POPE FRANCIS
Opens St. John’s Conference On
International Religious Freedom
Applications are Up
- St. John’s was one of only 37 law schools in the country that saw an increase in applications this year, and one of only 20 schools with an increase greater than 10 percent

Student Credentials are Up
- Our median LSAT and our median GPA both rose this year

Bar Passage is Up
- 4% rise thanks to a new, individualized approach to instruction

Career Placement is Up
- 8% increase from 2012 to 2013 due to our proactive, integrated, and individualized approach to career development

Alumni Giving is at Record High
- $3,703,503 in total cash gifts received (up 123%)
- 2,485 donors (up 27%)
- $6.5 million raised in the first year of the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program

We invite you to keep the momentum going by making a gift to the Law School this tax year (ending December 31, 2014). You can use the enclosed envelope to mail us your contribution, or you can give online at lawgiving.stjohns.edu.

Thank you!

“We’re making strides in ways that matter most to students, alumni, and employers.”
–Michael A. Simons, Dean and John V. Brennan Professor of Law and Ethics
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The first day of school is always an exciting time, and this year is off to a particularly exciting start at St. John’s Law. I spent the last two weeks of August teaching Introduction to Law to our new 1Ls, and I can attest that they’re smart, eager, hard working, ambitious, and a joy to teach.

They’re also highly qualified. Last year, only 37 American law schools saw an increase in applications. And only 20 saw an increase over 10 percent. At St. John’s, applications increased 13 percent. But even with this larger applicant pool, we admitted fewer students as part of our continuing plan to resize the Law School. Our increased selectivity caused a corresponding rise in our median LSAT and our median GPA.

The excitement about our new students builds on the excitement of last year, when we saw increases in our bar passage rate (above the statewide average), our employment rates (above the national average), and our alumni giving (at historic levels).

As detailed in the Dean’s Report at the back of this magazine, the generosity of our alumni has been particularly inspiring. In 2013-2014, total giving to St. John’s Law exceeded $3.7 million in cash, a 123 percent increase over the prior year, while total gifts and pledges increased 225 percent to exceed $6.5 million. Your support is directly benefiting our students by creating new endowed scholarships, by launching our new Intellectual Property Law Center, by funding student fellowships, by fully endowing the Peter James Johnson, Jr. Mock Trial Competition, and much more.

Our faculty has also been hard at work putting in place an innovative new curriculum, adding ground-breaking distance learning courses, and expanding our academic centers and international programs. The remarkable conference we co-hosted in Rome, which featured an extraordinary address from Pope Francis, is just one example of the wonderful work being done by our faculty.

Applications are up, selectivity is up, student credentials are up, bar passage is up, employment rates are up, and alumni giving is up. St. John’s Law is on the rise. These are exciting times indeed, and I deeply appreciate your support.

Michael A. Simons
Dean and John V. Brennan
Professor of Law and Ethics

FROM THE DEAN

St. John’s Law Magazine
FALL 2014

Dean and John V. Brennan
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Perhaps the aspect of the job that’s surprised me the most is how much I enjoy presiding at commencement. Reading the names of the new graduates, many of whom I’ve taught, is a deep honor for me.

MVT: When you took the associate academic dean position, you kept your supervisory role over the Career Development Office. Can you talk about the connection between the two?

LC: One of the unique ways St. John’s Law responded to the recession was to integrate the career advising and career development function throughout the Law School. At most law schools, career advising is the job of a dedicated office. Of course, we have a terrific Career Development Office that proactively helps students in the employment market. But at St. John’s, everyone—faculty, staff, and administrators—has a role in helping students get jobs. That means, first and foremost, that our faculty are teaching students the knowledge, skills, and values they need to be successful lawyers. Our curricular offerings are grounded in the fundamentals, such as Tax, and are rich in electives, such as E-Discovery, that prepare students for the profession that awaits them.

MVT: What direction do you think St. John’s Law will take in the new legal academic climate and what’s the most important change you hope to make in academics as associate academic dean?

LC: St. John’s isn’t a school that chases after the latest fad in legal education. We’re a law school that’s grounded in the fundamentals, which means that our graduates leave here able to practice law effectively and ethically from day one. On the other hand, we’re also innovating in important areas. This year, all incoming 1Ls will take an intensive intersession course called Lawyering, which will teach them the essential skills of interviewing, counseling, and negotiation. Few other schools are doing that in the first year. Our externship program is combined with an innovative seminar that teaches real-world skills like factual investigation and legal project management. We also have a new course—Business Basics—that introduces students to the accounting, economic, and finance concepts they need to know in order to advise their clients effectively in a wide variety of practice areas. These changes to the curriculum were not made lightly. They were the result of careful study and debate among the faculty. I’m optimistic about St. John’s Law—we have a great dean, a supportive university, a faculty that cares deeply about the curriculum and our strategic direction, an amazing alumni network, students who are eager to learn, and a hard-working staff.

MVT: I’d have to characterize as meteoric your rise from assistant professor of legal writing in 2008 to associate academic dean in 2013. Did that seem fluid to you, or did you find the learning curve in each step of that journey daunting?

LC: The last six years have flown by, and I look back on them thankful for the opportunity to serve St. John’s Law. Each step has certainly brought new challenges. But I love new challenges, particularly when I’m in such a supportive environment. I learned a lot from my predecessor as assistant dean, Katherine Sullivan ‘77, and, of course, from you when you were the associate academic dean!

MVT: Some people think that your devotion to statistics is, well, zealous. Why are you so committed to them?

LC: Data can help us understand the world around us. This includes helping the Law School to function as effectively as possible. Statistical analysis of 10 years of bar passage data helped us understand why students sometimes fail the bar on the first attempt, and how to help them. We now understand and can track employment trends months ahead of other schools and respond accordingly. Studying enrollment patterns helps us identify how often to offer certain courses, enabling us to deploy our resources as efficiently as possible. Numbers are good.

MVT: I see that you’re branching out in your teaching areas. Are you getting tired of Criminal Law?

LC: Absolutely not. In fact, I’m returning to Criminal Law in the spring semester! Dean Michael Simons and I are splitting the first-year day class in half and, together, experimenting with some new teaching techniques. A few years ago, fed up with the rising cost of textbooks, I compiled my own set of teaching materials. They compare and contrast the common law and New York approaches to crimes. The course is essentially a march through the New York Penal Law. Students leave the course with a firm grounding in a comprehensive penal statute, while also appreciating the areas in which New York deviates from the common law and the Model Penal Code.

MVT: Thanks, Larry, for the terrific job you’re doing.
On Sunday, June 1, 2014, 257 J.D. candidates and 54 LL.M. candidates convened at Carnesecca Arena for commencement exercises that included some 3,000 family, friends, faculty, administrators, staff, and alumni from the St. John’s Law community.

Welcoming the graduates and their guests, Dean Michael A. Simons said that as they transition into their professional lives, the members of the Class of 2014 can be proud of the 60,000 hours of pro bono and public interest work they did, collectively, to assist their community’s poor and marginalized through the Law School’s clinics and service initiatives—selfless service embodying St. John’s Vincentian mission. He also shared that, as they make their path to the profession and to a rewarding career, the graduates will have the opportunity, and the challenge, to use their law degree as a license to do good and to serve justice. “If you meet that challenge and take that opportunity,” he said, “you will have made for yourself not just a career, but a life of which you can be truly proud.”

With this call to build a meaningful life in the law, Dean Simons introduced the 2014 commencement speaker, Elisa D. Garcia C. ’85, executive vice president and chief legal officer for Office Depot, Inc. Addressing the graduates, Ms. Garcia noted St. John’s proud tradition of training so many New Yorkers who, like her, are the first in their families to enter the legal profession. No matter which path they choose—or which path chooses them—in the law, she encouraged the graduates to stand behind a “firm set of values” from the start and to “act with courage and integrity.” She also emphasized the importance of building a support network of peers and of seeing the “bigger picture” of opportunities available to them.

Ms. Garcia closed her remarks by calling on the graduates to “be adventurous” and by sharing inspiration she found in the final installment of the acclaimed Calvin and Hobbes comic strip. Looking out on freshly fallen snow, Hobbes exclaims, “The world looks brand-new!” to which Calvin replies, “A day full of possibilities … let’s go exploring!”

Commencement 2014
Looking for a place to stay on your next trip? There’s Airbnb. Need a ride downtown? Uber, Lyft, or Sidecar can get you there. Care to let the world know what you’re doing at any given moment? You can Tweet, Pin, and post to your heart’s content. As widely reported in *Forbes*, the *New York Times*, and other news outlets recently, the sharing economy is here and is on the rise.

And as our popular culture has evolved to embrace it, sharing has moved beyond services to all corners of our lives. For better or worse, our personal data is a highly valued, shared commodity. Many software developers freely share their products and encourage anyone and everyone to use or modify them as part of the “open source movement.” In the law—often a late adopter—we’re seeing how the new sharing economy is also bringing about dramatic changes in the way companies monetize and enforce their patent assets.

In June, Tesla Motors made headlines when the electric car company announced that it wouldn’t initiate lawsuits against competitors who use its technology. Instead, Tesla is taking definitive steps to open avenues for other automakers to use its inventions. Importantly, however, the company didn’t give up the right to use its patents in counter-attacks if sued by other companies.

Less than a month after Tesla’s announcement, Google and Canon launched an initiative aimed at countering patent lawsuits by “non-practicing entities” (often referred to as “patent trolls”) who own patents but do not produce tangible technologies or products.

The “License on Transfer Network”—or “LOT Network”—is a new alliance between high-tech companies which generally provides that if any member sells patents to a non-member of the group, then the other members automatically receive a royalty-free license against a lawsuit by the transferee.

Notably, the LOT Network is oriented towards preventing suits by non-practicing entities specifically, rather than suits between competing technology companies. And even more broadly, Google recently pledged to offer a subset of its patents for free use by the technology community.

Between the LOT Network, Tesla’s announcement, and Google’s pledge, industry observers are touting a new and potentially revolutionary open patent ethos in the realm of patented technology. Some are even heralding these developments as akin to the open source movement in the software space, with its broad exchange of copyrighted software code. In any event, as more companies start to offer patented technologies on open and royalty-free platforms, the legal frameworks for sharing innovations while retaining the value of the underlying intellectual property will continue to evolve.

These recent patent law developments reflect core tenets of the patent system itself. As the legal system that governs invention and innovation, it’s fitting that patent law is undergoing constant change through the combined creative efforts of patent holders, applicants, attorneys, and judges. As with technological progress, the patent system is constantly in flux, and it remains to be seen what the future has in store.

Daniel A. DeVito is a partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He has extensive experience litigating intellectual property cases, including complex high-technology patent cases, at both the trial and appellate level. Jonathan H. Ashtor, an associate in intellectual property and technology at Skadden, and Rebecca Cress, a summer associate at the firm, assisted with this opinion piece.
When students from St. John’s and Villanova came together last semester to study important issues in law and religion, they didn’t sit in the same classroom. Instead, they connected in real time by video link for this inaugural Joint Colloquium in Law and Religion, a series of workshops with some of the most prominent thinkers in the field organized by Professors Mark L. Movsesian and Marc O. DeGirolami at St. John’s Law, and by Vice Dean and Professor Michael P. Moreland at Villanova Law.

