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# CUNY LAW

FALL 2008



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**On the Cover:** The Hon. Pamela Jackman-Brown, Class of 1986, and attorney Edward Campanelli, Class of 2003, in Long Island City, Queens on the East River in front of the Midtown Manhattan skyline.

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Dean Michelle J. Anderson

## Celebrate 25 Years with Us

**THIS YEAR CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW** celebrates its 25th anniversary. To mark this important milestone in the life of the School, this issue of the magazine focuses on the largest and greatest part of the CUNY Law family that the School has developed over the years: its outstanding graduates. This issue features more than 25 excellent alums engaged in important social justice work in a wide range of fields. Their stories are personal and inspiring. Some recount their greatest achievements in the law; others share what it means to have graduated from CUNY Law. We could not be prouder of the extraordinary accomplishments of our alums. This retrospective gives us a taste of the real impact the School has made in the fields of public interest and public service law.

In addition to heralding our graduates, this issue includes a story about our newest faculty member, Richard Storrow, who joins the community this year to teach lawyering and property. He brings tremendous expertise on law and bioethics to his scholarship and teaching at CUNY Law, particularly regarding

the legal problems surrounding reproductive technology. Richard is already a delightful presence here at the School.

This issue also features an article on the many Fulbright Fellowships our faculty members have won over the years. For example, Sidney Haring has just returned from a sabbatical at the University of Lund, a venerated 450-year-old institution in Sweden, where he was the Fulbright Distinguished Professor on the faculty. Sid published an important piece on the new jurisprudence of land reform in Namibia while he was away.

CUNY Law faculty members have been presenting, writing, training, publishing, teaching, blogging, and receiving awards for their outstanding social justice work.

He remains one of the most preeminent legal scholars in the field of land rights.

Rhonda Copelon has just returned from a Fulbright at the Centro de Derechos Humanos at the University of Chile Law School, where she taught classes and researched the impact of recent international legal developments recognizing sexual violence as a form of torture on the legacy of sexual violence in General Pinochet's political prisons. As you can see, Rhonda is continuing her groundbreaking, international work on women's human rights.

You will also read about the new Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality at CUNY School of Law. It will be directed by Jenny Rivera, whom we welcomed back to the Law School after her 18-month employ as New York Special Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights. Jenny tells about her personal journey from the Lower East Side to Princeton University, to the highest levels of New York State government service.

Before you leave the issue, take a look at the strong list of recent faculty accomplishments. CUNY Law faculty members have been presenting, writing, training, publishing, teaching, blogging, and receiving awards for their outstanding social justice work.

Finally, you may notice overall that the look of the magazine has changed to better communicate our mission and our vision. We hope you like the new design. Stay in touch!

Yours,

Michelle J. Anderson  
Dean and Professor of Law

## Alum Law Firm Helps Homeowners in Foreclosure

**COMMON LAW, INC.**, a non-profit consortium of three CUNY Law alums from the class of 2007, has created a clinic to help homeowners in foreclosure prepare legal papers and other documents to present to banks. The work of Common Law and two other organizations with which they have partnered was the feature both of a WNYC radio interview and a *New York Daily News* article in September.

Common Law attorney Karen Gargamelli explained that 90 percent of New York City homeowners in foreclosure receive default judgments and auction dates without ever raising a defense in court.

"Traditional legal service agencies faced with an onslaught of homeowners pleading for representation lack the resources to deal with the sheer number of homeowners in crisis," she said. "And private attorneys add insult to injury by requiring exorbitant retainers for their services."

Common Law developed a Tuesday evening clinic to aid homeowners by working with CHANGER, a homeowner membership organization that works to end abusive mortgage lending practices in low- and moderate-income communities in the city, and with United Community Centers, a neighborhood-based, multi-service organization.

Common Law, Inc. includes Gargamelli, Jay Kim, and Michael Wang. Visit them at [www.commonlawnyc.org](http://www.commonlawnyc.org)



Common law attorney Karen Gargamelli, right, with a homeowner helped by Common Law, Inc.



Pune, India

## CLRN Hopes to Replicate Success in India

**AS IT REACHES ITS 10-YEAR MILESTONE**, the Community Legal Resource Network (CLRN) is replicating its program of training new, young lawyers to set up practices to help people in need through a program in Pune, India.

The new project, at Symbiosis Law School ([www.symbiolaw.ac.in](http://www.symbiolaw.ac.in)), began in October under the leadership of CLRN director Fred Rooney. The school, located approximately two hours south of Mumbai (formerly Bombay), aims to serve as a catalyst for social change in a society where access to justice for the general public is severely limited.

After helping to create a CLRN-like network of Symbiosis Law graduates, Rooney plans to assist in the implementation of "community lawyering" initiatives in underserved communities.

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for both Indian attorneys and communities in need in and around Pune," Rooney said. "I'm hoping that we can be as successful in creating a network of compassionate and caring attorneys in Pune as we have been in New York, and that the CLRN model will eventually result in increased access to justice for thousands of marginalized individuals with unmet legal needs."

While in Pune, Rooney hopes to engage in developing community centers offering pro- or low-bono legal services to poor and indigent people who lack resources to retain private counsel. He also hopes to establish legal awareness programs to provide participants with a basic understanding of their rights and responsibilities as Indian citizens or as immigrants living and working in India.

CLRN, started in 1998, is a collaborative that supports CUNY Law School graduates as they work to establish and operate solo or small-group practices devoted to serving the pressing needs of the poor and disadvantaged in underserved communities.



# First Law Center for Latino and Latina Rights Debuts at CUNY Law

- >> *A Latina agent for a real estate company is fired for speaking Spanish to a Latino coworker at the company coffee stand. The same employer allowed her to speak to potential clients in Spanish and thus benefited from her language skills.*
- >> *A husband and wife looking for a nice neighborhood in which to raise their children are denied housing because they are Puerto Rican. The father is a sanitation worker in New York City who helps clean the streets where his family cannot live.*
- >> *Latino children are taught in decrepit school buildings, without updated books and sufficient school materials, by teachers who lack significant teaching experience. When local parents campaign to become members of the local school board to effect change, they face daunting obstacles at the polls, including claims of voter fraud.*

**CASES LIKE THESE** have been at the heart of Professor Jenny Rivera's work since she began her legal career working for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund and the Homeless Family Rights Project of the Legal Aid Society. Her dedication to law reform and her love of teaching and academic engagement brought her to CUNY School of Law. Rivera's commitment to equality and enforcing and expanding civil rights drove her decision to take a leave of absence in 2007 from the Law School to serve as Special Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights in the New York State Attorney General's Office.

Now, back at CUNY Law, Rivera is launching what is believed to be the first center of its type: an academic and scholarship-rich institution that will meld community service and educational activities to improve the quality of legal care provided to Latinos and Latinas in the city, state, nation, and around the world. The Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality (CLORE) will offer courses at CUNY Law, possibly open to students from other institutions, that will highlight issues that impact Latinos and Latinas.

Cases involving discrimination based on national origin cry out for justice and fairness, Rivera says. "Employment discrimination and the abuse of Latino

and Latina employees who are essential to so many businesses are a daily reality. On the one hand, companies seeking to profit from the Latino community benefit from Latino and Latina workers because they want Latino business and need low-wage employees," Rivera notes. "On the other hand, they often make working life miserable for their Latino and Latina employees, and put them at risk for termination. This discrimination and abuse must be stopped."

Advocates in the Latino legal community agree that a center like CLORE is needed. "Too many of us in the law see the civil rights struggle as something in the past. The fact is that the Latino community is facing its own set of civil rights issues that need the attention of a Center such as this one now," said Cesar A. Perales, president and general counsel of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York. "Under Jenny's leadership the Center will undoubtedly make a major contribution to the field of Latino civil rights."

Topics to be addressed by CLORE include language and women's rights, as well as educational equity, employment discrimination, voting rights, and immigrants' rights, to name a few.

"There are universities with vast course offerings on the social and political status of Latinos, Latino literature

*Opposite: Professor Jenny Rivera, director of the new Center on Latino and Latina Rights and Equality*







*Professor Jenny Rivera, center, listens to the ideas of others who are helping to launch CLORE. From left: Research Assistant Rachel Seger (3L); Administrative Assistant Maggie Ruperto; Professor and Librarian Raquel Gabriel; and Research Assistant Candy Velazquez (2L).*

or history, libraries with materials on Latinos, and a growing body of legal scholarship on Latinos and Latinas,” Rivera notes. Research organizations, for instance, offer detailed data on the Latino population in the United States. “Our focus is on progressive legal approaches to addressing issues that impact Latinos and Latinas, developed with the community. We are also focusing on getting more and better legal services to the Latino community.”

Rivera herself knows first-hand how Latinos and Latinas have suffered in the United States and in New York City. She grew up with her single mother on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, in the days when that section of the city was populated by poor and working-class families from a variety of racial and ethnic groups; those days of the 1960s and 1970s were long before the Lower East Side was home to chic bars and highly-rated restaurants. Rivera remembers hearing gunshots in her neighborhood, and the tenement apartment where she lived was burglarized. Her mother, she says, constantly kept an eye out the window to make sure that Rivera’s brother got home safely. (*See story, page 7*).

### The Audience

The Center will have multiple audiences: attorneys, academics, community activists, students, and policymakers. Rivera’s long-term goal also includes providing legal resources to the private Bar to increase the number of attorneys representing clients in civil rights cases.

The need for the Center from a demographic perspective is clear, Rivera says. Latinos and Latinas currently comprise the largest ethnic group in the United States. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Latinos and Latinas represented 13 percent (35.3 million) of the population. At the current growth rate, by 2050, Latinos and Latinas will have increased to 29 percent of

the U.S. population, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

Despite the Latino community’s size and long-term presence in the United States, Latinos and Latinas continue to be targets for many types of discrimination, Rivera says. For example, there has been an increase in hate crimes, negative profiling by local law enforcement, rejection of constitutional and statutory protections at the workplace, at home and in school, and the popular movement to “close the borders” to Latino and Latina immigrants, Rivera notes.

### The Center’s Agenda

The Center’s activities will be broad. It will be committed to community-based solutions to legal problems, developing opportunities for dialogue with advocates and members of the legal community, as well as striving to enhance the participation of Latinos and Latinas in the democratic process. The Center will seek to increase public awareness of the legal issues of importance to the Latino community.

The Center’s plans include the establishment of a special collection of scholarship and interdisciplinary materials on Latino legal issues at the CUNY School of Law library; academic forums and colloquia; a speaker series on the legal and socio-political status of Latinos and Latinas; scholarship on issues impacting the Latino community; legal issues workshops in communities around the city; and litigation-related and scholarly work on two discreet projects focused on language-based national origin discrimination (Language Access Project) and gender-based discrimination (Gender Equity Project).

The Center will begin its work with Rivera as director and two student fellows from CUNY Law. The fellows will assist Rivera with scholarship projects, year-round community events, and a conference, to be held during Hispanic Heritage Month, on legal access for Latinos and Latinas in the United States. ● ●



# PROFESSOR JENNY RIVERA

A NO-NONSENSE ATTORNEY WITH A PASSION TO TEACH

**P**rofessor Jenny Rivera has always loved TV shows with lawyers as protagonists. As a child, she hoped to join the ranks of the legal profession to “do good and help people.”

The first-generation, New York-born Puerto Rican was raised by her single mother. An older sister was killed after a mugging; and her brother, four years older, has become a highly successful trial lawyer—“the real lawyer in the family,” Rivera says.

The family came of age on the Lower East Side, as Rivera’s mother eked out a living working in glove and hat factories, attaching buttons to clothing and performing other odd tasks. Rivera attended both St. Bridget’s and St. Michael’s Catholic schools in New York. At St. Michael’s, a guidance counselor dared her to apply to Princeton University; she did and earned a financial aid package that defied her imagination and provided her the opportunity to attend an Ivy League school.

