

A COMMUNITY OF JUSTICE

CUNY LAW

FALL 2012



**A NEW HOME
FOR CUNY LAW**

CUNY Law just posted its highest New York State Bar pass rate for first-time takers.

Bar grants, funded entirely by generous donors to the Law School, helped many of our students prepare for the exam. Here is how bar grants impacted three students who passed the bar:

“Having the bar grant really gave me peace of mind and allowed me to focus my attention exclusively on studying for the bar and not on how I was going to pay my rent or eat.”

“As a result of the generous grant I received from CUNY, I was able to pay for my Barbri prep course, cover my rent and expenses, and send my son to summer camp, thus allowing me the precious study time I needed.”

“Receiving a bar grant was one of the most helpful aspects of bar prep. It allowed me the time and peace of mind to completely focus on studying without having the constant concern of finances....This program is such a tangible and impactful way for donors to help CUNY Law.”

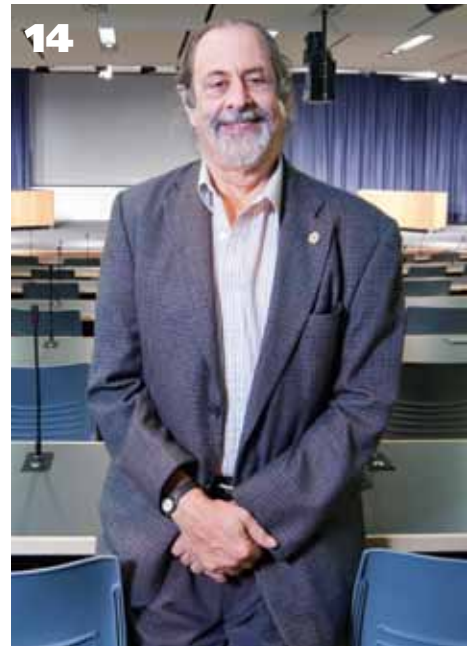
We need to build on this success and ensure that CUNY Law students continue to receive these grants that are so essential to their bar exam preparation.

Please support the next generation of public interest lawyers by giving a gift to the CUNY Law Annual Fund.

<http://www.law.cuny.edu/annualgiving>

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Dean Michelle J. Anderson

Dear Friends,

We're all moved into our new Long Island City home.

In case you're keeping score, our current home is our fifth location since the founding in 1983. Our new building is warm, inviting, and environmentally friendly. Did you know that it recycles rainwater and runs entirely on wind power? Plus, I'm amazed at the beauty of the light that pours into the space on all sides.

Our new location is helping students, faculty, alums, and visitors overcome what had been a big challenge: just getting to us. If you gaze out the Law School's windows, you see the elevated 7 train leaving Court Square, three stops from Manhattan. (Six other lines are within walking distance.) That's all it takes. We're no longer the last stop on the line, plus a bus ride.

Having a central location and great access to public

transportation makes a difference. These things improve our ability to serve historically underrepresented communities throughout the metropolitan area, including here in Queens. Students find it speedier to get to classes after internships. We now have a beautiful facility minutes from Manhattan to welcome distinguished guests. And, because people can easily get here after work, we're considering offering a part-time, evening program.

But our move is about more than location. It's about a new environment for the Law School, one that better serves our students so that they can better serve others.

To create such an environment, our architects went on a listening tour, asking students, faculty, and staff about their ideal work space. The architects transformed our six floors into an educational facility committed to public interest law. We have written our passions onto this building. In our elevator lobbies, for example, excerpts from key international human rights documents decorate the ceilings and walls.

More comfortable and plentiful areas for studying are available here. Classrooms have better sight lines and acoustics, with equipment to digitally record and play back classes and oral arguments. I remember teaching in the old building in Room 135 where students at the edges of the room were outside my peripheral vision; students in the center had to raise their hands to draw my attention to students on the sides who wanted to speak. We also had to open the windows onto Main Street when the room became intolerably hot, and as a result sirens punctuated the dialog. No longer.

One upshot of having a better building is that we want to spend more time here. Students are flooding the library and study rooms throughout the building. I heard from a number of faculty members who spent the entire summer on our new campus, enjoying their new offices and working here instead of at home.

This is a transformational moment in the life of CUNY Law. We now have an excellent, centrally located facility, allowing us to better serve our clients and provide a serious and appealing place for students to study.

We now own a building that does justice to the importance of the work we do. Law in the service of human needs is a vital mission, worthy of a beautiful place in which to work and flourish. We are blessed to have it.

So, to students, faculty, and staff, and to the greater CUNY Law community, welcome home.

Yours,

Michelle J. Anderson
Dean and Professor of Law

Defending Rights Before the Supreme Court

by Paul Lin

It's not every day that you get to present a case before the U.S. Supreme Court, but that's what Jonathan Libby ('96) found himself doing earlier this year with *United States v. Alvarez*, also known as the "Stolen Valor" case.

And he won.

"It was pretty exciting," said Libby, a deputy federal public defender in Los Angeles, on his first Supreme Court appearance. "It was a great opportunity."

Not that he was entirely happy to be there before Chief Justice John Roberts, and battling dissenting justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas, and Samuel Alito.

"I'd won in the Ninth Circuit [Court of Appeals], so we had opposed the case going to the Supreme Court; they took the case over our objection," he recalled.

Libby's client, Xavier Alvarez, a former local elected official in the L.A. area, had been prosecuted under the Stolen Valor Act, a federal law that made it a crime to lie about receiving military awards.

"He stood up at a public meeting and claimed he had been a Marine and had received the Congressional Medal of Honor," said Libby. "That was all a lie."

Libby argued that it was his client's freedom-of-speech right to say what he chose, and that lying was protected under the First Amendment.

Although the district court rejected the argument, the U.S. Court of Appeals agreed with Libby, striking the Alvarez conviction and declaring the statute unconstitutional. The government then appealed the case to the Supreme Court.

To get ready for his date with the highest court in the land, Libby turned to Professor Ruthann Robson, who had taught Libby at CUNY Law.

"She set up a moot court for me at CUNY," Libby said. "An awful lot of work went into preparing both the brief and the oral argument."

During the oral argument, the justices probed the breadth of the law, which made lying a crime, even if there was no personal gain involved.

"We were then discussing what would constitute something of value," recounted Libby, for example, "whether that would include a date. Would it make a difference if the date was wealthy or not? Would it include someone buying a beer for you when you told a lie in a bar, or if they allowed you to walk in a parade?"



Jonathan Libby ('96)

In a six-to-three vote, the justices struck down the Stolen Valor Act, and agreed that it was Alvarez's First Amendment right to lie, so long as it did not cause harm to others. The ruling came on the last day of the Supreme Court's term, June 28, and had taken four months.

With the Alvarez case behind him, Libby has returned to arguing cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals, "from the minor stuff"—such as defending a client ticketed for smoking marijuana on federal land—"all the way up to multiple murders."

Libby credits CUNY Law School for readying him to be a public defender. "I was in court making some appearances before my bar results had come in," recalled Libby. "CUNY Law prepared me for that. It's focused on training lawyers to do public service and work in the public's interest. That's what I always intended to do."

Libby went on to become a federal public defender in his hometown of Philadelphia before moving to Los Angeles for a PD job in 2003.

He has always been thankful for his CUNY Law education.

"The federal public defender's office is highly selective in who they hire," Libby said. "The overwhelming majority of the attorneys I work with attended top-ranked law schools: Yale and Stanford and Harvard. And certainly they learned nothing more at their schools than I learned at CUNY." ●●

Danny Alicea



AFTER BEING ON STAFF at the *City University of New York Law Review*, Danny Alicea ('13) now is in the driver's seat as editor-in-chief.

"This is by far the most prominent leadership position I have ever been in. It's really a great feeling," he said.

Alicea has come a long way since his high school aspirations of becoming a lawyer. His first practical legal experience came after he graduated from Stony Brook University on Long Island and joined the organization Immigration Equality, which focuses on representation of LGBT clients and HIV-related immigration cases.

Alicea, who is of Puerto Rican descent, stayed on at Immigration Equality for three years, eventually becoming a Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative, which permitted him to represent clients in immigration proceedings before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. Still, he realized that getting a law degree would provide him with additional ways to pursue social justice.

Immigration Equality "was the definitive marker that convinced me that I needed to pursue the J.D.," said Alicea.

Choosing CUNY Law was a natural move for the Queens-born-and-raised Alicea, who wanted to pursue advocacy and immigration law. Immigration Equality's director, Victoria Neilson ('94), gave him an extra nudge; she had graduated from CUNY Law and encouraged Alicea to apply.

"When I did my research, I realized that CUNY Law School was the only place where I would get that focus on public interest work," he said.

Immigration continues to be a big focus for Alicea, who in-

terned last year at Immigration Court in Manhattan, assisting clerks and judges with assignments, such as writing up bench memos and decisions.