The virtual classroom allowed for a fruitful exchange between participants at the two host schools. After the speakers presented their papers, students had an opportunity to ask questions and to offer their insights and opinions on the issues. “It was great to learn in an innovative environment that used video conferencing to link students from St. John’s and Villanova,” said John Boersma ’15, who participated in the workshops from St. John’s. “The technology enabled us to learn from top law and religion scholars and to engage in interesting dialogue with students from diverse backgrounds.”

The joint colloquium is just one example of St. John’s forward-thinking and creative approach to legal education. “As always, we’re committed to providing a legal education that’s very much grounded in the fundamentals of legal reasoning, legal analysis, and legal writing,” says Dean Michael A. Simons. “But we’re also exploring ways to build on that foundation using virtual learning technology. Through the virtual classroom, our faculty can share their expertise beyond our four walls to reach students across the country and around the world. And leading experts can enrich learning at St. John’s Law from a distance.”

The Law School will expand its virtual learning initiatives this year to include four offerings from its prestigious LL.M. in Bankruptcy program. Through web-based video conferencing, LL.M. and J.D. students from a consortium of schools in the United States and abroad will take an International Bankruptcy course held at St. John’s Law and sponsored by the American College of Bankruptcy. From their respective classrooms, “The technology enabled us to learn from top law and religion scholars and to engage in interesting dialogue with students from diverse backgrounds.”

—John Boersma ’15

Bankruptcy. From their respective classrooms, the students will watch and learn from live presentations by some of the world’s top bankruptcy lawyers and academics.

This fall, St. John’s Law is offering its Bankruptcy Procedure course to practitioners around the country for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit. The CLE participants join LL.M. and J.D. students via live web stream for 13 two-hour evening sessions taught at St. John’s by Lawrence R. Ahern III, a leader in this highly specialized practice area and the co-author of the West Bankruptcy Procedure Manual. “In bankruptcy practice, understanding the nuance of procedure is often the key to success,” Professor Ahern notes. “This course will increase the practitioner’s sophistication, benefiting clients, and imparting practical skills needed to prevail over adversaries.” From their remote locations, using a computer or mobile device, students can ask and respond to questions and can engage with their classmates and teachers in virtual chat rooms.

The same synchronous learning technology is bringing students from multiple schools together this fall for a Consumer Bankruptcy course taught by Linda E. Coco. Now an assistant professor at Barry University School of Law, Coco previously taught at St. John’s as a research professor in the LL.M. in Bankruptcy program. In the spring, adjunct professor Alec P. Ostrow, a partner at Becker, Glynn, Muffy, Chassin & Hosinsky LLP and a fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, will employ the same distance learning technology to teach LL.M. and J.D. students taking St. John’s Corporate Reorganization course.

“We’re excited to provide this innovative learning environment to law students and practitioners looking to deepen their understanding of, and practical skills in, bankruptcy law,” says G. Ray Warner, associate dean for bankruptcy studies and director of St. John’s LL.M. in Bankruptcy program. “We have partner schools that are offering our synchronous courses to their students as one of their courses, and others are allowing their students to take our courses as virtual visiting students.”

Although he recognizes that there are some obstacles to navigate—like daylight savings time and the occasional snow day closure—Professor Warner is optimistic. “This is a positive step for us,” he says. “The technology is opening a new world of opportunities to share our expertise and to build on St. John’s already strong reputation.”
Professor **Robin A. Boyle** co-authored an essay for the newsletter of the AALS Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, entitled, “Easing Boundaries: Inter-School Collaboration and its Pedagogical Opportunities.” The essay summarizes remarks from a panel discussion held at the AALS Annual Meeting last January featuring Professor Boyle and colleagues from three other law schools.

The online journal **Concurrences** nominated **Professor Edward D. Cavanagh’s** recent Loyola University Chicago Law Journal article, “Antitrust Law and Economic Theory: Finding a Balance,” for its 2014 Antitrust Writing Awards.

**Associate Academic Dean Larry Cunningham’s** article, “Using Principles from Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to Reduce Nervousness in Oral Argument or Moot Court,” will be published in the Nevada Law Journal, a publication of the William S. Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Professor **Marc O. DeGirolami’s** article, “Judge Posner, Judge Wilkinson, and Judicial Critique of Constitutional Theory,” was accepted for publication by the Notre Dame Law Review. Professor DeGirolami co-authored the article with Professor **Kevin Walsh** of the University of Richmond School of Law.

At its 32nd Annual Spring Meeting in April, the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) presented the ABI Annual Service Award to **Evelayn E. Greenberg**, assistant dean for dispute resolution programs, professor of legal practice, and director of the Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution. The organization’s highest membership award, the Service Award recognizes the ABI member whose contributions over the past year have been extraordinary, as determined by ABI’s advisory board of past presidents. Professor Greenberg was noted for her leadership in designing and implementing the ABI-St. John’s Bankruptcy Mediation Training, the first mediation program that focused solely on bankruptcy. Since the inaugural training in December 2011, bankruptcy lawyers, judges, financial professionals, and practicing mediators from around the country have participated in the program, applying their bankruptcy expertise to the practice and process of bankruptcy mediation.

Professor **Francis J. Facciolo’s** most recent article, “Do I Have a Bridge for You: Fiduciary Duties and Financial Advice,” has been accepted for publication by the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law. This article argues that the current debate about extending fiduciary duties to broker-dealers is misguided and that the focus, instead, should be on regulating certain compensation practices that lead to conflicts of interest. This approach to regulation has been pioneered in the United Kingdom with the Retail Distribution Review and in Australia with the Future of Financial Advice initiatives.


The Fordham Law Review has accepted Professor **Anita S. Krishnakumar’s** manuscript, “Longstanding Agency Interpretations,” for publication. Professor Krishnakumar presented earlier versions of this article at the 2013 AALS New Voices in Administrative Law program, a colloquium on statutory interpretation at Duke Law School, and a faculty workshop at Emory Law School.

Professor **Peggy E. McGuinness** completed the book chapter, “Treaties, Federalism, and the Contested Legacy of Missouri v. Holland,” which will appear in the 2014 Cambridge University Press book, Treaties in United States Law (edited by Paul Dubinsky, Greg Fox, and Brad Roth). Her contribution to the book’s review of US treaty law addresses the tension between the broad national treaty power envisioned by the Framers of the Constitution and the recent resurgence of federalism in the Supreme Court’s jurisprudence and in legal scholarship. In it she explains how, despite the constitutional power to regulate the states through treaty, the United States has followed a restrained path that limits American participation in treaties that would regulate areas traditionally left to the states, while allowing for dynamic participation of the states in international law making.

**Navigating Law School’s Waters: A Guide to Success by Professor Patricia Grade Montana** was published by Vandapelis Publishing in February 2014. The book is designed to give students the tools they need to successfully navigate their way through law school. Introducing the fundamentals of legal analysis and writing, it teaches them how to read and brief cases, outline, study, master law school exams, and care for their physical and emotional well-being. In short, it prepares students for every aspect of their journey through law school.

**Frederick A. Whitney** completed Professor of Contract Law **Mark L. Movsesian’s** article, “Defining Religion in American Law: Psychic Sophie and the Rise of the Nones,” was published in the European
Professor Eva E. Subotnik’s article, “Constitutional Obstacles? Reconsidering Copyright Protection for Pre-1972 Sound Recordings,” co-authored with June M. Besek of Columbia Law School, has been published in the Columbia Journal of Law & the Arts. In their article, Professors Subotnik and Besek examine the constitutional implications of proposed legislation to bring pre-1972 sound recordings under federal copyright protection. In addition, Professor Subotnik’s article, “Intent in Fair Use,” will be published in the Lewis & Clark Law Review this fall. The article explores the role of a user’s intent in the context of the fair use defense to copyright infringement. It argues for a limited role for evidence of subjective intent, proposing criteria for when such evidence should, and should not, be weighed in the fair use calculus.

Cheryl L. Wade, the Dean Harold F. McNicke Professor of Law, has co-authored an article with Steven A. Ramirez and André Douglas Pond Cummings entitled, “Toward a Critical Corporate Law Pedagogy and Scholarship.” The article was selected for publication in the symposium issue of the Washington University Law Review in connection with the Midwestern People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference. Professor Wade presented portions of this article at a workshop at Boston University School of Law and at the Annual ABA Business Associations Meeting.

In April, Professor Leonard M. Baynes was selected as the new dean of the University of Houston Law Center. With his transition from the full time faculty, St. John’s Law bids farewell to an exceptional teacher and a nationally recognized communications law scholar specializing in race and media issues.

As the inaugural director of the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development at St. John’s, Professor Baynes has built the premier academic center for diversity initiatives in legal education. More generally, embodying St. John’s Vincentian mission, he has worked tirelessly to open doors to an inclusive and diverse legal profession.

The RHB Center has been a force at the Law School since 1999. It conducts legal studies, research, and outreach on matters that affect the rights of underrepresented people, while preparing law students to be leaders on issues of racial, economic, and social justice.

The center’s flagship pipeline initiative, the Ronald H. Brown Prep Program for College Students, encourages college sophomores and juniors from under-served groups—often first in their family to attend college—to apply to law school and pursue legal careers. Launched in 2005, the two-summer immersion program has grown and thrived in partnership with St. John’s University, CUNY, and the United Negro College Fund Colleges. In 2011, Professor Baynes proudly accepted the American Bar Association’s Alexander Award for Excellence in Pipeline Diversity on behalf of the Prep Program.

In addition to guiding the RHB Center’s pipeline efforts, Professor Baynes served as faculty advisor to its official publication, the Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development, a student-run forum for illuminating and discussing critical social justice issues of the day. The Journal and the RHB Center also collaborate to host special events, including annual conferences and symposia.

In recognition of the great strides he has made as an educator and in the field, Professor Baynes received the New York Bar Association’s Diversity Trailblazer Award and St. John’s prestigious President’s Medal. “Professor Baynes will be missed as a valued member of the St. John’s community and as a wonderful colleague and friend,” said Dean Michael A. Simons. “But our loss will certainly be the University of Houston’s gain, and we wish him Godspeed as he takes this next step on his remarkable career path.”

With Professor Baynes’ departure, Professor Elaine M. Chiu will direct the RHB Center. Professor Chiu focuses her scholarship on some of the most difficult issues in contemporary criminal justice, including domestic violence laws, the intersection of cultural beliefs and criminal liability, and the continuing struggle to deal with drug addiction in the war on drugs. She also chairs the planning committee of the Northeast People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, an annual event that gathers legal academics from across the country to discuss issues and topics of importance to communities of color. Professor Rosa C. Castello ’06, who teaches legal writing at the Law School, will be the RHB Center’s assistant director. A summa cum laude graduate of St. John’s Law, Professor Castello held two federal clerkships and worked as a litigation associate at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP before returning to teach at her alma mater.

“I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve as a faculty member at St. John’s Law, where I taught some very talented students, and to head up the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development, which gave me the experience working with alumni and raising funds,” Professor Baynes said. “I am delighted that the RHB Center will be under the capable leadership of my colleagues Elaine Chiu and Rosa Castello, and I will always consider myself part of the St. John’s family.”
Jilliane Hoffman ’89SVC, ’92L never imagined that she would write suspense novels for a living. For the seasoned Miami prosecutor, it was a case of art imitating life.