Princeton was a cultural shock. “I had never been surrounded by so many wealthy people,” she says, her eyes widening. “I did not realize that the education I always thought was so fabulous and that I had received up through high school was below the level of the education and preparation of so many other students. Everyone seemed to have the secrets that I didn’t get at my little parochial school.”

It was at Princeton that she truly appreciated the impact a teacher can have on a student’s life and career. Her calculus professor, noting that she was struggling with his course, pulled her aside one day and offered to assist her with her math studies. Rivera regularly attended Friday afternoon tutoring sessions with the scholar, and by semester’s end, she had moved from a struggling student to one with a solid grade on the final exam.

“I experienced the positive impact a professor can have when the teacher is willing to work directly with a student and commits to assisting the student achieve success,” says Rivera, 47.

Although she often felt isolated, she flourished. “By the time I entered law school, I was grounded. I had expectations that I would do well and I would succeed. When I entered law school, I did not have role models of successful Latina lawyers—or any Latina lawyers, for that matter— but I never thought that meant I couldn’t try.”

Rivera succeeded in her quest to become a lawyer: she earned her J.D. from New York University School of Law, where she was named a Root-Tilden Scholar, a prestigious program that recognizes top students dedicated to public interest careers. In law school, Rivera was committed to her studies and to activism, and was recognized for her success in both. She served as an articles editor for the *Annual Survey of American Law*, publishing her first article, and served as co-chair of the Latino Law Students Association. Her interest and commitment in legal intellectual discourse continued after she received her J.D., and she eventually returned to law school, after practicing as a civil rights lawyer, and earned her LL.M. from Columbia University School of Law.

“I have very high expectations of myself. There is so much work in my field to be done and making a difference brings deep satisfaction.”

After graduating from NYU School of Law, Rivera clerked in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in the Pro Se Law Clerk’s Office. She then joined the Legal Aid Society’s Homeless Family Rights Project, and that was followed by her position as Associate Counsel for the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. She also clerked in the Southern District of New York for Judge Sonia Sotomayor, who currently sits on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Rivera recently served on the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and was honored by *Hispanic Business* as one of the Elite Women of 2005 as well as by *El Diario/La Prensa* as an Outstanding Latina Woman. She also has been honored by the Manhattan Borough President and the New York City Chapter of the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women.

The classroom, though, has special meaning. “I love teaching and working with students. CUNY students are bright and committed to social justice, and it is a great honor to be part of the education of the next generation of public interest lawyers.” ●●





Raised in rural poverty in central Wisconsin, Professor Sid Haring, 61, attended Macalester College before earning professional degrees at the University of Wisconsin, all on scholarships. The author of more than 80 articles, chapters, and book reviews on such subjects as American and British colonial history, Native American law, indigenous rights, and criminal law, Haring also has written four books, the third of which, *White Man's Law: Native People in Nineteenth Century Canadian Jurisprudence*, was a finalist for the Donner Prize as the best book on Canadian public policy. It was published in 1998.





# 25 Years of Fulbrights at CUNY Law

AWARD TO SWEDEN IS SID HARRING'S THIRD

Indigenous land rights. The words roll off Sid Harring's tongue at lightning speed, and he's off-and-running—explaining the history of land tensions between whites and Native Americans in the United States or between blacks and whites under apartheid in Namibia or in South Africa. Land reform, specifically defining a legal process by which whites should return land that rightfully belongs to blacks, is his passion—well, one of many.

And it was the subject, in Sweden ironically, of Harring's third and latest Fulbright teaching award, which he completed at the end of May.

CUNY School of Law faculty members have received seven Fulbrights since the Law School was born 25 years ago (*See details, page 10*).

The legal issues surrounding indigenous land rights, Harring says, are among the most complicated international human rights questions of our time. And there are glaring examples of how wrongly native peoples have been treated, he says. In the past, however, Harring has gone to the source to research the issue and to teach about it.

But the Swedes, it turns out, are not only passionately interested in human rights. They are also fascinated by Namibia, where Harring spent his second Fulbright, and they have reason to be, he says. Namibia, perhaps more than any other nation, was a creation of the United Nations and international law when it gained independence from South Africa in 1990, and Sweden had played an important role in that process. In addition, when German colonial forces in what was then German Southwest

Africa were defeated by British and South African troops in World War I, and Germans were expelled from the country, German Lutheran missionaries were replaced by Scandinavians, creating a common cultural bond that's endured.

So, working at Sweden's largest human rights center, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at the University of Lund, Harring, author of three books and dozens of articles, studied ways to reapportion land in Namibia, where 4,000 whites own half the land and 1.8 million blacks live on overcrowded "communal lands."

"I wanted to live and work in Europe because I wanted to better understand the European view of human rights law," Harring said in a far-reaching interview. "The United States doesn't seriously recognize human rights law, but Europe does. I wanted to see the highest level of the application of that law. It is not perfect, but it is an improvement."

He did so as a Fulbright Distinguished Professor of International Human Rights Law (there were just 20 individuals worldwide with the designation). "It was definitely the best title I've ever had," Harring quips.

## CUNY Law Fulbright Scholars

### > RHONDA COPELON

University of Chile's Human Rights Centre, Santiago, March-July 2007. Co-taught a seminar on human rights and advised students preparing for the Inter-American moot court competition and graduate theses. Working closely with Corporacion Humanas, a women's human rights organization, Professor Copelon's research and public talks concerned the process by which sexualized violence against women prisoners under the Pinochet regime had been obscured, and, 30 years later, began to be publicized by survivors and officially recognized as torture.

### > PAULA BERG

Charles University School of Law in Prague, Spring 2004. Taught two courses: a lawyering seminar in Tort Law and Comparative Public Health Law, which examined the legal and policy approaches of the U.S. and the Czech Republic to public health issues, such as tobacco use, HIV, and alcohol abuse.

### > SHARON HOM

Beijing's China University of Politics and Law, 1986-88, where she helped train members of China's nascent legal profession.

### > LUIS JORGE DEGRAFFE

Senior Lecturer Fellowship in 1994 teaching U.S. Constitutional law in El Salvador.

## The First Fulbright

Harring's first Fulbright, in 1989-90, was to Malaysia. The country had established its first law school for Malays, the indigenous people, historically undereducated and living in rural areas. Harring, who holds a master's degree in sociology as well as J.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin, was planning to teach a course on that subject. Suddenly, the professor for the jurisprudence course left, and the course landed in Harring's lap. He focused on four topics: indigenous rights at a time when rubber plantations, logging, and other pursuits were again forcing indigenous peoples from their native homes; the death penalty for drug pushers; the independence of the judiciary, as judges had the power to overrule politicians; and the "Malaysianization" of the common law—transforming the British law that the country had inherited into Malaysian law.

He was given a 20-year-old British text from which to craft the course and quickly discarded it. "It was great fun. The students and I really crafted the course together; they had no notes to copy from, and actually had to think about these issues in a theoretical context," Harring says.

Next came an eight-month Fulbright to Namibia, in 1995. At that time, there were virtually no black attorneys in the country and no education for black people other than in teacher's colleges. The new government, independent of South Africa in 1990, decided to create a university and law faculty from scratch. Harring, a founding faculty member at CUNY School of Law in 1983, was not new to the process of crafting a law school, especially one focused on human rights. His assignment in Namibia: develop an African- and Namibian-centered human rights course that would anchor the second-year program.

In addition to teaching, Harring also did research on land rights and set up a quasi-clinic with students to take on human rights cases.

"Real problems would come to us, and we would work on those. It was wild. The institute was government-funded and our cases were against the government, really pushing on human rights issues. There was serious tension, but we didn't compromise," Harring says. He proudly notes that he, his colleagues, and students succeeded in blocking the erection of a dam that would have displaced a remote tribe from its lands and done great environmental damage. "I was happy to be in a position to help: it is not often in the world that people can stop a dam."

## Yearly Research Trips to Namibia

Harring still visits Namibia every year to work on land reform issues and, as he says, to "keep after the government on land reform issues, working with the Legal Assistance Centre, the only public interest law organization in the country." He says that Namibia is, after Brazil, the most unequal society in the world with a standard of living for whites that is equivalent to that in Norway, the highest in the world, while the majority of blacks live in an agrarian society that is poverty-stricken. "Land reform," he says, "is an extremely difficult and slow process, but necessary in order to create an equal society in an agrarian nation, where land is much of the basis of wealth."

Harring says he still has a lot of teaching and research left in him. "I think every teacher should try to take advantage of the Fulbright program," he says. "These are challenging and life-changing experiences, and I expect to be working in Namibia—and perhaps in Sweden—again."

"This is not to say that the Fulbright program, like any government program, doesn't have its own problems. You do the best you can with what you have and take each opportunity as far as you can. Doing this work, I can really use law to try to achieve meaningful social change. It is a good thing to be able to get out into the world and try to be useful." ●●



# Learning Through Experience

3Ls describe the valuable legal work they completed in 2008 summer internships.

BY ANSLEY DAVENPORT



Jayna Turcek, far left, is joined by three other students who shared their intern experiences: Casey Bryant (2L), Jessica Glynn (3L), and Yvette Rosario (2L).

## ALANA CHAZAN, CLASS OF 2009

**WHAT I DID FOR THE SUMMER:** I interned in the LGBT and HIV division of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. They handle complaints of employment and public accommodations discrimination filed on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, HIV status and domestic partner status.

**WHAT I MOST ENJOYED ABOUT IT:** Getting to work with a group of very passionate and hard-working, anti-discrimination advocates. Also, gender-neutral marriage became legal while I was interning at the Commission, and the city was unprepared to deal with the huge influx of couples coming to City Hall to be married. I was quickly trained and was able to personally marry, as well as

to issue marriage licenses to hundreds of couples at San Francisco's City Hall.

**WHAT I LEARNED:** The role that a city commission can play in creating and advocating for social change. In 1997, San Francisco enacted the first law in the United States to address discrimination in employee benefits for employees with domestic partners. Working at the Commission and enforcing this equal benefits ordinance, I witnessed the usefulness of city contracting as a tool to extend basic rights as well as its limitations.

## ALEXANDER KEBLISH, CLASS OF 2009

**WHAT I DID FOR THE SUMMER:** I interned at the lending/foreclosure rescue unit of Brooklyn Legal Services Corporation A. In order to establish an evidentiary founda-

tion for these fraudulent practices, I obtained information through several government databases to establish a pattern and practice of fraudulent activity for the parties involved.

**WHAT I MOST ENJOYED ABOUT IT:** You read the headlines on an almost-daily basis about the sub-prime mortgage crisis, but meeting people who are affected by this firsthand personalizes this crisis in a way I had not expected to encounter.

**WHAT I LEARNED:** Being able to interview a client one-on-one and explain to her what I was doing and why I was doing it was empowering. It was just a moment where you feel yourself transitioning from "law student" to "lawyer."

## JAYNA TURCHEK, CLASS OF 2009

**WHAT I DID FOR THE SUMMER:** I interned at the CUNY Immigration and Citizenship Project in Flushing, Queens, which provides free services at nine centers in New York City's five boroughs. I consulted with Spanish-speaking participants about their immigration questions and assisted them in completing their immigration forms.

**WHAT I MOST ENJOYED ABOUT IT:** The hands-on experience I obtained at the Project helped demystify the immigration process. My clients' experiences varied enormously but their motivation was the same; they wanted the best life they could provide for their families. The need for accurate, professional, low-cost or no-cost immigration information and counseling is critical in New York City.

**WHAT I LEARNED:** I am grateful for my summer experiences because they have provided me with an integrated view of immigration and family law. I am eager to move into my third year in the International Women's Human Rights Clinic and develop skills that will help me better provide information, access and advocacy for women, children and families.

