

A COMMUNITY OF JUSTICE

CUNY LAW

FALL 2011



STUDENTS IN ACTION

Summer Fellowships at Work

Introducing the **CUNY LAW ALUMNI JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP FUND**

To ensure that more CUNY Law students have the opportunity to gain critical lawyering skills and to carry out our important mission, we are launching the CUNY Law Alumni Justice Fellowship Fund.

This new fund provides students with summer stipends so that they can gain formative experiences working at social justice organizations and organizations can gain the talent and commitment of CUNY Law students.

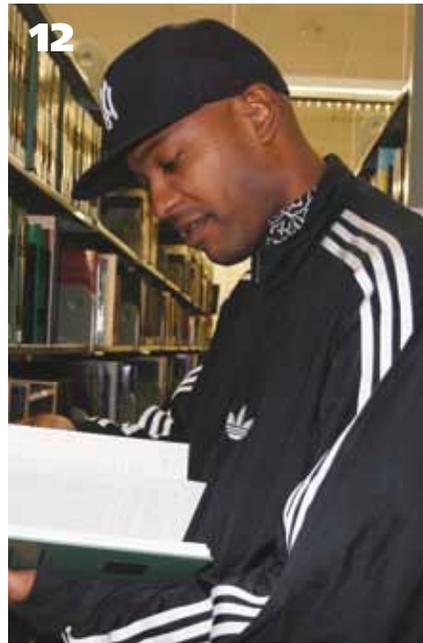
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**Support students working on the front lines.
PLEASE GIVE TO THE CUNY LAW
ALUMNI JUSTICE FELLOWSHIP FUND**

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Dean Michelle J. Anderson

Dear Friends,

Many students across the country hope to work at large law firms during their summers in law school. It is a different story here at CUNY School of Law.

When I walk down the halls of the school in early September, I hear students recount how they spent the past few months reconnecting with their activist roots. They talk about how they worked for social justice, putting their legal learning into practice for public interest clients who desperately need representation.

It is delightful to see the sparkle in their eyes. They have a new determination to complete law school and use their degree to practice “Law in the Service of Human Needs.”

In this issue of the magazine, you will read eight unique summer stories, including one about Margaret Palmer ('12) and how a Public Interest Law Association (PILA) summer fellowship enabled her to do environmental justice work for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in Philadelphia.

Palmer's classmate Darryl Albert, the recipient of the Black Law Students Association's Shanara Gilbert Fellowship, spent his summer at the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, in his words, “keeping the judicial system healthy.”

You will also read about the work of Nermina Arnaud ('13) in

Switzerland with the Geneva for Human Rights Global Training Program, an opportunity funded by the Frank Durkan Memorial Fellowship in Human Rights. Luis Bautista ('13), who benefited from the Boyers, Davis, and Zaldin Fellowship, worked on eviction prevention at Make the Road New York.

After engaging in summer work, CUNY Law students bring their experiences back to the classroom, enriching dialogs with newly developed knowledge and skills. Their ability to understand, question, and critique the law becomes much greater.

At CUNY, summer fellowships for students are another way for the Law School to remain engaged with local communities. Social justice organizations feel more connected to the school when they see how powerfully committed its students are.

Summer fellowships not only provide legal services for communities in need and public interest practice for our students early on, but they also become conduits for professional connections and future jobs.

This vital summer work does not fund itself.

The vast majority of social justice organizations cannot pay law students for their summer commitment of time and energy. As a result, the CUNY Law administration, faculty, staff, and students work throughout the year to raise funds for many summer fellowships.

Our alums make a major difference. For example, the Honorable Bryanne Hamill ('90) and Thomas Hamill have contributed \$100,000 to CUNY Law to establish the Hamill Family Fellowship Fund, which will grant summer fellowships to CUNY Law students working in the area of children's rights. This is our first endowed summer fellowship, and we are deeply grateful to Bryanne and Tom for their generosity, vision, and support of our students.

Whether it is small contributions from recent graduates or generous endowments like the Hamill Family Summer Fellowship in Children's Rights, what matters is not the amount, but the determination to support the CUNY Law family.

We live in a world in which public interest practice is being de-funded. When organizations do not have the money, it is more important than ever for summer fellowships at CUNY Law to support students working on the front lines of social justice.

As we pass the 25th anniversary of the first graduating CUNY Law School class, I hope you will contribute in whatever way you can, giving as one generation to the next.

Yours,

Michelle J. Anderson
Dean and Professor of Law

Brian O'Dwyer Receives Dean's Award

Immigrant and worker rights champion and Northern Ireland peace advocate Brian O'Dwyer received the Dean's Award for his outstanding commitment to social justice. O'Dwyer received the award at a special reception held at the Manhattan home of Christine and George Stonbely. George and Christine's son, Jonathan, is a 2007 CUNY Law graduate and a member of CUNY Law's Foundation Board.

Conferring the award was City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, a friend and admirer of O'Dwyer's. Also in attendance was the chief judge of the New York State Court of Appeals, Jonathan Lippman, who made brief remarks noting the tremendous need for CUNY Law's mission of graduating public interest lawyers.

O'Dwyer's involvement with and support of CUNY Law is long-standing. A member of the CUNY School of Law Foundation board of directors and former member of the Law School's board of visitors, O'Dwyer has supported the Law School in many ways. His early belief in CUNY Law and its mission has led his firm, O'Dwyer & Bernstein, to hire a significant number of CUNY Law graduates over the years, including Victor Greco ('86), a partner at the firm. The century-old law firm maintains an immigrant-centric approach to the practice of law.

“Brian's long history as a social justice lawyer and an advocate for peace in Northern Ireland is an inspiration to our students.”

—Dean Michelle Anderson

Through O'Dwyer's leadership, the firm has provided CUNY Law students with stipends for summer fellowships. In addition, O'Dwyer forged critical connections on behalf of the Law School's Bar Study Grant program, which led to grants from the Charles Lawrence Keith and Clara Miller Foundation.

“We are honored to acknowledge Brian O'Dwyer's unwavering commitment to civil rights and to CUNY Law's mission,” said CUNY Law Dean Michelle J. Anderson. “His long history as a social justice lawyer and an advocate for peace in Northern



Brian O'Dwyer

Ireland is an inspiration to our students,” she added. “Since taking office, Speaker Quinn has addressed a wide range of issues about which CUNY Law cares. Her work as an elected official, in addition to her close friendship with Brian, made her the perfect person to present the Dean's Award.” In 2007, as part of a delegation co-led by Quinn, O'Dwyer flew to Belfast to take part in unprecedented meetings with leaders who were negotiating peace in the region.

“Brian is resolute in his commitment to justice. His impact as a lawyer, advocate, and friend is immeasurable,” said Quinn.

“George and Christine, who are also strong supporters of CUNY Law, opened their beautiful home for this event,” noted Dean Anderson. “We appreciate their generosity in hosting the reception.” More than 100 people attended, including Irish Consul General Noel Kilkenny and attorneys from the private and public bar.

O'Dwyer has received numerous commendations, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He serves as board chair of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center and the Asociación Tepeyac de New York, a Mexican immigrant rights association. Earlier this year, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appointed him commissioner of the United States National Commission for UNESCO. ●●

Training Defenders of Equal Rights

by Paul Lin

Talk to employment discrimination specialist Rick Rossein about the concentration he has taught at CUNY Law School since its early years, and you'll learn how sought-after this third-year course has become.

“Some students come to me in the first year,” said Rossein, “saying ‘I came to the school because I want to be in the Equality Concentration,’” where the focus oftentimes is on unfair treatment in the workplace, including racial and sexual discrimination.

Sometimes students “have experienced discrimination against themselves, families, or communities. They’ve seen it firsthand, and they want to do something about it,” he said.

The Equality Concentration explores civil rights laws and how people and communities may be discriminated against and oppressed. Rossein tries to integrate theory and doctrine, as well as lawyering skills, such as interviewing a client or writing a federal court complaint.

Rossein delves into Section 1983 litigation, lawsuits brought under a post-Civil War statute that, in particular, allow people to sue public entities—governments, schools, prisons, or the police—for civil rights violations.

Students respect Rossein’s extensive background. He litigated a landmark sexual harassment case, *EEOC v. Sage Realty Corp.* His experience includes working for New York City’s Bureau of Labor Services and its Commission on Human Rights. He also served as commissioner for equal employment practices under Mayor David Dinkins.

On the state level, Rossein was appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo to cochair a committee on the Task Force on Sexual Harassment. Rossein has also consulted with national organizations and currently does arbitration work for the American Arbitration Association.

Rossein also wrote the book on employment law—specifically, three volumes titled *Employment Discrimination Law and Litigation*—that is used in his class.

To expand discussions beyond what’s formally studied in class, the professor relies on twice-a-week field placements, in which



students work with real lawyers on real cases, and may bring into class additional issues, including age and disability discrimination.

This year, students have been placed at the New York State Attorney General’s Office in the Labor and Civil Rights Bureaus, as well as at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Constitutional Rights, and some private civil rights firms.

What pleases Rossein is how there’s a nice back-and-forth with the concentration’s alumni, who return to lecture classes or mentor new students. He also loves to read in the news how well graduates are representing people most in need of their help.

“They have someone to stand up for them,” said Rossein. “It’s nice to feel like I had a small part in it.” ●●

Lia Fiol-Matta



Standing Up for Workers

For Lia Fiol-Matta ('03), general counsel of UNITE HERE Local 100, each day brings new opportunities to help thousands of hardworking and struggling food and beverage service workers in New York and New Jersey.

The union counts among its members more than 6,000 cooks, prep cooks, dishwashers, waiters, utility workers, bartenders, cashiers, and others in restaurants, stadiums and arenas, corporate cafeterias and dining rooms, and college and school cafeterias.

