ST. JOHN'S LAW

Alumni Magazine l Fall 2016



90th Anniversary Gala

Raises Over One Million Dollars For Student Scholarships

ALSO INSIDE: REPORT OF GIFTS



"Through my work at Catholic Migration Services, I'm able to contribute to the betterment of a community that has shaped this country since its inception. I see their needs and problems. It's personal to me because they're my family and friends. It's not a choice for me to serve the public, I crave it because I'm able to relate to the problems of the needy in our society. I've experienced their struggles."

Hector R. Rojas Olivo '15
 Inaugural Immigration Law
 Post-Graduate Fellow

With a generous gift from the Olive L. Reedy Trust—facilitated by its trustees, including John P. Clarke '55CBA, '57L—the Law School has established the Immigration Law Post-Graduate Fellowship at Catholic Migration Services, a nonprofit committed to empowering underserved immigrant communities in New York City.

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To learn more about your planned giving options, please contact Associate Dean for Law School Advancement Brian J. Woods at (718) 990-5792 or brian.woods@stjohns.edu.

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Report of Gifts
For the 2015–2016 Giving Year

FROM THE **DEAN**



As dean, I frequently travel the country and the globe to meet with the Law School's alumni, friends, and strategic partners. As much as I enjoy my work in the field, however, I always look forward to coming home to the classroom at St. John's Law.

In August, I had the pleasure of once again teaching a section of our 1L Introduction to Law course, which is part of our two-week orientation program. I'm pleased to report that our newest students are bright, energetic, and ambitious. For the third year in a row, we've improved the academic credentials of the incoming class, which is one of the strongest in the Law School's history.

This issue of *St. John's Law* marks the official end to a year spent celebrating that 90-year history. Our cover story takes you to our 90th Anniversary Gala, which raised over \$1 million for student scholarships (p. 14). The gala was just one demonstration of the extraordinary generosity of our alumni and friends, who this year gave \$5.8 million in gifts to support *alma mater*. This record-setting generosity is detailed in our annual Report of Gifts (p. 37).

I'm sure you'll share my pride when you read about David L. Gregory, the Dorothy Day Professor of Law, who is the first in the Law School family to earn St. John's prestigious Vincentian Mission Award (p. 3). We also welcome our new deans and faculty members (pp. 4, 12-13), and chronicle our faculty's activities and scholarship (pp. 6, 8, 10).

Fortitude, resilience, smarts, and service weave through stories you'll read about alumni who have found success in, and beyond, the law (pp. 24, 26, 27, 33). You'll also meet a student who is charting her professional path a world away from home (p. 5) and find an infographic illustrating the Law School's worldwide reach (p. 22).

As you catch up on news of your fellow alumni, I invite you to share your news with us, so we can pass it on. Through the 90-year history of St. John's Law, our dedicated alumni have remained a pillar of our success. I'm very grateful for your support, and I look forward to seeing you on campus or in my travels soon.

All the best,

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

St. John's Law Magazine FALL 2016

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CELEBRATING A TRUE SERVANT



Professor David L. Gregory Receives St. John's Prestigious Vincentian Mission Award

A few years ago, alumni, faculty, students, and friends came together to celebrate Dorothy Day Professor of Law David L. Gregory and his many accomplishments as executive director of the Law School's Center for Labor and Employment Law. In his remarks at the event, Dean Michael A. Simons captured the sentiment in the room—and outside of it—with these words:

"For the past 30 years, David Gregory has exemplified what it means to be a law professor. He is a dedicated teacher, a caring mentor, a prolific scholar, and an indefatigable institution builder. He has single-handedly created one of the finest labor and employment law programs in the country. He has worked tirelessly to promote his students and to launch their careers. His legal expertise is in labor and employment law, but he has lived his professional life by the Biblical command to 'serve one another through love.' Tonight, we celebrate a true servant."

In September, the community gathered once again to honor Professor Gregory's life and career of service, as he became the first-ever Law School faculty member to receive St. John's prestigious Vincentian Mission Award.

Established in 1993, the award recognizes St. John's administrators, faculty, and staff who have embraced the Vincentian spirit in their personal and professional lives. Members of the St. John's family nominate candidates for the award, which is presented at the annual Vincentian Convocation. A committee comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators selects the award recipient from the pool of nominees.

The submissions in support of Professor Gregory's candidacy were filled with tributes to a humble man of deep faith who infuses his work in and beyond the classroom with the Vincentian philosophy of individual dignity, social justice, and upliftment of others. For over three decades, he has inspired hundreds of his students to 'do well by doing good' as lawyers.