The internship also provided Alicea with access to Immigration Judge Noel Ann Brennan, a member of the Katzmann Immigrant Representation Study Group, which is an initiative focused on increasing the quality of pro bono representation for immigrants.

"It's the reason I needed to meet her and go to lunch," said Alicea. When he mentioned CUNY Law and immigration specialist Lilita Yanez to Brennan, "her eyes lit up. She had nothing but great things to say."

That lunch helped Alicea decide on his clinic choice, the Immigrant & Refugee Rights Clinic, where Yanez is an instructor.

After law school, Alicea wants to continue advocating for vulnerable populations, including Latino and other communities of color, LGBT and HIV-positive individuals, youth, and, especially, immigrants.

For now, Alicea has plenty of work to do before graduating. That includes making his mark as editor-in-chief on the semi-annual *CUNY Law Review*, now in its 16th year of publication.

"I feel like I'm on call 24/7 with so many players, decisions, and deadlines," he said.

It's a weighty responsibility, but one that is made easier by his editorial board, which Alicea has described as "talented and passionate," with two managing editors who are "incredibly skilled and gifted," he said.

"I do have to be accountable and be there for everyone, but it's easy to do when you have such a great team," said Alicea. ●

Ada George

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for Ada George ('14) and she's not in class, chances are she's in her favorite spot, in a fifth-floor corner study room, with her papers spread out on the table.

"I'm a full-time law student. My day starts here and usually ends here," said the St. Albans, Queens-born student.

George, who now lives in nearby Bedford-Stuyvesant, knows that working hard and commuting can go hand in hand. Before law school, she worked for Assemblyman Nelson Castro of the Bronx, traveling back and forth with him to Albany from the Bronx. As Castro's legislative director, George saw how attorneys drafted bills and created policy that could change the lives of everyone in New York State. That's when she realized she wanted to earn a law degree.

"If I really wanted to make a difference, I needed to understand the system better," she said. Her mentor, Jeanine Johnson, counsel to Assemblyman Keith Wright of Harlem, advised her to apply to CUNY Law School, even though George wasn't happy with her LSAT score. Studying had been a challenge with the Albany-to-Bronx commute.

George was accepted to some schools, but not her top choice, CUNY Law.

"I remember being so devastated," said George. "If you want to do public interest law, you need to come to CUNY Law."

George later received a letter from the Law School referring her to the Pipeline to Justice program, which offers a second chance at admission to excellent public interest students whose LSAT scores seem incompatible with their achievements. Through the pipeline program, George prepared for the test at CUNY Law, took the LSAT again, and this time surpassed the program's threshold score and got into the Law School.

"I really feel like CUNY Law chose me, instead of me choosing" the school, George said, thanks to her second chance.

CUNY Law has given her access to all kinds of experiences she did not expect to gain from law school. That includes four weeks in Chile and Argentina this past summer, studying international human rights and comparative family law.

When George returned from her time abroad, she had an internship waiting at Queens Legal Services under Cindy Katz. At the Economic Justice Unit, George got the opportunity to do client intake interviews; she put to use some of the skills she learned at



CUNY Law in her first-year lawyering and legal research classes.

Now in her second year, George realizes there are many options open to her in law, if she chooses not to return to politics and policy work.

To look deeper into other legal professions, George, as president of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA), wants to organize a "day-in-the-life" panel of attorneys from all walks of life, so students can be exposed to all kinds of different careers.

Whatever George decides to pursue, she feels her time at CUNY Law has been well invested, even as she watches the day become night from her perch in the fifth-floor study room.

"I'm just really grateful to CUNY for this opportunity," she said. "It's life-changing. I definitely feel like my eyes have been opened to things I didn't expect coming into law school. I think it's changing and shaping me for the better." ●●

A New Home



CUNY School of Law owns the first six floors of **2 Court Square** in Long Island City. The space gives the school nearly 70,000 additional square feet of state-of-the-art classroom, conference, and event facilities, including an auditorium and a moot courtroom.

The second-floor landing is **the heart of the Law School's new home**. Students, faculty, staff, and visitors enjoy coffee or a sandwich at Thurgood's café.



Our new home has more small and large **study rooms for students**. Many have floor-to-ceiling windows, which allow sunlight to pour in and offer beautiful views of Queens and Manhattan.

The **library** encompasses the entire top floor of the Law School. Library staff and faculty offices line the perimeter of the space, interspersed with student study rooms. A kitchen pantry and conference rooms for studying and meetings make up the center of the floor.



Our new building includes **large, state-of-the-art classrooms** with microphones, smart boards, and recording capabilities.

Snapshot: Long Island City

LONG ISLAND CITY, the Law School's new home, is hard to define, thanks to its diversity. From humble industrial roots, the neighborhood now embraces thousands of artists, mom-and-pop stores and businesses, nonprofit organizations, JetBlue and MetLife, and 19 hotels.

"We're a neighborhood in transition," said LIC Partnership president Gayle Baron. "Transformative things are happening. We're unique and edgy but still affordable. LIC is flourishing."

Diversity is also evident in the more than 100 ethnic groups in the LIC/Astoria neighborhood, as the nearby Museum of the Moving Image points out. One benefit: a ton of restaurants of many flavors, including Thai, Indian, Peruvian, and Italian.

LIC still has grittiness, or what Baron calls "authenticity." From the 7 train, as it rumbles on elevated tracks toward Court Square and the historic Long Island City Courthouse, you can see graffiti tagging every inch of 5Pointz, an art center called "graffiti Mecca" by some. It's like traveling back in time four decades. Back then, there was an abandoned school across the street dating to 1892, and artists were just starting to repurpose it for contemporary art, the origins of P.S.1, now MoMA PS1.

The neighborhood remains about 14 percent industrial, Baron said. If you wander just east of the Law School, you'll find Century Rubber Supply Company, which gives a glimpse of the area's still-thriving roots. Here you'll find miles of rubber hose, including hydraulic and marine hose, steam and discharge hose, and silicone hose good to 500 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Business is still good," said Century's owner, Gordon Biel. It was his father's store; he bought the building in 1947. "It's the only reason I'm here."

Surveying the landscape brings into focus a host of other organizations including the Noguchi Museum, dedicated to the Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi, and the Fortune Society, which supports people who are reentering their communities from prison and promotes alternatives to incarceration.

Then there is Legal Outreach, a college-prep organization helping students from underserved communities gain academic skills to pursue legal and other professional careers. It also runs a summer program for students entering high school that promotes academic excellence and inspires them to pursue careers in the law.

Like CUNY Law, Legal Outreach moved to LIC after having outgrown other spaces. It had been working out of Harlem and Brooklyn and nine other sites, before consolidating everything in LIC.

"[We're now] close to Manhattan, without having to pay Manhattan prices," said Executive Director James O'Neal. Legal Outreach resides in a 24,000-square-foot building, easily reachable by subway from any of four boroughs.

The centralized location definitely makes a difference for students, he said, and CUNY Law will benefit.

"People who are really dedicated will make their way to any place offering a great education, but the proximity to other boroughs enhances the services the school can deliver," said O'Neal.

"It's a good home," said Gayle Baron. "CUNY Law comes to LIC as it's in transition and transformation. I firmly believe that the best is yet to come."
—Paul Lin

Low-Impact Building Makes Big Impact in Favor of the Environment

by Paul Lin

Walk into the new home of CUNY Law in Long Island City, and you might not immediately be able to tell that this curved, glass-and-steel building is about as environmentally friendly as they come. One hint: What appears to be natural bristle floor-mat material mounted on the wall behind the guards at the front desk.

“You have to be present with it for a while before you realize: ‘Wow, that’s a CUNY sign!’ It’s subtle,” says Dean Michelle Anderson with a smile. “And very cool.”

A lot of the building is like that. Organic, sustainable materials and design that don’t scream “eco-friendly” and “green,” but rest assured, the Law School’s building at 2 Court Square is LEED Gold certified. That’s one level higher than the Silver certification that CUNY’s central office now requires all new campus buildings to have.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), an environmental advocate, calls LEED certification “the best way for you to demonstrate that your building project is truly ‘green.’”

LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a framework developed by the U.S. Green Building Council in Washington, D.C., to help independently verify that a building is “designed and built using strategies aimed at achieving high performance in key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.”

“It’s an incredibly attractive element,” says Anderson of the building’s environmental certification, as much for students

who come to the Law School to pursue careers in environmental justice as it is for CUNY Law as a buyer of an already built, sustainable facility.

Buying an existing building meant that CUNY Law could move in much faster and recycle and reuse floors of furniture. What furniture the Law School didn’t need, it donated to other CUNY campuses.