Fiol-Matta handles all legal matters for her local—case preparation, litigation, arbitration—whether it's for discharged or disciplined workers, workers on strike, or members whose employers have violated their contracts. She also negotiates collective bargaining agreements and handles all matters before the National Labor Relations Board.

In a recent arbitration case, described by Fiol-Matta as “very

challenging, sensitive, and intense, but extremely satisfying,” an exclusive restaurant discharged 10 employees after the employer claimed the workers were not authorized to work in the United States.

“It was an illegal reverification of work authorization status and discharging 10 kitchen employees without just cause,” she said. At the time this article was produced, she was writing legal briefs and awaiting the arbitrator's award after three days of hearings for testimony and presentation of evidence.

In another case, employers engaged in illegal subcontracting when they brought in non-union workers, saying that current employees did not have the skills needed to prepare what the employer considered “special” ethnic cuisines.

“That's a violation of the contract. It's also a fallacy,” said Fiol-Matta. “We represent workers who are extremely skilled in their crafts from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds. We believe this is a way for the employer to try to weaken the union, dilute the power of the bargaining unit, and avoid paying the non-union workers the rates and benefits negotiated in the contract.”

Fiol-Matta came to CUNY Law when she was 40 years old, after having careers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. as a teacher and as a psychologist specializing in adolescents and families. “I was attracted to CUNY Law's public interest mission. It's in harmony with who I am as a person,” she said. As a student, she enjoyed interacting with others of diverse backgrounds and “profound life experiences.”

After graduating from law school, Fiol-Matta interviewed at labor unions and, she said, “fell in love with union-side labor law.”

Several courses helped prepare Fiol-Matta for her work at the union. Besides taking Professor Rick Rossein's Equality Concentration (for which she did her field placement at Steel Bellman Ritz & Clark P.C.), she also took (and later provided teaching assistance for) his Trial Practice seminar. Fiol-Matta also took Professor Paula Berg's Disability Law class, which rounded off her knowledge of discrimination law.

As Fiol-Matta takes stock of the eight years that have passed since she left CUNY Law, she's grateful to the Law School for opening the door to an exciting legal career and for the support of her professors and classmates at a time when she personally faced an unexpected challenge, which was the sudden loss of her closest sister right before final exams in her first semester.

“I feel very proud to be a CUNY Law graduate,” she said. “I could be making much more money elsewhere with my skills, background, and professional experience, but CUNY motivated me to do what I love and to follow my passion, and for that I will be rewarded in ways that money can't buy. It has proven to be that way for me, and I thank CUNY Law sincerely.” ●●

Making a Difference at the EEOC

Christine Back ('08) has not paused a beat since graduating from law school.

As a third-year student, she applied for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Attorney Honor Program, a way for the agency to recruit and then train lawyers.

"The type of cases the commission deals with concerns whether somebody was refused a position because they were of a particular race, for example, or denied equal pay because of their gender," said Back. "This area of the law has some tangible impact, and I like that."

Out of hundreds of applicants for each position, Back was one of three selected in 2008.

She went to work for the EEOC, first as a trial lawyer doing affirmative civil rights litigation in New York and then, more recently, as an appellate attorney in Washington, D.C.

Back's work also now includes cases in which the EEOC may take part as an *amicus curiae*—friend of the court—providing its expertise in antidiscrimination law. It's something Back has never done, but that hasn't ever slowed her down in the past.

Consider the pregnancy discrimination case she worked on in New York, taking depositions and defending them, researching parts of the law related to the case, and getting involved in strategy decisions.

"There was a pretty steep learning curve to it, and it was pretty fast-paced, but a very good introduction to pre-trial litigation," she said. Back did have some practice in Professor Rick Rossein's Trial Practice seminar.

"All of that was really hands-on preparation for the work that I ended up doing," said Back.

Her interest in trial law went beyond the classroom and into a trial competition held by the American Bar Association's Labor and Employment Law Section. Her team, advised by Rossein, competed against other law schools on a Title VII employment discrimination case and placed second out of 10 schools in 2007.

With Rossein as teacher and advisor, Back began to think about employment discrimination as an area of law in which



Christine Back

she might specialize.

Back's prelaw life, while varied, had a common thread: public service. As an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, she played an active role at the student paper, the *Chicago Maroon*, as a reporter and then news editor—even as she double-majored in non-journalism-related fields.

After college, Back worked at the International Center for Journalists and later moved to New York to accept a position as a public school teacher in Brooklyn. There, she got involved with a committee to advise the principal on parent and teacher concerns.

"This was my first experience advocating for somebody else. Because of that role I began to think: What does it mean to represent someone else's interests and to do it well? Is this something I should explore?" she wondered. Those questions and her interest in how the law could serve the public good led her to CUNY Law.

Now, three years after earning her law degree, Back feels she has made some wise choices and that she is making a positive difference in people's lives.

"I am really happy doing what I am doing now. I am thankful for it and will continue to work with a focus on serving people and advancing some kind of good," she said. "I've been very fortunate to have had that experience thus far." ●●

Fighting Discrimination in the Workplace

Stephen Bergstein ('93) has had some great wins lately. His firm, Bergstein & Ullrich, has for the past decade taken on civil rights and employment discrimination cases under Title VII and Section 1983 of the Civil Rights Act.

One recent victory: *Jackler v. Byrne*, in which a police officer in Middletown, New York, was fired for refusing to falsify a report that implicated another officer engaged in misconduct. The Court of Appeals held that the fired officer's First Amendment rights had been violated, and that the police officer's refusal to lie was free speech.

"That got a lot of attention, partly because no one is winning these cases anymore," Bergstein said. That was after a Supreme Court ruling, *Garcetti v. Ceballos*, made it tougher for public employee whistleblowers to win their lawsuits. "In this case, we got around the Supreme Court ruling."

How about a sexual harassment case in which the plaintiff faced not sexual misconduct in the workplace, but a hostile work environment? Bergstein's firm also won that one—*Pucino v. Verizon*—last year in the Court of Appeals.

"There was evidence that women were given unfair work assignments compared to men and unfair discipline," said Bergstein, who also wrote about the case in his blog, noting there was additional gender-specific verbal harassment.

Then there's the jury that awarded one of Bergstein's clients \$1.25 million in a student racial bullying case, *Zeno v. Pine Plains Central School District*.

Bergstein admitted that such civil rights victories look terrific on paper, but they can take years of hard work. The sexual harassment case, for example, was brought in 2003 and won seven years later.

"There's no such thing as a slam-dunk civil rights case," he said. "It's the kind of work you have to believe in."

When Bergstein was looking at law schools, he felt CUNY Law would be the right fit because of its mission and focus on public service and civil rights. That dovetailed with his early career as a newspaper journalist in Kingston and Middletown, New York, covering local news, planning boards, and school boards.

He felt inspired by the dean of the law school at the time—the legendary civil rights attorney Haywood Burns—who walked the halls and made a point of getting to know the students. "When you have professors who are still doing this kind of work, it makes

that career choice much more realistic," he said.

That includes Professor Rick Rossein and the Equality Concentration, which features cases that Rossein personally worked on. Taking Rossein's class gave Bergstein a leg up in a summer internship at a firm now known as Sussman & Watkins, in Goshen, New York.

"It's hard to learn that on your own. The learning curve would be enormous," said Bergstein. (Sussman gave Bergstein his first job out of law school; he stayed at the firm for eight years.)

The concentration also helped temper students' expectations on the outcome of difficult-to-win discrimination cases. "You need a dose of reality when you're learning. It's one thing to read a great case in your casebooks, but what looks great on paper doesn't always work out in trial," said Bergstein.

Besides the faculty, Bergstein credits classmates, who came "from all walks of life," for making his CUNY Law experience so positive and lively.

"I don't know how my legal education could have been any better anywhere else," said Bergstein. ●●



Stephen Bergstein



Arguing Against Injustice

It can be intimidating for workers to stand up for their rights when they have to go toe-to-toe with the “big companies with teams of lawyers who try to out-resource” the plaintiff, said Tara Jensen ('06), an associate attorney at the employment discrimination law firm Vladeck, Waldman, Elias & Engelhard, P.C.

That's where Jensen comes in.

She and her firm represent plaintiffs mainly in federal court, taking on employment discrimination cases under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as comparable state and city civil rights laws.

“We stand up for these workers, [putting] our resources behind them and sending a clear message to these corporations that they are not above the law,” Jensen said. “In times of economic crisis, corporations can treat workers as disposable. They can fire someone unlawfully and then turn to a long line of people who are desperate for work.”

Her clients are janitors and security guards with race discrimination claims, female professors getting paid less than

their male colleagues, and young women enduring sexual harassment from older bosses. They are immigrants being paid unlawfully low wages, who are forced to accept them for fear of deportation. They are workers in both the private and public sectors who are discriminated against on the basis of disability, age, religion, or sexual orientation.

Employers trying to defend their own discriminatory actions, Jensen said, will call into question a client's “work ethic, skills, and careers they've spent years building—their contributions to a productive society. It's always: ‘I didn't fire him because he is black; I fired him because he was bad at his job.’”

Jensen had a strong desire to go into social justice service to help those in need before she became a lawyer. Coming from working-class roots, she was the first from her family to go to college. After graduating, she worked in homeless shelters, helping some of the mothers there find work.

“Employment is very important to any sort of economic justice. When you have [that], you can work for social justice. When you can't feed your family, you can't be expected to participate in any meaningful way to better the world,” she said.

It was Jensen's work at a mental health clinic, though, that drove her to seek a law degree. The clinic was a last stop for parents in danger of losing their children to child service organizations.

“We couldn't show up and represent [our clients] in any sort of legal way,” said Jensen. “It inspired me to go to law school. I thought: These are the issues I'm interested in. I would be able to more effectively represent the populations that I cared about if I had this extra degree.”