For more intern profiles, visit the Student News section of [www.law.cuny.edu](http://www.law.cuny.edu)

# Q&A



*Professor Richard Storrow*

## QUESTION AND ANSWER

### Bio-Ethicist Joins the Law School

Richard Storrow's goal for many years was to become a professor of French literature. But his first experience with the law—reading the New York State Bar Exam to a blind test-taker—changed all that. Professor Storrow, who joined CUNY School of Law this year, is teaching Property and a first-year Lawyering Seminar this fall.



**CUNY LAW:** How did you get into the practice of law and what led you to the classroom?

**RICHARD STORROW:** Graduate school in French left me feeling removed from the reasons why I had undertaken graduate training to begin with. I felt that legal training would enable me to confront issues that really mattered to people. In law school, I grappled with problems that affect people's abilities to flourish. I found that I wanted to work on issues that were very personal: gay and lesbian rights and the protection of vulnerable populations.

In law school, I worked for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund and the ACLU. I delved into a number of cutting-edge issues in gay and lesbian civil rights with extraordinarily committed and intelligent lawyers. My experiences in direct services were with groups assisting the indigent elderly and children at risk. The first of these was an internship at Legal Assistance for Seniors in Oakland, California. What made the work so rewarding was the spirit of collaboration. There was simply no sense in that environment that anyone was motivated by individual ambition but instead that we were all working in concert to make society better.

After law school, I clerked for a judge on a Minnesota appellate court. After working for a law firm, I found myself at a crossroads about whether to pursue a more rewarding legal practice or proceed into academia. The opportunity that presented itself was teaching legal research and writing at Hamline University. I subsequently accepted faculty positions at Illinois, Texas Wesleyan, and Penn State. Now back in New York, I have a firm feeling of having found the right place in CUNY Law! I look forward to spending many productive and fulfilling years at this great institution.

**CUNY LAW:** What about CUNY Law appealed to you?

**STORROW:** I've been looking for a school like CUNY my entire career! I love the collaborative spirit I feel when I'm here and the strong focus on socially valuable projects that use the law to enhance human flourishing. Public interest practice is where it's at when it comes to being fulfilled in one's career. Life is too short to do work that dulls your spirit.

The diversity of backgrounds that everyone brings to CUNY is also very important to me, both personally and professionally. It makes the classroom much more challenging and alive. If my contributions here help in any way perpetuate the things that drew me to CUNY in the first place, I will feel that I have accomplished something very important.

**CUNY LAW:** You're at the cutting edge of legal scholarship on reproductive technologies. Why is that so important?

**STORROW:** Reproductive decision-making is a fundamental part of who we are as humans. To procreate or not to procreate

is something most people wrestle with in the course of their lifetimes, and the decision not to procreate doesn't foreclose other paths to parenthood, like adoption. My primary interest in this field has to do with how social justice might be enhanced or compromised by the regulation of reproductive technologies.

Socially conservative political forces want to place restrictions on access to assisted reproduction just as they have on adoption. Most of these efforts grow out of a "marriage movement" that seeks to elevate the status of the married, heterosexual, biological family above all other family forms, and to define "the best interests of the child" as necessitating being raised by a heterosexual married couple. I happen to think marriage should be available to those who want it, but I do not believe it has any magical power to produce well-adjusted

"Public interest practice is where it's at when it comes to being fulfilled in one's career. Life is too short to do work that dulls your spirit."

children. In my work, I find myself speaking out frequently against the use of marriage as a gate-keeping device in assisted reproduction and adoption.

**CUNY LAW:** What are some of the topics you've found most compelling in this area?

**STORROW:** There's an important constitutional law question that remains undecided: whether assisted reproduction is a procreative liberty. Beyond this, courts struggle to define who the parents of a child are when the birth came about through the contributions of many. In a country like ours where there is very little law on any of this, physicians, by and large, are the final arbiters of who is allowed to pursue their reproductive goals with the aid of technologies. Arbitrary medical decision-making on issues of assisted reproduction has a disproportionately negative impact on women. I explored these concerns in a series of recent articles covering the formation of families through adoption and assisted reproduction, screening practices in infertility clinics, and the ethics of cross-border reproductive care. I am currently completing an article criticizing the actions of infertility physicians who, for religious reasons, refuse to serve lesbians or single women.



25  
years





# ...of great alumni

Law in the Service of Human Needs. For 25 years, CUNY School of Law has lived by this motto. The School has graduated outstanding public interest attorneys, such as the talented alumni featured here and hundreds of their classmates. These alums have used the law to enhance social justice—to help homeowners prevent foreclosure, to protect the mentally ill, to defend immigrants accused of crossing the border illegally, and to help indigent women keep their children.

Here, alums tell their stories in their own words. They speak of CUNY Law as a home and a family, a place where they learned to face demanding faculty and challenging colleagues and where they learned to practice law for the greater good. CUNY enhanced their deep commitment to serve others.

Judge Margaret Parisi McGowan of the Family Court of the State of New York, Class of 1987, explains, “CUNY was instrumental in my going into law with the goal of doing something that impacted on people’s lives.” Claudine Rasp, Class of 2003, concurs: “CUNY’s focus on public service was my main reason for choosing the School,” she says. “Other schools just didn’t feel the same. I knew I would be part of a family.”

Read on to learn more about CUNY Law’s 25 years of extraordinary alums.



**TOP ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT:** Linda Diaz (Class of 1989), Craig Acorn ('00), The Hon. Pam Jackman-Brown ('86), Christine Back ('08)  
**2ND ROW:** Lisa Fidel ('97), The Hon. Edwina Richardson-Mendelson ('88), Claudine Moore Rasp ('03), Robert Bank ('86)  
**3RD ROW:** Paula Griffith Edgar ('06), Ellen Rosenberg ('93), Molly Graver ('01), Molly Timko ('08)  
**4TH ROW:** Lisa Olney ('96), Tracey Bing-Hampson ('96), Dana Naughton ('04), Ian Hinonangan ('02)

# CUNY Law's First Judge Says "Aim High"

**HON. PAM JACKMAN-BROWN, CLASS OF 1986.** "Aim high. There is plenty of room." So says the Hon. Pam Jackman-Brown, who not only was a member of the entering class of the CUNY School of Law in 1983 but was the first graduate to become a judge. Today, she is Supervising Judge of New York County Housing Court.

A native of Guyana and one of six children, the judge says her parents left little room for laziness. Though both of her parents were blue-collar workers, she and her siblings have all followed professional roads.

Brown says she dreamed of becoming a doctor, but took a "shortcut" to enter law school following an educational path that was CUNY to the core: her B.S., *magna cum laude*, is from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and her A.A. is from Borough of Manhattan Community College.

"I am shy, so how I got here is still a mystery because my career path is in

contradiction to my shyness," says the judge, 53, who lives in Queens.

She's served the human interest in other ways throughout her career: as a trial attorney for the Legal Aid Society; mediating disputes between parents and children; mentoring at-risk youths; coaching high school mock trials; and sharing

And she was the second recipient of the New York State Bar Association Haywood Burns Memorial Award, created in 1998.

The judge says she'll never forget her "House 1" colleagues at CUNY Law or the journal feedback sessions in the auditorium. She adds: "CUNY Law taught me how to stand on my feet and help others.

"I am shy, so how I got here is still a mystery because my career path is in contradiction to my shyness."

her experiences at civic events "so that others can learn and use my experience to identify and pursue their own career paths." She is also a licensed lay Eucharistic minister and chalice administrator.

It taught me how to practice law with compassion. It shaped my legal career in a way of helping me focus with persistence and perseverance to protect the legal rights of all." ● ●

## Kary Moss, 49, Class of 1987

**HOMETOWN:** Detroit

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** Columbia University, M.A. in International Affairs; Michigan State University, James Madison College, B.A.

**FIELD OF LAW:** Civil rights; Executive Director, ACLU of Michigan.

**WHY YOU ATTENDED CUNY LAW:** I was looking for a small progressive law school committed to public interest law and CUNY fell in my lap when Robert Bank, a graduate from the first class, told me about this new wild school that he was planning to attend.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** Winning a lawsuit on behalf of a low-income community in Flint, Michigan that had been approved as a location for a new waste treatment power plant. Though the plant was built, we made a difference when the odds seemed impossible.

**HOW YOU'VE SERVED THE PUBLIC INTEREST:** Ten years ago, I became the Executive Director of the ACLU of Michigan where I expanded the reach of our programs to actively include racial justice, LGBT rights, and immigration reform.

**SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT CUNY LAW:** Experiential learning, inspired and motivated teachers who cared about me, and an environment where differences were nurtured.

THE HON. MARGARET PARISI MCGOWAN / CLASS OF 1987

*"As a housing court judge, I was able to protect people's rights. I was able to ensure that families lived in clean, decent housing, free of violations and that they got the help they needed to support their families."*

— THE HON. MARGARET PARISI MCGOWAN, FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, CITY OF NEW YORK



A full-length portrait of Robert Evan Bank, a middle-aged man with short brown hair, wearing a dark navy blue suit, a light blue shirt, and a red striped tie. He is standing with his hands in his pockets, looking directly at the camera. Behind him is a wall displaying several framed posters, each featuring a close-up of a person's face and the text "HOW STOPS WITH ME, ONE".

## Classical Pianist Devotes Legal Life to AIDS

**Robert Evan Bank, 49**  
**Class of 1986**

**HOMETOWN:** My heart is in two places: my birthplace, Cape Town, South Africa, and my adopted city, New York, to which I immigrated in 1977.

**FAMILY HERITAGE:** Jewish, Progressive. My grandparents fled from persecution in Eastern Europe and my parents and siblings fled from the brutal apartheid regime in South Africa to the United States.

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** B.A. and M.A. from The Juilliard School with a focus on classical piano which I had been playing since the age of five.

**FIELD OF LAW:** Human and Economic Rights, HIV/AIDS, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Immigrant Rights. Chief Operating Officer, Gay Men's Health Crisis.

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOU/YOUR WORK:** CUNY Law has made my life's work possible. It taught me to question almost all underlying assumptions.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** Playing a part in overturning the 21-year-old discriminatory federal policy that excluded people infected with HIV from traveling to the United States and becoming citizens.

**HOW YOU'VE SERVED THE PUBLIC**

**INTEREST:** I've worked to empower individuals to make change in their own lives and taken those lessons to inform the way I attack society's structural problems.

**SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT**

**CUNY LAW:** Being in the first class of the Law School and working with the faculty, staff, and students on a shared vision of creating a new tide of legal education.

**"CUNY Law taught me to question almost all underlying assumptions."**

## Trying Every Day for “Miraculous Work”

**THE HON. EDWINA G. RICHARDSON-MENDELSON, CLASS OF 1988.** Several years ago, Edwina Richardson-Mendelson received a call she'll never forget. The executive director of Mayor Bloomberg's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary was on the other end of the line, appointing her to serve on the Family Court bench in Queens County.

Just a few years earlier, she'd enjoyed another special moment. Representing a parent in court, she looked around the attorneys' table. The other two lawyers on the case—Jeffrey Blinkoff and Eileen Murphy—were, like her, CUNY School of Law graduates.

“I couldn't help but think how our former CUNY Law School Dean, the late Haywood Burns, would have been so very proud of us at that moment,” Edwina, 43, says.

Edwina, raised by her mother and stepfather, both of the West Indies, is now Supervising Judge of Queens Family Court, a post she has held since February.

She is deeply devoted to, and was always moved by, the Law School's mission. “CUNY has given me the foundation needed

“CUNY has given me the foundation needed to apply the law in a way that serves people's needs.”

to apply the law in a way that serves people's needs. It was and remains a special place to learn the law and serve humanity.” Since completion of her J.D., she has earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in criminal justice.