Hoffman arrived at St. John’s Law intent on becoming a litigator and, after taking Criminal Procedure with esteemed Professor Frank S. Polestino, she knew that criminal law was her calling. She honed her skills in the Law School’s mock trial program and as an intern with the Queens District Attorney’s Office. That experience “sealed the deal,” Hoffman recalls, she wanted to be a prosecutor.

So when the Miami State Attorney’s Office came to campus to interview students during her 3L year, she jumped at the opportunity. “I drove to Florida over Easter break for my second interview, and while there I was invited to a third interview with Janet Reno, who was State Attorney at the time,” she says. “When the offer letter came in the mail a week later, complete with a brochure of people yachting and jet skiing, I packed my bags, my brand-new husband, Rich, packed his golf clubs, and we moved to Miami.”

For the better part of the next decade, Hoffman worked in Miami law enforcement, first as an Assistant State Attorney prosecuting felonies, and then as the regional legal advisor for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), where she guided special agents on complex criminal and civil matters. “I loved being a prosecutor,” Hoffman says. “There aren’t many jobs out there where you know that at the end of each and every day, you’ve made a difference in someone’s life. As a prosecutor, you have the opportunity to bring people justice. That’s an amazing feeling. At the same time, it’s difficult to not be affected by the misfortune and tragedy of others, and also by the evil that you know definitively exists in this world.”

As Hoffman explains it, there are always some cases that, no matter how many years you’ve been around the system, and no matter how many unbelievable things you’ve seen in those years, still manage to shock you with their senselessness and brutality. She traces her writing career back to one such case, sharing: “I was prosecuting a serial rape case involving a 14-year-old girl and her 13-year-old sister. They were coming home from school when the defendant popped out from behind a building, brandished a gun, raped one sister, and made the other watch.”

At trial, the rape victim was able to recount the horrific crime for the jury, but her sister was practically catatonic on the stand, she was still so traumatized. “The jury was crying, the judge was upset, the gallery was livid, and the only person in the courtroom who looked completely composed was the 17-year-old defendant,” says Hoffman. “That’s when I had a thought: What if this girl had the opportunity to prosecute her offender? What if she were me? Would she seek justice or retribution?”

That thought stuck with Hoffman and, bit by bit, it developed into the plot for her first novel. As she worked out the plotline, it became clear that this new occupation was consuming more and more of her time. “Search warrants don’t get executed at two in the afternoon, they get executed at two in the morning,” Hoffman notes. “I had two young children who needed my attention when I wasn’t working. So with my husband’s encouragement, I left FDLE to write the story that had been growing in my head.”

Hoffman’s fiction debut, Retribution, met with critical and popular acclaim, and she has followed on its success with four other legal thrillers—two sequels and two standalone novels. “The stories I write are inspired by the cases I worked in Miami, the people I worked alongside, and the defendants I prosecuted,” she says. “My first hope is that my readers are thrilled when they read my books. I try very hard to give them a page turning, stomach-lurching roller coaster ride through the Miami criminal justice system where nothing is what you think it is. Legal procedure can be as dull as watching paint dry. But I strive to make it exciting for my readers, and I hope that when they come to the end of my books—while still trying to catch their breath, of course—they’ll have a better understanding of the law and of the criminal justice system.”
Pope Francis
Opens St. John’s / LUMSA Conference
On International Religious Freedom
Religious freedom is a “fundamental right of man that reflects his highest dignity.”

This was a central message imparted by Pope Francis during a June 20, 2014 private audience with some 150 alumni, faculty, students, trustees, and others from St. John’s University and the Libera Università Maria SS. Assunta (LUMSA) in the Hall of the Consistory in the Papal Palace.

The audience marked the start of a two-day conference on International Religious Freedom and the Global Clash of Values, jointly sponsored by the Center for Law and Religion and the Center for International and Comparative Law at St. John’s Law and the Department of Law at LUMSA, a private Catholic university in Rome. The conference was organized by St. John’s Law professors Mark L. Movsesian, Marc O. DeGirolami, and Peggy E. McGuinness, and by LUMSA professor Monica Lugato.

Private Audience with Pope Francis

The Papal audience began with remarks by LUMSA’s rector, Giuseppe Dalla Torre, who thanked Pope Francis for his support of the conference and his encouragement to pursue a rigorous discussion on religious liberty. Describing the conference as dedicated to an old theme, which, regrettably, is still an open issue, Professor Dalla Torre noted: “As jurists, we are aware of our responsibility to thoroughly investigate such a diversified and complex area of law, and to provide society with the capacity to strengthen existing guarantees, with a view to making freedom of religion effective.”

The starting point of such an endeavor, he emphasized, is the notion of freedom of religion as an entitlement rooted in the original and inalienable dignity of the human person, along the lines of the teaching from the Second Vatican Council, spelled out in the declaration Dignitatis Humanae.

Dean Michael A. Simons then addressed Pope Francis on behalf of St. John’s. Dean Simons shared that St. John’s University was founded in 1870 by the Congregation of the Mission, and remains a Catholic and Vincentian university very close to the heart of the Church. With almost 20,000 students, it is the second largest Catholic university in the United States, well known for its commitment to Catholic education and for its dedication to animating the mission of St. Vincent de Paul in service to the poor and disenfranchised. St. John’s is also known for its excellent law school, Dean Simons explained, which educates outstanding lawyers through its diverse curricular offerings. Those offerings include the Center for Law and Religion, dedicated to studying the difficult questions at the intersection of law and religion, and the Center for International and Comparative Law, which provides a forum for exploring law in its global context.

Legal systems, whether state or international, are called upon to recognize, guarantee and protect religious freedom, which is an intrinsic right inherent to human nature, to the dignity of being free, and is also a sign of a healthy democracy and one of the principal sources of the legitimacy of the State.

Religious freedom, acknowledged in constitutions and laws and expressed in consistent conduct, promotes the development of relationships of mutual respect among the diverse Confessions and their healthy collaboration with the State and political society, without confusion of roles and without antagonism. In place of the global clash of values, it thus becomes possible to start from a nucleus of universally shared values, of global cooperation in view of the common good.

In light of the acquisitions of reason, confirmed and refined through revelation and the civil progress of peoples, it is incomprehensible and alarming that still today discrimination and restrictions of rights continue for the single fact that one belongs to and publicly professes an unwavering faith. It is unacceptable that real persecution is actually sustained for reasons of religious affiliation! Wars as well! This distorts reason, attacks peace and humiliates human dignity.

It causes me great pain to know that Christians in the world submit to the greatest amount of such discrimination. Persecution against Christians today is actually worse than in the first centuries of the Church, and there are more Christian martyrs today than in that era. This is happening more than 1,700 years after the edict of Constantine, which gave Christians the freedom to publicly profess their faith.

I truly hope that your conference defines in depth and great precision the justifications that obligate every legal system to respect and defend religious freedom. I thank you for this contribution. I ask that you pray for me. From my heart I wish you the best and I ask God to bless you. Thank you.

“It really was quite special and memorable to have the Pope give remarks on a subject we study, at an audience we

“Religious freedom, acknowledged in constitutions and laws and expressed in consistent conduct, promotes the development of relationships of mutual respect …”

—His Holiness Pope Francis

“You are an inspiration to all of us here today, to all of the St. John’s family back home, and to me personally.” Dean Simons told Pope Francis, expressing gratitude to the Holy Father for his leadership of the Church and for embracing the conference so fully. Dean Simons then presented Pope Francis—a soccer enthusiast—with a personalized St. John’s soccer jersey, which the Pope received warmly.

Pope Francis next addressed the assembled conference participants. Recognizing at the outset that the debate about religious freedom has become very intense recently, asking questions of both governments and religious denominations, he said:*

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attended, for a conference we organized,” Professor DeGirolami said. Before the audience ended, the Pope personally greeted many of the guests, including Richard F. Hans ’93 and his wife, Siobhan. “After the birth of our three children, it might have been one of the most profound experiences of my life,” Hans said. “Pope Francis’s humility is overwhelming and powerful.” Hans also found the Pope’s message compelling. “Freedom of religion is a right cherished by people around the globe. They long for it as a right, but too often are denied it. It’s incumbent upon us as lawyers to do all we can to preserve and protect that right.”

Calling his meeting with Pope Francis an “awe inspiring and humbling experience,” Joseph M. Mattone, Sr. ’53C, ’55L, ’94HON described the very poignant moment when his wife, Mary Ann, handed the Pope a copy of a book chronicling the life and work of Father Pierre-Marie Benoît, a courageous French Capuchin priest who helped thousands of Jews escape France during the Holocaust by supplying forged Church documents.

Peter O’Connor ’16, a student in the Law School’s summer study abroad program in Rome, found the Papal audience equally inspiring. “The experience was thrilling,” he shared. “Pope Francis’s remarks reflect the dynamism of his pontificate and his absolute commitment to interreligious dialogue and peaceful coexistence. And his endorsement of St. John’s/LUMSA conference shows not only his support for these broad ideals but, more specifically, that St. John’s Law is one to take up this campaign.” Hearing the Pope refer to lawyers as defenders of religious freedom was particularly meaningful for Christina Vlahos ’17, who starts her legal studies at St. John’s this year as an International Honors Program Scholar. “I felt that I was in the presence of a truly holy man who is aware of, and fully bears, the responsibility of his office,” she said.

Conference Proceedings

Over the next two days, the conference provided a forum in which leading scholars, practicing lawyers, and diplomats from around the globe—people of different faiths and no faith—contributed to the growing body of scholarship and knowledge about religious freedom and the challenges confronting it at the international, national, and local levels. “As institutions sharing a Catholic ethos, LUMSA and St. John’s have a special responsibility to foster discussion on international religious freedom, promoting an open and transparent dialogue with all interested actors on key legal issues,” Professor Lugato said.

Thomas Farr, an eminent scholar of law and religion at Georgetown University’s Berkley Center, keynoted the conference and discussed the historical and current panorama of international religious freedom. Three panel sessions followed. The first concerned political and diplomatic perspectives on religious freedom. Panelists included Heiner Bielefeldt, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief; Hon. Kenneth F. Hackett, the United States Ambassador to the Holy See; and Pasquale Annicchino of the European University Institute.

In the second session, three distinguished academicians—Roberto Zaccaria of the University of Florence, Marco Ventura of the University of Siena and Catholic University Leuven, and Francisca Pérez-Madrid of the University of Barcelona—explored several issues in comparative religious freedom: the right of asylum in cases of religious persecution; religious liberty in Europe, where the demands of European political and legal integration must be balanced against respect for national identity; and the Italian context, in which legislation on religious freedom is slowly emerging.

The third panel focused on Islamic and Christian perspectives on religious freedom and international human rights, and brought together highly respected voices in these areas: Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na‘im of Emory University, Olivier Roy of the European University Institute, and Nina Shea of the Hudson Institute. Among other things, this panel addressed the worldwide persecution of Christians, particularly at the hands of Islamist groups, that Pope Francis had addressed in his remarks. Professor Giuseppe Dalla Torre, a noted expert in the area of law and religion, offered concluding remarks.