She searched online for “most radical law school in the country” and found CUNY Law among those at the top of the list, then visited the Law School.

“I fell in love with CUNY. Walking through the halls, I immediately thought: I am going here,” she recalled. “Everyone at CUNY came there with a purpose. They had specific causes they cared about, ideas to pursue; they knew what they believed in.”

Jensen appreciated CUNY Law's Equality Concentration for its practical training, especially Professor Rick Rossein's mock trials, which provided federal litigation experience.

“CUNY is training real lawyers, who are going into really hard environments, where you're fighting uphill the whole time,” she said. ●●

Legalizing Same-Sex Marriage in New York

The first time the bill that would legalize same-sex marriage was announced in the New York State Assembly in 2007, Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell ('87), sponsor of the bill, thought that would be "the greatest political thrill" of his life. "I was wrong," he said. Four years and three failed Senate appearances later, the Marriage Equality Act was finally signed into law this past June.

When O'Donnell was elected to the Legislature in 2002, he joined as the first openly gay man to serve in the assembly. He had always wanted to be a politician, but "there was nobody gay in public life, so I had no expectation that it could happen," he said. At a colleague's suggestion, however, he got involved in local politics, and then, when the assembly member who represented his district retired, "I was the candidate to beat." O'Donnell won the seat with a 34 percent majority in an eight-way race.

Soon after he joined the assembly, Roberta Kaplan, a partner at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, convinced O'Donnell and his life partner to become plaintiffs in a lawsuit claiming that denying same-sex partners the right to marry violated the state constitution. The plaintiffs lost, but the case, along with a dissent from Judge Judith Kaye that called the decision "an unfortunate misstep," built momentum for a same-sex marriage bill in the state.

Although the bill had only 24 supporters in the assembly in April 2007, by June of that year O'Donnell had built enough support for the bill that it passed the assembly with 85 votes. "That was the real victory. Once the House resoundingly voted, it put the Senate and governor's office on notice," O'Donnell said.

The Senate, however, remained problematic. The assembly passed the bill again twice in 2009, but the bill failed to pass the Senate both times. "It required some finesse

to hold on to those votes," O'Donnell said. To keep up momentum, "We sent communications and worked with advocacy groups," he said. The bill finally passed the Senate on June 24, 2011, and was signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo that same day, making New York the sixth state in the nation to legalize same-sex marriage.

"The American dream is evolving," said O'Donnell. "And who America is, is evolving. To the extent we can bring people into the fold, despite detractors who don't quite see it that way, this is an integral step."

O'Donnell credits CUNY Law with playing a role in helping him get into public service. "If there weren't an affordable public law school, I wouldn't have become a lawyer," he said. The price was right, but CUNY Law's mission is what convinced him. When his mother's friend gave him a *New York Times* article about the opening of a law school focused on law in the service of human needs, he said, "I read the article and thought 'That's me! That is what I want to do with my life.'"

With same-sex marriages now being granted in New York, O'Donnell believes the likelihood of similar initiatives passing in other states has moved forward "exponentially."

"I end many of my speeches with this quote from Thomas Jefferson: 'Our civil rights have no dependence on our religious opinions,'" he said. With the Marriage Equality Act in New York State and the end of the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, O'Donnell believes we are now a few steps closer to realizing Jefferson's vision.

O'Donnell himself is closer to realizing part of his own vision: He and his partner, John Banta, are now engaged to be married. ●●



Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell (87)

Dedicated to Children's Rights



A generous donation by the Honorable Bryanne Hamill ('90) and her husband Thomas Hamill, two longtime CUNY supporters, makes possible CUNY Law's first endowed summer fellowship. Dedicated to children's rights, the fellowship will provide summer stipends to first- and second-year law students working with or on behalf of children in New York City who are at risk or in state custody. Recognized for her expertise and championing of children's rights, Judge Hamill, who recently retired as a New York City Family Court judge, was called back to service to preside over a model court serving youth transitioning out of foster care. Judge Hamill, a member of the Law School's board of visitors, discusses why she established the Hamill Family Fellowship in Children's Rights.

What inspired you to create a fellowship in children's rights?

As a psychiatric nurse, then a child abuse and domestic violence prosecutor, and subsequently a child protective judge, I have seen firsthand the trauma to children and have always been deeply concerned about their rights. Children and youth are the least capable of protecting and defending themselves, and must rely upon adults and society to do so. More recently, as a New York City Family Court judge, I implemented a model emergency child removal hearing court for Brooklyn.

In doing so, the law requires the balancing of imminent risk in parents' custody against harms caused by the removal. I was inspired by the excellent lawyering from the different perspectives focused on the court determining the best interests of the children under their difficult circumstances of parental poverty, mental illness, substance abuse, and the like. A year ago, I retired after nearly 20 years in New York's public service to pursue other personal and professional interests, but learning of the troubles of New York's foster care teens aging

out of foster care, I have recently returned to implement a model court for NYC's youth transitioning out of foster care. As a result of severe funding cuts to the courts and services necessary for the well-being of New York's children, I see firsthand how imperative it is to have zealous attorneys providing representation, voice, and advocacy for children and families. I have been inspired by all of the lawyers who advocated for this model protocol, requiring timely meaningful hearings and court engagement with our youth. Further, because I have always felt that education is among the best gifts we can give, we are enhancing excellent legal education with meaningful practical summer learning experiences, which will build skills and knowledge, and create contacts and networks, for outstanding CUNY Law students working with or for New York City's children and youth at risk or in state custody.

Why did you choose to create it at CUNY Law?

I chose CUNY Law for many reasons. It is the premier national public interest law school. Children's rights are a pressing local, national, and global social justice issue. Thus, it is a natural fit. Further, I graduated from CUNY Law in 1990 and am very grateful to the terrific faculty, staff, and administration for my excellent legal education, which prepared me to prosecute domestic violence and child abuse homicides and serial rape cases within two years of graduation. I was able to give a voice to, and empower, these victims. I also appreciate that my public legal education cost me a fraction of [what would be charged by] the private schools because New York's taxpayers subsidize it, and thus, I wish to give back to this great city and its law school, which have given me so many opportunities. As an active alum, a member of the board of visitors, a judge who has hired many CUNY Law interns, and an adjunct professor who has taught a seminar focused on children's rights, I am aware of the strong interest among CUNY Law students in children's rights. Thus, I know [the fellowship] will be put to good use. Although originally from the South, I moved to New York for its progressive society, which valued women, immigrants, and diversity, and know New York and its CUNY educational system are clearly lands of opportunity for us all. New York and its law school are diverse, and our graduates are likely to serve our underrepresented communities. As we prepare to move to the new conveniently located facility at 2 Court Square in Long Island

City, this is the perfect time to show support to, and appreciation for, all of those who have contributed to CUNY Law's success.

What are some of the key advocacy and legal issues in the area of family law that need urgent attention?

With respect to children, the disproportionate number of children of color in the child welfare, foster care, and juvenile justice systems is at the top. The removal of children from their parents and families with inadequate services to address the cause for it, as well as impediments to keeping families intact. This is where the cradle-to-prison pipeline begins, with children entering state custody as foster care children, staying as alleged juvenile delinquents or young criminal defendants, in a system that socializes children, particularly those of color, to be in state custody. Further, there are significant national and state policy, legal, and practical issues around funding of foster care, which prioritizes expedited permanency, often leading to friction and failed adoptions for teenagers, who suffer disrupted homes, attachments, and education, and serious mental health problems as a result thereof.

What do you hope to accomplish by creating this fellowship?

I have great expectations. I hope to expose CUNY Law students to the pressing public interest work of children's rights; to strengthen voices and advocacy on behalf of New York's children; and to offer opportunities for students to work beside skilled lawyers in New York's terrific child and youth advocacy organizations, like the Legal Aid Society's Juvenile Rights and Criminal Defense Divisions, Lawyers for Children, Children's Law Center, Children's Rights, and Administration for Children's Services, as well as solo practitioners appointed through the 18B panel. Since these organizations employ dozens of new lawyers annually, I hope these internships will lead to jobs upon graduation. Further, I hope to inspire other alums to give back to CUNY Law and its students in ways they can afford and care about, especially now that we are preparing for our historic move and approaching our 30th anniversary. And lastly, as an endowed fund starting with \$100,000, I hope to attract others who have a similar passion to supplement our funds to create even more summer fellowships, ultimately leading to more jobs upon graduation, and thus, protecting and defending even more children's rights. ●●

“I hope to inspire other alums to give back to CUNY Law and its students in ways they can afford and care about, especially now that we are preparing for our historic move and approaching our 30th anniversary.”

Student Fellowships: from the Classroom to the Community

FIGHTING TO HELP TENANTS REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES. Working to get polluters to clean up. Helping older youth successfully transition out of foster care. These are just a few examples of the work that CUNY Law students have done as summer fellows at social justice organizations. Each summer, CUNY Law students take what they've learned during the academic year and use it for the greater good.

Many students come to CUNY Law with considerable social justice experience already; however, after a year of strenuous work in the classroom, these summer fellowships strengthen their skills and prepare them for their social justice lawyering careers. Not only do these positions provide students with significant experience, but they also help provide critical legal work to individuals and communities in need.

While social justice organizations are eager for the skills of CUNY Law students, often their budgets are tight, and they cannot pay students for their work. However, through the generosity of donors and alumni and the hard work of student groups, summer fellows are able to receive a stipend for their work. The experiences for both students and communities are invaluable. During the winter break, students intern through the Mississippi Project, helping organizations in the South confront injustice (see *CUNY Law* magazine, Spring 2009).