Edwina is proud, she says, for the opportunity to help others: handling child abuse and neglect cases, foster care placements, child custody and guardianship issues, visitation matters, paternity challenges, domestic violence family offense proceedings, juvenile delinquency cases, child and spousal support matters, and adoption cases.

“We do superior and sometimes miraculous work with the limited resources we have. These are critical issues hitting at the very heart of ‘family,’” she says, “and every single person seeking help from our court is in some type of crisis. Our personnel work really hard to treat all who enter our doors with respect and dignity.” ● ●

## The Rev. Theresa Wyatt, Class of 1989

**HOMETOWN:** Harlem, New York (The Village of Harlem)

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** B.A., pre-medical studies, Sarah Lawrence College; Lawyer's Assistants Program, Adelphi University; Fordham University Graduate School of Business

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOUR WORK:** CUNY Law has inspired me to become a critical thinker. CUNY Law also improved my writing ability and my oratory. It also has made me a better counselor and advocate in my chosen field, the Gospel Ministry.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT:** In my final year at CUNY Law, I taught law classes at two different senior citizen centers in the borough of Queens. It felt so good to see my students apply what they learned in their everyday lives.

**HOW YOU'VE SERVED THE PUBLIC INTEREST:** As an ordained Baptist minister at Christian Universal Temple Baptist Church of Corona, Queens, and as a cabinet officer of two city-wide ministers' conferences, I serve human needs. And ever since I was a girl in the old P.S. 90 in Manhattan, my parents and I have been leaders in helping to shape Harlem as it is known today.

**SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT CUNY LAW:** I will never forget the mission of the Law School and how dedicated the faculty and students were (and still are) to fulfill it.

LINDA DIAZ / CLASS OF 1989

*“I am part of a cadre of intellectually talented attorneys that can withstand the rigors of public interest lawyering and not lose sight of the individuals and communities that we serve.”*

— LINDA DIAZ, STAFF ATTORNEY FOR THE PAST 16 YEARS FOR LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN, INC., A NON-PROFIT LAW FIRM RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR ITS EXPERTISE ADVOCATING FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE.



## From Chinese Politics to Senior Counsel for the NLRB

**JOLYNNE MILLER, CLASS OF 1991.** Jolynne Miller knew she wanted to practice law. But what kind? After graduating with honors from New York University and studying Chinese politics and government at Brown University, she worked in the public information office of the New York State Attorney General. It was satisfying, she says, and she wanted to find a law school. An untraditional one, that is!

As a 12-year-old from a family deeply involved in the labor movement, Jolynne had walked picket lines, joined boycotts, and wore only clothes made in the United States bearing a union label. “I grew up believing in the power of unions and the right of employees to organize,” she says. That interest was sealed at CUNY Law.

“My goal is to continue in public service for years to come. My hope is that my service will be as great as the fulfillment I receive on a daily basis.”

“I was immediately drawn to the School’s mission of training law students for public service. I was intrigued by the way the School’s curriculum integrated traditional legal doctrine with practical experience,” says Jolynne, 49. “And CUNY Law’s emphasis on collaboration appealed to me.”

Since then, unforgettable days have punctuated the life of this Washington, D.C. woman, senior counsel for the National Labor Relations Board. She will never forget the day she personally handed back-pay checks for several thousand dollars to bakery workers who were discharged for engaging in union activity.

She also proudly recalls days when her recommendations to appoint counsel to pro se litigants were adopted by the courts. As an adjunct professor at George Mason University School of Law, she says it has also been rewarding to see students develop communication and legal writing and analytical skills.

Her mother died when she was a child and many of those who raised her have passed on, too. Jolynne’s one regret: “I am sorry that many of them did not live to see my dreams fulfilled.” ●●

## Melva J. Hayden, Class of 1989

**HOMETOWN:** Tuscaloosa, Alabama

**FAMILY HERITAGE:** Southern, African-American

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** Hunter College, B.A. in English literature; Masters of Divinity, New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Jersey; Doctor of Ministry Candidate, Metro Urban Ministry Doctor of Ministry Program, May 2009.

**FIELD OF LAW:** Environmental law

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOU/YOUR WORK:** CUNY Law’s motto has been my credo for practicing law. For me, it is not always about making partner or making money. Rather, it is about giving back to others.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** When I, a single parent, shared with my daughter, family and friends a first for our family—not only the first member of my immediate family to complete college, but the first and only attorney!

**HOW YOU’VE SERVED THE PUBLIC INTEREST:** I have been an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, also known as the “Freedom Church.” I have served as pastor for the past 14 years to an urban AME Zion congregation in Brownsville, Brooklyn. Second, I served from 1996 to 2000 as the first Environmental Justice (EJ) Coordinator in the history of U.S. EPA Region 2 in the early inception of the Agency’s EJ program, seeking to ensure that all communities receive equal environmental protection. Currently and for nearly 20 years, I serve as the EPA Region 2 Title VI Coordinator, and as an Assistant Regional Counsel in New York City.

## ALYSON HINTON MINOTT / CLASS OF 1992

*“CUNY has taught me how to be a people’s lawyer.”*

— ALYSON HINTON MINOTT, 41, WHO REPRESENTS INJURED WORKERS BEFORE THE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION BOARD AND ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES BEFORE THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.



## Nurse, Lawyer, Mother: “It All Connects”

**Junia Mohamed Roc, 68**  
**Class of 1990**

**HOMETOWN:** Aruba, now lives in Jackson Heights, Queens

**FAMILY HERITAGE:** My grandfather was Indian, my mother is from the island of Dominica, and my father is from Surinam.

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** A.A. from what is now New York City Technical College; B.A. from Medgar Evers College.

**FIELD OF LAW:** Administrative Law Judge, New York City Department of Education.

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOU/YOUR WORK:** CUNY Law teaches you to look beyond the four corners of a document, to ask why a kid is stealing, say, a piece of meat and to ask, “Is there some way I can help?” Many other law schools don’t even consider that some kids have very difficult lives at the margin of society. But CUNY Law cares.

**HOW YOU’VE SERVED THE PUBLIC**

**INTEREST:** When the tape recorder is on, I’m a judge. When the tape is off, I am a parent in a room with a child in trouble. If I have saved one child from Rikers Island (New York City jail), I have done my job.

**SOMETHING YOU’LL NEVER FORGET**

**ABOUT CUNY LAW:** I think I was having a mid-life crisis when I went to CUNY Law. But, the school was in my backyard, and I said: “Why not? If I can get in, I will go.” I emerged with a new path and a new direction. I thank CUNY for that every day.

“After CUNY Law, I emerged with a new path and a new direction.”



# In Puerto Rico, Prosecuting Drug Traffickers

**ROSE VEGA, CLASS OF 1992.** Not a day goes by that Rose Vega doesn't bemoan the statistics tied to child murders in Puerto Rico caused by the drug trade.

Though only twice the size of Rhode Island, Puerto Rico's homicide rate is triple that of the United States, Rose says. And there are more murders per capita than in any American state, she notes. Rose prosecutes traffickers and alleged murderers as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. She has worked in Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, since 1999 and from 1992 until then, as an Assistant District Attorney in New York.

"I have been able to prosecute individuals who are the most dangerous to the youngest and oldest in our society," says Rose, raised in Forest Hills, Queens. "New York is one of the greatest cities and Puerto Rico is a beautiful island, but the violence is consuming their beauty and people. I became a prosecutor to help prevent the surge of violent crime and drugs, which have affected the people of both places where I've worked."

In fact, CUNY School of Law got her started. As a student in

the Criminal Defender's Clinic as well as in mediation classes, Rose learned, she says, not only how the justice system impacts defendants, but also how it affects crime victims. "I realized

**"Believe in what you do and stay true to that."**

that, in order to achieve a balanced society, both sides need to work together to obtain a fair and equitable solution."

During those CUNY years, Rose had several chances to interact with Dean Haywood Burns. "We were discussing my future career options and he told me to 'Believe in what you do and stay true to that,' " she says. "I sincerely thank him for those words of wisdom. They've had a major impact on my life and career and truly represent the spirit of CUNY Law." ●●

## Dreadlocks Test the Law

**ROBERT D. ROSE, CLASS OF 1994.** As an Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) Supervisory Trial Attorney, Robert D. Rose argues on behalf of people whose civil rights have been denied. His latest case landed him in *The New York Times*. At issue: whether four security guards who work for the Grand Central Partnership in New York City have to cut their dreadlocks or tuck them under their uniform caps.

The men, represented by Rose, 43, say their civil and religious rights as Rastafarians are violated if they are forced to cut their hair or try to tuck it under their cap, as the partnership demands.

Bob was quoted in the *Times* after the case was filed in mid-September. Rastafarian beliefs ordain that men cannot cut their hair, and the guards' hair is several years' long, Bob said. "It would be hard to imagine that amount of hair sitting under a baseball cap," he told the *Times*. Bob added that the four employees had asked that they be allowed to wear their long dreadlocks tied behind their backs because they could not pin all the hair under their hats.

Meanwhile, CUNY Law, Bob says, "has meant a lot to me. The legal education I received prepared me very well for the struggles faced by civil rights attorneys. The broader experience of spending three years in such a diverse, activist community has strongly influenced me in many other ways. CUNY Law also has provided a wonderful trove of life-long friends."

His proudest moment: "Being able to pull it all together in a long closing argument in a sexual harassment case on behalf of 13 young women who suffered awful physical and verbal harassment after six years of hotly contested litigation, and having the jury return a verdict for us on all counts, including an award of punitive damages." ●●

## Ellen Rosenberg, Class of 1993

**HOMETOWN:** Brooklyn

**FAMILY HERITAGE:** Eastern-European

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** M.S.W. in social work

**FIELD OF LAW:** Family law

**WHY YOU ATTENDED CUNY LAW:** I was committed to developing legal skills in order to be better equipped to participate in efforts and struggles for social change and justice.

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOU/YOUR WORK:** As a family court practitioner, the skills I learned at CUNY, as a counselor, advocate and litigator, are an integral part of my daily practice. They also motivate and inspire me to continue to believe that, in spite of obstacles, the legal system remains the strongest vehicle for systemic social reform.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** I obtained a series of trial court decisions, later upheld on appeal, on behalf of a battered immigrant woman who, after protracted and extensive litigation, obtained a final order of protection and sole custody of her son in spite of the ruthless tactics used by her wealthy husband to thwart her efforts to break free from his violence and control.

**SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT CUNY LAW:** The opportunity to participate in and represent battered immigrant domestic violence survivors by participating in and learning from the amazing faculty of the Battered Women's/Immigrants' Rights Clinics.

## An Award-Winning Attorney in International Adoptions

**LISA ANNE (RUDY) OLNEY, CLASS OF 1996.** Russia. Lithuania. The Republic of Georgia. Kazakhstan. Vietnam. Colombia. Guatemala. Lisa Anne Olney has seen them all.

Even tougher, she's seen the orphanages inside these nations. "I have seen children that desperately need loving families. There is a real human need in many countries for orphaned children, and I feel like I have made a difference in the lives of not only the children I have placed but the families that adopt them," she says. "It's a win-win situation for all."

Lisa Anne, 44, initially thought, during her studies at CUNY School of Law, that she might enjoy legal work as a guardian *ad litem* representing children in abuse cases. But the work she took on in the summer of 1994, in Brooklyn, New York, was emotionally devastating. She turned to a CUNY Law professor for advice.

Her Lawyering Seminar professor suggested adoption as a path. Until 1999, Lisa Anne worked for a private firm, then set up her own international adoption agency. She has since found homes for more than 1,000 children.