“This was the third international conference the Center for Law and Religion has sponsored,” noted Professor Movsesian. “It was wonderful to work with our colleagues at the Center for International and Comparative Law and at LUMSA.” Reflecting on the interplay of human rights and religious freedom explored at the conference, Professor McGuinness said: “The conference highlighted the challenges facing governments like the United States which have incorporated religious freedom into their human rights policies, as well as the United Nations, which must balance the interests of different national and regional traditions when defining and protecting freedom of religion, a core commitment of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

Jessica Wright ’14, who attended the conference as a two-year student fellow of the Center for Law and Religion, observed that the conference brought together many of the issues she had studied and researched at St. John’s Law. “Some of the speakers challenged the ability of universal international human rights regimes to protect religious freedom,” she said. “From inside a Western liberal
democracy, it’s quite easy to forget that there are competing perspectives, and the conference certainly brought some of the minority perspectives to light. I think that’s very important, especially for international lawyers who are seeking ways to promote religious freedom on a global scale.”

Christina Vlahos agreed, sharing: “The conference proceedings brought home that religious freedom is worth exploring, at an interdisciplinary level, on local, regional, national, and international scales. The matter of respecting cultural heritage and historical tradition, as well as valuing human rights and the protection of peace, is a global responsibility.”

**Additional Weekend Activities**

The St. John’s participants—including alumni members of the advisory boards of the Center for Law and Religion and Center for International and Comparative Law, student fellows of the centers, and International Honors Program Scholars—were treated to a full suite of activities before and during the conference.

On the Thursday before the conference, they attended the Law and Religion Seminar taught by Professors Movsesian and DeGirolami as part of the Law School’s Rome summer program. They also took a guided tour of two ancient Christian churches, the Basilicas of San Clemente and Santi Quattro Coronati. That evening, Dean Simons and his wife, Karen, hosted a dinner for the alumni guests at the Hotel InterContinental, while Professors DeGirolami and Lugato took part in a dinner for conference participants hosted by LUMSA.

“Professor Movsesian’s and Professor DeGirolami’s class was a wonderful introduction to the academic discourse at St. John’s,” Vlahos said. “Each event and activity, including the sightseeing and the dinner reception, was a valuable component of an instructive, engaging, and thoughtfully organized event that I thoroughly enjoyed.”

Looking back on the time in Rome, Dean Simons said: “I’m truly grateful for the generosity of our alumni and friends who helped make this special event possible. The audience with Pope Francis was a remarkable occasion for the St. John’s community and a very auspicious introduction to the conference’s scholarly dialogue on religious freedom. The conference showcased our outstanding faculty and excellent centers. It also provided a tremendous learning opportunity for the many students who participated. We treasure our close partnership with LUMSA, without which this conference—and the Papal audience—never would have happened. And we look forward to continuing this vital conversation on religious freedom in the near future and for years to come.”

*The excerpts of Pope Francis’s remarks included in this story were translated from the original remarks in Italian. Both the official translation and the original remarks are archived on the Vatican website at w2.vatican.va.*

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**Center for Law and Religion**

The Center for Law and Religion engages in the study of law and religion from domestic, international, and comparative perspectives. It hosts academic programs in the United States and abroad in order to examine the role of law in the relationship between religion and the state; explore the concept of law in different religious traditions; and promote St. John’s Vincentian mission by encouraging an open dialogue on law and religion in local, national, and international communities.

In the coming year, the center will embark on several new scholarly and teaching projects that will further promote its aims and enrich the discipline of law and religion, including:

- Welcoming prominent voices in law and religion as guest bloggers on the center’s award-winning website, the Center for Law and Religion Forum
- Organizing a new colloquium in law and religion for St. John’s law students, whose participants will include judges and leading scholars in the field
- Hosting talks on important law and religion issues and cases, including the Hobby Lobby decision and its effects on future cases
- Hosting a talk in Manhattan on the human rights concerns of Mideast Christians

To learn more about the Center for Law and Religion and its programs and initiatives, including the June 2014 conference on international religious freedom, visit clrforum.org.
According to a recent study, more than 5 billion people—74 percent of the world’s population—live in countries where there are high levels of government restrictions or social hostilities involving religion.

This sobering news was shared by Hon. Kenneth F. Hackett, the United States Ambassador to the Holy See, during his panel presentation at St. John’s recent Rome conference on international religious freedom. “This is a global problem, and it will require a global solution,” Ambassador Hackett said, adding, “It is our responsibility today to ensure that the world of tomorrow is a safer place for people of all religions than the world was yesterday.”

His remarks shed light on challenges and opportunities at the intersection of the law and the diplomacy of human rights, which Ambassador Hackett is well acquainted with. Before President Barack Obama nominated him for his current position in the Vatican diplomatic corps on June 14, 2013, Ambassador Hackett had a distinguished 40-year career at the international humanitarian agency Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Working on the ground, he coordinated the agency’s response to widespread famine and other crises in Africa and elsewhere overseas before serving as its president from 1993-2012.

To honor Ambassador Hackett’s diplomatic service and humanitarian work, and to bring together the academic and diplomatic participants of the conference, St. John’s hosted an evening reception at the University’s Rome campus. Joining the St. John’s faculty, students, alumni, and friends in attendance were the Ambassadors to the Holy See from Australia, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Taiwan, Croatia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ecuador, Honduras, Hungary, Lithuania, Mexico, Monaco, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

Addressing the assembled guests, Dean Michael A. Simons praised Ambassador Hackett for his long tenure at CRS. “Wherever there was pain and suffering, Ken Hackett was there, bringing relief and bringing healing,” he said. “For 40 years, he truly walked in the footsteps of St. Vincent de Paul.” Dean Simons then presented Ambassador Hackett with an award in recognition of his Vincentian leadership and service.

“At the conference, Ambassador Hackett spoke about the ways in which the US State Department has been integrating the promotion of religious freedom into its foreign policy approach,” recalled Jessica Wright ’14. “At the diplomatic reception later that evening, I was able to discuss this topic with him further. The reception was also a great opportunity for St. John’s students to get together and discuss issues from the conference, and to ask questions of the other diplomats and scholars present. For example, Heiner Bielefeldt, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, spoke with a group of students about his work, and about his outlook on the state of affairs in the Middle East.”

“Ambassador Hackett’s participation in an international conference on religious freedom underscores how central human rights have become to the everyday work of US diplomats,” noted Professor Peggy E. McGuinness, co-director of the St. John’s Center for International and Comparative Law. “The US Embassy to the Holy See works closely with the Pope and his advisors...
on how best to promote religious freedom around the world—not just through legal adjudication, but as a matter of international relations.” Professor McGuinness’s current research focuses on the ways diplomatic efforts to promote human rights have influenced the development of human rights law. “It was a wonderful evening and we made new friends among the ambassadors who attended,” she said.

The alumni guests engaging with the St. John’s Law students included Center for International and Comparative Law advisory board members Elizabeth Defeis ’56UC, ’58L, ’84HON, professor of law at Seton Hall University School of Law; Lisa Kurbiel ’92, chief of the Social Policy, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit at UNICEF Somalia; and Jennifer Ismat ’09, legal consultant at the United Nations Mine Action Office in Sudan. “I had the opportunity to meet a lot of very interesting alumni and to learn about the work they’re doing in the international human rights arena and in other practice areas,” said Katharine Suominen ’16, who attended the conference as an International Honors Program Scholar. “Every single one of them is proud of their St. John’s affiliation and happy as lawyers pursuing meaningful work. That’s very inspiring.”

*A full transcript of Ambassador Hackett’s conference remarks can be found at vatican.usembassy.gov.*
When In Rome
St. John’s participants were treated to a full suite of activities before and during the conference.
ST. JOHN’S CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE LAW MARKS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The midtown Manhattan office of Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP was the setting for a May 22, 2014 reception celebrating the close of another successful year for the Center for International and Comparative Law.

The event honored the center’s departing student fellows, welcomed its new student fellows, and served as the official launch of its new International Honors Program. Over 75 students, faculty, administrators, and alumni—including Hon. Mario M. Cuomo ’53C, ’56L, ’75HON and center advisory board members Joseph Braunreuther ’80, Elizabeth Defies ’56UC, ’58L, ’84HON, and Mark A. Meyer ’71, ’07HON—attended the event, which was generously hosted by Willkie Co-Chairman Steven J. Gartner ’84.

“Willkie Farr & Gallagher has long played an important role at St. John’s Law, especially since the days when John D’Alimonte ’68 ran the firm, said Brian J. Woods, the Law School’s executive director of development and alumni relations. “Many St. John’s graduates begin their legal careers at Willkie and rise to prominence there or in prestigious in-house positions. The strong St. John’s Law connection continues today as Steve Gartner and his co-chairman, Thomas M. Cerabino ’81, lead the firm.” Gratefully acknowledging Willkie’s generosity in hosting the reception, Woods added: “Being 20 minutes from midtown Manhattan affords St. John’s Law easy access to its most prominent alumni, and connecting incoming students and current students with them on a regular basis helps to strengthen our unmatched alumni network.”

Peter Sluka ’13, a first year associate at Willkie, agreed, sharing: “My connection to St. John’s has been a remarkably helpful asset in the early stages of my legal career. Its reputation leads others to demand a well-reasoned, thorough work product, and the quality of its education and training allows alumni to consistently deliver.” Reflecting on the evening, Associate Academic Dean Larry Cunningham said: “This event was a wonderful opportunity to bring together prospective and current students, faculty, and alumni who share a commitment to excellence in international and comparative law. As part of a law school in a global city, it’s only fitting that the Center for International and Comparative Law is a leader in the field.”

The center enters its fifth year with an expanded slate of projects. Its Pro Bono for International Justice Initiative, started in 2013, engages students in projects that promote international justice while they fulfill the recent New York State pro bono requirement. As part of the initiative, the center teams with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to update an appellate digest, and works with two non-governmental organizations to promote corporate accountability for human rights violations committed outside the United States. The center also conducts research for the Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. According to Professor Peggy E. McGuinness, the center’s co-director, “the new pro bono initiative gets students working for clients on real cases, allowing them to hone their skills under the supervision of experienced attorneys.”

Through the center’s student fellows program, St. John’s Law 2Ls and 3Ls work with center-affiliated professors on research projects; present and publish work as part of the center’s Roundtable Series; and take leadership roles on the center’s projects and events, including its Global Speakers Series and annual conference. “Being a student fellow has been a great complement to my international studies,” said Marissa Harrell ’15. “My involvement with the center has deepened my research into international topics, introduced me to international scholars and practitioners, and exposed me to the practical application of international law.”

The center’s new International Honors Program launched this fall, thanks in part to the generosity of Yasuhiro Saito ’92, founding partner at Saito Sorenson LLP. The five St. John’s Law students selected for the program plan to pursue international legal practice. They receive a partial or full-tuition scholarship to fund their studies, and have access to additional stipends to fund research, academic travel, and student teaching.

“International Law is one of the more popular areas of law for prospective students,” said Robert M. Harrison, the Law School’s associate dean for admissions and financial services.

“Being able to offer the International Honors Program will greatly enhance our ability to attract and recruit highly qualified applicants.”

Students also applaud the program. “More than providing me with unique opportunities to gain early exposure to international law and to help other law students, the International Honors Program has connected me with indispensable mentors,” Elizabeth Tippett ’16 said. “Professor McGuinness has been incredibly helpful in answering my questions and in helping me explore a range of options in the field of international law.”
arold K. Goldstein recently donated the St. John’s Law diploma that his father, David A. Goldstein ’28, earned as a member of the Law School’s first graduating class. In the letter reproduced below, he reflects on his father’s meaningful, productive, and inspiring life in the law.