"Consistent with the University's Vincentian mission, Professor Gregory is a true advocate for his students," says Ana C. Shields '03, a principal at Jackson Lewis P.C. "He presents them, especially those lacking economic or social advantages, with critical opportunities to meet and to interact with an incredible network of alumni that he has helped to build. He is a wonderful mentor."

Ralph Carter '14, an associate at Duane Morris LLP who received multiple scholarships for excellence in labor and employment law while at St. John's, agrees. "Professor Gregory is unrelenting in his support of his students, and his door is always open to those seeking the benefit of his considerable experience," he says. "There are so many of us who owe him so much. He has an uncanny ability to see in his students their potential and to show them what they can attain and how to get there, even when the student believes that the goal is something beyond reach."

A highly regarded scholar, Professor Gregory has pioneered the field of Catholic social thought and the law. He has also delivered the annual St. Vincent de Paul lecture at DePaul University. His many publications in leading scholarly journals include the only law review article about Antoine-Frédéric Ozanam, the Vincentian layman who founded the Society of St. Vincent DePaul.

"As the organizer of conferences like 'The Theology of Work and the Dignity of Workers,' Professor Gregory has helped the broader community develop a social consciousness—one that emphasizes the dignity and worth of all individuals and that promotes social justice, especially in the critical area of work and the workplace," notes Michael Van Aken '99, vice president of human resources at The Coca-Cola Company.

Professor Gregory's mission-driven work takes him outside the academy as well. He's extremely active in the Catholic Worker community, which is committed to living a simple lifestyle in community, to serving the poor, and to resisting war and social injustice. He also supports the local Catholic Lawyers Guilds, and the efforts of the Catholic organization Opus Dei to educate impoverished children in the South Bronx.

"I've known Professor Gregory for over 34 years, and I had the distinct honor of being one of his first students," says Robert J. Nobile '84, a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP. "He's been a coach, guide, mentor, and friend to me and to countless other St. John's students. He's a person who always goes out of his way to help and guide others in every way possible, and is literally available 24/7/365. I can think of no other individual who is so giving of himself to others in all that he does. And I can think of no one more well-deserving of the Vincentian Mission Award for all of his marked contributions."

ON **DIRECT**

Q&A

with Associate Academic Dean Marc O. DeGirolami



This summer, Professor Marc O.

DeGirolami became the Law School's associate academic dean, after serving as associate dean for faculty scholarship. With this newest deanship, he remains on as associate director of the Center for Law and Religion at St. John's Law, and continues to build on his scholarly work in law and religion, constitutional law, and criminal law. Here, Assistant Dean for Marketing and Communications

Trent Anderson sits down with Professor DeGirolami to talk about his new role.

TA: How has the position of associate academic dean been re-configured to allow you and future academic deans to better support curricular matters?

MOD: The position has been reconfigured to allow the associate academic dean to focus primarily on curricular issues, to include course development and scheduling, adjunct appointment and evaluation, and examination approval and review. This will greatly benefit academicians who hold the position in the future, as these are matters within the distinctive competence and expertise of most legal academics.

TA: What early surprise or challenge have you grappled with in your new role?

MOD: The job is challenging in several ways, inasmuch as academic administration is something new for me. Fortunately, I have extremely supportive colleagues—including Dean Michael Simons, Vice Dean Larry Cunningham, Registrar Ann Hurt, and Luisa Asaro, the Dean's Office manager—to guide and help me understand the position.

TA: What are your goals and plans in your new role?

MOD: For the immediate future, my goal is to maintain the ship in stable and good working order. I've inherited responsibilities that were admirably and even brilliantly discharged by my predecessor, Dean Cunningham. There's much to be said for steady maintenance of the past, particularly when one is proud of one's past. I also hope to continue doing what I can to raise the scholarly profile of the Law School.

TA: The Law School has two new fulltime faculty members: Kate Levine and Rachel Smith. What strengths do they bring to St. John's?

MOD: Many. Kate Levine is already an outstanding scholar in the area of policing

and crime—indeed, one of the leading young minds in this exceptionally difficult and important field, with publications in the Columbia Law Review and the Georgetown Law Journal among others. Her experience as an appellate public defender and in the lawyering program at New York University Law School augurs great things in the classroom as well. Rachel Smith comes from the University of Miami Law School, where she was a superb teacher of legal writing. Both Kate and Rachel bring new scholarly ideas and fresh energy to the Law School—vital sources of strength for the Law School's continued success and growth.