CUNY Law fellowships can help students set their future course as lawyers. On the following pages are just a few examples of those indelible experiences. ••

Nermina Zecirovic-Arnaud

Class of 2013

Frank Durkan Memorial
Fellowship in Human Rights

Being a fearless voice for disempowered communities resonates with Nermina Zecirovic-Arnaud, who is originally from Novi Pazar in southwest Serbia. Before attending CUNY Law, Zecirovic-Arnaud worked for an international organization promoting women's rights in countries emerging from conflict. Her original interest in being a lawyer traces back to the late Rhonda Copelon, who founded CUNY Law's International Women's Human Rights (IWHR) Clinic. "I realized the advocacy work I was passionate about was being done by people with law degrees," she said. "I chose CUNY because I was inspired by the work of IWHR and by Rhonda's vision."

During Zecirovic-Arnaud's summer fellowship, she interned at Geneva for Human Rights (GHR) Global Training, a nongovernmental organization that trains human rights defenders across the globe. While there, she completed a human rights training course and monitored and analyzed meetings of the 17th session of the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Committee.

At one session meeting, she met a human rights defender from Sri Lanka who worked to make positive change for people affected by the country's civil war. He helped produce a movie shedding light on atrocities committed against an ethnic minority by the Sri Lankan government. "He was so inspirational to listen to," Zecirovic-Arnaud said. "He was unconditionally devoted to defending the rights of the Sri Lankan minorities, and I thought, that's the kind of advocate I want to be: fierce and fearless." ••



Krystal Rodriguez

Class of 2012

Latin American Law Students Association

Diccia Pineda-Kirwan Fellowship



As a community organizer and volunteer, Krystal Rodriguez noticed that the energy being put into organizing efforts was disproportionate to the end results. “It seemed to me that this gap had to do with a lack of legal experience and counsel,” she said. “I thought a legal education was a way to bridge that gap.” Originally from Jersey City, New Jersey, Rodriguez chose CUNY Law to gain hands-on public interest experience. “Other schools have specific projects or programs devoted to the public interest, but it’s rare that it’s the main mission of the school,” she said.

When Rodriguez entered law school, she was interested in education and immigration. However, her Criminal Law and Constitutional Law classes changed her mind, and, this past summer, she interned at the Legal Aid Society criminal defense practice in Kew Gardens, Queens. Over the weeks, she wrote motions and memos of law, interviewed and represented clients at arraignments, shadowed attorneys, and spent a great deal of time in court observations. “I understood a lot of the language and tactics being used in court because of the Criminal Procedure and Trial Advocacy classes I took,” she said.

Rodriguez remembers shadowing an attorney who got a full acquittal on a case that he initially felt was hopeless. “The client wanted to take the case to trial, so the attorney took it to trial. At first, it seemed that the DA had a strong case because there was a lot of scientific evidence. Fortunately, the attorney I was shadowing studied to have a working knowledge of the DNA evidence. He prepared well. His diligence and commitment really impressed me,” she said. ••

Amanda Dysart

Class of 2013

Domestic Violence
Coalition Fellowship

Where did you work during your fellowship? STEPS to End Family Violence, a nonprofit in Harlem that offers free social and legal services to victims of gender-based violence.

What was your most memorable moment during your fellowship? Going to family court with the staff attorney helped me gain insight into the life of a public interest attorney. I experienced the

fear that clients encounter when confronted with a formal legal situation with which they have little experience, one that is often accompanied by unwanted contact with their abusers.

What kind of lawyering skills did you use? I used the writing and interviewing skills I learned during my first-year lawyering seminars. I spoke with potential clients and later presented their legal issues and background information to the attorneys. I also drafted legal documents for uncontested divorces, child custody and support proceedings, and domestic violence-based immigration applications.

What inspired you to go to law school? I became interested in women’s issues in college, but after exploring feminist scholarship in graduate school, I decided that I wanted to take a more hands-on approach to tackling gender inequality. After several



Luke Schram

Class of 2013

Kyle D. Jewell Memorial Fellowship

Where did you work during your fellowship? I worked with CUNY Law alum Judge Bryanne Hamill ('90) in Manhattan Family Court, who is developing a model court for youth who are transitioning out of foster care.

I also worked with Judge

Lee Elkins in Brooklyn Family Court on truancy initiatives in New York City.

What was your most memorable moment during your fellowship? One of the cases I worked on involved a 20-year-old who had been incarcerated for two years and was about to age out of foster care. We needed to find a solution to his housing situation in a week or he was going to be homeless. There were lawyers, social workers, and caseworkers involved. We all went into a conference room to sort out the issues, and, eventually, we found a relative for him to live with and discussed the risks of his behavior. I often feel like youth are just told what to do, so it was good to listen and help him realize that all these people were working for him.

What are some examples of the work you did? I conferenced with attorneys and scheduled hearing dates. I also researched new laws relating to recent amendments made to the New York State Family Court Act and developed a case benchbook for

Judge Hamill, which organized relevant law by issues that arose in the hearings. For Judge Elkins, I wrote a comprehensive report on truancy initiatives in New York City. For this work, I conducted research and interviewed agencies working on truancy initiatives across the five boroughs.

What inspired you to go to law school? I majored in music and philosophy, to the dismay of my dad. After [I had worked] in music, for nonprofits, and on political issues, my sister eventually said to me, "You like to argue. Why don't you argue about something that matters?" My sister is a lawyer who works on low-income tenant evictions in Miami, so I followed in her footsteps.

Why did you choose to attend CUNY Law? I became an investigator intern at the Defender Association in Seattle to get some legal experience before going to law school. I enjoyed getting into cases and the ethical issues that arise out of an attempt to provide equal justice in an adversarial system. One of my friends, Wade Schreiber ('13), was applying to law school and told me about CUNY, and it seemed like a great place to pursue work on social justice issues. Now we're both here.

What is your hometown? I have never lived anywhere longer than four years. I was born in California and have lived in Florida, Spain, Virginia, Indiana, Michigan, Washington, and New York. I spent high school outside of Washington, D.C., and outside of Atlanta. I went to school at Indiana University. ●●

years of teaching high school English at an all-girls school in Texas, I realized that I would have greater power to remedy the specific problems women face if I obtained a law degree.

Why did you choose to attend CUNY Law? I chose CUNY Law because of its mission to train lawyers dedicated to practicing in the public interest, a trait that is so hard to find in most law schools, and because of my particular interest in providing aid to low-income women who struggle to overcome economic and cultural barriers. I was drawn to CUNY's clinics, particularly the International Women's Human Rights Clinic, where I hope to work in my third year. I love that the Law School is located in such a populous part of the United States, with such a great opportunity to serve underrepresented and diverse communities.

What is your hometown? I grew up in Virginia Beach, VA. ●●





Margaret Palmer

Class of 2012

Public Interest Law

Association Fellowship

Where did you work during your fellowship? The Office of Regional Counsel at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 Office in Philadelphia.

What was your most memorable moment during your fellowship? The EPA had been in litigation over a case of groundwater contamination long before I arrived, and, weeks before I left, the judge issued his decision. It was a pretty bad ruling for us, and it jolted everyone into action to try to



Luis Bautista

Class of 2013

Boyers, Davis, and

Zaldin Fellowship

It was his second week as a summer fellow with Make the Road New York, and Luis Bautista found himself standing with a client in front of a judge. His client's attorney was suddenly unable to be in court that day because of another court appearance, but the opposing counsel would not grant a request for adjournment. "It was overwhelming, and I was out of my comfort zone," Bautista said, in remembering how he had to unexpectedly go before the judge and explain the situation. "Housing court is intense because it's very emotional, and that's what I walked into in my second week." After opposing counsel argued that the client needed to make a monthly rent payment while waiting for a new court date, Bautista and the client had to go in front of a second judge and explain the situation again. "What should have been a quick process wound up taking the entire day."

This experience served Bautista well and gave him insight into the kinds of court proceedings he navigated as a summer fellow working on eviction prevention and protection and overcharge protection for clients in rent-stabilized apartments. "The most valuable thing was learning techniques that I will be able to use to benefit my clients," he said. "For example, I learned that when someone goes to housing court for the first time, they can ask for an adjournment automatically in order to obtain legal counsel. This provides time for them to decide what they want to do with the apartment." Bautista found himself going to housing court with his supervising attorney nearly every other day for the first several weeks of his fellowship. He relied on the interpersonal skills that his lawyering seminar emphasized to maintain "common daily conversation while using legal jargon with a client." He also found the staff at the CUNY Law Library "invaluable" when he "hit a wall in the research process."

Bautista, who is originally from Peru and grew up on Long Island, came to CUNY Law because of its social justice mission. Having worked at nonprofit organizations before coming to law school, he said, "CUNY falls in line with that sort of supportive environment." ••

figure out what to do. Challenge? Settle? It was exciting to do research on something that was important and real. We went through several negotiations with different parties, and the lawyers relied on my research during the negotiations. It was inspiring and formative to work in a place where everything you did mattered. I got to understand the nuts and bolts of environmental law and how it's applied practically.

What lawyering skills or classes did you find useful? My Business Associations class was really helpful, which was not something I had anticipated. A lot of businesses try to dodge their environmental obligations by going into bankruptcy or claiming insolvency; a good environmental lawyer needs to be seasoned in bankruptcy, corporations, and tax law so she can analyze a responsible party's financial status.

What inspired you to go to law school? I told my friends during undergrad that I would never go to law school! But, after working at the Eurasia Foundation and as a Peace Corps volunteer, I thought it would be a great tool to have in my tool belt. It seemed to me that the people who were making real changes in the world had a law degree. I knew if I got a law degree, I would be able to effect change—not just stand by, but make change happen.

Why did you choose CUNY Law? A friend told me to look at CUNY, and when I saw the website, I said, "Wow, this is everything I want in a law school." The culture here is very different. The excitement about progressive reform and social justice is palpable—and that makes our school truly unique.