CUNY Law could also move ahead on tailoring floors to fit its needs, turning this former corporate training facility into a warm, inviting education space, reflecting its public interest mission and commitment to environmental responsibility. To maintain the LEED Gold certification during renovations, the school turned to the architectural firm that originally designed the building: Kohn Pedersen Fox (KPF).

KPF played up the transparency of the building and the presence of bountiful natural daylight that reaches deep into each floor. Lights turn on and off automatically, depending on need, aided by motion sensors.

Hana Kassem, a KPF director and LEED accredited professional, also wanted to bring an element of nature into the space. If you look closely at the hallway once you enter the building, for example, you’ll notice a gentle, undulating blue pattern in the terrazzo floor.

“The floor is designed to look like a river. Seating along the inside glass wall is designed to look like a riverbank of shale,” Anderson notes. “But it’s made of felt. The patterns of light and dark felt on the facing wall are designed to mimic the dappled light when you walk through a forest.”



The entrance of CUNY Law, a LEED Gold certified building.

The Law School also commissioned artwork for the first-floor atrium from two Vermont artists. It brings a bit of the Green Mountain State to Queens, including an installation complete with hundreds of maple saplings (see article on next page).

Beyond inspired design, what does an environmentally green building mean for CUNY Law?

It means knowing that students will be learning in a place that offsets its carbon footprint with the purchase of 100 percent clean wind power.

It means knowing that builders fought the negative impact of logging on the environment by ensuring that more than half the wood used in construction was certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. They also used post-consumer recycled content for about 90 percent of the building's structural steel, or 4,590 tons. More than 90 percent of construction waste was recycled and diverted from landfills. Carpeting used in the building was made from 50 percent recycled content.

In addition, builders made sure to minimize the use of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in chemicals, paint, adhesives, and wood preservatives. VOCs can hurt air quality.

Water use and reuse is an important element of LEED certification, and the building has a water tank that can divert

969,000 gallons of rainwater a year for use throughout the building. That reduces demand on the city's water supply and protects the area from flooding. Collected rain and recycled water can also be used for irrigation in landscaping.

Transportation is the second-biggest contributor to greenhouse gases, behind electricity generation. So the LEED certification takes into account the building's lack of a parking lot, providing a reminder for people to find ways to travel to school other than via fossil fuel-burning cars: subway, bus, commuter railway, or bicycle (there are bike racks across the street and more near the Law School entrance area).

The building also has in place a rigorous recycling program, with daily pickups for mixed paper and cardboard in blue recycling bins. There's also a pickup area for electronics, including computers, and each pantry has a recycling center nearby.

The building's structure and renovations and the school's green practices make for a more environmentally in-tune home for CUNY Law, after more than a decade of searching.

"The commitment to environmental sustainability is an expression of our own public interest mission," Anderson says. "It makes the work that we do coherent with the space in which we live and work." ●●



Bringing Nature to Students, Staff, and Faculty

by Paul Lin

It's hard to get students to pause for one moment, to glance up from smartphones or tablets as they charge from class to class. But if they follow the glass curves of the side of the new CUNY Law School building and walk the arched path from the lobby on the first floor, they'll find a glimpse of the woods in the Law School's atrium.

The site-specific artwork, titled *Seeing the Forest in the Trees*, by Vermont-based artists Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman, features some 600 maple saplings harvested through reclaiming pastureland in the Green Mountain State. A portion of each sapling's bark has been cut back to form points of an arc, gently echoing, in an organic material, the shape of the building's curved glass exterior.

"It is our intention that the artwork includes a vitality that resonates with issues related to the law and the understanding of public service, combined with the calm related to the growth of nature," they said in a statement.

The installed artwork measures 16 by 23 feet. Wasserman and Billings attached hundreds of saplings to a grid, suspended about six inches from the surface of 14 plywood panels, each weighing about 50 pounds. Bolts secure the panels to eight steel brackets that are screwed into the concrete block wall.

On the panels, the artists used nontoxic milk paint in rich colors. They also included depictions of saplings, almost like silhouettes. As the sun moves overhead and its beams pass through the building's windows, shadows layer atop the silhouettes and enhance the experience of being in a kind of urban forest. The whole piece changes throughout the day with changes in the natural light, in a way, marking the passage of time with the saplings' shadows. The artists hope people find something new in their work each day.

The work, Wasserman feels, balances intricacy and boldness, strength and calm—all qualities she believes students should carry with them in their lives and as lawyers.

Bringing nature to students, faculty, and staff in Queens is a big part of the artists' intent.

"The closer the connection we feel to nature, the more we're likely to stand up and defend it," said Billings. "The way we treat our environment absolutely has an effect on the way we treat each other. If we can learn to live in harmony with our environment, then we learn to live in harmony with each other."

That harmony is evident not only in the way the artists think and work together, but also in their process. They evenly share all the tasks, from paperwork and bidding on jobs, to design and concept, to sourcing materials and installation. Their close geographic proximity helps their collaborative efforts, as does constant back-and-forth faxing and e-mailing of work.

For the CUNY Law School project, the artists applied online, vying for the chance to create site-specific artwork for the atrium. The School's mission appealed to both of them, but for Wasserman, there was a more personal reason for wanting to take on the project.

"I grew up in New York City and had known of CUNY all my life. I knew that it played a major role in educating lawyers who would do incredible work," she said.

For the CUNY Law School installation, the artists presented their ideas before a committee in January, signed a contract to do the work in March, then took five months to conceive and

make the art in sections. By August, they were ready to truck the artwork down to the Law School, where they installed the work in two days.

It's hard to believe that the work went up in just two days, but, Wasserman says, after having done so many collaborative public works projects together over the years—including artwork at the University of Florida's College of Medicine, Vermont's state capitol building in Montpelier, and a 100-foot-long work mounted on the walls of Burlington International Airport—the artists pretty much know how to prepare in advance and how to focus during an installation, so the works go up quickly.

"We try to be very systematic and try to have all the things we need. We are very focused to get [the work] in as quickly as possible," said Wasserman.

Having family members around doesn't hurt, either. One of



Elizabeth Billings and Andrea Wasserman

Wasserman's sons and two of Billings's children were available to come down from Vermont to assist in putting up the artwork in the atrium.

The result: public artwork in tune with a public interest law school, reflecting a thoughtful consideration of space and how to engage the people who pass through it, both when they see it for the first time and over the course of many years. At the same time, the art brings a reminder of the environmental focus of the Law School, with materials from nature and work that is largely handmade, not machined or computerized.

This is the first academic year for the Law School's new facilities and public art, but already the artists have a sense that their work is being well received.

During installation, some visitors gave an encouraging thumbs-up; others stopped to watch and then returned to check on the progress and how the piece was evolving.

"Installing the work at CUNY Law School was just incredible," Billings said. "People checking in on us were so supportive, warm, and friendly. We hope the artwork reflects some of those feelings and is sustaining for people over the years." ●●

CUNY Law Celebrates Opening of New Home

On Monday, October 22, 2012, New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman delivered the keynote address at a ribbon-cutting celebration marking the opening of CUNY Law's new home in Long Island City. "We were delighted that Chief Judge Lippman joined us to mark this special moment in the Law School's history," said CUNY School of Law Dean Michelle J. Anderson. "As chief judge, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to increasing access to justice for poor people, which mirrors our mission as a public interest institution."

The program took place in the Dave Fields Auditorium, where Anderson, CUNY Board of Trustees Chairperson Benno Schmidt, and CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein welcomed nearly 200 guests. Guests included faculty, staff, and students, along with alumni, members of the judiciary, elected officials, and friends of the Law School.

Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall issued a proclamation declaring October 22, 2012, "CUNY Law School Day," and Anderson presented Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown and Congressman Joseph Crowley with Dean's Awards for their longtime support for the Law School.

Here, we feature an excerpt of Chief Judge Lippman's address and photos from the event.



Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, New York City Councilmember Mark Weprin, the Hon. Bryanne Hamill ('90), and the Hon. Kristin Booth Glen



Alan Koral, the Hon. Seymour Boyers, Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown, Emanuel Gold, and CUNY Law Dean Michelle J. Anderson



CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall



The Hon. Edwina G. Richardson-Mendelson ('88), the Hon. Rita Mella ('91), the Hon. Sondra Pardes ('86), the Hon. Diccina Pineda-Kirwan ('86), the Hon. Pam Jackman-Brown ('86), and the Hon. Bryanne Hamill ('90)



New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman

“Over the last weeks, I have traveled around New York for hearings on the unmet need for civil legal services in our state.

This year, we heard again and again that the gap between the need for legal services and the resources available dramatically affects the lives of our poorest and most vulnerable citizens. The sad reality is that the direct legal and human fallout from our nation’s and our state’s economic problems has brought us a growing number of the poor, the working poor, and the near poor confronting legal problems involving the necessities of life: the roof over their heads, their physical safety, their livelihoods, and the well-being of their families. Our courts are the emergency rooms for the ills of society, and today our courtrooms are standing room only, filled with vulnerable and frightened unrepresented litigants.

