-profit delivered food and aid to Nicaragua in a chartered "Flight for Humanity." Eliezer and Fiordaliza also got engaged on New Year's Day 2006. Their children, Cristian Marin, 14 months, and Miguel Clemente, 3 1/2, will serve as ring bearers in the wedding, which is scheduled for this summer.

**Peggy Roman-Jacobson** works in the Pasadena office of Schonbrun, DeSimone, Seplow, Harris & Hoffman, LLP, where she handles plaintiffs' employment discrimination and police misconduct cases. Peggy also volunteers for Clean Needles Now, an organization that seeks to end the transmission of blood-borne illnesses through the use of dirty needles.

## Class of 2000

**Ann Cammett** will be a teaching fellow in the Domestic Violence Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center.

After several years with a large law firm in San Francisco, **Matt Hawkins** moved to Oakland. He now works in a small firm on the water at Jack London Square with two other attorneys, specializing in the representation of contractors, design professionals, home owners' associations and owners.

**Ululy Rafael Martinez** has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff to New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

**Martha Rumore** is an associate in the Intellectual Property Department of Katten Muchin Rosenman in Manhattan, with a concentration in the

pharmaceutical, chemical and biotech fields.

**Haeyoung Yoon** is co-counsel in a lawsuit brought by an Egyptian who was among dozens of Muslim men arrested in the New York area after 9/11. The federal government agreed to pay \$300,000 to settle the lawsuit. This settlement is the first the government has made in a number of lawsuits charging that non-citizens were abused and their constitutional rights violated in detention centers after 9/11. Yoon is quoted in a February 28, 2006 *New York Times* article, "U.S. is Settling Detainee's Suit in 9/11 Sweep -- Egyptian Cited Abuse at Center in Brooklyn."

## Class of 2001

**Don't forget your reunion! Details on page 39.**

**Yash Aggarwal** is serving a six-year term on the Board of Directors of AARP, which advocates on behalf of older Americans. Yash was selected from a slate of more than 700 applicants.

**Midori Hills** is currently Legal Director at the Immigrants' Center at City College.

Congratulations to **Alba Rodriguez-Betances** who is expecting her second child.

## Class of 2002

**Leroy Gadsen** is an Adjunct Professor at Monroe College in the Bronx, where he teaches Criminal Law, Criminal Procedure and the American Legal System.

Congratulations to **Thomas E. Harris, Jr.**, who got engaged on New Year's Eve to Jennifer Gradski. A wedding is planned for October 6, 2007.

**Mordechai Pelta** lives in San Francisco with his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Micheala Lauren, who is now two-years-old, and Akiva Aron, who is one. Mordechai works at the Office of Protection of Human Subjects at the University of California, Berkeley, where he ensures that human subjects' rights are protected under federal and state laws.

In February, **Edwin E. Pieters**, completed his LL.M. in Criminal Law at the University of Buffalo Law School.

**Mira Sun** reports that she is "happily and safely back in Seoul." Since March 2005, she has been working in the Office of the President as Secretary for Overseas Communication. She was in D.C. in June to cover the Korea-U.S. summit and in New York City in September to accompany the President to the United Nations General Assembly meeting. Sun runs into Koreans who know CUNY Law "better than New Yorkers do." She often sees CUNY

alum **Yunjae Kim '04**, who is also working in Korea.

## Class of 2003

After working for two years at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem as an Equal Justice Works Fellow, **Michele Davila** has accepted a position as a Court Attorney to a Bronx Civil Court Judge. She tells us that "it is a challenging position" but that she is "learning a lot!"

**Barry Klopfer** is working in the New Mexico Public Defender's Office, defending the indigent against felony and misdemeanor criminal charges.

**Savina P. Playter** is currently Court Attorney to the Honorable La Tia W. Martin at the Bronx Supreme Court, Matrimonial Part. Savina, who is a Ph.D. candidate at Walden University, will begin teaching Labor Law at Marymount Manhattan College this spring.