In 2000, she received the Congressional Coalition on Adoption "Angel in Adoption Award." In addition, her own family of four children with husband David was formed through international adoptions.

Recognizing that good families come from all income strata and that adoption is the only means for many children to find a permanent home, Lisa Anne, who lives in Myersville, Maryland, has established a grant program to help families adopting older and special needs children. And she has handled dozens of cases *pro bono*.

"Some of the best parents could not afford the cost of an international or domestic adoption," she says. "Being able to do one or two adoptions each year for families of limited means and need is a way I can serve the public interest." ● ●

**TRACEY BING-HAMPSON / CLASS OF 1996**

*"It's my privilege to work with low-income communities of color in New York City."*

— TRACEY BING-HAMPSON, DIRECTOR OF THE FAMILY LAW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT FOR MANHATTAN LEGAL SERVICES. SHE RECEIVED AN OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD FOR HIV COMMUNITY WORK IN 2002.

**JARIBU HILL / CLASS OF 1996**



**AGE:** 59

**HOMETOWN:** Born in Anderson, Indiana; raised in Cleveland, Ohio.

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** B.A. in English, Central State University

**FIELD OF LAW:** Civil and human rights

**WHY YOU ATTENDED CUNY LAW:** My mentor/brother Haywood Burns urged me to come to CUNY Law because of my activist background in the fields of civil and human rights. I also was drawn to CUNY because of its mission, which proved to be a perfect match with my own vision and sense of purpose.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** Winning a permanent injunction against the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of South Carolina in June, 2000. The order contained strong language including the promise of incarceration if members of the Klan violated conditions set forth in the Court's order.

**HOW YOU'VE SERVED THE PUBLIC INTEREST:** I began my legal career as a Skadden Fellow in Mississippi focusing on housing and workers' rights. I worked in African-American and poor communities to address race discrimination and a lack of government accountability. I organized with community leaders to address racial hostility in workplaces and slum housing conditions across the state. I founded the Southern Human Rights Organizers' Conference, which still works to address human rights abuses in the South. I also have advocated for children forced to attend sub-standard Jim Crow schools in the 21st century. I am the founder of the Mississippi Workers' Center for Human Rights, located in Greenville and Jackson, Mississippi.



# Fighting for Homes for the Mentally Ill

**CRAIG ACORN, CLASS OF 2000.** Craig Acorn calls it “Poverty-Plus.” And it’s the kind of law he says he practices on behalf of impoverished people who live with serious psychiatric illnesses.

“CUNY helped me become responsible for the fact that the law works differently for those without power than it does for those who have it,” says the 50-year-old Bay Area resident born in New York City and raised in Tucson, Arizona.

Although it took him several decades to earn his bachelor’s degree from the University of Arizona while complications of life intervened, Craig has worked for eight years on a broad array of civil rights and poverty issues in the highest and lowest courts in the land, both as a direct legal services lawyer and as an advocate for systemic change.

He has represented litigants in housing court as they faced evictions and in administrative proceedings to restore their public benefits. He’s also brought cases on behalf of people who were discriminated against in employment and housing based on their criminal history. He’s advocated to improve police

practices toward people in psychiatric crisis and on behalf of individuals involuntarily held in the mental health system.

Indeed, he says his proudest moment as a lawyer came when he argued in Federal Court in New York in a large class action lawsuit on behalf of SSI recipients who were discontinued from receiving food stamps. The judge ordered the parties into mediation while granting immediate relief to stop further harm. Though obtaining retroactive relief took several years, “we ultimately benefited tens of thousands of people,” Craig says.

First-generation Cuban on his mother’s side and “Nth”-generation New Englander on his father’s, Craig says the choice to attend CUNY Law was a great one. “CUNY seemed to understand that my history of addiction and recovery could inform my ability to connect with and serve those most in need of legal services. I recall with deep affection the true camaraderie of my classmates. We understood that we were part of a special tradition of people genuinely striving for conscious and conscientious service.” ● ●

LISA HILLARY FIDEL / CLASS OF 1997

*“I was able to prove that a woman being held against her will was competent to stand trial and be released from the forensic psychiatric center.”*

— LISA HILLARY FIDEL, 36, ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY, MENTAL HYGIENE LEGAL SERVICE, AN AGENCY OF THE APPELLATE DIVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT, 2ND DEPARTMENT IN NEW YORK CITY THAT REPRESENTS PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

MICHAEL TOBMAN / CLASS OF 1998



AGE: 35

**FIELD OF LAW:** Legislative law and lobbying; political consulting and public relations.

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOU/YOUR WORK:** Being a lawyer matters. It focuses writing, tightens arguments and informs a perspective that simultaneously embraces ideology, the facts on the ground and the changes you can realistically bring about.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** There are three: serving as Sen. Charles Schumer’s liaison to New York’s 9/11 families; standing with two close friends and colleagues in the state capitol in 2006 and making a deal for \$600 million in annual tax credits for families with school-age children; and saying “no” to Eliot Spitzer when something he proposed really wasn’t a good idea.



## Colombian Immigrant Fights for Immigrants

**Mercedes Cano, 54**  
**Class of 1999**

**HOMETOWN:** Colombia, South America

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** B.A. in English Literature, Queens College, *summa cum laude*.

**FIELD OF LAW:** Immigration and criminal defense, solo practitioner.

**WHY YOU ATTENDED CUNY LAW:** Being an immigrant in this country, I felt CUNY Law was the only school that stood for my principles. I have become an attorney serving a community of immigrant people with scarce resources in the U.S.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** During the summer of 2000, I opened a community center in Jackson Heights that helped more than 1,700 people to find legal answers to their problems.

**HOW YOU'VE SERVED THE PUBLIC**

**INTEREST:** I enjoy organizing and participating in marches, whether in Washington D.C. or New York City, to demand civil rights. Also, by informing groups and families of their rights and obligations in the legal system, they gain confidence to fight injustices. Their gratitude brings me great joy and satisfaction.

**SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT**

**CUNY LAW:** After listening to many first-year students describe how difficult law school could be, I will never forget that CUNY Law welcomed me with the Third World Program for minorities pursuing law school. The support and knowledge this program offered reassured me that I had the potential to become a lawyer. CUNY Law School was the perfect program for me.

“By informing groups and families of their rights and obligations in the legal system, they gain confidence to fight injustices. Their gratitude brings me great joy and satisfaction.”



MAE WATSON-GROTE / CLASS OF 1998



*"CUNY Law inspired me to think about innovative ways I could combine law with finances to help low-income New Yorkers."*

— MAE WATSON-GROTE, FOUNDER OF THE FINANCIAL CLINIC, A NON-PROFIT FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION IN MANHATTAN DEVOTED TO HELPING IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC SECURITY OF "WORKING POOR" FAMILIES.

## Ian F. Hinonangan, 32, Class of 2002

**HOMETOWN:** Jersey City, New Jersey

**FAMILY HERITAGE:** Filipino

**FIELD OF LAW:** Solo practice specializing in criminal and deportation defense

**WHY YOU ATTENDED CUNY LAW:** Its commitment to the empowerment of immigrant and Third World communities in the U.S.

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOU/YOUR WORK:** CUNY's commitment to law in the service of human needs guided my solo practice's motto of "Actualizing human and capital needs through the legalization of undocumented individuals and home ownership for immigrants."

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** When I am able to sit across from a client during consultation and just listen. Many people just need to be heard in a system that mutes the weight of their needs.

**SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT CUNY LAW:** Its vigilance in teaching students of color like me how to challenge unjust systems of power and offer alternatives . . . When we challenge any and all institutions, including CUNY Law, we will always be met with strong resistance by the powers that be.

## Migrant Farm Workers Get a Kansas Native's Help

**MOLLY GRAVER, CLASS OF 2001.** From Overland Park, Kansas to Davidson College in North Carolina to the U.S.-Mexico border to work with Las Americas Refugee Asylum Project to El Salvador to join a women's human rights collective, Molly Graver has, for years, had solidarity and transformative justice on her mind.

Yet her sharp instincts about how to realize those commitments in a legal context were galvanized at CUNY School of Law. "CUNY encouraged me to look at the law and the legal system through a particular lens, asking a particular set of questions in order to sharpen my 'view.' How does the law affect the marginalized? How does it encourage solidarity? How does the particular advocacy I'm doing fit into the larger scheme of integral justice I'm envisioning and towards which I'm working? I continue to engage in the critical analysis that these questions provoke."

Molly, 40, earned her B.A. in religion *magna cum laude*, at Davidson College, and an M.A. in Theological Studies and Justice and Peace Studies at Maryknoll School of Theology in New York. After graduating from CUNY Law, she clerked as a staff attorney at the New York State Court of Appeals, did policy work with a humanitarian organization, and now works with Farmworker Legal Services of New York in Rochester.

Victories have been many, but one, in particular, sticks in her mind. After representing migrant farm workers in a case

where the workers won damages for exposure to pesticides and for not receiving wages for all hours worked, Molly was visited a year later by one of the plaintiffs, a woman originally from Oaxaca, Mexico.

*"I wanted to study law in a school where professors employed critical pedagogies and inclusive methodologies and where creative and in-depth analysis was encouraged."*

"She told me that, in her new workplace, she and other workers organized around violations they were experiencing and successfully demanded changes," Molly recalls. "Her sense of empowerment and her strong convictions were deeply encouraging to me."

That, she says, is what she seeks in every case: a shared commitment with her clients that, together, they can subvert injustices and move toward justice.



## Losing Mom on 9/11 Inspired Her Law Study

**Paula Griffith Edgar, 31**  
**Class of 2006**

**HOMETOWN:** Born in East New York, Brooklyn; now lives in Clinton Hill.

**EDUCATION BEFORE CUNY LAW:** B.A. in anthropology from California State University/Fullerton

**FIELD OF LAW:** Executive Director of Practicing Attorneys for Law Students Program Inc. (PALS), which provides mentoring and career and skills development to minority law students and new lawyers from the 13 law schools in the New York City area.

**WHY YOU ATTENDED CUNY LAW:** After 9/11, I realized how much our family relied on the lawyers who helped us. I felt I needed to learn the skills of an attorney. But CUNY Law was the only school I visited where I felt there was genuine commitment to my success. When I toured the school with a third-year law student on a Sunday, I was struck by her devotion to the school and her willingness to show me around even though she was getting ready for final exams.

**YOUR PROUDEST MOMENT AS A LAWYER:** Attending the Bar admission ceremony with my father and husband. Graduation, too!

**HOW CUNY LAW HAS SHAPED YOU/YOUR WORK:** The dedication of faculty to students of color, and their perseverance in giving back and building the Law School's Pipeline for Justice has been instrumental in my current work.

**SOMETHING YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT CUNY LAW:** I'll never forget the intensity of the lawyering curriculum or the relationships that I have formed with fellow students, professors and staff.

“After 9/11, I realized how much our family relied on the lawyers who helped us. I felt I needed to learn the skills of an attorney.”



RACHEL SPECTOR / CLASS OF 2007



*"CUNY Law taught me to respect my clients above all else, and never to simply accept the state of the law as it is."*

E. MICHELLE ANDREWS / CLASS OF 2005

*"I will never forget the wonderful, diverse, and supportive student body. I learned a lot from my classmates, who brought such different experiences (cultures, prior work experiences, etc.) to the school."*

— E. MICHELLE ANDREWS, 35, A HOUSING ATTORNEY AT NORTHERN MANHATTAN IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION.

## New Graduate Proudly Starts Clerkship

**MOLLY TIMKO, CLASS OF 2008.** In her life Molly Timko has made sure to make virtually every minute count, and nowhere more so than at CUNY School of Law.