TA: You're staying on as associate director for the Center for Law and Religion, tell us about your and Professor Mark Movsesian's plans for the center.

MOD: We have big plans. Last year, we were fortunate to receive a generous grant for our Tradition Project from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation. The project is a three-year endeavor to study the role of tradition in law, politics, and public life. We'll convene a three-day meeting for the first part of the project in October of this year, keynoted by Professor Michael McConnell of Stanford Law School. We've already written and are planning to write several articles—in print and online—and, eventually, books, sharing our research and ideas. It's an extremely exciting time for a project of this kind and we're the only academic center in the country that, so far as I know, is pursuing something like it.

TA: In your opinion, what makes St. John's Law a great place to teach?

MOD: First and foremost, our students. They're diligent, curious, resilient, and serious about their education and their careers. On many occasions I've remarked that they take nothing for granted and are prepared to work hard for their success. These qualities make St. John's an enormously rewarding place to teach.

NAFFIE LAMIN '17 CHARTS HER PROFESSIONAL PATH A WORLD AWAY FROM HOME

affie Lamin learned a lot about injustice as a child in her native country, The Gambia. "Growing up in Africa is a pretty unique experience," she says. "You see poverty and inequity every day. You also see what the law is like when it's not working. So the need to do something to help is so real."

Over the years, Lamin was educated in American schools as her family moved from country to country for her father's work. Her commitment to becoming a lawyer and serving her community remained steadfast throughout, and manifested in her volunteer work with Street Girls Aid, an

organization that provides educational programs for the relief and rehabilitation of homeless women in Ghana.

After earning her B.A. *cum laude* in International Relations, Lamin applied to law school. "The day I heard from St. John's was a great day," she says. "I wouldn't have been able to go to law school without the significant scholarship assistance I received. My family and I were so happy."

At St. John's, Lamin stands out as a high-achiever who serves on the *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review* and as a student



fellow at the Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution; who participates in the Dispute Resolution Society as competition planning director and in the Public Interest Center's student-led initiatives; and who works as a research assistant, among other activities and accomplishments. Lamin is also the proud recipient of the Honorable Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72 Memorial Scholarship—one of the many endowed scholarships that the Law School offers deserving students.

While Lamin has no family in the United States, she's quick to point out that she's found a supportive and caring second family at St. John's Law. "I've made really good friends here, and being active on campus helps me build a sense of belonging," she shares. "Also, the alumni have been absolutely incredible. They're always willing to meet and talk. They really do love to give back."

Lamin spent the summer after her 2L year at Shearman & Sterling LLP, working with the firm's litigation and mergers and acquisitions groups. "All the cases and assignments I was fortunate enough to be a part of were exciting and nuanced and kept me on my toes," she says. "I thoroughly enjoyed it. The rigorous curriculum and co-curricular opportunities that St. John's Law offers definitely prepared me to thrive in a high-intensity, fast-paced law firm environment. I came away from my summer experience more eager than ever to make my mark as a lawyer."

ADVANCES

St. John's Center for Law and Religion Launches the

TRADETTION

Exploring the value of tradition in contemporary society, the initiative is supported by a generous grant from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation

n October, leading scholars, public figures, judges, and journalists will come together in New York City for a conference on "Tradition in Law and Politics." Highlighted by a keynote address from Professor Michael McConnell of Stanford Law School, the three-day event will feature workshops on a range of topics, including:

- An Introduction to Tradition
- The American Religious Tradition
- The American Political Tradition
- Tradition and the Common Law
- Tradition and Constitutional Law

Among the participants are professors from Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Northwestern, UCLA, Notre Dame, as well as other leading institutions.

The conference is the centerpiece of the busy inaugural year of the Tradition Project, a new initiative of the Law School's Center for Law and Religion. Co-directed by Professors Marc O. DeGirolami and Mark L. Movsesian, the project seeks to develop a broad and rich understanding of what tradition—the received wisdom of the past—might continue to offer in cultivating virtuous, responsible, and self-governing citizens.

"For most of Western history, social institutions looked to tradition as an important source of justification," Professor Movsesian explains. "To be sure, traditions, including religious traditions, could change or fall out of use, and people didn't defer to the past mindlessly. But the past had definite claims, and wasn't cast aside

as though it had nothing to offer to, or require from, the present. Today, these ideas are deeply contested. Our project will explore the continuing legitimacy of tradition in contemporary life—in law, politics, and culture in the United States and across the globe."