April 30, 2014
Michael A. Simon, Esquire

Dear Dean Simon:

It is my sincere honor to donate to St. John’s University School of Law the diploma of my late father, David A. Goldstein (1907–1987), a member of the inaugural Class of 1928.

My father lived in Brooklyn his entire life. He was one of those old-school New Yorkers who firmly believed that “If you don’t live in New York and read The New York Times every morning, you probably are dead from the neck up.”

David Goldstein was born and raised in a tenement on Smorg Street, the youngest of five children of first-generation Russian-Jewish immigrants. Anna and Hyman Goldstein. Like many of their contemporaries, the Goldsteins had left a life of anti-Semitism and pogroms in search of a land where they could be free and where their children might prosper.

David Goldstein’s father owned a small grocery store and his mother was a stay-at-home mother. Having no money for higher education, none of the Goldstein children could afford to attend college. Consequently, after my father graduated from Brooklyn’s Boys High School (where he excelled), he immediately went to work full-time in order to help support the family.

Dad worked as a longshoreman on the Brooklyn docks, and it appeared that this would remain his lot in life. However, one fateful day an older co-worker asked, “Dad, what are you going to do with the rest of your life?” When my father admitted to having no idea what he wanted to do, that older worker suggested that my dad—who was a life-long classicist, reader and lover of languages—should apply to St. John’s two-year law school on nearby Court Street. Since a college education was not then a requirement for law school admission, he was only a short time for David Goldstein to decide that “reading the law” would be much preferable to loading and unloading ships. Fortunately, Dad was accepted into St. John’s inaugural law school class, and then pursued his legal education while continuing to work a full-time blue-collar job.

It is my sincere hope, and I know it would have been my father’s as well, that after your students read this letter and view the accompanying diploma, they will take with them two lessons. First, that this country, despite all its problems—remains a land of enormous opportunity for all who seek it. Second, that St. John’s continues to play an important role in providing opportunity, regardless of religion or circumstance, to those who wish to pursue a legal career in order to serve others as well as our sui generis system of justice.

Respectfully yours,

David A. Goldstein, Esquire
It's the underdog of United States currency that was first introduced in 1862. Shunned by many merchants, beloved by collectors of United States Bicentennial mementos, the $2 bill is making a comeback of sorts these days in the hands of hip hop stars, pop musicians, former presidents, and average citizens nationwide.

Quietly behind the scene of the resurgence is Steven J. Reisman ’90.

About nine years ago, Reisman—who co-chairs the Restructuring and Insolvency Group as a partner at Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP—was in a New York City taxi when the driver handed him a $2 bill in his change. According to Reisman, seeing the $2 bill made his day—he felt lucky. And that was his aha moment. “For some time, I'd been thinking about how fortunate I am in life with my family, friends, profession, etc. and how I wanted to give back to others in a way that I could see the immediate impact,” Reisman says. “There’s nothing better than making someone smile and making them feel special. So I got out of the cab and went straight to the bank, where I bought all the $2 bills they could spare.”

Since then, Reisman has made a daily habit of giving away $2 bills. He gives them to people he meets, to clients, to friends, and even leaves them on subway seats and, as the intended recipient calls after him, he replies, “That’s for you, for good luck and for good health!” He gives them to taxi drivers as he enters the cab, and he leaves them for servers in restaurants apart from the tip. And, as recently reported in Complex magazine, he’s an avid music fan who regularly hands the bills to entertainers like Jay Z, Drake, and fellow St. John’s alumnus J. Cole.

While his organic acts of kindness have earned him the nickname “The $2 Bill Man” along with the social media spotlight and close relationships with celebrities, Reisman isn’t in it for the attention or for the business as he doesn’t represent any of his friends in the music arena. Paying it forward is the payoff. “My hope is that if the $2 bill makes someone’s day brighter, they’ll pass it on by being nicer and brightening someone else’s day and so on,” he explains.

Reisman also traces his intentions back to his strong belief that “we are all the same.” It’s a perspective on privilege that comes from life experience. Growing up on Long Island, Reisman always had a job starting at age 12. That work ethic carried through his college years at SUNY Oneonta and to St. John’s Law, where he excelled academically.

He found a law school mentor in Professor David L. Gregory, who suggested that he interview for a first year summer associate position at Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc. Reisman, who was up against candidates from Columbia, NYU, Brooklyn and Fordham, researched the company before the interview, but was sure that the offer would go to someone from an elite law school. Towards the end of a full day of interviews with the company’s entire legal department, he was asked by the last interviewer if he had any questions. He didn’t, but when the interviewer pressed on, Reisman said that he had read the most recent 10K filing and wondered “why an insurance broker would be investing (and losing money) in interest rates futures.” He was hired on the spot.

That same tenacity earned Reisman a summer associate position at Curtis the next year, which he parlayed into a job during his 3L year and into a first year associate position in the firm’s “just started” bankruptcy practice. Even the most seasoned partners were surprised at how hard Reisman worked. “I put in 60 to 70-plus-hour weeks at Curtis in my third year of law school to pay for school” Reisman recalls, “and I’ve been at Curtis ever since.”

At Curtis, Reisman makes a concerted effort to hire from St. John’s. “I’d much rather hire someone who had a paper route or worked at McDonald’s as a kid, worked their way through college, and then went to St. John’s Law and excelled,” he says. “The combination of street smarts, hard work, and sound legal education is a significant advantage. That’s the person who will continue to work hard for you, day and night. St. John’s gave me the building blocks to succeed in the legal practice and I try to pay it forward every day.”

So, if you happen to meet Reisman or are one of those people fortunate enough to receive a $2 bill from him, remember to smile and to pay it forward and, hopefully, the circle will grow because, as Reisman says, “The $2 bills are for good luck and good health—and good luck is the residue of hard work.”
Dear Fellow Alumni,

I’m honored to serve as president of the St. John’s Law Alumni Association, and to give back in this way to the institution that has done so much for me and my family.

The Alumni Association plays multiple key roles. First, we help to recruit students. Many of us do this informally when a son, daughter, niece, or nephew of a colleague or friend needs advice on which law school to attend. And some of us work closely with the Law School’s admissions office to actively recruit our best and brightest. Both of these activities are very important and reinforce the family environment that is a hallmark of St. John’s Law. It’s an environment that our dynamic dean, Michael A. Simons, values and nurtures to the benefit of our faculty and students.

Second, the Alumni Association strives to pay it forward by financially supporting alma mater. As illustrated in these pages, last year was a banner year for alumni giving. I invite you to sustain this positive momentum by providing the private support St. John’s Law needs to remain competitive and to climb in the rankings. We’re all beneficiaries of a wonderful legal education, and it’s our privilege to help the Law School and its students thrive now and into the future.

Last, but certainly not least, the Alumni Association plays an active role in obtaining jobs for St. John’s Law students. Our alumni network is one of the Law School’s greatest strengths. If you have an opening or know someone who is looking for a talented young lawyer, please contact Jeanne Ardan ’95, assistant dean for career development, at ardanj@stjohns.edu. Let’s always look to hire St. John’s first!

As the Law School approaches its 90th anniversary in 2015, it’s important to recall our founding mission of opening doors to a legal education to all. As an alumni family, let’s mark this wonderful milestone and reaffirm this great mission by giving back to alma mater, so that new generations can enjoy all that St. John’s Law offers.

I look forward to seeing you at our Alumni Association events.

Sincerely,

Andrea M. Alonso ’78C, ’81L
President
St. John’s Law Alumni Association

1. Alfred J. Will ’75 was the featured speaker at the Joseph A. Calamari Admiralty Law Society Annual Dinner, which was held at Villa D’Este in Floral Park, NY on April 22, 2014. A partner at Badiak & Will, LLP in Mineola, NY, Will is a longtime practitioner in the field of Admiralty Law.

2. On May 5, 2014, the Alumni Association held its annual Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. ’72, ’07HON Memorial Golf Outing at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY. Over 100 alumni and friends participated in the day-long event, which included a dinner program honoring Hon. Alan Scheinkman ’75, Administrative Judge for the Ninth Judicial District in Westchester County. Justice Scheinkman shared fond memories of Judge Jones and his days, first as a student and, later, as a professor, at St. John’s Law. Philip McManus ’68C, ’72L, a classmate of Judge Jones, served as event chair, and Judge Jones’s son, T.J., attended the outing, offering his gratitude on behalf of the Jones family. All of the proceeds from the day go to support the Law School’s Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. ’72 Memorial Scholarship Fund.

3. The scenic Loeb Boathouse Central Park was the setting for the Manhattan Chapter’s annual Hon. John E. Sprizzo Reception on May 19, 2014. Dean Michael A. Simons welcomed the guests, which included alumni and friends of the Law School and distinguished state and federal judges. After a warm introduction by his friend Nicholas M. Cannella ’75, Hon. Dennis Jacobs ’09HON of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit graciously accepted the 2014 Hon. John E. Sprizzo Award. Named in honor of its first recipient, the late Hon. John E. Sprizzo ’56C, ’59L, United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, the Sprizzo Award recognizes lawyers for their commitment to the Rule of Law.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS
At the Alumni Association Annual Meeting on May 21, 2014, Dean Michael A. Simons presented outgoing president Nicholas M. Cannella ’75 an award in recognition of his outstanding leadership over the past year. Incoming President Andrea M. Alonso ’78C, ’81L thanked Cannella and expressed how much she looks forward to serving her fellow alumni along with the Alumni Association’s new slate of officers and directors:

**Officers**
- **President-Elect**
  Alfred C. Cerullo, III ’86
- **Vice Presidents**
  Kathryn Carney Cole ’02
  Steven J. Gartner ’84
  Richard F. Hans ’93
- **Secretary**
  Hon. Daniel Angiolillo ’77
- **Treasurer**
  Michael X. Mattone ’91

**Directors**
- **Second Three-Year Term Expires 2017**
  Frank A. Cavanagh ’07
  Esterina Giuliani ’06
  David P. Lesch ’90
  Rachel R. Paras ’04
  Robert A. Ungar ’87
- **First Three-Year Term Expires 2017**
  Joan Albright ’82
  Steven J. Eisman ’79
  Jonathan I. Friedman ’95

**At the Alumni Association Annual Meeting on May 21, 2014, Dean Michael A. Simons presented outgoing president Nicholas M. Cannella ’75 an award in recognition of his outstanding leadership over the past year. Incoming President Andrea M. Alonso ’78C, ’81L thanked Cannella and expressed how much she looks forward to serving her fellow alumni along with the Alumni Association’s new slate of officers and directors:**

**On June 4, 2014, the annual Suffolk Chapter Golf Outing took place at the beautiful Cherry Creek Golf Links in Riverhead, NY. For the 20th consecutive year, William Farrell ’82 organized this special event, working his magic to create a perfect day for over 80 golfers on the course.**

**On June 11, 2014, Alumni came together for the Brooklyn Chapter Spring Reception at Caffe Buon Gusto. This year’s event honorees were Bruce I. Baron ’87, who received the Alumni Achievement Award, and Maria E. Marti ’93, who received the Hon. Guy J. Mangano Award. It was a delightful evening with over 60 family members, friends, and alumni there to celebrate two outstanding St. John’s Law alumni.**

**On June 16, 2014, 30 alumni gathered at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan for an Attorneys as Authors Schermerhorn Scholars Luncheon, where they reconnected with friends old and new. The brain-child of John Downing ’60, the luncheon culminated with a panel discussion, moderated by Professor Margaret Valentine Turano ’77, that featured four esteemed alumni who share a passion for writing: Joseph Mattone, Sr. ’53C, ’55L, ’94HON, Henry Miller ’59, William Tucker ’62, and Frank Amoroso ’74. Dean Michael A. Simons addressed the guests, highlighting the connection between the law and skilled writing, and giving an update on alma mater. The luncheon was sponsored by William Tucker, and guests enjoyed wine donated by Schermerhorn alumnus Salvatore Diliberto ’70 and the Diliberto Winery.**
Relaxation and spectacular ocean views were on tap in Southampton on July 26, 2014 when Professor Margaret Valentine Turano ’77 and John Turano ’69 hosted an informal gathering of alumni and friends at their summer home. Among the guests were Westchester County District Attorney Janet M. DiFiore ’81 and her husband Dennis Glazer ’79, and Bob Bohner ’56C, ’58L and his wife, Mary.