What is your hometown? Huntsville, Alabama. ••



Leila Shifteh

Class of 2013

Middle Eastern Law Students

Association Fellowship/Irish

Law Students Association

Joseph Doherty Civil Rights Fellowship

Where did you work during your fellowship? I worked as a legal fellow with an organization in Turkey, providing legal services to asylum seekers and refugees.

What was your most memorable moment during your fellowship? A vulnerable client called to inform us that the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees had recognized her as a refugee. Since her legal advisor was out that day, I took the call; the client was clearly relieved but also ecstatic that her case had been approved after a long waiting period. She asked me, in the most heartfelt way, to share her gratitude with her legal advisor for successfully advocating for her, but especially for connecting with her in a very human way during her U.N. interview, so that she could more fluidly communicate her story.

What kind of lawyering skills did you use? During interviews with clients, I put to use the attorney–client interview skills I learned in my lawyering seminar, which helped me get the information I needed from clients, while remaining sensitive to their situation. Also, writing legal petitions to submit with

clients' applications for refugee status required creative legal reasoning and persuasive writing skills.

What inspired you to go to law school? Coming from a background working with refugees and immigrants, I wanted to develop legal knowledge and skills to expand the scope of my work. The opportunity to directly represent clients in asylum proceedings was another major motivation. Also, since a legal degree is flexible and amenable to use in such varied ways—from direct legal representation to impact litigation to occasional legal observer work—I felt it would be a great asset for my future.

Why did you choose to attend CUNY Law? CUNY Law's emphasis on public interest lawyering and my excitement to study with like-minded students were among its main draws. The Immigrant and Refugee Rights Clinic and the International Women's Human Rights Clinic offerings were also key considerations. Finally, another factor was the Law School's location in New York, close to many organizations with which I would like to intern and work.

What is your hometown? Home has been many places, but New York has been among my favorites. ••

Darryl Albert

Class of 2012

Black Law Students Association Shanara Gilbert Fellowship

Darryl Albert was serving in the Navy in Fallujah, Iraq, when he realized that he wanted a lawyering career, rather than a military one. That would “put me in position to serve my community in the best possible way,” he said. Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Albert said he applied only to CUNY Law. “As soon as I walked through the doors, I knew I was in the right place,” he reflected.

Now in his third year and in the Criminal Defense Clinic, Albert spent the past summer at the New Jersey Office of the Public Defender, Essex Adult Region, working on bail reductions, conducting client interviews, and shadowing attorneys. “The Criminal Defense Seminar prepared me for what I would be doing,” he said. “I wasn’t caught off guard.”

There were still moments of realization. He and his supervising attorney were working on the case of a young man who had burglarized a home and allegedly shot an elderly woman in the process. “He had ADD, he was semiliterate, and we had to repeat things over and over. We were trying to get as favorable a disposition as possible, and you wonder when and how you’re going to get through to him,” Albert said. “And that’s when I realized the amount of patience you have to have in this job.”

During his fellowship, Albert heard a top state public defender describe the role of defenders as making certain the judicial system was healthy. “He said something like, ‘When the worst of the worst of us can have their day in court, that’s a sign that a judicial system is healthy.’ Those remarks made me feel more comfortable, knowing I could do this. This is the role that I play, keeping the judicial system healthy.” ●●





Cindy Soohoo

New IWHR Clinic Director

For some lawyers, there is a seminal case that becomes the turning point in their vision and life's work. For Cindy Soohoo, it was *Doe v. Karadzic*. This precedent-setting case sought compensation for victims of Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his campaign of genocide and torture in Bosnia. It is fitting that Soohoo has now joined CUNY Law as the director of the Law School's International Women's Human Rights (IWHR) Clinic—because 17 years ago, one of Soohoo's key collaborators on the *Karadzic* case that proved so influential in her life was IWHR cofounder Rhonda Copelon.

Soohoo worked on this case when she was an attorney at Howard, Darby & Levin (now Covington & Burling). The opinion in the case ultimately expanded the ability to sue private actors under the Alien Tort Claims Act.

Although she was always interested in social justice, a career in international human rights was not something Soohoo envisioned for herself when she became a lawyer. Growing up

in a Chinese immigrant family, she remembers thinking about the relationship and differences between minority community experiences and majority community experiences. "I saw the law as a means toward social change," she said.

While attending the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Soohoo did not take any courses in global human rights. "I was focused on issues in the United States," she said, "and I viewed human rights work as something outside of the U.S."

But her perspective began to change after collaborating with Copelon and the Center for Constitutional Rights on *Karadzic*. The case led Soohoo to take a closer look at the legal approaches used by those working on human rights advocacy around the world. "Look at the standards for discrimination, for example," she said. "In the U.S., if you can't find a smoking gun to prove intent to discriminate, you don't have a claim. International human rights law looks at whether or not a law or policy has a discriminatory impact." She continued, "The U.S.

courts were becoming more conservative, and I saw human rights as more progressive and consistent with my own views of social justice.”

She joined the Human Rights Clinic at Columbia Law School in 2001 as a supervising attorney and eventually became director of the Bringing Human Rights Home Project at the school’s Human Rights Institute. While there, she built a national network of civil society and nongovernmental organizations from across the country that were using human rights approaches as part of their overall strategies. She also coedited a three-volume book called *Bringing Human Rights Home: A History of Human Rights in the United States*, which was named one of the “best books in the field of human rights” by the U.S. Human Rights Network.

“The U.S. courts were becoming more conservative, and I saw human rights as more progressive and consistent with my own views of social justice.”

Building on her work at Columbia, Soohoo joined the Center for Reproductive Rights in 2008 as director of U.S. legal programs, focusing on applying a human rights approach to the center’s U.S. work. She explained that “one of the major reproductive rights challenges in the United States is that, while *Roe v. Wade* is still good law, states have been allowed to pass laws restricting the provision of abortion services and funding. Although women have a right to abortion, their access to abortion services is often dependent on where they live and their socioeconomic status.” At the center, she tried to use human rights standards to get people to think differently about issues and to change attitudes. “One of the questions we asked a lot is ‘How do you have a right to something if you don’t have access to it?’ From a human rights perspective, a state shouldn’t undermine a women’s right to autonomy. It should be ensuring access to make those rights real,” she said. She and her colleagues worked to change perceptions about abortion providers in the U.S. who are often the target

of harassment and discriminatory laws designed to prevent them from providing services and to challenge the practice of shackling pregnant women who are in labor at correctional and detention facilities.

Looking for an opportunity to take a more international approach to human rights—and remembering the pathbreaking work of Copelon and the progressive position of the IWHR Clinic—Soohoo joined CUNY Law this fall as the new IWHR Clinic director. “It’s a heavy mantel to take on!” she remarked. Since its inception, “the clinic has been at the forefront of integrating a gender perspective into human rights law,” she continued. “Rhonda was a visionary. She was 10 or 15 years ahead of everyone else,” Soohoo fondly remembered.

As clinic director, Soohoo wants to ensure that students are exposed to a broad range of human rights strategies and forums. Clinic projects will involve advocacy at the U.N., regional human rights bodies, and U.S. courts on a range of human rights issues around the world. For example, the clinic will be working with the Center for Reproductive Rights to protect women’s reproductive health in the Philippines, where laws and policies effectively ban abortion and many forms of contraception. Soohoo also plans to continue

focusing on reproductive rights and issues of gender-based violence, building on the existing work of the clinic in Haiti and developing new strategies. Partnering with the Legal Aid Society Trafficking Victims Legal Defense and Advocacy Project, students in the IWHR Clinic will work with victims of human trafficking in New York County, representing those looking for post-conviction relief for prostitution-related convictions.

Soohoo, like so many others, was drawn to CUNY Law because of its mission and committed students. “The students are outstanding. Sometimes law students are not comfortable working on the front lines with communities, but CUNY Law students often are both legal advocates and organizers. Many of them already have a tremendous amount of experience doing human rights work, and they’re incredibly engaged in their communities.” She continued, “It’s amazing to be surrounded by great colleagues at a law school with a clear social justice mission.” ●●

Alumni News

Our alumni have a lot of great news to share—more than we can fit in the magazine! For the expanded version of alumni news, including e-mail and web addresses, updates on children, marriages, and photos, please visit our alumni news page.

1986

ROBERT BANK has been traveling extensively in the developing world since joining American Jewish World Service as executive vice president in 2009. Under his leadership, the organization completed a strategic plan in October 2011 to optimize the organization's position for growth and impact over the next five years.

TOM FAZIO is a partner in the firm of Blodnick, Conroy, Fazio & Diglio, P.C., in Garden City, New York, a general civil practice with a concentration in representing doctors and practice managers. He is president-elect of the Mineola-Garden City Rotary Club, whose current project is getting potable water into parts of Haiti where it is still unavailable.

JUDGE PAM JACKMAN BROWN, acting supreme justice in Queens Supreme Court, was nominated to the Supreme Court of Queens County for the election on November 8, 2011, for a term to begin in January 2012.

VIN MAHER is a full professor at Iona College, teaching Business Law and other courses. He's halfway through an MFA in creative writing—even enjoying some initial success as a published poet.

JUSTICE DICCIA T. PINEDA-KIRWAN has been sitting in the New York State Supreme Court, Queens County, since January 2010. Formerly she served as a judge in the Civil Court of the City of New York, Queens County. She is the first Latina elected to the bench and to public office in the history of Queens County, and she is also the first female Dominican-born judge to be elected in the state of New York.

BARBARA HENRY TRAPASSO is of counsel to the Nesenoff & Miltenberg LLP law firm in New York City, handling commercial litigation matters as well as real estate commercial transactions. She is also vice

president and trustee of the Board of Education for the Garden City Union Free School District.