While still a student, she volunteered as a constitutional debate coach for New York City high school students at Legal Outreach in Brooklyn. She taught an SAT prep course for New York City students at the Urban Dove, a non-profit organization in Manhattan. And she served for two years as the law student liaison for the ABA Division for Public Education, which promotes public understanding of law and its role in society.

The mission of CUNY Law, she says, complemented her personal and professional goals. "CUNY cares so much about advocacy, but the education is also pragmatic and skills-based. That's what excited me." So did the opportunities for

practicing law and helping others in New York City.

In fact, law wasn't her first love. Molly, 28, took her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from SUNY at Buffalo, in anthropology and art history, and her M.S. from

Canisius College, Buffalo, in college student personnel administration. While in graduate school, she studied higher education and social reform in Pretoria, South Africa, and was an undergraduate international and transfer student admissions counselor in Buffalo.

She recently started a two-year clerk-

ship with the Central Legal Research Staff of the New York State Court of Appeals.

All the preparatory work she's done is going to come together soon enough, she says. She hopes to pursue a career in education law focused on diversity

**"CUNY cares so much about advocacy, but the education is also pragmatic and skills-based."**

and equity issues in higher and special education. Each piece of that dream, she says, was shaped along the paths she's taken as a student.

Hard work and patience. Determination and persistence. "CUNY Law," she says, "put the wheels in motion." ●●

For more alum profiles, visit: [www.law.cuny.edu/25years](http://www.law.cuny.edu/25years)

# Fall 2008 CUNY Law Magazine: Alumni Notes

1986

**ANN NOWAK** is the new Director of the Writing Resources Center at Touro Law Center. She can be contacted by classmates at [anowak@tourolaw.edu](mailto:anowak@tourolaw.edu).

1987

**PARIS R. BALDACCI**, clinical law professor at Cardozo Law School, announces two recent publications, "A Full and Fair Hearing: The Role of the Administrative Law Judge in Assisting the Pro Se Litigant," 27 *J. National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary* 445 (2007), and "Protecting Gay and Lesbian Families from Eviction from their Homes: The Quest for Equality for Gay and Lesbian Families in *Braschi v. Stahl Associates*," 13 *Tex. Wesleyan U. L.Rev.* 619 (2007).

**JOSE CRUZ** is in the New York City Leadership Academy Aspiring Principals Program, after working as a high school assistant principal during the last seven years. He also practices law part time, doing mostly pro bono work.

**HON. DORIS M. GONZALEZ** was elected to the Bronx County Civil Court. She has been sitting on the Criminal Court of Bronx County for the last two years.



**EDWARD PITTS** has been selected as a Social Security Law Judge in St. Louis, MO. He has closed his private practice representing injured workers in Syracuse, N.Y. He is currently in training and will begin hearing cases in September.

**CAROL TUROWSKI** has been appointed Director of the Wake Forest University

School of Law Innocence Project. Carol will teach a Consumer Protection Law course as an adjunct professor in the fall.

1988

**VICTORIA ORTIZ** is now the Assistant Dean of Student Services and Director of Admissions at the University of California, Irvine School of Law. Ortiz has been involved in the Freedom School summer and after-school program in Mississippi and the student services department at CUNY Law.

1989

**LINDA M. DIAZ** continues her work as a staff attorney at Lawyers for Children, Inc. She is also co-chair of the LGBTQ project that focuses on advocating on behalf of LGBTQ youth. She recently moderated a LGBTQ panel at the Practicing Law Institute entitled, "Best Practices in Representing and Serving LGBTQ Youth in the Juvenile Justice and Foster Care Systems."

1991

**JEFFREY REED** continues to manage the Olean, N.Y. office of Southern Tier Legal Services, a division of Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. The staff includes two CUNY alumni. Jessica Anderson, 2001, is the family law supervising attorney and Jim Gildersleeve, 1993, is the housing attorney for Cattaraugus County.



**MARISA STEFFERS** traveled in February to Louisville, Kentucky, where her 10-year-old son, Jude Ali, met his namesake and hero, Muhammad Ali.



**STEPHANIE WILSON** and her partner, **PATRICIA NOVOTNY**, are the adoptive parents of Atticus John Wilson Novotny, born on May 9. Stephanie was recently promoted to Head of Reference Services at Seattle University Law Library.

1992

**AMANDA DEMERS** has begun work at Axiom, a new model professional services firm focused on the high-end legal market. Amanda previously served as Vice President of Merrill Lynch's CMBS Origination Group.

1993

**DAVID HYLAND** left MTA/NYC Transit to start a private practice as a labor and employment arbitrator/mediator. He recently began hearing disciplinary cases in the transportation industry and, since late 2007, has served on the advisory board of Cornell University's Scheinman Institute for Conflict Resolution. He and his partner, Peter, live in the Flatiron District.

1994

As of August 15, **ERIC MILGRIM** serves as the Nassau County Public Administrator.

1995

**HARLENE KATZMAN** has left her position as Dean of the Center for Public Interest Law at Columbia Law School to become Pro Bono Counsel at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. Harlene recently gave birth to her second child, Sadie, in June. Sadie joins big brother, Reuben, born in 2006.



**ROSINA TAFFURI** has been appointed the Deputy Chief Court Counsel of the New York City Family Court.

## 1996

**CHRIS FANNING** and **THERESA HUGHES** (1995), are pleased to announce the opening of their real estate brokerage company, Good Deed Homes. The website can be viewed at [gooddeedhomes.com](http://gooddeedhomes.com). Any alum interested in renting office space in Manhasset, N.Y. is welcome to contact them.

The law firm of McConaughay, Duffy, Coonrod, Pope & Weaver, Penn. is pleased to announce the addition of a new partner, **JOSEPH J. DISPALDO**, of Miami, Florida. Mr. DiSpaldo joined the firm in July 2002 and began practicing in the Ft. Lauderdale/Miami area in March 2005. He manages the firm's Miami office and practices in the area of workers' compensation defense.

## 1997

**LISA APPEL** was married to Scott Fidel on September 30, 2007 in Nantucket, Mass. and is now called Lisa Fidel. She and her husband reside in Manhattan.

**ROBERT MURRAY** recently celebrated his 80th birthday and the publication of his autobiography entitled, *Blind Man's Bluff*. Upon his retirement from teaching and public office, he entered CUNY School of Law. Admitted to the N.J. Bar in 1997, he practices in Monmouth County, concentrating on criminal defense.



**AMY VASQUEZ** and husband, **PETE FIORENTINO, ESQ.**, announce the arrival of their first child on June 5, Marcella "Marcy" Katelyn Fiorentino. Amy has been

appointed Chairperson to the New Jersey State Bar Association's Children's Rights Committee. She also represents foster children in four N.J. counties.

**NICOLE RENE ATCHISON** is now a member of the Boston Pops Gospel Choir. You can visit their website at [www.bostonpops.org](http://www.bostonpops.org).

## 1998

**SANDRA BERNARD STINES** gave birth to a baby boy on November 2, 2007, joining a 4 1/2-year-old sister. Sandra is a law guardian in Nassau County.



**KEVIN K. TUNG**, founder of Kevin Kerveng Tung, announces the relocation of his practice to a newly developed office building in the center of downtown Flushing, the Queens Crossing Business Center. Please visit [www.kktlawfirm.com](http://www.kktlawfirm.com) for more information.

## 1999

**RACHEL HAYNES PINSKER** gave birth to her second son, Aiden Michael, on July 30th.

**PEGGY ROMAN-JACOBSON** has accepted a position as the Legal Director for the HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA). She also litigates cases involving HIV/AIDS discrimination in employment, places of public accommodation, and denial of medical access.

**CONNIE WALSH** was promoted to Deputy Director of the Holocaust Claims Processing Office (HCPO) of the New York State Banking Department. HCPO is the only governmental agency to assist individuals free of charge seeking to recover Holocaust-era looted assets.



## 2000

In January, **TINA BENNET** opened her own law practice focusing on Father's Rights litigation. She will also continue with her criminal defense practice in North Syracuse, N.Y. Last year, she ran for District Attorney of Onondaga County garnering 40 percent of the votes.

**TARA CALLAHAN BURKE** announces the birth of her first child, Shamus Joseph Burke, on November 4, 2007.

Bill Flynn shares that **HALLIE GAINES**, 2000, has joined the staff at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley in Newburgh, N.Y. as the IOLA Staff Attorney. Hallie is in a general practice unit that covers a variety of legal representation from housing and family law to special education, with an emphasis on representing people with disabilities.

**KIMBERLY JONES** is a visiting assistant professor in International Affairs and Middle East Studies at Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. She will also serve as head advisor for International Affairs. She and her husband recently relocated to Rockport, Mass. Kimberly has also just published a book, co-authored with Denis Sullivan, entitled, *Global Security Watch—Egypt*.

## 2001

**JESSICA ANDERSON** is a Supervising Attorney for Southern Tier Legal Services in Olean, N.Y. She has also purchased a house there.

**NATHANIEL R. PUFFER** is now managing attorney at New Mexico Legal Aid in Las Vegas, N.M.

## 2002

**KIRK LUND** is currently working with a non-profit, non-partisan organization called Citizens For Election Integrity—Minnesota (CEI-MN) ([www.ceimn.org](http://www.ceimn.org)), as well as handling a small freelance caseload.

## 2003

**LIA FIOL-MATTA** began work as General Counsel of Local 100 UNITE HERE in January. Local 100 represents approximately 7,500 food and beverage service workers who work at various venues in New York and New Jersey.

**ALEXANDRA PATINO** has been named Executive Director for the new Queens Family Justice Center in Kew Gardens, N.Y. and was featured in a story in *The Queens Courier*.

## 2004

**IRMA E. DOMINGUEZ** and her husband, **JOHN VOLPE**, welcomed their son, Antonio E. Dominguez-Volpe, born on June 26. Irma continues as the Director of the Justice Project, providing legal representation to indigent victims of domestic violence. Additionally, she has begun her private practice in the area of family and immigration law.

**CAROLINA GUACCI** recently accepted a position teaching in the Children and Youth Law Clinic at the University of Miami School of Law.

**JASON DOUGLAS HOGE** is currently the lead counsel for the Monroe County Legal Assistance Center (MCLAC) Re-Entry Project in Rochester, N.Y. where he enforces the employment and civil rights of persons formerly convicted of crimes in state administrative agencies and state and federal court. Jason was awarded the first annual Mackey Award for Excellence in Training and has been nominated for the 2008 NYSBA Dennison Ray Award.

**KRIS J. KRAUS** won an appeal in June before the Ninth Circuit. See 528 F.3d 1146.

**BENJAMIN M. MASTAITIS** is an associate with the firm of Read and Laniado, LLP in Albany, N.Y. where he practices energy and environmental law. Katherine L. (Doyle) Mastaitis (2004) is an attorney with the Legal-Aid Society of Northeastern New York. Kate works primarily in the Warren County Family Court representing clients charged with child neglect and abuse and also represents clients in child custody proceedings. Ben and Kate live near Saratoga, New York with their one-year-old daughter, Eleanor.



**SHAUN CULLINANE MOLLIKA** announces the birth of her son, Nate Nicolas, on February 8.

**SUSANNA SAUL** recently returned after traveling for three months in Peru, Chile, and Bolivia. She is now working at inMotion, Inc.'s Bronx office on Violence Against Women Act cases and other domestic violence and family law issues. She feels lucky to work with CUNY alums, Adelina Herrarte, 2004, and Azalea Carlea, 2002.

## 2005

**JANICE PERETZMAN** began working in the Family Court Bureau of Nassau County Legal Aid in June.

**MARY BETH STAFFORD** had a boy, named William Stafford, on April 10, 2007.

**GIOVANNA TUTTOLOMONDO** is pleased to announce the establishment of Alton, Toksoy & Tuttolomondo, P.C., a practice focusing on no-fault collections and real estate.