We cannot let real people and their families fall off a cliff in these troubled times because they cannot afford legal representation. It is morally and ethically wrong, and makes no economic sense. For every public dollar invested in civil legal services for the poor, five dollars are returned to the state by enabling people to pay their bills, preventing unwarranted evictions and homelessness, avoiding foster care placements and other service costs, and bringing federal entitlement dollars to New York.

Every society is ultimately judged by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. And for the legal profession, the academy, and the judiciary, we should be judged by whether we provide meaningful legal representation for the poor, particularly when the essentials of life are at stake. If we fail in this most basic of our obligations, we become easy prey for those who seek to undermine the justice system and the rule of law.

New York’s new 50-hour pro bono requirement for applicants to the bar emerges in the context of the unmet need for legal services for the poor in our state and nation. We need a new generation of lawyers to embrace a culture of service to others if we are to meet the critical need for access to legal services for the poor. Students and alumni of CUNY Law School, this great institution, play such an enormous role in serving the disadvantaged. You lead law schools nationwide, bar none, in your devotion to public service.

I want all of us in New York to live up to the public service work that CUNY Law students do, without being asked. It is a part of this school’s DNA, and we want service to others to be a part of every law student’s DNA. We want aspiring lawyers to acquire the same lifelong habits that students get here at CUNY Law. Exposing law students to those most in need can build the kind of empathy that will inspire them to continue to provide service throughout their careers.

I am so proud of CUNY Law School. Being here, in this beautiful new space, at this spectacular law school, whose students and faculty are dedicated to making sure that the protection of our laws is available to everybody, rich and poor, high and low alike, makes this chief judge so confident that equal justice under the rule of law will remain the vibrant foundation of our legal system and our society.

This is a milestone day for CUNY Law School because finally the astounding things that happen within the walls of this institution are matched by this glorious building. Thank you for allowing me to share this day with you.”

— New York State Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman



Kenneth Greenstein, Judith Flamenbaum (95), and Professor Richard Storrow



Queens Borough President Helen M. Marshall presents the CUNY Law School Day proclamation to CUNY Law Dean Michelle J. Anderson, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, and CUNY Board of Trustees Chairperson Benno Schmidt

Launching a Law School, Supporting Its Future

by Paul Lin

City University of New York dean Dave Fields recently made the biggest bequest in CUNY Law's history: \$1 million. As a gesture of thanks for his generous gift and role in founding the Law School, the board of trustees of CUNY has named the Law School's auditorium after him.

"It's a tremendous honor to have any part of the Law School named after you. And unexpected!" muses the dean, referring to what is now known as the Dave Fields Auditorium.

You might have to glance up a couple of times to catch the glint in his eye and the hint of mischief in his bearded grin before he speaks again.

"When they told me they wanted to name a space after me, I said: 'A bathroom? That's okay with me!' They said: 'No, the auditorium.' I said: 'You're kidding! The Fields Stall—that's much better!'" says the dean.

Fields is obviously very much on his game. Jokes aside, his estate plan will have a lasting positive impact on the Law School; its public interest mission; and its students, faculty, and staff.

Fields has worked full-time for CUNY since 1972, right after he graduated from Queens College. He's been special counsel to four chancellors, special assistant to three Queens College presidents, a higher education specialist in the governor's executive chamber, director and general counsel of the Queens College Student Union, associate dean to three Law School deans, and a Law School faculty member since 1984. So why, at age 63 and after a career of service to CUNY, should now be the time for Fields to make a historic gift?

The faculty's vote last December to raise academic standards was what he calls "a major watershed in the Law School's history.



Dave Fields

It will be a milestone when we review the faculty's accomplishments. I wanted to support the faculty's decision."

To that end, Fields says the Law School will maintain his gift—the principal—while drawing off the income. That way, the funds will last many years. One-half of the amount is earmarked for student scholarships, and the other half is earmarked for faculty and staff development. A faculty committee will give scholarships to students that are based on academic performance. Another committee, such as the Professional Development Committee, will allocate the other half of the funds toward conferences and training courses to help develop the faculty and staff.

Fields has a personal interest in making sure the Law School succeeds; he helped create it and position it as a public interest institution a decade before it opened.

The seeds of CUNY Law date to the early 1970s, when Fields was a student activist at Queens College. He served as cochair of the College Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and helped develop the QC individualized B.A., which was then copied by the university when it created the CUNY B.A. He also served as deputy chair to its academic senate and helped form the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) to keep student activism alive after the Vietnam War.

Creating NYPIRG in 1972 demonstrated Fields's keen ability to organize and mobilize supporters, from students and the Queens College Senate to CUNY's board of trustees, and to move proposals through political minefields.

Among Fields's early allies was Joseph S. Murphy, who would later become CUNY's chancellor. Murphy, as Queens College president, hired Fields, as an assistant, to staff a commission planning the future of Queens College, its mission, and its structure.

"During this process, Murphy asked me: 'What would you think if we started a law school?'" says Fields, remembering he thought it was a terrific idea. "And he said to me: 'Well, go figure out how to do it, and do it!'"

Fields helped get the proposal to establish the Law School into the report of the Commission on the Future of Queens College and eventually made a motion in the academic senate in 1972 to start a law school at Queens College. The academic senate adopted that motion unanimously, and Fields spent years turning the idea into a real public law school that would train its students to reach people historically underserved by the law and to take a clinical approach.

Fields picked up more supporters, including then CUNY chancellor Robert J. Kibbee, to get the proposal approved by the board of trustees in 1973. After that, it was up to the New

York State Board of Regents to sign off on the Law School's charter. It did so, and the City University gained authority to grant the J.D. degree and open a law school.

By 1976, a search committee had been established to choose the Law School's first dean, but that effort had to be put on hold because the City of New York was close to bankruptcy. So the Law School would have to wait.

Concurrent with working to set up the Law School, Fields realized he himself had to get a law degree. "I had a master's degree in urban studies. I could not talk to people about creating a law school unless I was a lawyer. You could see their eyes closing! I could talk, but they wouldn't listen," he recalls.

His only option close enough—and offering classes after work—was nearby St. John's School of Law. He went to night school until he got his J.D. in 1979.

When the City's financial condition could no longer support the City University, the State of New York, in 1979, took over the funding of CUNY's "senior colleges," and that put development of the Law School back on track. Fields did his part by working with then president Saul Cohen to bring the Law School to the attention of the Legislature, which approved funding in 1980. A Queens College search committee selected Charlie Halpern as the Law School's first dean.

What followed was a quick succession of former public school homes for the new Law School, beginning with the too-small-for-classes Solomon Schechter High School in 1981, then moving to P.S. 130—purchased for \$1 from the Board of Education—then to a Queensborough Community College–owned building that Fields acquired after working out a deal with the Queensborough president, and finally to the Campbell Junior High School in Flushing. The Campbell building was in use from 1984 until the spring of 2012.

Last year, Fields, working with Dean Michelle Anderson, served on the CUNY committee that chose the Court Square building that currently houses the Law School.

As Fields, in his office space facing the wide-open skyline of Long Island City, animatedly recounts the early years of the Law School, you realize it has been quite an odyssey. Against all odds, CUNY Law is alive and thriving and will be for many years to come, thanks to Fields.

In the end, he cites the Law School's motto, "Law in the Service of Human Needs."

"There's so much greed out there that doing something to help human needs requires reaching back and paying back," Fields says. "It's incumbent upon everybody who's made it in society to pay back, because that's how you make it better. I'm thrilled to be able to pay back." ●●

Fields has
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public interest
institution.

Building on CUNY Law's Public Interest Mission

A generous donation by Gregory Koster, who was chief law librarian, associate dean for administration and finance, building project manager, and professor of law for 30 years at CUNY Law, is being recognized with the naming of the Gregory and Diana Koster Circulation Desk in the library of the new building at 2 Court Square. Koster reflects on his experience at CUNY Law and his hopes for the future of the Law School.

What brought you to CUNY Law?

I decided to become a librarian in junior high school, when I got a part-time job at the local public library. After college, I went to library school, and then worked at the Columbia University Libraries for five years. When I heard that Pace University was starting a new law school near where I lived, I applied and became head of technical services. After two years (and two moves of the library), the chief law librarian resigned, and I was asked to become acting law librarian. That led to my going to law school in the part-time program at Pace and, ultimately, to my becoming chief law librarian and professor at CUNY.

How has working at CUNY Law been a good fit for you?

When I came to CUNY, I thought it was just another step on the typical ladder of jobs at bigger and “better” schools. But CUNY Law seduced me. I fell in love with the mission and never felt any need to move. There is no better place than CUNY Law.