1987

RIC CHERWIN is known as the singing auctioneer. He is also a former editor at the *New York Daily News*, concert producer, musician, composer, recording artist, practicing psychotherapist, and attorney.

MARTHA S. JONES is now the codirector of the Program in Race, Law & History at the University of Michigan Law School.

BARBARA J. KING was the recipient of the 2011 Schenectady County Human Rights Commission's Justice Award. Barbara received the award at the commission's 28th Annual Human Rights Breakfast in May.

DEBBIE MALKIN lives in Santa Cruz, CA, and is active with Pact, an organization that supports transracial adoptive families. Debbie practices in trusts and estates, focusing on conservatorships (guardianships) and special needs trusts for people with disabilities.

AMY PELLMAN was appointed California superior court judge by the governor in November 2008. She teaches at Southwestern Law School. She coauthored an article, "A Child-Centered Response to the Elkins Family Law Taskforce," that was accepted by the *William and Mary Bill of Rights Journal*.

1988

JIM MISKIEWICZ has been appointed acting chief of the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. Since 2009, he has served as deputy chief of the office's Long Island Criminal Division.

SUSAN M. SCHARBACH is the deputy bureau chief of the Real Estate Finance Bureau of the New York State Attorney General's Office.

1989

CONCETTA MENNELLA teaches paralegals at the New York City College of Technology.

MARIA TIMONEY has been practicing with Southwest Virginia Legal Aid in the Appalachian area of southwest Virginia as one of three managing attorneys since she graduated from CUNY. Her area of concentration is consumer and bankruptcy law, and she is serving a three-year term on the Bankruptcy Law Section for the Virginia State Bar.

1990

In April 2011, **DIANA SANABRIA** became the new chief clerk of New York County Surrogate's Court. She works with **FORMER CUNY LAW SCHOOL DEAN KRISTIN BOOTH GLEN**, who (alongside the Hon. Nora S. Anderson) is one of the two surrogates in New York County.

1991

ANNA LEVINE is doing mediation/advocacy work.

ELLEN POBER RITTBERG continues to lecture on parenting and promote her book *35 Things Your Teen Won't Tell You, So I Will*. Her book *Consider the Constellations* was published last year.



Chloe and Ryan, daughters of Marie Tatro ('91)

MARIE TATRO is starting her second year at the General Theological Seminary in the master of divinity preordination program. She and her partner recently adopted Chloe Grace. Chloe and her big sister Ryan are doing great.

1992

WAYNE ANDERSON has completed his 60th jury trial (not guilty of primary charge; guilty of lesser included) in his now nearly 11-year stint as a deputy public defender.

GREGORY M. GINA and (spouse) **BERNADETTE CROWLEY** ('94) have established the Douglaston Mediation Center, LLC.

1993

DAVID HYLAND continues his career as a full-time labor arbitrator/mediator, which involves a fair amount of statewide travel.

1994

ELIZABETH ALEXANDER continues to practice labor and employment law as a senior associate at Marrinan & Mazzola Mardon, P.C., in New York City. The firm acts as general counsel for the International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO.

KAREN SIMMONS, executive director of the Children's Law Center New York, and **DIANA YU** ('09), staff attorney, attended the ABA Center on Children and the Law's 14th Annual Conference. Diana co-led the "Preventing Adoption and Guardianship Failures" workshop.

THE HON. TODD M. TURNER is seeking reelection to the City Council in Bowie, MD. First elected in 2005 and reelected in 2007, he was selected to serve as mayor pro tem, the first African-American to hold the position in the City's history. Todd; his wife, **ANITA GAUHAR TURNER** ('94); and two daughters have lived in Bowie since 2002.

1995

KIM DVORCHAK is executive director of the Colorado Juvenile Defender Coalition. Kim travels in Colorado to train attorneys on how to defend children prosecuted in adult criminal court.

DR. SAM OAKLAND, adjunct professor of law at the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University in Oregon and a teaching park ranger with the U.S. Forest Service on Mt. Hood, has received his second grant from the Law Fulbright Program. He will teach Law & Literature at Belarusian State University.

1996



Tracey Bing-Hampson ('96) with her daughter Kia

TRACEY BING-HAMPSON was honored by the Midtown Community Court "in recognition of her commitment to the Dads United for Parenting Program." Tracey is the director of the Family Law/Domestic Violence unit at Manhattan Legal Services, where she works with **MARIBEL MARTINEZ-GUNTER** ('95) and **LENINA TRINIDAD** ('00). The CUNY family at MLS also includes **MONTEL CHERRY-SLACK** ('99) and **JULIA ROSNER** ('96).

JUSTIN C. FRANKEL, a partner in Frankel & Newfield, P.C., has been named by *Super Lawyers* magazine as one of the top New York metro area lawyers for 2011.

JOSEPH B. MAIRA has a general law practice in New Jersey in addition to his New York office.

OSCAR ODOM III is the chairperson/professor of the Criminal Justice Division at ASA Institute. He is currently pursuing a doctorate of education in educational leadership and management from Capella University.

PETER J. PADOVANO lives in Massachusetts and works as a business consultant helping companies contain costs in their benefits and providing HR outsourced support.

1997

AMY VASQUEZ shares that her husband, Peter Fiorentino, "a brilliant litigator and defender of individual rights and great husband and father to their daughter Marcy," died suddenly in the courthouse in July. She thanks everyone for their thoughts and prayers.

1998

LIDELFO A. FRANCO is a solo practitioner and of counsel to the Law Office of William Gallina in the Bronx, practicing in the areas of personal injury, civil litigation, and criminal defense. He is married and has a son, Lee Jr., and the family resides on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

JEFFREY H. WARD has his own law firm concentrating in creditors' rights, contract litigation, bankruptcy, and general civil litigation. He has offices in Essex and Monmouth Counties in New Jersey and in Manhattan.

1999

The Financial Clinic, which **MAE WATSON GROTE** founded, recently celebrated its fifth anniversary. The Financial Clinic improves the financial security of working poor New Yorkers through financial coaching and legal services on personal financial issues. She and her husband adopted their daughter Stella in the spring of 2011.

MARI INOUE (NÉE MAEMOTO) continues the immigration practice firm she established in 2002. She also volunteers as a New York representative of Human Rights Now (HRN), a Japanese NGO. Recently she assisted HRN in drafting an opinion paper requesting that the Japanese government

reevaluate its policies on human rights issues to protect people affected by the nuclear accident in Fukushima.

KAREN ANDRA O'CONNOR now lives in Michigan after a decade of giving motivational and inspirational talks to high school students in Soweto and adults in the greater Johannesburg area. She is currently working on a trilogy of inspirational works drawn from her 21 years with the NYPD and 10 years in South Africa.

RACHEL HAYNES PINSKER is now the deputy director of the YWCA Domestic Violence Legal Clinic, located in Harrisburg, PA.

RAY SANTIAGO has been nominated to run for the New Jersey State Senate in the 11th Legislative District. If elected, he will be the only Latino senator in the state, joining one Latina.

2001

NANCY CHUPP is a partner at the Public Interest Law Group, PLLC, where she focuses on employment discrimination, wage and hour violations, and prisoner civil rights. She recently published a chapter on religious discrimination in the *Employment Law Deskbook*. Nancy lives in Seattle with her husband and two children.

2002

THE REV. CHRILL D. CREWS has been approved as a candidate for admission to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) roster of ordained pastors, as one ordained in another Christian tradition. Chryll currently serves as the vicar of the Church of the Holy Redeemer in Brooklyn, NY. She was ordained in the Baptist church 22 years ago.

IAN F. HINONANGAN recently won a cancellation of removal appeal with the Board of Immigration Appeals for an undocumented mother with three U.S. citizen minor children in July. (See in the *Matter of Calagos*.) Ian, through his eight-year-old solo practice in Jersey City, continues

to focus on deportation defense and advocate for immigration reform through reFORM Mondays, a movement that melds art with the call for reform so as to humanize the immigrant experience in America.

DEBRA MALONE and **PETER KHRINENKO** recently welcomed their daughter, Cassidy Agnes. Peter was selected by *Super Lawyers* as one of the "Rising Stars" for the year 2011.

2003

JESSICA BASH works at Legal Aid's Juvenile Rights Practice in Queens. She and her husband, Eric Schaefer, recently welcomed a daughter, Ella Frances Schaefer.

2004

IRMA E. DOMINGUEZ divides her time between her children, Antonio and Benjamin, and her private practice and community organization, CAMINOS.

JOHN FREEMAN was recently named supervising attorney of the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition State Support office. John worked at the office as a staff attorney for five years prior to taking over supervisory duties.

BEN MASTAITIS is an assistant district attorney in his native Albany, NY, in the Major Offense Bureau, prosecuting robbery, burglary, assault, and grand larceny cases. **KATE MASTAITIS** ('04) is employed by the firm Donnelon and Knussman in Ballston Spa, NY, specializing in matrimonial, child support, and custody actions, as well as acting as a law guardian. Ben and Kate have two children, Eleanor and Greta.

FARHID SEDAGHAT-POUR married Albert Neuman at Temple Emanuel in Great Neck.

2005

JACKIE DEVORE and her husband, Patrick Murphy, recently welcomed their

daughter, Violet June DeVore Murphy. They live in Bogota, NJ, and Jackie continues to litigate in the Special Education Unit for the New York City Department of Education General Counsel's Office.

KIMBERLY TATE-BROWN represented Enrique T. in *State v. Enrique T.*, which found unconstitutional the section of Mental Hygiene Law Article 10, the Sex Offender Management and Treatment Act (sex offender civil commitment law) that requires confining the individual (either in prison or in a secure psychiatric facility, after the completion of his or her prison sentence) before a trial is held to determine the need for civil confinement, without providing a less-restrictive alternative. A federal court judge had previously declared this section of the statute unconstitutional; however, this was the first time a state trial court judge had.