On August 15, 2014, Terence Winter ’88 hosted a small group of St. John’s Law alumni for lunch and a set visit in New York City. His award-winning HBO series, Boardwalk Empire, was shooting a scene at the Essex House on Central Park South for its final episode. One of the most productive and critically acclaimed writers in Hollywood, Winter was writer and executive producer for The Sopranos and penned the screenplay for The Wolf of Wall Street, which earned him an Academy Award nomination. He is currently collaborating with Martin Scorsese and Mick Jagger on another HBO project that explores the 1970s music industry in New York.
The Class of 1964 50th Reunion weekend included an invitation from Dean Michael A. Simons to be his special guest at the Law School’s commencement exercises on June 1, 2014. After watching the newest St. John’s Law graduates join the close-knit alumni family, the reunion celebrants enjoyed a private luncheon with Dean Simons. The montage below samples a wonderful scrapbook created and shared by Brian Jones ’64.
As a high school student in her native New York City, Tonia A. Sayour ’03 knew that the law was her chosen field.

Her parents, immigrants from Syria, had advised her from an early age to pick a career that was unique and that set her apart from others. Their advice inspired Sayour to pursue an engineering degree at Polytechnic University which, in turn, opened her eyes to the possibilities of marrying science and the law—a professional path that wasn’t particularly common at the time, especially for women.

Sayour decided on St. John’s Law because of its proximity to home and for its “New York heart,” both in the geographic and the compassionate sense of that phrase. As she shares below, in the decade since her graduation from St. John’s Law, she has forged a rewarding career as a partner at Cooper & Dunham LLP, an intellectual property law firm in Manhattan.

How did St. John’s help you chart your career path in intellectual property law and, more particularly, as a litigator in the IP arena?

As a litigator, I’m extremely grateful to St. John’s for providing me with a solid foundation in litigation fundamentals. To this day, I still refer to my outline from Evidence, a class I took with Professor [Paul F.] Kirgis. I had it bound and it’s a reference in my office (one that I even refer associates to).

What were some of the highlights of your time at St. John’s?

Aside from the academic and professional support that St. John’s provided, the most important highlight of my time in law school was meeting my supportive and loving husband, Stephen Romano ’03. We met when we were 3Ls, married three years later, and now have two beautiful young girls, with a third child on the way.

What do you enjoy the most about your work in IP litigation and counseling?

The variety. My practice involves an equal balance between prosecution and litigation, mostly in the areas of patent and trademark law. I enjoy the breadth of issues and the diversity of work that I get to deal with on a day-to-day basis. It also helps that I get to work with, and learn from, really great and talented people.

How have the opportunities for law students with STEM backgrounds evolved in the decade since you started practicing law?

When I started at St. John’s, there weren’t many engineers in law school. That’s changed over the course of a decade as the market has shifted to meet the growing IP demand. Since last year, the landscape of patent law has seen some major changes with the passage of the America Invents Act. With that, greater opportunities will present themselves for law students with STEM backgrounds, especially in connection with the newly formed Patent Trial and Appeal Board.

As a partner in your law firm, you clearly have achieved in your chosen profession. If a current St. John’s Law student asked you for advice on creating a successful career in the law, what would you tell her or him?

I would offer the same advice that my parents gave me: Work hard and pick something that allows you to distinguish yourself in the field. I would also tell them to choose a career that challenges them each day to do their very best.
1954
Theodore A. Borrillo penned Denver’s Historic Elitch Theatre: A Nostalgic Journey, a fascinating story about the world famous Elitch Theatre and the actors that graced its stage.

1959
The New York County Lawyers’ Association presented John L. Amabile with the Boris Kostelanetz President’s Medal in recognition of his extraordinary record of dedication to the organization and his distinguished service to the legal profession.

1967
Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick was named vice chair of the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary in New York City.


1973
Thomas J. Principi, a partner at Kramer, Dillof, Livingston, & Moore, was appointed to the Mayor’s Advisory Committee on the Judiciary in New York City.

1974
Frank Amoroso has written his first novel, “Behind Every Great Fortune,” the first in a trilogy of historical fiction that brings to life the story of Otto Kahn, the international financier whose fortune was so great that he was immortalized as the iconic “Monopoly® guy.”

1976
Patent and trademark litigator Ethan Horwitz has joined Carlton Fields Jorden Burt, LLP as a shareholder in their New York office.

1977
William G. Spratt, a partner at Shaub, Ahmuty, Citrin & Spratt, LLP, was named to the 2014 Super Lawyers list for New York in the area of medical malpractice defense.

1978
Miller, Montiel & Strano, P.C. appeared in Newsday’s “Legal Leaders” insert, which featured top-rated lawyers on Long Island. The named partners at the firm are Steven Miller ’78, Catherine Montiel ’92, and David Strano ’93.

1979
Dennis Glazer, has been appointed to the New York Gaming Facility Location Board, which screens applicants seeking to operate four new casinos in New York. He serves with fellow alumnus Kevin Law ’87.

Marion C. Rice, a partner at L’Abbate, Balkan, Colavita, & Contini, LLP has been named co-chair of the Committee on Law Practice Management for the New York State Bar Association.

1980
Fred Boy has become counsel to Lehman & Eilen, LLP. The firm provides securities and corporate legal services to broker-dealers, investment advisers, private investment funds, and financial professionals.

1982
Judges in the Tolland Judicial District in Connecticut honored Thomas Fiorentino for his pro-bono efforts on behalf of parties involved in family law matters.

1984
Michael Balboni, former senator and deputy secretary for public safety and homeland security advisor for New York State, has joined Rivkin Radler LLP as of counsel.

1987
Long Island Association President Kevin Law has been appointed to the New York Gaming Facility Location Board. He serves with fellow alumnus Dennis Glazer ’79.

Robert E. Sandler, a partner in the real estate practice group at Farrell Fritz, P.C., has been appointed to the Farmingdale College Foundation Executive Committee. He will serve as treasurer.

David N. Zane has joined Rawle & Henderson LLP as a partner in the firm’s New York office. He concentrates his practice in the areas of defense of medical and dental professionals, hospitals and nursing homes, products manufacturers’ liability, toxic torts, auto liability, and commercial and business litigation.

1988
John M. DiMatteo has joined Holwell Shuster & Goldberg, LLP as a partner, where he chairs the firm’s intellectual property practice group.

Robert B. Moy has joined the law firm of Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP as a partner in the firm’s corporate and tax, trusts and estates department.

1989

1990
Laura Dilimetin has joined Gerstman Schwartz Malito LLP as a partner in the firm’s litigation department.

1997
Patent and trademark litigator Ethan Horwitz has joined Carlton Fields Jorden Burt, LLP as a shareholder in their New York office.

1995
Rawle & Henderson LLP as of counsel.
JOHN O. BRENNAN '90 NAMED TO ST. JOHN’S UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

When John O. Brennan ’90 says St. John’s is in his family’s DNA, he means it. His father, John V. Brennan ’63C, ‘66L, ’93HON, is the dedicated double alumnus behind the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program, which has generated new endowed scholarships that will provide more than $300,000 in scholarship funds annually to deserving St. John’s Law students. His aunt, Dorothy McCabe ’82, and his sister, Mary B. Magee ’99, are also proud Law School graduates.

“First and foremost, family is everything to me,” John O. Brennan says. “St. John’s has been part of my family since I was seven years old, when I attended my first basketball game on campus with my father and brother. And I have brought my wife and son to more games than they probably would care to count. Anybody who knows me can’t think of me without thinking of St. John’s.”

As part of this family legacy, Brennan is honoring the Vincentian ethic of giving back to the community that his mother, Anita, and his father modeled for him and his siblings. In addition to his private law practice, he has served in his local village court. For the last six years, he sat on the St. John’s University Board of Governors and, this fall, he will take on a new leadership role as a member of the St. John’s University Board of Trustees.

Looking forward to this next chapter in his life at St. John’s, Brennan shares: “Like so many sons and daughters of St. John’s, my family taught me to find work that I have a passion for and to work as hard as possible to make that work something I can be proud of and that benefits others.”

1991
Kevin C. George has joined Holland & Knight LLP as a senior counsel in their real estate finance, loan restructuring practice group.

William S. Gyves has joined Kelley Drye & Warren LLP as a litigation partner in the firm’s New York and Parsippany, N.J. offices.

Maura McLoughlin, managing attorney at Cahill, Gordon & Reindel LLP, has been elected president of the Managing Attorneys and Clerks Association, Inc., an association of over 100 law firms and other business entities having a common interest with courts and the general legal community.

Michael G. Vought has joined IFG Companies as president of excess and umbrella. He will be based in IFG’s New York City office and will be responsible for building and leading IFG’s excess and umbrella business throughout a network of offices across the country.

M. Quentin Williams has joined the board of directors of Samaritan’s Feet International, a not-for-profit organization that empowers global communities by meeting needs in education and health care. He will also chair the organization’s Sports & Entertainment Committee.

1992
Jilliane Hoffman has written her fifth book, The Cutting Room, a suspenseful thriller which is available on Amazon.com.

1993
Scott V. Beechert has joined Bennett Management Corporation as general counsel and chief compliance officer.

Salvatore G. Gangemi has joined Salon Marrow Dyckman Newman & Broduy LLP as a partner and will concentrate his practice on employment law and litigation.

1994
Meg Bateman has joined the corporate department of The McLane Law Firm. Her practice focuses on corporate law, corporate finance, asset securitization, and commercial lending transactions.

Alfred W. Zaher has joined Novak Druce Connolly Bove + Quigg LLP as a partner in the intellectual property group in the firm’s Philadelphia office.

1995
John Cobb has joined Paul Hastings LLP as a partner in the firm’s leveraged finance practice group.

1996
Steven N. Davi, counsel in the labor and employment practice group at Farrell Fritz, P.C., has been appointed to the executive leadership committee of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Long Island.

Adam J. Gottlieb has joined Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP as a partner in the firm’s tax, trusts and estates department.

1997
Farah Bhatti has joined BakerHostetler’s intellectual property group as a partner and member of the trademark team.

Terry Fokas has been appointed to the board of directors of PAID, Inc. He is the president and chief executive officer of Parallel Networks, managing all aspects of the company’s software patent enforcement and licensing activities.