**Joelle Zero-Matuszewski** and **Marcela Sabani Reglis** have recently opened the doors of their new practice located at 65-17 Grand Avenue, Maspeth (Queens), New York. They practice in the areas of real estate, wills, trusts/estates and elder law. On November 15, 2005, Marcela and her husband, Peter, welcomed their first son, Stephanos Peter Reglis.

## Class of 2004

**Jeremy Davis** is an associate at the Law Offices of Emmanuel Kossaris, Esq. in Astoria, Queens.

**Jason Douglas Hoge** has left Legal Aid Services of Mid-New York, Inc. in Binghamton to oversee a pilot Re-Entry Project at the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center in Rochester. The Project serves individuals re-entering society after incarceration and addresses issues that cause recidivism, such as housing, employment discrimination and access to services and benefits.

**Nicole Mandarano** and **John Salois** report that they are "still happily unmarried and childless, living in Hoboken, NJ." Nicole is a family law clerk for Judge Miguel de la Carrera in Paterson, NJ. She also continues to write grants for the Patterson YMCA. John is a Legal Services attorney in Sussex County, NJ, handling a variety of cases in family, consumer and landlord-tenant law.

**Christopher McEvilly** has his own practice focusing primarily on real estate and estate planning. He is grateful to his family and friends who helped him make it happen.

**Shaun K.C. Mollica** got married in February 2005 and moved with her husband from Queens to Henderson, NV, a suburb of Las Vegas. One reason for the move was the "recent rapid growth [which] has increased the need

# Our Supporters

for social programs.” She is currently Child Abuse Prevention Program Coordinator for a non-profit organization, which provides child abuse prevention services statewide to professionals, children, parents and the community-at-large, and also provides advocacy, support and outreach to agencies and organizations that provide direct services to children and families.

**Farhid Sedaghat-pour** is enrolled in the LL.M program at Cardozo Law School, concentrating in International Law and Corporate Law. She expects to graduate this spring.

## Class of 2005

**Don't forget your reunion!**  
**Details on page 39.**

**Michele Andrews** has taken a job with Local 5 of UNITE-HERE in Honolulu as its political/community organizer, working on passing worker-friendly legislation and representing hotel housekeeping employees in arbitrations.

Congratulations to **Anthony Falcone** and his wife, Agnes, who are expecting their first child in May. Anthony has “a great elder law job” at Genser, Dubow, Genser & Cona, LLP in Melville, NY, a firm that specializes in Medicaid, guardianships, and estate planning.

**Amanda Gray** is an associate at the immigration law firm Bretz & Coven, LLP, located at 305 Broadway, NYC.

**Nicole Hardin** and her husband “welcomed a healthy and beautiful daughter [Zoey] to the world on August 6, 2005.”

**Ranse W. Howell** is an LL.M candidate at Pepperdine University's Strauss Institute for Dispute Resolution. He reports that **Erin Gleason**, '00, is a classmate in the program.

**Kimberly Tate-Brown** is an associate at Kopff, Nardelli & Dopf, handling medical malpractice and construction defense cases.

**Francisco M. Ugarte** is an associate at Leonard Carder, LLP, which he describes as a “progressive union-side labor law firm,” with offices in San Francisco and Oakland. He lives in Berkeley, which he finds a “bit too lah-dee-dah for me after the craziness of NYC,” but is trying to make the best of it. He met up with several CUNY folks at the Portland, OR, National Lawyers' Guild Conference in the fall of 2005. He wishes his CUNY colleagues the very best and asks that they “keep the CUNY spirit alive!”

## IN MEMORIAM

We present this list as a service to our Alumni/ae community. These names have come to our attention, since the last memorial notice was published in spring 2005.

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| Mark Gremse            | 1987 |
| Joseph Ramaci          | 1990 |
| Charles Pringle        | 1999 |
| Antonia Godsey         | 2000 |
| Lawrence T. de Angelis | 2004 |

We wish to express our deepest and most sincere gratitude to our donors and supporters whose generosity and contributions\* make it possible for the Law School to do the work that we do.