As one of the first handful of faculty hired, I was part of the planning team that crafted the mission and designed all the structures and programs to support it. The first big debate was between those who favored the access mission and those who focused on the public interest mission. Ultimately, we decided that both are important, and, even though there is occasional tension between them, I’m proud that we have continued to balance both priorities.

Tell us a little about your teaching and public interest passions.

The more I thought about our mission to provide access to law school and the bar to communities that have historically been excluded and to train lawyers whose career focus would be serving the public interest, the more I realized that we needed to make CUNY Law a very different kind of law school. I had been taught to teach to the middle of the class, and let those at the bottom drop away—but at CUNY, it was important to me that every one of my students master the skills they would need as lawyers. It was also important that my courses cover the skills they would need in public interest practices,

where the resources would be limited. The result was a legal research curriculum that continued to stress hard-copy research, until we were sure all our graduates would have access to Westlaw and Lexis, and a hands-on problem method that gave every student a solid grasp of the process of legal research in a wide variety of areas. The most gratifying feedback I received was after my students came back from their first summer jobs and proudly told me that they had been the legal research experts among all the summer associates.

My passion for public interest deepened a decade ago when I spent my evenings for four years at the New York Catholic Bible School. I saw the foundations of social justice and human rights in the Hebrew prophets’ care for widows and strangers, in Jesus’s call to love our neighbors without limiting either the love or the definition of “neighbor,” and in Catholic social teaching as old as Saint Francis and enunciated more and more clearly over the past century in *Rerum Novarum*, the second Vatican Council, and the writings of the U.S. Catholic bishops. Uniting my experience at CUNY Law with my Catholic faith has made social justice a central passion of my life.

You were the building project manager for CUNY Law's new building in Long Island City. What does the move mean for CUNY Law?

I was involved with all of CUNY Law’s buildings over the past 30 years. At each stage we were able to change the character of an existing building to fit the Law School’s unique needs, and the design of the building helped the Law School grow and mature. P.S. 130 is fondly remembered as the womb in which CUNY Law was born. The temporary building at Queensborough created an unmatched sense of community in that cadre of students and faculty. Main Street was designed to foster the “house system” of lawyering seminars, and the success of that architecture was crucial to the development of our highly praised first-year program.

Two Court Square is the best building of all, in every way. The original construction is of very high quality, and our architects were able to create wonderful spaces to support all aspects

of our program, including first-year lawyering seminars, lecture and seminar classes, clinics and concentrations, the library, and the administrative functions to support them. And, of course, the location will integrate CUNY Law with the rest of the university, the public interest sector throughout the city, the courts, and, most of all, the clients we were created to serve.

How did leading the library for so many years prepare you to be the associate dean for administration and finance?

I used to joke that since the library is 10 percent of the Law School's budget, all I had to do was add a zero to everything. But, in fact, that isn't far from the truth. As chief librarian, I learned to budget and plan, develop services and monitor outcomes, supervise and evaluate staff, and, most importantly, build and lead a team of professionals. The administrative dean needs to do those same things, and I was pleased to find that my library experience carried over very smoothly.

What part of your work at CUNY Law over time makes you most proud?

I'm most proud of the teams that I built, in both the library and the administration, which continue to serve the Law School. My management philosophy is to hire and develop really good people, give them the resources they need, and encourage them to take responsibility. When people feel empowered, they rise above anything you could demand of them. In particular, Julie Lim is a leader who is building on the innovative 20th-century library that I developed to create a model for the law library of the 21st century.

You have given so much of your life to CUNY Law School. How do you think about your legacy here?

The new building at 2 Court Square is the most visible legacy. Of course, the credit is shared among the entire community that kept reminding us to keep our eyes on the mission. My role involved facilitating community participation and feedback, helping to translate the community vision into architectural direction, and making sure that the details were right. The net result is even better than my wildest dreams at the beginning of the process.

What inspired you to support CUNY Law? What do you hope your gift will achieve for the Law School?

There is no other law school as committed to public service as CUNY Law. We all need CUNY Law to flourish and develop, and I am happy to be able to do a small part to ensure its future. ●●



Gregory Koster



Committed to Justice for All

Q&A WITH DAVID F. EVERETT

David F. Everett

David F. Everett was an assistant district attorney for more than 12 years in Queens and Brooklyn before he launched his own civil trial and criminal defense law practice in New York more than 15 years ago. He is a retired colonel, U.S. Army Reserve, having served in the Persian Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In 1999, he joined CUNY Law School's Board of Visitors and has been a longtime advocate for and generous supporter of the Law School. His most recent gift supports the International Women's Human Rights Clinic in its work to allow victims of human trafficking to have their criminal records expunged if those convictions were a result of their being trafficked. In recognition of his generous and ongoing commitment to the Law School and its mission, the moot courtroom has been named the Everett Family Moot Courtroom. Everett discusses the role of moot court in his legal education and the importance of the new laws that expunge records of trafficking.

WHAT DO THE EVERETT FAMILY MOOT COURTROOM AND THE MOOT COURT EXPERIENCE MEAN TO YOU?

As a litigator, I believe that participating in moot court is a critical component of one's legal education. It's a really exciting part of the law school experience. You're not just writing, but you're experiencing what you'd actually do in a real courtroom situation. In a certain sense, moot court epitomizes what litigation and appellate work are about. It is an essential part of litigation and appellate training to be up there on your own, get questioned intensely by the panel of judges, and have to defend your position. Moot court was an important part of my own legal education. It's where the rubber meets the road. If you mess up, there is no one to blame but yourself.

When I was bureau chief in the Queens District Attorney's Office, I tried to impress upon the assistant district

attorneys assigned to my bureau how critical preparation is for trial work and oral argument on motions. The importance of preparation is to me the greatest lesson of the moot court experience on how you win cases. In trial and appellate practice, there's a winner and there's a loser, and there's no prize for second place. As a litigator, you can't be afraid to get in there and mix it up. But if you do lose—and that does happen to everyone at some point—you at least want to know you gave it the best that you had. One of the key takeaways from the moot court experience is that if you lose, you try to figure out what you did wrong and could have done better. If you win, you try to figure out those same things, too, so you're even better the next time.

I hope the Everett Family Moot Courtroom will be a significant factor in providing a meaningful experience to those who cross its threshold and take on the challenge of oral argument.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A LAWYER?

When I was choosing a career, I wanted to be in a profession where I could help people. I specifically wanted to become an assistant district attorney and serve the community in that way. I wanted to be part of an endeavor where I could really make a difference in helping to ensure that justice was done.

When I was in the Homicide Trials Bureau of the Queens District Attorney's Office, I tried 17 jury and three non-jury murder cases in a 13-month period. The homicide rate was much higher at that time than it is now and there was a great need to get those cases thoroughly investigated, prepared for trial, and tried in the proper way so that the guilty were convicted.

At the same time, I was fortunate enough to conduct several investigations as an assistant district attorney where I was able to have cleared of criminal charges people who had been accused of crimes they had not committed. My desire to become a lawyer so I could help ensure that justice was done could not have been better satisfied than by those experiences.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC AT CUNY LAW?

I became aware of a new law that was passed, New York Criminal Procedure Law Section 440.10(1)(i), which allows judges to vacate convictions for prostitution and loitering of individuals

who can show that these convictions are directly related to their being victims of human trafficking.

When I became aware of the law, I thought it was a good one that made a lot of sense and that spoke to the essence of justice and compassion. I thought it was important for the school to get involved with its implementation as part of a program of legal services to women who want to avail themselves of this legislation. It's a horrible thing for a person to first be a victim of human trafficking and then have to bear the burden of a degrading criminal record for something he or she had no control over.

Because CUNY Law is a school dedicated to law in the service of human needs, doing work in support of this law is a wonderful thing. Students will benefit from doing hands-on legal work that will really make a life-altering difference to the victims of human trafficking whose cases they bring to a successful conclusion in court. At the same time, it's helping clients who might not otherwise be able to benefit from the new law. It's a win-win situation. And as an added benefit, CUNY Law students will get the experience, as advocates, of feeling good themselves by doing good for others, especially those in great need of their help.

I hope the Everett Family Moot Courtroom will be a significant factor in providing a meaningful experience to those who cross its threshold and take on the challenge of oral argument.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES IN THE AREA OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS THAT NEED URGENT ATTENTION?

There are so very many women's rights issues throughout the world today. I'm a veteran of the Afghanistan war and I've seen firsthand some of the terrible treatment suffered by women. The fact that girls cannot attend school in parts of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban is as evil as it is heartbreaking. There is so much work to be done to bring about gender equality in the world, but education of girls is certainly a very important issue that needs to be addressed.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE YOUR GIFT WILL ACHIEVE FOR THE IWHR CLINIC AND FOR CUNY LAW?