2006

RINAD BSHARAT is living in Washington, DC, and consulting for the U.S. Department of Justice.

MICHAEL DAVIDOV, an elder law and estate planning attorney, is currently coauthoring a book on legacy and estate planning with Sanford Fisch and Robert Armstrong (coauthors of the *E-Myth Attorney*).

KELLY KUTERBACH recently welcomed twins Benjamin and Charlotte.

DAVE PALMER, executive director of the Center for Working Families, played a key role in the passage of the Power New York Act of 2011, which will help the state raise billions of dollars for home energy efficiency improvements to combat climate change and create good, green jobs. In May, Dave married Paloma Gomes of Salvador, Brazil; they are expecting a baby girl.

YOGI PATEL launched the Patel Law Firm in February 2011 after working as an associate attorney for Shebitz Berman Cohen & Delforte, P.C. and as assistant general counsel to F.J. Sciamie Construction Co., Inc. Practice areas include commercial litigation, labor and employment, and removal (deportation) defense.

CHARLES T. STOLL works as a domestic violence prosecutor in Navajo Country, New Mexico's "Four Corners" region, for the 11th Judicial District Attorney's Office in Farmington, NM.

2007

LISA ANNE D'ORAZIO is currently a deputy state public defender with the Office of the California State Public Defender in San Francisco.

MELISSA (MISSY) GOULD received her LL.M. degree, with honors, from the University of Cambridge (U.K.) in comparative constitutional law. She is a lecturer at Oakland University and handles consumer protection cases in federal court.

2008

JULIETTE FORSTENZER ESPINOSA was appointed to the faculty of the George Washington University Department of Health Policy in Washington, DC, as an assistant research professor in January. Juliette continues to represent clients in New York City through the Health Care Rights Initiative, which she started with **JOANNA DONBECK** ('08).

PAUL KILMINSTER is an associate at Fusco, Brandenstein and Rada, P.C., which handles workers' compensation, Social Security disability, municipal pension, and personal injury cases.

TAÍ MEREY NICKEL is working with the Center for Court Innovation at the Harlem Community Justice Center. She recently married Cristobal Josh Alex.

MEAGAN NUNEZ works as a solo practitioner in San Diego, securing free appropriate public education for students with special needs.

PATRICIA POWIS will serve on the board of directors of the Columbian Lawyers Association of Queens. She has expanded her elder law and estates practice with an office in Garden City, NY.



Jonathan Harris ('10)

AVI RUDNICK has a new law practice, Rudnick & Daniel-McCarter, LLC, with **OWEN DANIEL-MCCARTER** ('07). Their practice areas are in civil rights law, contract review, criminal defense, estate planning, family law, immigration law, LGBT legal planning consultations, and public benefits law.

MOLLY TIMKO is now director of quality management/corporate compliance at Ulster-Greene ARC in Kingston, NY, a non-profit serving individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. She also serves as the chair of the Community Service & Pro Bono Committee for the New York State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section.

2009

After graduating, **JULIETTE-NOOR HAJI** clerked for Judge Joseph Cassini of the Criminal Division of Essex County Superior Court. She now works as a public defender for the Criminal Defense Division of the Legal Aid Society in Queens, NY.

NATE TREADWELL is finishing up a clerkship with Judge Roanne L. Mann in the Eastern District of New York and will be starting at Legal Services of the Hudson Valley in Yonkers, taking over a position previously held by **CHRISTA DOUAIHY** ('08).

2010

STEPHAN EDEL is the green and equitable economies organizer at the Center for Working Families, where he works with fellow CUNY Law alums.

JONATHAN HARRIS is a Skadden Fellow with the Public Justice Center's Workplace Justice Project in Baltimore. He also recently filed an *amicus* brief in the Maryland appellate court arguing against windfall attorneys' fees for debt collectors.

BRIAN TURNER passed the February 2011 California Bar Exam and is working at Glancy Binkow & Goldberg as a contract attorney in securities law.

NETWORKING AND CONNECTING

So that you can share more news about your personal and professional updates with your classmates, we're launching a new section of our website for alumni announcements that will be updated regularly. So if you'd like to connect more with the CUNY Law community, please send your news, along with your name and class year, to alumnioffice@mail.law.cuny.edu. And be sure to check the alumni pages of the CUNY Law website to learn more about your classmates' latest work and accomplishments!

Faculty Notes

MICHELLE ANDERSON presented “Sharing a Glass House: Reflections on Repurposing Corporate Space for the Academy” at the Society for College & University Planning international conference in July. She was appointed to chair the CUNY Pathways Task Force to establish the 30-credit “Common Core” general education curriculum for all CUNY undergraduate colleges in June. Anderson was honored with the 2011 Distinguished Leader in Education Award from *Education Update* in May. She delivered remarks on Jana Leo’s memoir *Rape, New York* at the CUNY Graduate Center for the Humanities Speaker Series in February.

PENELOPE ANDREWS spoke on a panel about violence against women at the University of Western Paris in June. In April, she presented two papers: one at the Conference on Law, Culture and Pluralism at Columbia University and the other, on South African equality jurisprudence, at a conference on comparative law at the New School. Dean Andrews gave a lecture titled “The Role of International Law in South Africa’s TRC: Some Comparative Lessons for Canada” at the University of Manitoba Robson Hall Law School in Canada in March. Also in March, she and **JULIE GOLDSCHIED** participated at the 2011 Feminist Legal Theory conference pre-conference workshop at the University of Baltimore.

CAITLIN BORGMANN was quoted in the *New York Times* article “Several States Forbid Abortion After 20 Weeks,” in *Politico* in the article “Planned Parenthood Juggles Multiple Lawsuits,” and in the *National Review Online* article “Tracking the Times on Fetal Pain” in June.

REBECCA BRATSPIES spoke on the panel “Effective Teaching Techniques for the 21st Century Environmental Law Curriculum” at Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation Institute in May. Also in May, she was a discussant at the Yale University workshop “Intervening to Constrain Our Future Selves:

Strategic Policy Interventions to Address the ‘Super Wicked’ Problem of Climate Change.” Bratspies moderated “Geoen-gineering Climate Change: Can the Law Catch Up?” at the ASIL annual meeting in March. She presented her paper “The Perils of Implicit Regulatory Privatization: Lessons from the BP Oil Spill” at the Environmental Law and Policy Review Symposium—Looking Beyond the Deepwater Oil Spill: The Future of Offshore Drilling at the College of William and Mary in January.

SUSAN BRYANT presented “Experiential Learning in the Large Doctrinal Classroom” at the AALS Curriculum/Clinical Conference in June. She presented “Cultural Competence: Using Racial Justice and Cultural Competence Lens to Improve Our Work as Public Interest Lawyers” at Legal Services NYC.

ANGELA OLIVIA BURTON presented her work in progress, “Beyond Psychotropic Drugs: How Lawyers and Judges Can Promote an Ethical, Humane, and Compassionate Response to the Emotional and Mental Health of State-Involved Children” at the New York Area Family Law Scholars Workshop at Cardozo Law School in June. Also in June, she co-presented with **LILIANA YANEZ** “The Importance of Exploring Content and Context in Encouraging and Navigating Difficult Conversations in the Classroom” at the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Clinical Conference. Burton was also quoted in a *New York Law Journal* article, “The Case for Cultural Competency: Its Importance Lies in the Potential for Significant Impact on the Delivery of Legal Services,” in April.

DOUGLAS COX published “Of Wikileaks, Security Clearances, and How Both Could Hamper Your Career” in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* in August. He also published “Burn After Viewing: The CIA’s Destruction of the Abu Zubaydah Tapes & the Law of Federal Records” in the *Journal of National Security Law & Policy* in June.

LISA DAVIS published “Still Trembling: State Obligation under International Law to End Post-Earthquake Rape in Haiti” in *64 U. Miami Law Review* 2 in July. In June, she published “Pap Kase: Respecting the Right to Health of Haitian Women and Girls” in the *Harvard Health and Human Rights Journal* and was awarded the 2011 People’s Choice Gavel Award for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights decision granting precautionary measures to protect women and girls from sexual violence in displacement camps in Haiti. Davis was a panelist at the Thomas-Reuters Foundation forum “Haiti: Comment Mettre Fin à l’impunité sur le Viol?” in May. She also participated in the Barnard College panel “Sex Trafficking in Iraq: Perspectives from the Non-Profit and the Political Worlds” and in the American Bar Association, International Law Section annual meeting discussion “Haiti’s Reconstruction: A Year after the Earthquake” in April. Also in April, Davis was a commentator for “Violence Against Women & Impunity in Central America” at Lehman College’s New Pathways to Justice conference. She presented at the USAID Women’s Leadership Panel: A Critical Component for Effective Reconstruction and Development in Haiti. Davis cowrote “Bridging the Gap: Utilizing International Law to Combat Femicide in Guatemala” with Natasha Bannan (’11) in *Guild Notes*.

FRANK DEALE published “Barack Obama and the Public Interest Law Movement: A Preliminary Assessment” in the Spring/Summer 2011 edition of the *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*.

JULIE GOLDSCHIED’S discussion, “New White House Initiative to Help End Dating Violence and Sexual Assault,” was posted on the Gender & Sexuality Law blog in July. She presented “Utility and Limits of the Gender Framework in Anti-Gender Violence Advocacy” at the AALS 2011 midyear meeting, “Women Rethinking Equality,” in Washington, D.C., in June. In March, she presented at the University of Baltimore’s Feminist Legal Theory

conference, Gender Violence and Work in the United States and South Africa: The Parallel Processes of Law and Social Change. She moderated the plenary on institutional violence at the Gender Justice Convening at the University of Miami Law School in February.