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Peter and Nancy Rabinowitz  
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Bijan Amini and Marcie Goldstein  
Marnie Berk, '96  
Mary Lu Bilek and Aaron Marcu  
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Bill Dimos, '04  
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Charlotte and Jeffrey Fischman  
Ellen Fried  
Raquel Gabriel  
Gair Gair Conason Steigman & Mackauf  
Jeffrey Glen  
Goldfarb Abrandt Salzman & Kutzin LLP  
Victor Goode  
Graubard Miller  
Jeff L. Greenup  
Philip K. Howard  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jacob  
Jennifer Jefferson, '98  
Hon. Nathaniel R. Jones  
Kent Karlsson  
Douglas Karp  
Gregory E. Koster  
Thomas Lakritz, '92  
Howard Lesnick  
Robert MacCrate  
MacKay, Wrynn & Brady LLP



Robert and Diana Mattson  
 Andrea McArdle  
 Diahn McGrath  
 Monte Bros Sound Systems, Inc.  
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 Outten & Golden LLP  
 Michael Patrick and Carol Sedwick  
 Sam Sue  
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 Paul Regan, '92  
 Jonathan P. Rosen  
 Schlesinger Gannon & Lazetera LLP  
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#### **\$100-\$249**

Edwin R. Acosta, '04  
 Yash Aggarwal, '01  
 Elisabeth Ames, '96  
 Anonymous, '97  
 Jennifer Bai, '04  
 Arnold H. Bank, M.D., '05  
 Laurie Beck, '91 and David Crook  
 Myron Beldock and Karen Dippold  
 Nicole Bingham, '98  
 Nancy and Jan Brumm  
 Osvaldo Caban, Jr., '87  
 Janet Calvo  
 Alan R. Carena, '05  
 James Caseley  
 Kari Caulfield, '89  
 Deborah Chan, '90  
 Yvonne Cherena Pacheco, '86  
 William J. Chriss  
 Jack W. Chung, '01  
 Bryan J. Coakley, '86  
 Emily Barnes Cole, '96  
 Grace Colson, '97  
 Jane M. Conlon-Muller, '90  
 Patricia Crown and Anthony Radice  
 Pat Cuillo  
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 Cate Dolan, '88  
 Roger Doty  
 William Driscoll, '88  
 Sheila Dugan, '87  
 Fanning and Hughes, '96  
 Lee Farrow, '95  
 Denise Fenton, '98  
 Thomas Fleming  
 William Fox  
 Gillian Frasier, '02  
 Lucille L. Frumin Prevete, '87

Jeffrey Galant and Dana Mark  
 Katherine Gallagher, '00  
 Theresa Gerardi, '88  
 Beth Ginsberg Miller, '92  
 Jerry Goldfeder and Alice Yaker  
 Alan Goldman  
 Julie Goldscheid  
 Cathy Gottschalk, '95  
 Donald Graham, '99  
 Linda Greenhouse  
 Charles and Susan Halpern  
 Sidney Haring  
 Beatrice Havranek, '93  
 Rachel Haynes Pinsker, '99  
 Heidi Henle, '99  
 M. Christie Hind, '96  
 M. Cindy Hounsell, '89  
 Jacob S. Ivry  
 Andre R. Jaglom  
 Brenda A. Joyner, '00  
 Barbara E. Katz, '92  
 Richard and Jane Katzman  
 Carol Kautzman, '90  
 Lucian Matej  
 Krainin & McKenzie  
 Maris and Jesse Krasnow  
 Jacqueline Lee, '86  
 Jeffrey F. Levine  
 Linda R. Levine, Ph.D.  
 Judith Levy  
 Gary Lippman, '86 and Cathey Velez  
 Lippman, '86  
 Ruhua Liu, '99  
 Stephen Loffredo  
 Sally and Alan Lubell  
 Mina MacFarlane, '96  
 Jeanne and David Martowski  
 Daniel May, '95  
 Michael and Elizabeth Mayers  
 Frank P. McCarney, '88  
 Lisa T. Mevorach, '04  
 Mootze Michel Roache, '88  
 Carrie Miller, '04  
 Jolynne Miller, '91  
 Therese Molloy, '91  
 Katherine A. Moloney, '90  
 Herb Moses, '91  
 Alizabeth Newman-Henriquez, '91  
 Kieran M. Pape Murphree, '95  
 Hon. Sondra Pardes, '86  
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 Marie A. Tatro, '91  
 Susan Tipograph  
 Dennis Torreggiani, '00  
 Michael Van Itallie, '91  
 David Weinraub, '88 and Meryl Schwartz, '87  
 Rosemary Weintraub, Esq., '86  
 Julian White, '98 and Talene Dadian  
 White, '97  
 John B. Whitlow, '03