I hope it will further the ability of CUNY Law and the IWHR Clinic to perform their core mission of public interest law, which is unique to CUNY Law as a stated goal. By providing these initial funds, I hope to enable students to utilize what they learn in the classroom to do good in the real world for those who have suffered, need their help, and can be helped by them. ●●

Recognizing Law School Staff Achievements

To recognize staff members for their consistently great day-to-day work, the Law School held its first staff recognition awards ceremony on Monday, October 22, 2012, in the Dave Fields Auditorium. All staff who have worked for the Law School for five years or more were honored for their dedicated years of service. Here, we feature photos from the ceremony and the cocktail reception that followed.



Demetri Iliou, IT, and Mary Nevins, Affirmative Action officer.



Dean Michelle J. Anderson presents Stephanie McGregor, career planning, with an award for seven years of service to the Law School.



Front, l-r: Pat Kennedy, student affairs; Mary Nocella, faculty support; and Carol Kozo, student affairs. Back, l-r: Associate Dean Meredith Gibbs, administration and finance; Maggie Ruperto, faculty support; and Betty Tabor, faculty support.



Dean Michelle J. Anderson presents Susan Chang, Professional Skills Center, with an award for 25 years of service to the Law School.

Welcoming Alumni to New Law School Home

On Friday, October 26, 2012, faculty, alumni, and staff came together in CUNY Law's new building to celebrate the reunion classes of 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2011. One hundred alumni attended the cocktail reception and took tours of the Law School's new home. "We were thrilled to share the evening with so many alumni and to show them the new space," said CUNY Law Dean Michelle J. Anderson. "This is our alumni's home now, too, and I hope the convenience of our new location means we will see them more often." Photos from the event are featured here.



Radha Rai ('97)



Sheila Dugan ('87)



JoAnn LeBright ('92), Daniel Thomas ('92), Peter Thomas ('92), and Rebecca Seawright ('92)



Tonya Gonnella Frichner ('87), Amy Porter ('86), Professor Joe Rosenberg ('86), and Teresa DeMeo ('87)



Yvette Pacheco ('97), Professor Sue Bryant, and Betty Leon ('97)

Alumni News

Many of your classmates have a lot of news to share, including business addresses, marriages, children, and photos—more than we can fit in the magazine! For expanded Alumni News, please visit the alumni section of www.law.cuny.edu.

1986

JUSTICE DICCIA T. PINEDA-KIRWAN has had the pleasure of having many CUNY Law students in her Judicial Intern program, where she sits in the historic Long Island City Courthouse and looks forward to welcoming more students. She is thrilled to introduce her grandson, Caiden Joseph. His father, Christopher Kirwan, was the first graduate of the day-care center at CUNY Law.

In July, the City of Baltimore announced the settlement of its Fair Housing Act case against Wells Fargo. The case was filed in January 2008, in collaboration with outside co-counsel, the firm of Relman, Dane & Colfax and principally John Relman as lead attorney. **SUZANNE SANGREE** was a member of the litigation team, and **MICHAEL BRAVERMAN**, as deputy commissioner for code enforcement, provided critical data to support the City's damages claim.

BARRY STRUTT won a ruling in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit affirming a substantial verdict on behalf of a plaintiff who brought suit under 42 U.S.C. 1983 against the City of Mount Vernon. The ruling denied Mount Vernon's claim that the verdict was barred by the doctrine of qualified immunity, also finding without merit the City's contention that there had been evidentiary errors.

1987

PARIS R. BALDACCI was appointed a public member of the Housing Court Advisory Council. The council screens and recommends candidates for initial appointments as housing court judges and renewals. The council also issues reports with recommendations for reforms and changes in Housing Court procedures and practices.



Daniel Belardinelli ('92)

In May, **TONYA GONNELLA FRICHER** was conferred the degree of doctor of laws, honoris causa, by the board of trustees of Colby College at the graduation ceremony in Waterville, ME, for her work "to restore the rights of self-determination and sovereignty for Native Peoples throughout the world."

MATILDE LEO is an associate general counsel for the New York City Department of Probation, where she has worked for 22 years. Matilde was transferred to the Queens office four years ago. Before that, she worked in the Manhattan office for 18 years.

1988

VICTORIA ORTIZ and **JENNIFER ELROD** ('87) are partners and co-managers of Law School ACEs LLC, a web-based consulting company that works with people who are applying to law school: www.lawschoolaces.com. In addition, Victoria's casebook, *Español para Abogados*, was published by Foundation Press in September 2012.

1991

JOLYNNE MILLER was selected as a member of the 2012 class of the American Bar Association Section of Labor and Employment Law's Leadership Development Program.

MARIE TATRO is about to enter the third and final year of her seminary program. She was the guest preacher at an Episcopal church in Provincetown, MA, during the summer.

1992

DANIEL BELARDINELLI is a partner in McGlone, McGlone & Belardinelli, P.C., in Boonton, NJ. His area of practice is criminal defense. In addition to practicing law, Daniel is a painter represented in galleries throughout the United States and Europe.

JAMES P. CURRAN was elected Hebron, NY, town judge and sworn in January 1, 2012, for a four-year term.

PETER C. WALSH has been appointed associate dean of the Suffolk Academy of Law. He also serves the academy as a member of the curriculum committee and marketing committee, and as a CLE program coordinator, moderator, and faculty speaker. Peter is also the cochair of the elder law committee and the solo & small firm practitioner committee for the Suffolk County Bar Association.

1993

Since 2008, **DAVID HYLAND** has served as a neutral labor and employment arbitrator and mediator. He currently serves on several arbitration panels statewide, including the New York City Department of Education and DC 37 and PEF and CSEA-represented employees. Since late 2007, David has served on the advisory panel of the Scheinman Institute for Conflict Resolution at Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. David and his partner still live in Manhattan.

1994

HARVEY EPSTEIN was named an associate director of the Urban Justice Center on August 1, 2012.

DANIEL FLANZIG released New York's first free bike crash app, called the Bike Crash Kit, which coincides with the launch of his new cycling practice, www.newyorkbikelawyers.com. He is working with BikeCUNY to help promote safe cycling for CUNY's cycling community.

DEMETRA FRAZIER presented "Parental Substance Abuse and Children: Complications, Consequences, and Cures" at the 35th National Child Welfare, Juvenile, and Family Law conference convened by the National Association of Counsel for Children. For the past 16 years, Demetra has represented children as an attorney for the child with the Legal Aid Society.

VICTORIA NEILSON, legal director of Immigration Equality, and **SHARON STAPEL** ('98), executive director of the Anti-Violence Project, attended the White House LGBT Pride Month reception on June 15, 2012.



Sharon Stapel ('98) and Victoria Neilson ('94)

KAREN P. SIMMONS received an award from Legal Information for Families Today (LIFT) on June 12, 2012. Karen is the executive director of the Children's Law Center, a not-for-profit law firm that represents children in custody, visitation, guardianship, family offense, paternity, and connected child protective cases in the family court and the integrated domestic violence parts of the Supreme Court in Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island. Karen is also an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School.

1995

HARLENE KATZMAN, pro bono counsel at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, received the 2012 Abely Pro Bono Achievement

Award from Sanctuary for Families for her work with immigrant victims of gender-based violence.

CHERYL J. MORAN continues her work as a special public defender in Connecticut. She also recently opened SoulSpace Yoga & Wellness in Plantsville, CT, after spending a month in Costa Rica becoming a certified yoga instructor.

SAM OAKLAND will take a leave of absence from his post as a teaching ranger with the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon to accept a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship at the Moldova State Institute of International Relations in Chisinau, Moldova, beginning in January 2013. He will teach seminars on law and literature and give lectures throughout the country on the law as seen in American films. This will be Sam's fourth Fulbright and his second since graduating from CUNY Law.

1996

JOSEPH B. MAIRA maintains practices in New Jersey and New York. Joseph is willing to mentor CUNY Law students or alumni on starting, maintaining, and growing a law office.

JOY S. ROSENTHAL became president of the Family & Divorce Mediation Council of Greater New York in June 2012. She is honored to be serving with several other CUNY Law grads on the board: **KATIE COLE** ('00), **TERESA CALABRESE** ('87), and **ANDREA HIRSHMAN** ('93). Joy speaks regularly about elder mediation and continues her family law and mediation practice in Manhattan. Joy was quoted in *SmartMoney* magazine's article "When to Call an Elder Mediator" in August 2012.

1997

LORI CITRON KNIPEL was a delegate for President Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention.

THOMAS SCANLON recently established Juliano, Hansen & Scanlon, in Franklin Square, NY. It is a general practice firm, handling real estate matters, litigation matters, and regulatory compliance

concerns. Prior to establishing the firm, Thomas was general counsel, regulatory & governmental affairs manager for Interstate National Dealer Services, Inc., a nationwide service contract company. Thomas has also been an adjunct instructor at Molloy College.