As originally conceived, the Tradition Project will span three years, with outputs that include articles in traditional scholarly journals as well as contributions to online magazines and blogs, like the award-winning *Law and Religion Forum* blog produced by Professors DeGirolami and Movsesian. "We're aiming to influence scholars, and, through them, their students, thereby affecting the future debate on tradition's role in our public culture," Professor DeGirolami says. "Because it includes opinion-makers from beyond academia, the project will also have an impact on the wider community."

For 2017, the Tradition Project proposes to examine the subject of tradition, culture, and citizenship. "We're interested in tradition's role in sustaining a common civic culture, defined as a people's habits, beliefs, attitudes, education, and everyday morality—its way of life," says Professor Movsesian. "The relationship among tradition, community, and culture, once taken for granted, has been challenged in the last several decades. So we think that the time is ripe to explore this vital connection."

The Tradition Project continues the Law School's tradition of producing and promoting scholarship with real-world relevance. "With its focus on issues of intellectual and religious concern, the project furthers our mission as a Vincentian institution," says Dean Michael A. Simons. "We're grateful to the Bradley Foundation for its support of this important effort."

About The Center For Law And Religion Established in 2010, the Center for Law and Religion at St. John's Law provides a forum for the study of law and religion from domestic, international, and comparative perspectives. In addition to hosting academic conferences and speakers from academia and public life, the center coordinates the Law School's law and religion curriculum and promotes dialogue among scholars with different viewpoints, both religious and non-religious. That dialogue continues with regular posts at the center's award-wining blog, *Law and Religion Forum*, at lawandreligionforum.org.











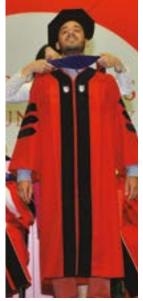


Commencement 2016

On Sunday, June 5, 2016, a crowd of 3,000 family and friends was on hand at St. John's Carnesecca Arena to welcome the Class of 2016 into the Law School alumni family. One of the most moving traditions of the Commencement Exercises is the hooding ceremony that marks the milestone transition from student to graduate. While Dean Michael A. Simons usually places the hood, he happily turns the honor over to alumni as they take the stage to share this very special moment with a graduating family member.











n 2015, the suicide of Kalief Browder—a young man accused, but never convicted, of a Bronx robbery—brought to public attention two interrelated issues in the criminal justice system: the bail system and speedy trial.

Browder was locked up in New York City's Rikers Island for three years, two of them in solitary confinement, because he couldn't post the \$3,000 bail set by the court. He attempted suicide several times in prison.

As Browder languished in jail, court date after court date passed—delays caused by excuses that included the assigned prosecutor's vacation schedule. He was ultimately released when the prosecution lost contact with its sole witness and agreed to dismiss the case. But Browder seemingly never recovered from the time he spent in solitary, and he killed himself a short time after he left Rikers.

Sadly, the delays in Browder's case aren't unique. A 2013 *New York Times* exposé found that the average age of pending

Bronx County criminal cases was 408 days. Seventy-three percent of those cases exceeded the court system's own goals for case resolution. But, according to the story, the problem wasn't confined to the Bronx. Manhattan's cases had an average age of 237 days.

In recent testimony before the New York City Council on this issue, representatives from the Brooklyn Defender Services reported that their felony clients waited, on average, 464 days between arraignment and disposition, with, on average, 11.47 court appearances. With so many delays, it's no wonder that incarcerated defendants are more likely to plead guilty.

In New York, a judge may set bail only as a means to secure the accused's future appearance in court. The defendant, in effect, posts collateral on himself, agreeing to forfeit the amount he posts (or his surety posts on his behalf) if he fails to appear at a court date. But few people in the criminal justice system can afford to post even modest bail amounts. They remain incarcerated unless and until they do.

If we lived up to our constitutional guarantee of the right to a speedy trial, this might be a consequence that we, as a society, would be willing to accept. After all, if the court sets bail—rather than releasing the accused on his or her own recognizance—it has determined that there is a flight risk and that some sort of guaranty is necessary to ensure that the accused shows up to court so the case can proceed.

But the reality is that the New York criminal justice system is crippled by delays. I'm convinced, however, that there is a better way.