Also, we sincerely thank those of you who supported the 2006 PILA Auction, including all the student organizers, volunteers, and staff who made the event possible.

In future editions of the newsletter we hope to list all our 'gift-in-kind' donors and our alums who continue to volunteer their time and services.

We apologize if we have inadvertently omitted a donor. Please contact Barbara Kopp (718-340-4320, [koppb@mail.law.cuny.edu](mailto:koppb@mail.law.cuny.edu)) if you believe we have made an error.

\* Listing reflects contributions, donations and pledges received from July 1, 2005 through March 6, 2006.

# Many CUNY Law Alumni/ae Are Working In Academia:

**Michelle Adams**, '89, Seton Hall Law School, Professor of Law; **Donna Axel**, '95, New School University, Assistant Chair, Social Sciences Department; **Paris Baldacci**, '87, Cardozo School of Law, Clinical Professor of Law & Supervising Attorney; **Kitty Bateman**, '91, Queensborough Community College, Assistant Professor, Basic Educational Skills; **Laurie Beck**, '91, Teachers College, Education Equity Communications Director; **William Boone**, '89, Medgar Evers College, Special Assistant to the Dean, Institutional Advancement; **Aslihan Bulut**, '05, Columbia University School of Law, Law Library; **William Calathes**, '86, New Jersey City University, Department of Criminal Justice, Associate Professor; **Eduardo Capulong**, '91, NYU Law School, Acting Assistant Professor of Lawyering; **Christi Charpentier**, '91, Temple Law School, Director of Trial Advocacy Program; **Yvonne Cherena-Pacheco**, '86, CUNY School of Law, Director of Admissions; **Jennifer Crisp**, '95, Syracuse University College of Law, Assistant Director of Career Services; **Ana Davila**, '86, CUNY School of Law, Adjunct Professor, Clinic; **Cambrea Ezell**, '95, Seattle University Law School, Adjunct Professor; **Hector Fernandez**, '02, LaGuardia Community College, Professor; **Carol Fine**, '90, Rutgers University, Administration of Justice Program, Director, Internship & Pre-Law Advisor; **Leroy Gadsen**, '02, Monroe College, Adjunct Professor; **Meredith Hamler**, '86, SUNY College at Old Westbury, Judicial Officer, Student Affairs; **Midori Hills**, '01, City College, Immigrants' Center, Legal Director; **Theresa Hughes**, '95, St. John's University School of Law, Assistant Professor of Clinical Education & Assistant Director of the Child Advocacy Clinic; **Martha Jones**, '87, University of Michigan, Assistant Professor, Department of History; **Elizabeth Kane**, '86, Brooklyn Law School, Career Services, Director, Public Service Programs; **Harlene Katzman**, '95, Columbia University School of Law, Dean of the Center for Public Interest Law; **Vineet Kohli**, '87, Seton Hall Law School,