TITO SINHA is a senior associate at Valli, Kane & Vagnini, LLP in Garden City, NY, specializing in employment discrimination and wage and hour litigation. Since January 2012, he has served as a director on the board of the South Asian Bar Association of New York.

1998

SUSAN SCHMIDHAUSER has worked in the Attorney General's Office in Delaware for 10 years. Susan was recently promoted to head of the sex crimes unit in the Kent County office. She lives in Dover, where she trains and competes with her nine dogs in agility and obedience.

1999

MERCEDES CANO was elected president of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County.

KAREN H. CHARRINGTON was named one of the National Trial Lawyers Association's Top 40 Under 40.

NITIN SAVUR is deputy chief of the trial division at the Manhattan DA's Office. He is also the attorney in charge of criminal court, which handles about 85,000 cases each year. Prior to this appointment in 2010, he served as deputy bureau chief of the cybercrime and identity theft bureau; deputy chief of the identity theft unit; and criminal court supervisor for a trial bureau. Nitin and his wife Rita have two young children, Shailen and Shreya.

2000

RICHARD J. ZEITLER, JR., joined the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs as an administrative law judge. Previously, he spent eight years as a trial lawyer in personal injury and trust and estates with the Staten Island law firm Chelli & Bush.

2002

IAN HINONANGAN and the Hinonangan Law Office have joined the rest of the nation in submitting USCIS Form I-821D (Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

2003

HARRY BERBERIAN is the director of strategic partnerships and resource development at Graham Windham, the longest-serving child welfare agency in the nation.

After nearly five years running the general counsel's office at Local 100 UNITE HERE alone, **LÍA FIOL-MATTA** is happy to have hired Sarai King as associate general counsel. Sarai, a graduate of University of Wisconsin Law School, was a visiting student at CUNY Law during her third year. Prior to being general counsel at Local 100, Lía was associate general counsel at Local 32BJ SEIU and continues to enjoy union-side labor law practice.

KATHRYN L. HUDSON maintains a solo practice and has taken on a new associate, Aimee Lockwood, to handle domestic relations cases. Kathryn is concentrating on criminal law and appeals.

AZALIA VOLPE (née Lopez) is the proud mother of two vibrant toddlers, Violetta and Vespasian. In the past three years, Azalia has gotten married, had two children, and received her MBA.

2004

CAROLYN E. COFFEY, a supervising attorney at MFY Legal Services, Inc., received a New York County Lawyer's Association Public Service Award in September.

ELISA FISCHER is working at New York City's Health and Hospitals Corporation medical litigation unit. She is in charge of settling all in-house early settlement cases for Bronx and New York Counties. She loves negotiating, particularly since she has had endless years of training by her children.

2006

AMANDA BEST is pleased to announce the opening of her new firm, Best Law Office, LLC, in Denville, NJ, where she specializes in family law matters, including divorce, child custody, child support, and related issues.

CYNTHIA CONTI-COOK is a senior associate at Stoll, Glickman & Bellina, LLP, a small law firm in Brooklyn, NY, where she has worked since graduation. This past summer, she completed her third federal civil rights trial in Albany, and has now settled nearly 100 cases on behalf of people whose rights have been violated by the NYPD, City and State corrections officers, and prison medical staff. In addition to litigation, she manages Five Borough Defenders, an informal association of public defenders, civil rights attorneys, law students, academics, and others who advocate on behalf of the civil rights of indigent New Yorkers.



Leyla Desai Patel, daughter of Yogi Patel ('06) and his wife, Shalini Desai

YOGI PATEL and his wife, Shalini Desai, welcomed their daughter, Leyla Desai Patel. Yogi has partnered with three other attorneys to form the Patel Law Firm LLP (www.patellawllp.com) in Manhattan. The firm has six attorneys: five CUNY graduates and a recent CUNY Law graduate.

CHARLIE STOLL is an assistant district attorney with the Second Judicial District Attorney's Office in Albuquerque, NM, where he prosecutes felony domestic violence crimes.

2007

PETER L. QUAN has been an attorney for almost five years, focusing on immigration and civil litigation.

YASMIN TABI joined the Bronx District Attorney's Office in January 2011, after three and a half years at the HIV Law Project. Yasmin got married in October 2012.

In 2010, **EMILY WHITE** joined the consumer unit of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland as an Equal Justice Works Americorps fellow, providing assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure. Emily has stayed on as a staff attorney focusing on consumer issues including foreclosure law, payday lending, and student loan law.

2008

TAÍ MEREY ALEX was promoted to project manager of the Harlem Justice Corps program at the Center for Court Innovation. She and her husband, Cristobal Alex, celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary in September.

After four years in solo practice, **TREVOR DAVIS** joined the Committee for Public Counsel Services in Pittsfield, MA, as a public defender, in February 2012.

LAURA PEREZ was elected second vice president of the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County. Laura also started her solo practice in January 2011.

2009

ANTHONY LISE is practicing in the areas of family and matrimonial law, specializing in same-sex families and residential real estate transactions at Weiss, Buell & Bell. He lives in DUMBO with his partner, Kevin, and their dog, Henry.

2010

SUZANNE ADELY is a legal fellow at the UAW Global Organizing Institute. She helped organize a National Lawyers Guild delegation to study Egypt's ongoing revolution, particularly the role and responsibility of the U.S. government and American corporations in human rights abuses.

Faculty Notes

MICHELLE ANDERSON was quoted in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* in August on the evolving legal definition of rape. In June, she joined the New York City Bar Association's Task Force on New Lawyers in a Changing Profession and agreed to chair its Solo, Small, and Medium-Sized Law Firms Committee. Anderson was also appointed as an advisor to the American Law Institute's project to revise the Model Penal Code's Sexual Assault provisions. She presented "Deceptive Sex and Rape" in March at Suffolk University Law School, as part of its Law and Society Speaker Series, and at Chapman University School of Law in February as part of its Global Project for LGBTQ Rights and Feminism speaker series.

BERYL BLAUSTONE'S article "Autonomy-Mastery-Purpose: Structuring Clinical Courses to Enhance These Critical Education Goals," coauthored with Leah Wortham and Catherine Klein, will be published in the *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education* (2012).

CAITLIN E. BORGMANN presented a paper on appellate review of social facts in constitutional rights cases at the Law and Society Association Meeting in June. She moderated the "Reproductive Rights" panel at the CUNY Law Review Symposium "Looking Forward: Rhonda Copelon's Legacy in Action and the Future of International Women's Human Rights Law" in March. She was quoted in *Slate* and the *Atlantic* regarding "wrongful pregnancy" in cases involving manufacturer-caused failed contraception in February.

SUSAN BRYANT was on the faculty at the Georgetown Summer Institute for clinical teaching in June. In May, she presented "Promoting Self-Awareness and Mindfulness in our Classroom Discussions on the Role of Race and Privilege in Lawyering" at the AALS Clinical Conference with **LILIANA YANEZ** and **CARMEN HUERTAS**. Bryant presented "Using Rounds to Teach about Social Justice" with Elliott



Professor Caitlin Borgmann

Milstein at the Southern Clinical Conference in March.

JOHN CICERO presented on his experiential approach to teaching labor law at the "Classroom as Shop Floor" workshop at the Value of Variety Conference, convened by the Institute of Law Teaching and Learning, and held at Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, WA, in June.

LISA DAVIS coauthored the chapter "Our Bodies Are Still Trembling" in the book *Tectonic Shifts: Haiti Since the Earthquake*, recently published by Kumarian Press (2012). The amicus brief that she and the International Women's Human Rights Clinic (IWHRC) coauthored with the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) on the recent *Atala v. Chile* case in the Inter-American Court was featured in an IntLawGrrls blog post

in July. The court found that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected classes. Also in July, Davis was a panelist for "The Universal Periodic Review: Using a New United Nations Human Rights Mechanism to Bring State Accountability for the Health, HIV, Sex Worker, and LGBTI Communities" at the International AIDS Conference in Washington, D.C. She had the following speaking engagements in June: She was a panelist for "Defendiendo los Derechos de las Mujeres en la Práctica" at the Universidad de Los Andes Conferencia in Colombia; presented "Ending the Stigma of Sexual Violence" at the World Bank Conference in Haiti on Women and Girls in Haiti's Reconstruction; and was a panelist for "Principles and Approaches to Social Justice Lawyering" at the Center for Constitutional Rights Social Justice Conference in New York. Davis was a panelist for "Solidarity Roundtable on Haiti" at the Association for Women's Rights in Development annual international forum in Turkey during April. She was a panelist for "Struggling to Survive: Sexual Exploitation of Women and Youth in Haiti" in Geneva at the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Conference in March. In February, Davis presented "Women's Rights in Post-Disaster Situations" at the firm of White & Case LLP.

RAQUEL J. GABRIEL'S column "Diversity Dialogues: Dealing with Stress" was published in the *104 Law Library Journal* 417 (2012). It's the latest in a series of columns dealing with law librarianship and issues of diversity.