I started my criminal law career as a law clerk for a U.S. district judge in the Eastern District of Virginia, a federal district affectionately referred to as the "rocket docket" because of its speedy resolution of criminal and civil cases. The judges there actively manage their caseloads and don't tolerate delays. This culture has carried over into the state court system, where I often handled two or three bench trials in an afternoon as a young prosecutor. Jury trials in felony cases took, at most, a few days.

TRENDS

As a prosecutor, I was taught to charge only if I had strong evidence and to not over-try my case. Judges in our jurisdiction took the bench at 9 a.m. and had little tolerance for mid-trial bench conferences about minutiae. "Move it along, counselor" was their frequent refrain. If I concluded my witness examination at 4:45 p.m., I called my next witness. Every minute mattered.

You can imagine my culture shock when I moved to New York and encountered delays that are not only rampant, but accepted as the norm.

Without a doubt, there are structural causes for delay in New York. In some counties, there aren't enough judges, court clerks, and court officers to staff court parts. It's sometimes tempting to throw our hands up and lament the lack of resources, doing nothing to examine other root causes of delay.

Part of the issue is how our existing resources are deployed. In its exposé, the *New York Times* reported some judges wandering into the courtroom mid-morning without explanation. Other judges were on the bench at 9:30 a.m. but with nothing to do, since the lawyers weren't ready. In this state of inefficiency, defendants, family members, witnesses, and victims spend a lot of time waiting around while the system grinds slowly away.

For a trial to occur, the stars must align. The parties must be ready, discovery and pretrial motions complete, and the judge and staff on hand to select a jury. Even the slightest hiccup can divert a case. One source of delay is the inability of corrections officials to "produce" incarcerated defendants on time. Sometimes defendants aren't brought to the courtroom until late in the morning or afternoon. (As the *New York Times* reported, the New York City Department of Correction proudly boasts a 97 percent on-time production rate. But a prisoner is considered "on time" if he is in court by 11 a.m.)

Part of the difference between Virginia and New York is how cases are managed. In many counties of Virginia, trial dates are firm and are strictly enforced by judges. If the prosecution isn't ready to proceed at that time, the case is dismissed absent truly extraordinary circumstances. "The People can't locate the file," "we haven't provided discovery, yet," "the assigned assistant district attorney is on vacation"—none of these are acceptable reasons for an adjournment in the Commonwealth.

In New York, the problem is that the judge isn't in the driver's seat. The lawyers are. In felony cases, Criminal Procedure Law §30.30 gives the prosecution a generous six-month period to announce that they're ready for trial before a case can be dismissed (after three months, an incarcerated defendant would be entitled to release). And the statute is loaded with exceptions that allow the clock to be "stopped," such as during defense motions, which are of course made in every case.

Once the prosecution states that it's ready for trial, further delays caused by court congestion are not implicated unless the delay reaches the nearly impossible standard of violating due process. In short, no one is holding prosecutors' feet to the fire to state and be ready for trial within a more reasonable period of time.

There are also issues of culture and incentives. A defense lawyer friend recently told me that in his suburban county a simple DWI trial takes five days. A misdemeanor jury case should be triable in a day. And lawyers aren't always incentivized to move to a speedy resolution of cases. Browder's case wasn't dismissed until the delays caused the prosecution to lose contact with its main witness. Delays often benefit the accused, although for Browder it also ended tragically. He won the legal battle but was forever traumatized by the ordeal of pretrial detention.

We're fortunate to have one of St. John's own—Janet DiFiore '81—as the new chief judge of New York. During her investiture, she announced her Excellence Initiative to improve court processes in the state. This signature program will examine the court system from top-to-bottom, searching for and addressing root causes of delay and dysfunction. Undoubtedly, the delays in New York's criminal courts will be one of the program's focuses.

And new federal litigation may nudge reform along. The Bronx Defenders filed a class action recently in the Southern District of New York to challenge the delays in the Bronx court system as a civil rights violation.

Improving arraignment-to-trial times is a massive undertaking, but it's not an unsolvable problem. To do so, everything must be on the table and up for discussion: Should CPL §30.30 be repealed and replaced with a statute that gives judges authority to set pretrial discovery schedules and firm trial dates? Why is it so difficult to get incarcerated defendants produced in court on time? Could voir dire be sped up by greater use of jury surveys? What time are judges taking the bench each morning? Are court parts shutting down prematurely early? Are too many judges deployed to administrative positions at the Office of Court Administration? Can the CPL be simplified to eliminate unnecessary procedural obstacles to trial readiness? Are there enough court officers to screen admittees so that jurors and others don't have to wait on lines wrapped around the courthouse?