YASMIN SOKKAR HARKER presented her paper “Analytical Skill Development in a Legal Research Course” at the Third Conference on Legal Information: Scholarship and Teaching, at the Earle Mack School of Law at Drexel University in July.

BABE HOWELL published “Labeled for Life: Gang Databases” in the July/August issue of the *Champion*.

RAMZI KASSEM was interviewed by WNYC, *Al-Jazeera English TV*, *France Culture*, *Free Speech Radio News*, *NHK Japan TV*, and *SVT Sweden TV*, among other outlets, on a range of topics including counterterrorism, Guantánamo, military commissions, and the policing of Muslim communities. He co-presented “Diagnosing Client Issues and Community Needs in Uncharted Terrain” with **NICOLE SMITH FUTRELL** at the AALS Clinical Conference. Kassem was a guest lecturer on national security legal policy at the University of Brescia in May. In April, he addressed the “Guantanamo Bay: From Bush to Obama’s Era” colloquium organized by the Geneva Graduate Institute’s Center on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding. He was a panelist at lecture discussions held at Pace, Columbia, Dickstein Shapiro, DLA Piper, and the DarulTauheed Mosque in Queens. Kassem published “From Altruists to Outlaws: The Criminalization of Traveling Islamic Volunteers” in the *UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law* last spring. In September, the *South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection* online published his essay titled “September 11th and the Future We’ve Built.” In August, he published “Giving Up Liberty in Pursuit of Security” on *Al-Jazeera English Online* and “Kassem on the Evidence in al-Alwi’s Case” on *Lawfare*. Kassem

also published “Obama Chains Himself to Bush Terror Policies” on *Al-Jazeera English Online* in July.

JEFFREY KIRCHMEIER’S review of Brian MacQuarrie’s *The Ride* appeared in the *51 American Journal of Legal History* 545 in July. In May, he was a commentator on the National Geographic Channel television series *Taboo* in an episode about inmate relationships in prison.

JULIE LIM participated in the 2011 AALL Conference “Reappointment, Tenure, and Governance” roundtable for the New Law Librarians Program in July. She presented on library administration at the SALT and CUNY Law’s Center for Diversity in the Legal Profession New Teachers Pipeline program at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism in May. She coordinated a CUNY-wide workshop, “CUNY Librarians L.E.A.D.: Learn to Envision Alternative/Alternate Directions” in May.

ANDREA MCARDLE published “Learning in Context: Land Use and Community Lawyering” in the *Pace Environmental Law Review Online Companion*. She presented “Using a Narrative Lens to Understand Empathy and How It Matters in Judging” at the Applied Legal Storytelling conference at the University of Denver, Sturm College of Law, in July. In June, McArdle presented a paper, “The Surprisingly Fractious Politics of Judicial Selection: Judicial ‘Accountability’ as a Conservative Countermobilization to Court Reform,” on a panel at the annual meeting of the Law & Society Association in California. She also presented a paper, “Learning in Context: Land Use and Community Lawyering,” for the panel “Stakeholders and Role Playing” at Practically Grounded: Best Practices for Skill Building in Teaching Land Use, Environmental, and Sustainable Development Law at Pace Law School in May. In April, McArdle participated in the “Opening Colloquium on Feminist & Critical Theory” roundtable and co-facilitated the Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) Schol-

ars’ Forum, at the Southeast Regional Legal Writing conference at Mercer Law School in Georgia.

ALIZABETH NEWMAN published “Bridging the Justice Gap: Building Community by Responding to Individual Need” in the *Clinical Law Review* in May. She was the group leader for the AALS Clinical Teachers Conference Immigration Breakout section in Seattle. In April, Newman presented “Immigration Relief for Survivors of Domestic Violence” at the Suffolk County Women’s Bar Association in New York; “Preparing Immigration Relief for Survivors of Domestic Violence” at Legal Services of New York; and “The Basics of Adjustment of Status at the CUNY Citizenship/Daily News Volunteers Training” at Baruch College. In March, she spoke about “Domestic Violence in the Asian Immigrant Community” for the Asian Pacific American Law Student Association at CUNY Law. Newman co-taught a webinar titled “Exceptions to Adjustment of Status” for the CUNY School for Professional Studies. She also guest lectured on “Current Trends in Gender-Based Political Asylum” at New York School of Law.

JENNY RIVERA was a panelist on “Facilitating Diversity: Similar Countries, Different Experiences; How Historical Context Informs How We Address Diversity Today in the U.S.” for the American Bar Association annual meeting, Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession, in August. She also participated on the panel “Thurgood Marshall, Jurist and Jurisprudence” at the “Equal Justice: The Life and Legacy of Justice Thurgood Marshall” celebration at Syracuse University College of Law in April. Rivera moderated “From Pipeline to Practice: Roundtable Discussion” at the American University Washington College of Law’s 14th annual Hispanic Law Conference in the spring. She has returned to teach at CUNY Law after completing a visiting professorship at the American University Washington College of Law during the spring 2011 semester.

RUTHANN ROBSON was quoted by *Reuters*, *American Medical News*, the *ABA Law Journal*, and other media on the constitutionality of immigration laws, about the right to record police on public streets, and about same-sex marriage. She also participated in SCOTUSblog's online symposium on same-sex marriage titled "What's Rational about Rational Basis Review?" She edited *Library of Essays in Sexuality and Law*, an international three-volume set published by Ashgate Publishing Group in the U.K. In the summer of 2011, Robson served as a judge for the New York Foundation of the Arts Nonfiction Literature Fellowships, which awards grants to NY writers of journalism, criticism, and other literary nonfiction, reading more than 400 manuscript submissions. Her review and essay, "Refusing Safety: The Feminist Struggle to the Revolutionary," was published in the *Women Studies Quarterly* Spring/Summer 2011 edition. In May, *She-Wired* published her op-ed "Abortion Rights Are Lesbian Rights." Her article "Lesbians and Abortions" was published in 35 *NYU Review of Law and Social Change* 247 in April. Robson's article "The Zen of Grading," published in the 36 *Akron Law Review* 303 (2003), was named article of the month by the Institute for Law Teaching and Learning in February. Robson finished the spring semester as the John T. Copenhaver Chair at West Virginia University School of Law and has returned to teach at CUNY Law for the 2011–2012 academic year.

JOE ROSENBERG published "New York's Marriage Equality Act: What Attorneys Representing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders Need to Know" as part of LexisNexis's Emerging Issues Analysis Series, published at lexisnexis.com 2011 Emerging Issues 5809.

FRANKLIN SIEGEL and three co-counsel won a ruling on August 15, 2011, preserving a federal court injunction

they secured in 1996 on behalf of a civil rights class led by the *Civic Association of the Deaf of New York City*. The ruling found that a request by the City to remove 15,000 emergency-help boxes, which are accessible to Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing people to summon emergency police and fire assistance from the street, would discriminate against the Deaf in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The original ruling established the important principle under Title II of the ADA that when government changes an existing service, the changes must not discriminate against people with disabilities. "The injunction remains an equitable solution," Judge Robert Sweet wrote.

CINDY SOOHOO was on the panel "Are Reproductive Rights Human Rights?" for New York Law School's Justice Speaks series and on the panel "Advancing Reproductive Rights—Achievements and Challenges" at the University of Miami Law School Conference on Gender Justice in the Americas in February. Her essay "Who Is a Human Rights Defender? An Essay on Sexual and Reproductive Rights Defenders" was published in the 65 *University of Miami Law Review* 981. Soohoo also published "The Full Realization of Our Rights: The Right to Health in State Constitutions" in the 60 *Case Western Reserve Law Review* 997. She posted "The United States & Economic & Social Rights" on the IntLawGrrls blog in April. In March, Soohoo posted "The Word on Women—and Now Some Good News for Women's Abortion Rights" in the Trustlaw blog and "Anti-Choice Forces Adopt In-Your-Face Tactics and the Danger to Women Is Real" in RH Reality Check blog.

RICHARD STORROW published "Travel into the Future of Reproductive Technology" in the *University of Missouri–Kansas City Law Review* and "The Ethics of Exclusion in Infertility Care" in the *Journal*

of Clinical Research and Bioethics. He presented four papers: "The Proportionality Problem in Cross-Border Reproductive Travel" at the Globalization of Health Care conference held at Harvard Law School; "Making Reproductive Decisions on Difficult Terrain: The Legal Hazards of Cross-border Reproductive Care" at the Expert Interdisciplinary Workshop on ART and Reproductive Opportunity held at the University of Technology, Sydney; "The Phantom Children of the Republic: International Surrogacy and the New Illegitimacy" at the conference The New "Illegitimacy": Revisiting Why Parentage Should Not Depend on Marriage, held at American University's Washington College of Law; and "Religion, Feminism and Abortion Politics: The Regulation of Assisted Reproduction in Two Catholic Countries," at the roundtable titled "Regulating Assisted Reproductive Technology" held at Rutgers-Camden School of Law.

LILIANA YANEZ co-presented with **ANGELA OLIVIA BURTON** a session, "The Importance of Exploring Content and Context in Encouraging and Navigating Difficult Conversations in the Classroom," at the American Association of Law Schools (AALS) Clinical Conference in June. She was also a commentator at the Emerging Immigration Law Scholars and Teachers Conference at American University Washington College of Law in May.

STEVEN ZEIDMAN coauthored a Supreme Court *amicus* brief in *Lafler v. Cooper* on behalf of the American Bar Association. *Lafler*, which was linked with *Missouri v. Frye*, addresses creating a means of providing criminal defendants with remedies when the court finds there was ineffective assistance of counsel. He also was an organizer and moderator for the Padilla and the Future of the Defense Function conference at Cardozo School of Law in June. Zeidman also contributed in editing the *ABA Standards on Criminal Justice: Defense Function*.

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