## 2006

Upon completion of a two-year clerkship with the New York State Appellate

Division, Second Department, **JOTA BORG-MANN** begins work as a staff attorney at MFY Legal Services, Inc. in its Adult Home Advocacy Project.

**YASEMIN EKICI** has opened up her own practice in Manhattan. She practices matrimonial and family law, immigration, and business transactions.

**JOCELYN GREENE** has been employed by Dress for Success Worldwide as the Queens Program Coordinator, since March 2006.

**MARINA MEYEROVICH** continues working at Christophe & Associates, P.C., as an Associate Attorney focusing on asylum cases and defense from deportation/removal.

In June, **LETISHA MILLER** joined Allstate Insurance Company as staff counsel. Her office represents insureds in New York, Kings, and Richmond Counties with the Law Offices of Robert P. Tusa.

**JOHN ORCUTT** has been promoted to the position of Assistant Borough Chief of the Manhattan Borough Office of the City of New York Law Department. In September 2007, due to a severe shortage of experienced pre-trial attorneys in the Manhattan office, John volunteered to leave the Bronx Tort office to join the Manhattan Tort office.

**LINDSAY PARKER** continues working as an attorney for the National Labor Relations Board but has moved back to California and transferred to the Los Angeles office. She got married in September.

## 2007

**KIRSTEN FENIK** has joined the firm of Weiss, Buell & Bell as an associate handling probate and estate administration matters.

**LEISETTE RODRIGUEZ** was recently elected to serve as a board member of the Tom Homann Law Association of the San Diego County Bar Association for LGBT attorneys and interests. ●●



# Fall 2008 CUNY Law Magazine: Faculty Notes

**MICHELLE J. ANDERSON** was an invited participant at the Stanford Law/Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Legal Education Study Project in December 2007.

Michelle received the Susan Rosenberg Zalk Award from *The Feminist Press* in November 2007.

**PENNY ANDREWS'** comment, "Big Love? The Recognition of Customary Marriages in South Africa," was published in the Fall 2007 issue of *Washington & Lee Law Review*.

Penny was a panelist at the *Law & Society Conference* in Berlin in the summer of 2007. Penny was a chair and discussant in "Racism and Racial Minorities in Democratic States" and "Comparative Constitutional Borrowing Among the Juristocracy."

Penny presented at three sessions of the *AALS Conference on Constitutional Law*: "Non-U.S. Sources on the Changing Court," "Constitutionalism Around the World," and "Alternative Constitutionalisms."

**MARIA ARIAS** was a panelist at the *Law as a Healing Profession Conference* at Touro Law in November 2007.

**SAMEER ASHAR** presented a paper, "Law, Social Control, and Mobilization: The Case of Immigration Enforcement," at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association in Montreal, Canada in May.

Earlier that month, Sameer co-facilitated with Sue Bryant and faculty from three other schools a concurrent session on social justice legal education reform at the *AALS Clinical Teachers Conference* in Tucson.

Sameer's article, "Law Clinics and Collective Mobilization," was published in

the Spring 2008 issue of the *Clinical Law Review*. Sameer presented that article as part of the faculty speaker series at American University, Washington College of Law in February.

**WENDY BACH** moderated a New York City Bar panel entitled, "Conditional Cash Transfer Programs: Poverty Reduction Efforts in New York City and Beyond," in her capacity as chair of the Social Welfare Law Committee of the City Bar.



Associate Dean Mary Lu Bilek

**MARY LU BILEK** presented at the June 2008 *Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors' 36th Annual Conference* at Cornell on "Affordable, Accessible, Accredited, Alternative Law School Approaches to Legal Education."

In March, she presented at a conference, *Improving the Bar Pass Rate Through Legal Pedagogy and the Law School Curriculum*, in Baltimore.

In February, Mary Lu presented at the *International Conference on the Future of*

*Legal Education*, "Outside the Box: Creating New Law Schools," in Atlanta.

In January, Mary Lu presented at the *New York State Bar Association Annual Meeting, Committee on Minorities in the Profession*, "Best Practices in Pipeline Diversity."

Mary Lu was an invited participant at the Stanford Law/Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Legal Education Study Project in December 2007.

In November 2007, Mary Lu presented at the *National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism Annual Conference* in Atlanta on "Orienting Law Students to the Development of an Integrated Professional Identity."

Also in November, Mary Lu was an invited participant at the *Legal Education at the Crossroads Conference* in Columbia, South Carolina.

Mary Lu was named a 2007 Fellow of the National Institute for Teaching Ethics and Professionalism.

**BERYL BLAUSTONE** was one of two American keynotes at the *International Clinical Conference* in Cork, Ireland last summer. Beryl received accolades from the "Best Practices in Legal Education" blog for the presentation.

Northumbria University in the United Kingdom conferred the three-year title of Visiting Professor of Learning and Teaching on Beryl. In October she gave an inaugural address there and worked with the law school's faculty.

**CAITLIN BORGMANN** was a panelist at the *Law and Society Annual Meeting* in Montreal in May and June. She participated in panels on "The Place of Reproduction in the Law School Curriculum" and "Reproducing Inequality: Law, Procreation, and Parenting in the 21st Century."

Caitlin participated in a roundtable discussion on Reproductive Justice at Stanford Law in May.

Caitlin presented a paper on legislative fact-finding and the regulation of abortion procedures at a *Brooklyn Law symposium*, "The 'Partial-Birth Abortion' Ban: Health Care in the Shadow of Criminal Liability," in March.

Caitlin spoke about equality and reproductive rights at a *South Carolina Law Review Symposium*, "The Roberts Court and Equal Protection: Gender, Race, and Class," in February.

**REBECCA BRATSPIES** was a participant at the *University of Pittsburgh Socio-legal Methods in International Law Workshop* in September.

Rebecca's latest book, *Progress in International Law*, was released by Martin U.S. Nijhoff Publishers in Spring 2008. The book, which Rebecca co-edited with Russell Miller of Washington & Lee, is a comprehensive accounting of international law.

Rebecca chaired a panel on "Biotechnology, Science and Ethics" at Drake Summer Institute in Intellectual Property, Biotechnology and Agriculture in May.

Rebecca presented an invited paper at the *2008 American Society of International Law Annual Meeting* in April, presented her work at a *St. John's Law Faculty Forum* in March, and presented an invited paper at the *2008 AALS Annual Meeting* in January.

Rebecca's earlier book, *Transboundary Harm in International Law: Lessons from the Trail Smelter Arbitration*, was reviewed for the *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* by Stepan Wood and for the *American Journal of International Law* by Jutta Brunnée of the University of Toronto, one of the world's foremost scholars on international law.

Rebecca's article, "The New Discovery Doctrine: Some Thoughts on Property Rights and Traditional Knowledge," was published by the *American Indian Law*

*Review* in 2007. Her article, "The American Approach to Regulating Genetically Modified Organisms," was published in the *Kansas Journal of Law & Public Policy* in 2007, and her article, "Rethinking Decision-making in International Environmental Law: A Process-Oriented Inquiry into Sustainable Development," was published in the *Yale Journal of International Law* in Summer 2007.

Her book chapter, "Can Transgenic Fish Save Fisheries?" also came out in *Globalization: Effects on Fisheries Resources* (Taylor, Wolfson, & Schechter eds.) in Spring 2008. The book was published by Cambridge University Press, and her book chapter, "Farming the Genetically Modified Seas—The Perils and Promise of Transgenic Aquaculture," was published in August 2008 in *The International Governance of Fisheries Ecosystems: Learning From The Past, Finding Solutions for The Future* (Taylor, Schechter & Leonard, eds.).

Rebecca spoke at a conference on law, ethics, and the life sciences at the University of Louisville in October 2007.

**SUE BRYANT** taught in two programs for clinical teachers last summer. In June, she was on the faculty of the Georgetown University Summer Institute, a program for mid-career clinical teachers. In July, she participated as faculty in a Clinical Legal Education Workshop sponsored by American University, Washington College of Law in Hangzhou, China with 25 Chinese clinical law professors who are designing clinical programs in China.

Sue also conducted several trainings for legal services lawyers on best practices for cross-cultural and cross-lingual lawyering. The trainings were at the National Legal Aid and Defender Association in Tucson in November and for New York City Legal Services in February and March.

Sue appeared as a panelist with Sameer Ashar at the *2008 AALS Clinical Teachers Conference* in Tucson. She

participated in a program focused on the role clinical teachers can play in incorporating social justice issues into the broader curriculum.

Sue also was featured in the April 2008 issue of the PSC-CUNY's newsletter, *The Clarion*, regarding the improvement of legal education at CUNY and the *Carnegie Report*.

Sue was an invited participant at the Stanford Law/Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Legal Education Study Project in December 2007.

Sue was a panelist at the *Law as a Healing Profession Conference* at Touro Law in November 2007.

Sue's article, "Rounds: A Signature Pedagogy for Clinical Education," co-authored with Elliott Milstein, was published in the Fall 2007 *Clinical Law Review*.

**ANGELA BURTON** was appointed to the New York State Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. The Commission is chaired by Judith S. Kaye, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, and its members include judges, lawyers, physicians, legislators, and state and local officials.

In November 2007, CUNY Law co-sponsored, with the Children's Studies Center of Brooklyn College, a conference entitled, *Child Policy Forum of New York: The Campaign for United States Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Angela presented opening remarks entitled, "International Law in the Service of the Needs of Children and Youth." She also serves on the Executive Committee and core planning group of the new CUNY Children's Studies Institute for Research, Policy and Public Service.

Angela authored a chapter on Judge Fritz Alexander, II, in the book, *Judges of the New York Court of Appeals: A Biographical History* (Rosenblatt ed.) published in October 2007.



**JANET CALVO'S** latest work, "The Consequences of Restricted Health Care Access for Immigrants: Lessons from Medicaid and SCHIP," was published in the *Annals of Health Law* this year.

In November 2007, Janet presented at Valparaiso Law on how immigration impacts American labor, the economy, and the sociopolitical landscape.

**RHONDA COPELON** was awarded the Women's Medical Fund's 2008 Rosie Jimenez Award at its Annual Reception in May.

Rhonda's article, "Human Rights Begins at Birth: International Law and the Claim of Fetal Rights," was published in *Reproductive Health Matters*. The article was co-authored with two IWHR interns, Elizabeth Brusie and Jackie DeVore, and Christina Zampas of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Rhonda was a panelist at the *Law & Society Conference* in Berlin in the summer of 2007 on "Gender, Violence and Human Rights."

Rhonda was awarded a PSC-CUNY grant for a project entitled, "Universalizing Justice: Essays in Gender and International Law."

**FRANK DEALE** was a panelist on the GritTV with Laura Flanders TV Show in June discussing the 2007-2008 U.S. Supreme Court Term.

**PAMELA EDWARDS** presented at the June 2008 *Northeast Association of Pre-Law Advisors' Conference* at Cornell on "What Pre-Law Advisors Should Know When Counseling Students of Color About Law School."

At the *LSAC Annual Meeting* in May, Pamela presented and co-developed a panel entitled, "So They Want to Be Law Students: Warning Signs for Admissions Officers." Assistant Dean Yvonne Cherena-Pacheco was a moderator and also a presenter on the panel.

At the *Western Law Teachers of Color/CAPALF Conference* in April, Pamela

presented on "Critical Contracts," which addressed techniques for incorporating different perspectives into the large law school classroom.

Pamela presented "Critical Pedagogy: The Law School Classroom and Beyond" at the *SALT Teaching Conference* in March.

Pamela started off 2008 in January as a panelist on "Diversity in the Legal Profession" at the Nassau County Bar Association.