1999
Maria Orecchio has been appointed vice president and assistant general counsel to Selective Insurance Group, Inc.

Renee Wilm has been named a 2014 Rising Star by Law360. She is a partner at Baker Botts LLP and concentrates her practice on securities offerings, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, capital restructurings, and executive employment arrangements.

2000
Robert T. Langdon, a partner at Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, was named one of Law360’s top private equity lawyers under the age of 40.
Anthony Szydlowski was a finalist for the Daily Business Review’s 2014 Top Dealmakers of the Year. He is a member of Greenspoon Marder’s corporate law practice group.

2001

Harris Diamond has joined Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP as counsel, where he focuses his practice on secured and unsecured financing, financial and corporate restructuring, and creditor representation.

In June 2014, Donna Furey was installed as president of the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Queens. Former Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly ’71, ’98HON was the guest of honor for the guild’s installation dinner.

Jamel Oeser-Sweat, a general practitioner in New York City, was named a New York Law Journal Rising Star.

2002

Steven W. Lozner has joined DLA Piper as an associate in their New York office. He specializes in corporate and securities law.

Kimberly Nelson is owner of The Nelson Law Office P.C., which handles matrimonial and family law matters.

2003

Jason Capizzi has been named a member at New Jersey’s oldest bond counsel firm, now known as Kraft & Capizzi, LLC.

2005

Christina Tsesmelis has joined the legal and compliance department at Neuberger Berman LLC as the head of global anti-corruption.

2006

Robert A. Epstein has been named partner at Fox Rothschild LLP. He focuses his practice on all aspects of family law.

2007

Andrew R. Roop has joined Pepper Hamilton LLP as an associate. He concentrates his practice on financial services.

Jamie Porco has joined Kramer Levin Nafalis & Frankel LLP as the manager of professional development.

2008

Monica Barron has been named a partner at Georgoulis & Associates PLLC in the firm’s construction group and labor and employment group.

2009

Jonathan Bartov has joined the Law Office of Robert Raschio in Canyon City, OR as an associate.

Peter Bienkowski has joined Viacom International Media Networks as counsel in their business and legal affairs division.

2010

Robert E. O’Connor has joined Montgomery McCraken Walker & Rhoads LLP as an associate in the firm’s litigation department. He represents ship owners and operators in litigation relating to collision and fire casualties.

Beth A. Rubenstein has joined Farrell Fritz, P.C. as an associate in their trusts and estates department.

Kristin Roshelli has joined King & Spalding in their Houston, Texas office.

Timothy Salter is an associate at Lester & Associates, P.C.

2011

Adam M. Rafsky, an associate at Farrell Fritz, P.C., was honored by the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce with the Celebrating Long Island’s Young Professionals award, which is presented to individuals under the age of 30 who are truly committed to their business and civic communities.

Nadav Zamir has joined Clifton Budd & DeMaria, LLP, where he concentrates his practice on labor and employment matters.

Michael Zitelli is the deputy general counsel at Edrington Americas.

Jacklyn A. Zitelli has joined Farrell Fritz, P.C. as an associate in the firm’s real estate department.
Cooper Macco, an associate at Silverman Acampora LLP, was honored by the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce with the Celebrating Long Island’s Young Professionals award, which is presented to individuals under the age of 30 who are truly committed to their business and civic communities.

Michel L. Webb has joined Jaspan Schlesinger LLP as an associate in the firm’s banking and financial service practice group.

Michael Atzlan has joined The Nelson Law Office P.C. as an associate specializing in matrimonial law.

Dennis Lyons has joined Vishnick McGovern Milizio, LLP as an associate in the estate litigation practice group.

We’d like to hear from you! Please send your Class Notes submissions to Assistant Dean for Alumni Relations Claire C. McKeever ’80SVC, ’93L at mckeevec@stjohns.edu.

2013

Andrea Morse ’85 and Peter Raff in August 2014

Anthony Ametrano ’02 and Laura Geddes in August 2014

David Charles Pilato ’06 and Lindsay Ann Weaver in June 2014

Marcus Cheung ’11 and Chialin Tsai in May 2014

Thomas Seaman ’86 and wife Jackie welcomed Thomas Angelo in January 2014.

M. Quentin Williams ’91 and wife Brenda welcomed Quinn in August 2012 and Bella in March 2014.

WELCOMES
Conrado M. “Bobby” Gempesaw, Ph.D.
17th President of St. John’s University

Dean Michael A. Simons and the entire St. John’s Law community are pleased to welcome Conrado M. “Bobby” Gempesaw, Ph.D., the 17th president of St. John’s University, to the Law School family.

Dr. Gempesaw was most recently provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Miami University in Ohio. An accomplished scholar, teacher, and administrator who fully embraces our mission as a Catholic and Vincentian university, Dr. Gempesaw is a visionary leader who brings almost three decades of academic experience to St. John’s.

We look forward to working together as he guides the University and helps the Law School continue its upward trajectory.
Hon. Israel Rubin '49C, '50L, '92HON

St. John's Law mourns the loss of dedicated alumnus and esteemed jurist Hon. Israel "Russ" Rubin. Judge Rubin graduated from St. John's University School of Commerce in 1949 and from St. John's Law in 1950. After over 20 years in practice, he joined the bench in 1973 and served on the Appellate Division, First Department from 1989 until he reached mandatory retirement age in 2002. He then joined Greenberg Traurig LLP, where he practiced for the next dozen years. Judge Rubin received an honorary degree from St. John's in 1992 and was a dear friend of St. John's Law, where he taught Appellate Advocacy and served on the St. John's Law Alumni Association Board of Directors for many years. We will miss his charm and good cheer, as well as his deep well of experience and insight.

Joseph V. Angiolillo ’50CBA, ’52L

St. John's Law mourns the passing of Joseph V. Angiolillo, father of St. John's Law Alumni Association board member Hon. Daniel D. Angiolillo ’77. After serving his country in the United States Navy during World War II, Joseph Angiolillo served as president of ICCO Cheese Co., Inc., an international cheese manufacturing company founded by his mother in 1936. He also owned Paradise Farm, where he was a Standardbred horse breeder, and took on leadership roles in his community, including chairing the Hartsdale Republican Committee. A proud supporter of the Law School, Mr. Angiolillo was an honorary director of the Alumni Association and received the prestigious President's Medal in 1985.

Fabian G. Palomino ’54

St. John's Law mourns the loss of devoted public servant Fabian G. Palomino. A native of Corona, Queens, Mr. Palomino served his country in the United States Army Air Forces and the United States Merchant Marine before enrolling in St. John's Law. After law school, he was a law clerk for Hon. Adrian P. Burke of the New York State Court of Appeals, which was the start of his life-long passion for public service. Mr. Palomino went on to advise Democratic governors of New York State, from W. Averell Harriman to Andrew M. Cuomo, and was particularly influential in the administration of Hon. Mario M. Cuomo ’53C, ’56L, ’75HON, a friend since their days at St. John's. Governor Mario M. Cuomo said that Mr. Palomino “had an engineer's mind [and] could take a complicated situation and take it apart piece by piece, study it, [and] then put it back together,” which is why he appointed Mr. Palomino his special counsel in 1983. Later in his career, Mr. Palomino maintained a law practice in Brooklyn. Former Governor Cuomo said that Mr. Palomino's propensity to work behind the scenes extended to his private legal work. “Smart lawyers,” he said, regularly asked Mr. Palomino for strategic help. In 2011, the St. John's Law Alumni Association's Brooklyn Chapter honored Mr. Palomino by presenting him with its Alumni Achievement Award in recognition of his exceptional legal career.

Why I Give

“If it weren’t for the scholarship support I received, I wouldn’t have been able to attend law school. Now, through the scholarship I’ve established as a bequest in my living trust, students who find themselves in my same position will have an opportunity to thrive at St. John’s.”

—John F. “Jack” Scheich ’63C, ’66L, former FBI agent and longtime civil law practitioner

To learn more about your planned giving options, please contact Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations Brian J. Woods at (718) 990-5792. Thank you!
A Message from

Brian J. Woods  Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations

The strength of our alumni body is a cornerstone of St. John’s Law, and I’m pleased to report that alumni contributions hit record highs this past fiscal year. The following pages honor all of you who, through your generosity, are helping to reshape and to fortify the Law School so we’re thriving even in these challenging times.

The highlight of the 2013-2014 giving year was the tremendous response to the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program. Anchored by an extraordinary $1 million gift from John V. Brennan ’63C, ’66L, ’93HON, and supplemented with generous gifts from Mary Kay Vyskocil ’83, Nicholas M. Cannella ’75 and Joanne Welty ’76, the Estate of Robert J. Dixon ’29, ’69HON, and Arthur Wiener (parent), we launched the Brennan Match last fall. Month after month, alumni committed to $50,000 or more over a period of years to establish endowed scholarships—gifts that will be matched dollar for dollar.

We started the year with 70 endowed scholarships. Through the generous contributions of alumni and friends, 41 new scholarships were added that will boost our endowment to $6.5 million and will provide more than $300,000 in scholarships annually. Of the new scholarships, 11 were gifted by alumni from the 1990s and 2000s, proving that even these more recent graduates are investing in alma mater. These gifts will transform the Law School for years to come.

On the academic side, Shephard Lane ’66, William F. Cavanaugh, Jr. ’77SVC, ’80L, Robert J. Gunther ’81C, ’84L, and Daniel A. DeVito ’87 each made major gifts to launch our new Intellectual Property Law Center, to be headed by Professor Jeremy Sheff. Together they gave $1.1 million, which will be used to provide scholarships to students from the STEM disciplines, to expand our IP offerings, and to fund student travel and research. Alumni also supported our other centers, including the Center for Law and Religion, the Center for International and Comparative Law, the Center for Labor and Employment Law, and the Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development.

Our office of Alumni Relations, led by Claire C. McKeever ’80SVC, ’93L, partnered with 2013-2014 Alumni Association President Nicholas Cannella and the entire board of directors to organize more than 40 alumni events in New York City and across the country. Some 2,800 alumni participated in our events, which help us to recruit new students, support current students in their job search, keep the alumni network strong, and provide feedback on the state of the legal profession.

The Office of Development, staffed by Philip Maroney, Matthew Sobotta ’11, Dominique Cendales, and MaryAnna Schaefer, has worked hard to build partnerships with Law School faculty and administrators, and it’s paying dividends. We’re now working closely with 3Ls seeking jobs, pairing them with alumni who might be able to assist them. This is rewarding work that continues when we’re out on the road doing development work.

Looking ahead, alumni support will only increase in importance as we strive to strengthen the Law School’s place among the finest schools in the country. As I approach my two-year anniversary as Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations, I want to share that it’s been a pleasure to serve you and St. John’s Law.