Adjunct Professor; **Vincent Maher**, '86, Iona College, Department of Health Care Programs, Professor & Department Chair; **Jeffrey Malkan**, '88, State University of New York at Buffalo, Clinical Associate Professor and Director-Research & Writing; **Gregorio Mayers**, '94, Medgar Evers College, Chair of the Public Administration Department; **Joseph McCahery**, '88, University of Amsterdam, Professor, Corporate Governance & Innovation; **Concetta Mennella**, '89, New York City College of Technology, Associate Professor, Legal Assistant Studies; **David Nadvorney**, '86, CUNY School of Law, Faculty; **Lori A. Nessel**, '92, Seton Hall Law School, Associate Professor of Law; **Alizabeth Newman**, '91, CUNY School of Law, Director, Immigrant Initiatives; **Jose Orengo**, '96, LaGuardia Community College, Executive Director, External Relations/Advancement; **Viki Ortiz**, '88, Boalt Hall School of Law, Assistant Dean, Student Services; **Maria Osorio**, '00, California State University, Long Beach, Employment Relations Coordinator; **Mordecai Pelta**, '02, University of California Berkeley, Office of Protection of Human Subjects; **Martha Rayner**, '86, Fordham University School of Law, Associate Clinical Professor of Law; **Angela Redman**, '92, New York Career Institute, Professor; **Philip Robinson**, '87, University of South Carolina/Beaufort Campus, Professor, Sociology Department; **Frederick Rooney**, '86, CUNY School of Law, Acting Director of CLRN and Community Relations; **Joseph Rosenberg**, '86, CUNY School of Law, Associate Professor, Clinic; **Matthew Schneider**, '95, Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Adjunct Professor; **Paula Sciabarrasi**, '89, Harvard University, Office for Sponsored Research, Assistant Director, Awards Management; **Gnoleba Seri**, '01, City College, Immigrants' Center, Director; **Careen Shannon**, '89, Cardozo School of Law, Adjunct Professor of Immigration Law; **Belinda Sifford**, '86, Vermont Law School, Professor; **Kathy Swedlow**, '93, Thomas M. Cooley Law School, Associate Professor & Co-Director,

Innocence Project; **Leslie Thrope**, '94, Cardozo School of Law, Director, Center for Public Service; and **Stephanie Wilson**, '91, Seattle University Law School, Librarian.

\* Did we miss you? Please contact Office of Alumni/ae Affairs, (718) 340-4386, [alumnioffice@mail.law.cuny.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@mail.law.cuny.edu).

## CUNY Law Judges

Congratulations to the following alums who have been elected or appointed within the past year:

**Judge Sharon Aarons**, '89, New York City Civil Court, Bronx County; **Justice Lawrence Cullen**, '91, New York Court of Claims, Civil Term; **Judge Shlomo Hagler**, '91, New York City Civil Court, New York County; **Judge Nelida Malave**, '91, Supreme Court Judge, Family Court of the City of New York, Bronx County; **Judge Katherine Moloney**, '90, Poughkeepsie City Court, Ninth Judicial District; **Judge Sondra Pardes**, '86, Nassau County District Court, First District; **Court Commissioner Amy Pellman**, '87, Superior Court of Los Angeles; and **Judge Toko Serita**, '89, New York City Criminal Court, Kings County.

The new members of the bench listed above join our other CUNY Law judges:

**Judge Bryanne Hamill**, '90, Family Court of the City of New York, Kings County; **Judge Pam Jackman Brown**, '86, Housing Court, Civil Court of the City of New York, Queens County; **Judge Margaret Parisi McGowan**, '87, Housing Court, Civil Court of the City of New York, Queens County; **Judge Pineda Kirwan Diccia**, '86, New York City Civil Court, Queens County; and **Judge Edwina Richardson Thomas**, '88, Family Court of the City of New York, Queens County.

# A final glimpse...



Muslim Law Students Association recruiting students at the Students Organizations Fair - left to right: Isabel Bucaram (2L), Afreen Rizwan (2L), Maryam Sayar (3L), and Ivan Pantoja (3L).

The Jewish Law Students Association with the Brandeis Association, Inc., presented a session entitled: A Discussion and Networking Event with Judges and Practitioners on March 21, 2006. The event brought together panelists who talked about their career experiences and provided insight and advice for law students.