**JULIE GOLDSCHIED** gave two presentations at the May 2008 *Law & Society Meeting* in Montreal: "She Was Terminated Because of His Threats: Gender Violence And Sex Discrimination Law" and "Workplace Domestic Violence Policies, Corporate Cultures, and Employer Liability: Navigating the Boundaries."

Julie was an invited participant in a March 2008 meeting convened by the Hon. Roy McMurtry in connection with his review of Ontario's crime victim compensation program.

Julie was the subject of a full-page feature in the *ABA Commission on Domestic Violence* Spring 2008 newsletter.

In September 2007, Julie presented on anti-discrimination law and domestic and sexual violence at the *Second Annual Colloquium on Current Scholarship in Labor and Employment Law* at the University of Denver and University of Colorado.

Julie joined the board of the Stonewall Community Foundation.

**NATALIE GOMEZ-VELEZ's** article, "Public School Governance and Democracy: Does Public Participation Matter?" was published in the *Villanova Law Review* in 2008.

Natalie was the featured profile in a November 2007 newsletter issue of the Puerto Rican Bar Association where she discusses her passion for the CUNY Law mission of training lawyers to serve in the public interest.



Professor Victor Goode

**VICTOR GOODE** participated as a panelist and in a discussion group at the *Harvard Human Rights Journal* conference in Cambridge in March. His conference presentation was entitled, "The United States and Human Rights: Bringing Rights Home, Education as a Human Right."

Victor received an award of \$5,000 for 2008-09 from The Center for Contemplative Mind in Society.

Victor presented at the *Law as a Healing Profession Conference* at Touro Law in November 2007.

Victor's article, "The Perfect Storm—Race, Class and the Duke Rape Case," appeared in the September 2007 issue of *Colorlines*.

Victor received the Trailblazer Award in September 2007 at the *Northeast People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference*.

At the Practicing Law Institute in May 2007, Victor presented on "Affirmative Action and School Choice in New York."

**SID HARRING** was awarded a PSC-CUNY grant in 2007 for a project entitled, "Land Expropriation in Namibia."

The United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs published a news story and analysis of a July 2007 report by Sid and Willem Odendaal of the Legal Assistance Center,

a public interest law organization in Namibia. The report, called "No Resettlement Available," focused on attempts to find an equitable solution to racist land ownership policies.

**JEFF KIRCHMEIER** received a PSC-CUNY grant in April for a project entitled, "The United States Supreme Court's Use of Dictionaries as Legal Authority."

Jeff appeared on the Richard French Live television show in April about Supreme Court arguments in *Kennedy v. Louisiana* (regarding the death penalty for child rapes).

Jeff's article, "Drink, Drugs, and Drowsiness: The Constitutional Right to Effective Assistance of Counsel and the Strickland Prejudice Requirement," was cited by the Eastern District of New York in the 2008 case *Goldberg v. Tracy*.

Jeff was the main author of an *amicus* brief filed on behalf of the New York City Bar Association in *People v. Taylor*, which was decided in October 2007 and affirmed that New York's death penalty violates the state constitution.

**DONNA LEE**'s article, "Resuscitating Proportionality in Noncapital Criminal Sentencing," was published in the *Arizona State Law Journal* in 2008.

Donna presented on supervision at the AALS *Clinical Teachers Conference* in May, and facilitated a workshop on collaborations between social workers and attorneys (with Martha Garcia) at *The Legal Services NYC 40th Anniversary Conference* in March.

Donna's article, "Viewing Family Court Practice Through the Prism of Purpose," was published in the *Columbia Journal of Law and Social Problems* in 2007.

Donna presented in April at the joint *CAPALF & WLT Conference* in Denver on domestic violence in the Asian-American community.

**STEPHEN LOFFREDO** was a convener at a conference in March entitled, "An Obvi-

ous Truth: Creating an Action Blueprint for a Civil Right to Counsel in New York State," sponsored by the New York State Bar Association. Steve led a workgroup exploring a civil right to counsel in matters involving "sustenance."

Steve has been appointed to the Board of the Eastern District Civil Litigation Fund, established by Judge Jack Weinstein to facilitate fair and effective litigation of civil cases involving *pro se* litigants or litigants represented by pro bono counsel in the Eastern District of New York.

Steve's article, "Poverty, Inequality and Class in the Structural Constitutional Law Course," was published in the *Fordham Urban Law Journal* in 2007.

**SHIRLEY LUNG** spoke on "Immigrant Workers and Low-Wage Workers and the Law," at the University of Michigan in November 2007.

**ANDREA MCARDLE** is a scholar-in-residence at Valparaíso Law during the Fall 2008 semester where she will deliver a lecture, "Forming a Professional Identity in Law Through Writing: A Pervasive Approach."

Andrea presented a work-in-progress, "Jersey Justice and Discourses of Power: Consumer Rights, Good-Mother Citizenship, and the Cold War," at a workshop organized by the Institute for Legal Studies at the University of Wisconsin Law in September.

Andrea presented a paper, "The Socioeconomics of Justice: the Perspective from the Law School Classroom," at the *Conference on Law, Poverty, and Economic Inequality* at Valparaíso in April.

Andrea and Debbie Zalesne presented on "Using Writing to Reach Diverse Learners" at the 2008 *Haywood Burns Conference*, "Teaching Law in a Multicultural and Multilingual Context," held at CUNY in March.

Andrea presented a paper, "Teaching Judicial Writing for Social Change: The

Social-Justice Potential of a Seminar on Writing from a Judicial Perspective," at the *SALT Conference on Teaching for Social Change*, held at Berkeley's Boalt Hall in March.

**DAVID NADVORNEY** presented and co-developed a panel entitled "Forging Links between Academic Support and Admission" at the *LSAC Annual Meeting* in May.

David chairs the program committee of the Teaching Methods Section of AALS, and co-chairs the program committee of the Academic Support Section of AALS.

**JENNY RIVERA**'s opinion on the U.S. Attorney scandal and a book authored by the former U.S. Attorney for New Mexico, David Iglesias, *In Justice: Inside the Scandal that Rocked the Bush Administration*, appeared in *El Diario* in August.

**RUTHANN ROBSON**'s review of Nancy Polikoff's book, *Beyond Marriage*, appeared in the July/August issue of *Women's Review of Books*.

Ruthann spoke in March at the *Feminist Legal Theory Conference* in Boulder, Colorado on "First Amendment, Vulnerability, and Funding Sexuality."

Ruthann's article, "On Rupture and Rhyme: Perspectives on the Past, Present, and Future of Same-Sex Marriage," was published in the anthology, *To Have and To Hold: The Making of Same-Sex Marriage in South Africa* (2008). Excerpts of the article were published in the *Sunday Independent*, a leading South Africa newspaper.

Ruthann spoke in February at the *Annual Writing Programs Conference* on creative writing about medical-legal issues.

Ruthann's article, "Judicial Review and Sexual Freedom," was published in the *University of Hawaii Law Review* in Winter 2007.

Ruthann's article, "Sexual Democracy," was published in *South Africa Journal on Human Rights* in 2007.



Ruthann had a brief book review published, "God On Trial," in *Law and Politics Book Review* in 2007.

**JOSEPH ROSENBERG** (with David Goldfarb) completed the ninth update of the *New York Guide to Elder Law* in June 2008.

Joe co-presented with Vanessa Merton of Pace Law at a concurrent session entitled, "Reflecting on Supervision Methodology Along the (Non)Directive Continuum," at the *AALS Clinical Teachers Conference* in Tucson in May.

Joe presented a paper entitled, "Poverty, Guardianship, and the Vulnerable Elderly," at the *Law, Poverty, and Economic Inequality Conference* held at Valparaiso Law in April.

Joe presented on Adult Guardianships as a panelist at a community education event for seniors held at CUNY Law in January.

Joe serves as an invited member of an Article 81 Guardianship advisory committee to the New York County Supreme Court, chaired by Justice Jacqueline Silberman.

**MERRICK ROSSEIN** presented on the *Litigating Sexual Harassment Claims Panel* at the New York City Bar Association, June 2008.

Rick's treatise, "Employment Discrimination Law and Litigation" was cited by four federal courts: the Fifth Circuit and federal district courts in Mississippi, New York, and Utah.

Rick's article (with Jennifer Hope), "Disclosure and Disqualification Standards for Neutral Arbitrators: How Far to Cast the Net and What is Sufficient To Vacate Award," was published in the Winter 2007 *St. John's Law Review*.

Rick was awarded a PSC-CUNY grant in 2007 to conduct comparative employment discrimination research.

**SARAH VALENTINE** presented on "Using and Promoting CALI Lessons in Your Classes" at the *CALI Conference for Law School Computing* in June.

Sarah's latest article, "Queer Kids: A Comprehensive Annotated Legal Bibliography on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth," was published in the *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism* this year.

**DEBORAH ZALESNE'S** article (with Rebecca Barnhart), "Twin Pillars of Judicial Philosophy: The Impact of the Ginsburg Collegiality and Gender Discrimination Principles on Her Separate Opinions Involving Gender Discrimination," was reprinted in *Judicial Activism: Need for Reforms* (Icfai Press, India 2008).

Her entry, "Oncale v. Sundowner Offshore Services," was published in *The Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States* this year.

Debbie's article, "Integrating Academic Skills into First Year Curricula: Using *Wood v. Lucy, Lady Duff-Gordon* to Teach The Role of Facts in Legal Reasoning," with David Nadvorney, was published in the *Pace Law Review* in 2008.

Debbie was a speaker (with Andrea McArdle) at the *Haywood Burns Conference* in March on "Accounting for Diverse Learners in the Large and Smaller Classroom."

Debbie moderated the "Women in Private Practice" panel at the *New York State Bar Association Committee on Women in the Law Conference* in March.

Debbie presented (with David Nadvorney) at Touro Law in February on "Integrating Skills into First Year Contracts."

In 2007, Debbie published "The Gendered Politics of Water: The Effects of Drought on Afghan Widows" in the *International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences* and "Lessons From Equal Opportunity Harasser Doctrine: Challenging Sex-Specific Appearance and Dress Codes," in the *Duke Journal of Gender Law & Policy*.

Debbie was a panel organizer and panelist at a Pace Law Symposium in November 2007 on "Using *Wood v. Lucy, Lady Duff-Gordon* as a Teaching Vehicle."

Debbie presented virtually at the *Second International Conference on Interdisciplinary Social Sciences* in Granada, Spain in July 2007 on "The Gendered Politics of Water."

Debbie joined the board of Iris House, a Harlem-based organization that addresses the unique needs of women affected by HIV/AIDS.

Debbie was awarded a PSC-CUNY grant for a project entitled, "Guide to Integrating Academic Skills into Core First-Year Curricula."

**STEVE ZEIDMAN** was awarded a CUNY Collaborative Grant in July for "Sex Offenders Management, Treatment, and Civil Commitment: An Empirical Analysis of Four Sex Offender Populations" with professors Elizabeth Jeglic and Cynthia Calkins-Mercado at John Jay College.

The authors of *Dispute Resolution and Lawyers* will include excerpts from Steve's article, "To Plead or Not to Plead: Effective Assistance and Client-Centered Counseling," in their book.

Steve's letter-to-the-editor about judicial elections appeared in the *New York Times* in May.

Also in May, Steve was appointed to Mayor Bloomberg's Advisory Committee on the Judiciary, and Steve was a panelist at *Public Defense in Misdemeanor Cases: How to Make the Promise of Argersinger Real in 21st Century America*, a conference at the Open Society Institute co-sponsored by the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Defender Initiative at Seattle Law.

Steve's essay on plea bargaining and the rights of the accused, "Time to End Violation Pleas," was published in April in the *New York Law Journal*.

Steve presented in March on "Ethical Issues in Defense Decision Making" at the *New York State Defenders' Association Twenty-Second Annual Metropolitan Trainer* at NYU Law.

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