JULIE GOLDSCHIED published a *New York Times* letter to the editor regarding a New Orleans police misconduct case in August. She coauthored "Implementing the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' Domestic Violence Ruling," which was published in the *Clearinghouse Review's* July/August issue. Goldschieid participated as an expert at the Due Diligence Project meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, in June. The project focuses on states'

obligations of due diligence with respect to gender violence. In March, she gave a lunch talk, “Reframing Anti-Gender Violence Advocacy for Progressive Reform,” at the CUNY Graduate Center and moderated the panel “Domestic Implementation of International Human Rights Law” at the CUNY Law School Symposium “Looking Forward: Rhonda Copelon’s Legacy in Action and the Future of International Women’s Human Rights Law.”

YASMIN SOKKAR HARKER received the 2012 American Association of Law Libraries/LexisNexis Call for Papers Award (New Member Division) for her paper “Information Is Cheap, Meaning Is Expensive: Building Analytical Skill in Legal Research Instruction” at the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL) annual meeting in July. She was also a panelist at a session on scholarship and librarianship at the AALL annual meeting.

CARMEN HUERTAS-NOBLE’S article “Promoting Worker Owned Cooperatives as a CED Empowerment Strategy: A Case Study of Colors and Lawyering in Support of Participatory Decision-Making and Meaningful Social Change,” originally published in the *17 Clinical Law Review* 255 (2010), was reprinted in the *Irish Review of Community Economic Development Law and Policy* Vol. 1 (3) (2012). In May, she presented “Promoting Self-Awareness and Mindfulness in Our Classroom Discussions on the Role of Race and Privilege in Lawyering” at the Association of American Law Schools Clinical Conference with **LILIANA YANEZ** and **SUSAN BRYANT**. Huertas-Noble also was accepted to participate in the Georgetown Summer Law Institute, where she presented on overcoming challenges in clinical legal supervision.

SARAH LAMDAN’S article “Getting Comfortable with Corporate Law Research” was published in *The American Association of Law Libraries Spectrum Online* magazine in June. In May, her article “Protecting the Freedom of Information Act Requestor: Privacy for Information Seekers” was

published in *21 Kansas Journal of Law and Public Policy* 221. Lamdan presented on the Freedom of Information Act and librarian ethics in relation to requestor privacy at the Information Ethics Roundtable in April.

STEPHEN LOFFREDO and **DEGNA LEVISTER** were honored for their work in the Economic Justice Project at the Welfare Rights Initiative’s annual gala in May. Loffredo delivered a paper on education, inequality, and economic mobility in February at the University of North Carolina Law School’s 2012 Conference on Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity, titled “Waking Up from the American Dream: The Sober Reality of Class in the United States.”

ANDREA MCARDLE’S article “The Increasingly Fractious Politics of Nonpartisan Judicial Selection: Accountability Challenges to Merit-based Reform” was published in the State Constitutional Commentary issue, Volume 75 of the *Albany Law Review*. She presented a paper with **DEBORAH ZALESNE**, “The Role of the Curriculum Committee in Promoting the Value of Variety,” at the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning Conference on The Value of Variety at Gonzaga University School of Law in June. McArdle presented the paper “Understanding Voice in a Judicial Context: Beyond Style and Word Choice” at the 2012 Legal Writing Institute Biennial Conference in May. She presented the paper “Rescaling Justice: Problem-Solving Courts, Locality, and the Ideology of Scale” for a panel on court geographies at the 2012 annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, held in February.

JONATHAN C. MOORE has had several notable litigation developments. He is co-lead counsel in *Floyd v. City of New York*, challenging New York Police Department racial profiling in its stop-and-frisk program. On May 16, a federal district judge ruled the case may be tried as a class action on behalf of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers. The judge

found the City had “deeply troubling apathy toward New Yorkers’ most fundamental constitutional rights,” and found “overwhelming evidence” that the NYPD program had led to thousands of baseless, unlawful police stops. Earlier the judge had ruled that plaintiffs could offer expert testimony on racially disparate patterns in the stop-and-frisk program. In August the court ruled the City had no basis “to justify stops on the basis of their deterrent impact, regardless of their legality.” Earlier in May, Moore settled a false arrest case for \$360,000 on behalf of two prominent African-American lawyers, Michael and Evelyn Warren, who were falsely arrested for speaking out against brutality they witnessed on the streets. In August the City settled *Haus v. City of New York*, for \$703,000 in payments to 15 people who were falsely arrested during the February 15, 2003, anti-war march protesting the onset of the Iraq War. Finally, in October, a federal court ruled in a case in which Moore was one of three attorneys to argue, on behalf of a class of 1,200 people in consolidated false arrest cases arising from anti-war protests at the summer 2004 Republican National Convention, that the City could not apply a doctrine of “group probable cause” to the demonstrators. “The Fourth Amendment does not recognize guilt by association,” Judge Richard Sullivan wrote.

JENNY RIVERA presented “Commission on Hispanic Legal Rights and Responsibilities Initial Report” at the American Bar Association annual meeting in August. In February, she co-presented “So You Want to be a Lawyer. Latina/os and Their Journey into the Legal Profession: Overcoming Challenges” at the Suffolk Law School in Boston.

RUTHANN ROBSON was quoted by Bloomberg News, *Queens Chronicle*, Associated Press, ABC.com, Salon.com, and other media about various constitutional issues, as well as writing regularly for the Constitutional Law Professors Blog. In June, she presented “Dressing Down: Symbolic



Professor Jenny Rivera

Speech Against Sexual Violence and Class Inequality” at the annual Law and Society conference.

CYNTHIA SOOHOO presented on the right to privacy and served as an international expert at the South Asia Reproductive Rights Case Development Workshop in Katmandu, Nepal, in July. She presented on strategies to use international human rights to reform domestic laws and policies at the Bringing Women’s Human Rights Home to Colombia Conference at the University of Los Andes in Bogota, Colombia, in June. In March, Soohoo presented at the CUNY Law Review

Symposium “Looking Forward: Rhonda Copelon’s Legacy in Action and the Future of International Women’s Human Rights Law.” She presented on the panel discussing reproductive rights, which was moderated by **CAITLIN BORGMANN**.

Also in March, Soohoo presented on the panel “Issues in Interpretation and Implementation” at the event “The U.S. and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: 20 Years after Ratification” at the Human Rights Institute, which was sponsored by the Columbia Law School’s Human Rights Institute and held at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. She presented on a panel on reforming rape law at Women and Girls in Haiti’s Reconstruction: Addressing and Preventing Gender-Based Violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in February.

RICHARD STORROW published “Religion, Feminism and Abortion: The Regulation of Assisted Reproduction in Two Catholic Countries” in the *Rutgers Law Journal* and “The Phantom Children of the Republic: Surrogacy, Globalization and the New Illegitimacy” in the *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy & the Law* (2012). Storrow presented “The Safety Valve Metaphor in Cross-border Reproductive Travel” at the Albany Law School Faculty Workshop Series in April. He presented “The Ethics of Exclusion in Infertility Care” at the workshop A Call for Change: A Legal Discourse on LGBT Rights, which was held at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University in March. In February, Storrow presented “Reproductive Tourism and the Supreme Court Reference on the Assisted Human Reproduction Act” at the New Approaches to Assisted Human Reproduction roundtable meeting at the University

of Manitoba. He also was interviewed for his remarks on reproductive tourism featured in the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s radio segment “Legal Uncertainty” in February.

ALAN WHITE was quoted in a range of media outlets, including ABC News, *Bloomberg Businessweek*, and the Huffington Post, on the foreclosure crisis.

DEBORAH ZALESNE and **DAVID NADVORNEY** cowrote the book *Teaching to Every Student: Integrating Skills and Theory into the Contracts Class*, published by Carolina Academic Press (2012). She and **ANDREA MCARDLE** co-presented their paper, “The Role of the Curriculum Committee in Promoting the Value of Variety,” at the summer conference of the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning at Gonzaga University Law School in June. Zalesne and Nadvorney co-presented their paper, “Making Assessment Goals Explicit: An Integrated Skills/Doctrine Syllabus,” at the Center for Excellence in Law Teaching Conference at Albany Law School in March. Also in March, Zalesne presented the paper “The Contractual Family: The Role of the Market in Shaping Family Formulations and Rights” at the Seventh International Conference on Contracts at Thomas Jefferson Law School.

STEVE ZEIDMAN presented “Counseling Clients Now That the Courts Are Watching,” on the impact of the recent Supreme Court cases of *Lafler v. Cooper* and *Missouri v. Frye*, in July at the 45th annual meeting and conference of the New York State Defenders Association. At that conference, he also presented the 2012 Service of Justice Award to Thomas Klein of the Legal Aid Society.

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