Brian J. Woods
DEAN’S REPORT ON THE 2013–2014 GIVING YEAR
(JUNE 1, 2013 – MAY 31, 2014)
A Record Year For Alumni Giving

$3,703,503 in total cash gifts received ▲123%

$6,500,000 in gifts & pledges ▲225%

2,485 alumni and friends made gifts ▲27%

$1.1m to launch the St. John’s Intellectual Property Law Center

$250k to further endow the Peter James Johnson ’49 National Civil Rights Trial Competition

$116k to support Summer Public Interest Fellowships

$300k annually generated by 41 new endowed scholarships created through the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program

$125k to endow the Duffy and Duffy Catholic Middle School Mock Trial Program

$60k to establish the Margaret Valentine Turano ’77L Writing Center Fund

$75k in support of International Honors Program Scholars

$3,703,503

$6,500,000

$1,100,000

$250,000

$116,000

$300,000

$125,000

$60,000

$75,000

$6,500,000

$3,703,503
McCallen Society members for School. We thank the following techniques to support the Law and utilizing charitable planning the future for their loved ones estate planning goals by securing estate plans. Members fulfill their who include St. John’s in their Society acknowledges donors McCallen, C.M., the McCallen Named for Rev. Thomas J.  

Belson Circle: Named for Maxine and Jerome Belson, the Belson Circle acknowledges Law School benefactors who have donated $100,000 or more, cumulatively. We thank and recognize the following Belson Circle members for their generous support of the Law School.

New Belson Circle Members: The Law School is most grateful to the following alumni and friends who through their continued generosity have become the newest members of the Belson Circle.

Founders Society

The Founders Society recognizes our most generous supporters with lifetime giving of one million dollars or more. We are proud to acknowledge and to thank the following graduates and their spouses for providing the foundation for the Law School’s future through their extraordinary giving.

Belson Circle

Anonymous
Jerome Belson ‘48L, ‘80HON
John D. Birchby ‘73L, ‘13HON
Mary Beth Birchby
Anita Brennan
Patricia A. McIcron Castel ‘74Ed, ‘77L, ‘04HON

Marsha A. Hewitt ‘76L
Patricia M. Hynes
Veronica Johnson
Marie E. Kaiser-Napoli ‘89C, ‘93L
Thomas Michael Laquercia ‘69L
Jill Lerner
Jonathan A. Lerner ‘73L
Samuel S. Lionel ‘40L, ‘10HON
Bridgett Lundy
Hon. Guy J. Mangano ‘55L, ‘83HON
Joseph M. Mattone, Sr. ‘53C, ‘55L, ‘94HON
Mary Ann Mattone ‘10HON
Adeline Pannizzo
Frank J. Pannizzo ‘59UC, ‘62L

Donald F. Reid ‘58CBA, ‘62L, ‘87HON
Helen Reid
Lorraine Rittenberg ‘92HON
John T. Thornton ‘59CBA, ‘72L, ‘02HON
Patricia Thornton

New Belson Circle Members

Frances Babb
Mary Ellen Cavanaugh
William F. Cavanaugh, Jr. ‘77SVC, ‘80L
John P. Clarke ‘55CBA, ‘57L
Hedda Lane
Shepard Lane ‘66L
Brian E. O’Connor ‘74C, ‘77L
Helen M. O’Connor
Mark L. Regante ‘78L

McCallen Society

Emmet J. Agoglia ‘58L
K. Carroll Agoglia
Frances Babb
Donald V. Balistreri ‘41C, ‘48L
Jerome Belson ‘48L, ‘80HON
John Kuhn Bleimaira ‘75L
Frank J. Bonet ‘58C, ‘61L
Mary Ellen Bonet ‘61Ed
George F. Boser ‘59L, ‘62C
Irina Boser
Austen D. Canade ‘55C, ‘59L
Hon. P. Kevin Castel ‘72SVC, ‘75L, ‘04HON
Patricia A. McIcron Castel ‘74Ed, ‘77L, ‘04HON
John P. Clarke ‘55CBA, ‘57L
Hon. James P. Connors, Jr. ‘53L
Thomas E. Constance ‘64L
Harry T. Constas ‘51L
Hon. Peter J. Costigan ‘56L
Victoria Costigan
Lorraine Coyle ‘80L
Josephine Cuccia ‘45L
Susan M. Damiani ‘87CBA
Hope P. Della Ratta
John P. Della Ratta ‘59L
Hon. Joseph R. DeMiglio ‘54L
Lori Lee Dickson ‘91L
Marie T. DiTucci

Andrew P. Donovan ‘50L
Beverly H. Farrell
John L. Farrell, Jr. ‘55L
Beverley Fernandez
Gerard Fernandez, Jr. ‘50L
Erica B. Fine ‘82L
Mary Anne Ford
Rudolph H. Funke ‘66CBA, ‘69L
Robert T. Gerken ‘64C, ‘67L
Thelma Gerken
Joseph O. Giaino ‘59CBA, ‘61L, ‘86HON
Kathleen Giaimo
Ann Gibbons
Irene R. Gibbons ‘57Ed, ‘58Ed
Hon. Joseph F. Gibbons ‘51L
Edwin I. Gorski ‘71L
John J. Howard ‘50UC, ‘54L
Alice M. Kenefick
James L. Kenefick ‘56L
G. Oliver Koppell
Mary Ann Lawlor ‘61UC, ‘80HON
Richard P. Lawlor ‘60L
Joseph J. Lawton, Jr. ‘53L
Frank A. Lomuscio ‘86L
Wendy Lomuscio
Joseph M. Mattone, Sr. ‘53C, ‘55L, ‘94HON
Mary Ann Mattone ‘10HON
Philip F. McCarron ‘49C, ‘51L+

Rita McCartney
Christina McIcron
John P. McIcron ‘62L
Diane M. Memmoli ‘76C, ‘79L
Harry Morgenstern ‘40CBA, ‘47L+
Seydell Morgenstern + Nancy Mottola-Schacher ‘46UC, ‘47L
Edward V. Murphy ‘63L
Martin T. O’Shea ‘78L
Adeline Pannizzo
Frank J. Pannizzo ‘59UC, ‘62L
Sheila R. Paticoff ‘84L
Daniel H. Payne ‘71L
Richard J. Power ‘60L
Richard G. Ramsay ‘58CBA, ‘63L
Donald F. Reid ‘58CBA, ‘62L, ‘87HON
Helen Reid
Frank J. Rienzo ‘53C, ‘58L
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The Law School has been remembered by the following individuals through contributions given by their estate. We greatly appreciate their foresight and desire to support the Law School in this most personal way:

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**FALL 2014**
In recent years, New York’s Westchester County has seen a 24 percent increase in homeless men, women, and children living on its streets. It’s a community challenge with many root causes, from the economic downturn to a system of care that too often overlooks people with mental illness.

Westchester native Donna Besteiro ’91 enjoyed a thriving career at Danone North America, where she handled matters for The Dannon Company, Inc., Evian, LU, and Lea & Perrins. Over the years, as the corporation grew, she served in a succession of key advisory and leadership roles, including chief compliance officer and chief intellectual property officer.

While her corporate work was interesting and rewarding, Besteiro found herself drawn down a different path, one she had charted as a longtime volunteer at nonprofit organizations, including the Westchester Coalition for the Hungry and Homeless, Inc., the Rescue Mission, and United Cerebral Palsy of Westchester.

“I grew restless and uninterested in bottom line profit goals,” she says. “I wanted to be able to feel the results of a good day’s efforts.” It was also around this time that Besteiro’s brother was diagnosed with bipolar disease. “He quickly fell from a middle class upbringing to homelessness and a life at the fringes of society,” she shares. “And like many of the homeless, he suffered the scorn and disdain of people who are quick to affix negative labels. Luckily for him, he received the help he needed. Today, he lives in supportive housing and has access to medical services as well as food pantries and soup kitchens. These services allow him to live with some semblance of dignity and to devote his energies to obtaining work and giving back to his community.”

Besteiro soon learned that Caring for the Homeless of Peekskill, Inc. (C.H.O.P., Inc. or CHOP), a safe haven for the area’s homeless, was looking for an executive director. She was offered the position and began her nonprofit career in April 2012. CHOP’s mission is to alleviate hunger and homelessness in Peekskill and its surrounding communities by providing food and shelter to those in need and by promoting self-sufficiency through temporary and permanent housing. Working closely with local community agencies and volunteers, it runs three highly successful programs: Jan Peek House, Sunny Donut Free Breakfast Program, and Fred’s Pantry.

“The people who come to the Jan Peek shelter often, for the first time in their lives, connect with medical experts who diagnose them with mental health challenges and help them see how those challenges have impacted their lives,” Besteiro explains. “These are some of our most vulnerable citizens and they deserve our support. And many of them give back to the community after landing on their feet.” Besteiro recently expanded CHOP’s housing program by adding a Veterans Dorm for homeless vets.

Since opening in 2008, Fred’s pantry—the only choice food pantry in Northern Westchester—has offered emergency food, health and housing retention assistance, and self-sufficiency tools to the community’s most needy. “And most of the people we have the pleasure of serving at our breakfast soup kitchen, Sunny Donut, are laborers who work long, hard days to care for their families,” says Besteiro.

In an environment where monetary and human resources are scarce, and stretched, Besteiro finds her lawyering skills indispensable in leading CHOP and navigating the challenges it faces, including widespread misunderstanding of the depth of mental health issues that drive homelessness.

Calling her work on behalf of the homeless and hungry in her community “a privilege,” she says: “With all the hustle and bustle of our lives, the stress on money and material things, we can lose sight of who we are and what is truly important. As individuals and together, we can have a tremendous, positive impact on others while reaping the rewards of valuable work.”
St. John’s Law Alumni Association hosts and participates in many events throughout the year. Below are highlights of upcoming events. Please visit our online event calendar at stjohns.edu/law/events for full event details and updates.

**November 6, 2014**

**November 7, 2014**
Intellectual Property Law Center Inaugural Conference (CLE)

**November 11, 2014**
Armed Forces Alumni and Student Reception

**November 13, 2014**
Religious Freedom for Mideast Christians: Yesterday and Today

**November 15−16, 2014**
Fall CLE Weekend

**November 22, 2014**
Big Apple Circus Family Day

**December 4, 2014**
Westchester Chapter Holiday Luncheon and Toy Drive

**December 10, 2014**
Brooklyn Chapter Holiday Party and Toy Drive

**January 30, 2015**
Alumni Association Luncheon
Honorees: Steven J. Gartner ’84
Esterina Giuliani ’06

**February 28−March 1, 2015**
Spring CLE Weekend

**March 3, 2015**
Law Review Alumni Reception

**March 26, 2015**
Public Interest Auction

**April 18, 2015**
Vets and Pets Charity 5K Run/Walk

**May 4, 2015**
Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. ’72, ’07HON Memorial Golf Outing
Honorees: Hon. Janet M. DiFiore ’81
Darryl Gibbs ’00

**May 20, 2015**
Alumni Association General Meeting

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**You are warmly invited to attend the Law School’s annual:**

**Alumni Association Luncheon**
Friday, January 30, 2015

**Honorees**

Recent Graduate Service Award
**Esterina Giuliani ’06**
Associate, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

St. Thomas More Award
**Steven J. Gartner ’84**
Co-Chairman, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
More than 350 alumni participated in Reunion 2013. Let’s better that record this year while reconnecting with old friends, meeting new ones, and celebrating *alma mater* with fellow St. John’s Law alumni.

**Date:** November 6, 2014 • **Host:** Dean Michael A. Simons • **Location:** Desmond’s Steakhouse, NYC

*Keeping our alumni family connected and strong!*

Please contact Claire C. McKeever ’80SVC, ‘93L at mckeevec@stjohns.edu or (718) 990-6006 for more information.