Standing from left to right: Sonia Zobdeh (1L), Peter Thomas '92, Erica Rosengarten, Assistant District Attorney, Queens, Hon. Darrell Gavrin, Acting Supreme Court Justice, Queens, Edward A. Schachter, President of Brandeis Association - Law Secretary, Debra Wolf (1L). Seated from left to right: David L. Cohen, Susan L. Beberfall, Associate Court Attorney, NYS Supreme Court, and Hon. Bernice D. Siegal, Civil Court Judge, Queens.

The Law School hosted a community celebration for the Asian Lunar New Year at the East Buffet and Restaurant in Flushing on Wednesday, February 8. With nearly 250 guests, the event honored Jimmy K. Meng, New York State Assembly Member 22nd District, Betty A. Letterese, Director of Community Affairs, New York Hospital Queens, and Gladys Yan, President, Organization of Chinese Americans' Long Island Chapter.



Left to right: Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Dean of Students Frank Shih, NYHQ Vice President for Public Affairs and Marketing Camela Morrissey, Interim Dean Mary Lu Bilek, Gladys Yan, Flushing Chinese Business Association President Peter Koo, Cathay Bank Regional Vice President Veronica Tsang, Betty Letterese, Assembly Member Meng, City Council Member John Liu, NYS Supreme Court Justice, Doris Ling-Cohan, and Associate Dean Bill Fox.



Irish Law Students Association organized a luncheon to raise funds for the Joe Doherty Fellowship and invited Step Dancers from P.S. 59 in the Bronx. Leading the group is teacher Caroline Duggan.



**save  
the  
dates**

**Friday, May 19**

## GRADUATION

May 19, 2006 at noon

Dean's Medal: Jaribu Hill  
*Founder and Director, Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights*

Proposed Honorary Degree recipients:

Norma Cantu  
*Former Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights*

Bob Herbert  
*Op-Ed Columnist, The New York Times*

Judge Navanethem Pillay  
*Judge, International Criminal Court  
Former President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda*

Alums are always welcome at Graduation. This year we extend a special invitation to members of the class of 1986 as we celebrate their 20th Anniversary.

Email Carol Kozo at [kozo@mail.law.cuny.edu](mailto:kozo@mail.law.cuny.edu) for tickets.

**Tuesday, June 13**

CUNY School of Law invites its graduates to participate in its next

### GROUP ADMISSION TO THE BAR OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Tuesday, June 13th 2006  
10 a.m.

Professor Victor Goode will move the admission of CUNY Law alumni/ae to the Bar of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Please send your name and address to:  
[alumnioffice@mail.law.cuny.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@mail.law.cuny.edu).

**Saturday, September 30**

## CUNY 2006 REUNION CRUISE! FOR THE CLASSES OF

|      |      |      |
|------|------|------|
| 1986 | 1991 | 1996 |
| 2001 | 2005 |      |

On Board  
THE QUEEN OF HEARTS  
Pier 40

Westside Highway and West Houston Street

Saturday, September 30, 2006  
7:00 - 11:00 P.M.

Cocktails, buffet dinner, dancing...  
and four-hour open bar!!!

More details to follow...

# CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW



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## *Ten Reasons to Choose CUNY School of Law:*

**Number 6:** The highest percentage of graduates placed in public interest jobs of any law school in the country.

#6

## Admissions Information Session

The next Admissions Information Session will be held on Friday, April 7, 2006, from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm. For more information, click [here](#)

## NEWS & EVENTS



CUNY Moot Court Team Advances to Finals in Nassau Competition [\(MORE\)](#)

- Professors Bratspies and Kimerling at Idaho International Law Symposium

- PILA Auction March 30, 2006

- Admissions Info Session April 7, 2006

- Important News About 2006 Graduation

- Summer Session 2006

- Fellowship Opportunities for Applicants

- Phone System Instructions (updated)

Stay connected through our new website at [www.law.cuny.edu](http://www.law.cuny.edu).

The Law School is  
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