There are no easy answers to these questions, but they must be addressed. We owe it to Kalief Browder and to the thousands of people accused, but not convicted, of crimes, who remain locked up pending resolution of their cases. Society, too, has an interest in seeing criminal cases adjudicated in a timely fashion.



Larry Cunningham is vice dean and professor of legal writing at St. John's Law. He has served in a variety of roles in the Law School administration,

including associate academic dean. He has written and spoken extensively on the right to speedy trial, including testifying before the New York City Council on the issue. Dean Cunningham is a former assistant district attorney in Bronx County and assistant commonwealth's attorney in Alexandria, Virginia.

FACULTY FOCUS

Read all about the latest achievements and activities of our outstanding St. John's Law faculty.

{BARRETT}

Professor John Q. Barrett, biographer of U.S. Supreme Court Justice and Nuremberg Chief Prosecutor Robert H. Jackson, has been involved in numerous events relating to this 70th anniversary year of the Nuremberg trials. For example, he delivered a keynote lecture at a March of the Living International, Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights & Jagiellonian University symposium in Krakow, Poland. He also delivered the Western Canadian Jewish Heritage Foundation's annual Kanne Lecture in Winnipeg, Manitoba. During the past year, Professor Barrett published chapters in two new books, *Of Courtiers and Kings: More Stories of Supreme Court Law Clerks and Their Justices* (UVa Press), and *The Presidents and the Constitution: A Living History* (NYU Press). And he writes regularly to *The Jackson List* at thejacksonlist.com, which reaches well over 100,000 readers around the world.

{ BOYLE }

Professor **Robin A. Boyle's** academic paper, "Employing Trafficking Laws to Capture Elusive Leaders of Destructive Cults," has been published in the *Oregon Review of International Law* at 17 Or. Rev. Int'l L. 205 (2016).

{ CAVANAGH }

"General Jurisdiction 2.0: The Updating and Uprooting of the Corporate Presence Doctrine," an article by Professor **Edward D. Cavanagh**, has been published in the *Maine Law Review* at 68 Me. L. Rev. 287 (2016).

{ CUNNINGHAM }

Professor Larry Cunningham testified before the New York City Council's Committee on Courts and Legal Services on the subject of speedy trial. He also wrote two letters to the editor of the New York Law Journal and delivered a CLE program to the Nassau County Criminal Courts Bar Association on the same topic. Until recently, Professor Cunningham served as the Law School's associate academic dean. He assumed the new role of vice dean this fall and, in that capacity, he supervises the internal functions related to the program of legal education. He is also responsible for assessment, strategic planning, accreditation compliance, and relationships with outside agencies, among other areas of supervision. Professor Cunningham has established a blog on assessment of student learning outcomes in legal education at lawschoolassessment.org.

{ DEGIROLAMI }

Professor Marc O. DeGirolami wrote the lead essay for the Liberty Fund's *Online Forum* titled "Law and Tradition: An Agenda for Further Study." The essay is part of the work of the Tradition Project, which Professor DeGirolami co-directs with Professor Mark Movsesian. The essay elicited responses from Professors David Bernstein, Sanford Levinson, and James Stoner. Professor DeGirolami is presently writing an essay titled "Religious Accommodation, Religious Tradition, and Political Polarization," to be published in a symposium issue of the *Lewis & Clark Law Review*.

{ GREENBERG }

Professor **Elayne E. Greenberg** presented a talk on the "Danger of Falling in Love With Your Case" to the New York State Bar Association's Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section. She also co-presented the talk "Don't Name the Cow" at the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution Spring Conference in New York. Both talks addressed how the cognitive bias of optimistic overconfidence derails negotiations and strategies that effective negotiators might use to counteract its deleterious influence. "Because It's Not Just About Money" was the subject of Professor Greenberg's Ethical Compass column appearing in the Spring 2016 edition of the *New York Dispute Resolution Lawyer*.

{ GREGORY }

Professor **David L. Gregory's** article, "The Past is Prologue: Reflections on the Affirmative Action Jurisprudence of the Supreme Court" (with Sarah Mannix '15), appears in the St. John's Law Review at 89 St. John's L. Rev. 499 (2015). The symposium issue marks the 50th anniversary of Title VII of the Civil Rights of 1964. Professor Gregory co-authored the introduction to the issue with then Editor-in-Chief Elizabeth A. Tippett '16. Professor Gregory is the author of a chapter on labor and employment law in American Law from a Catholic Perspective: Through a Clearer Lens. The Hofstra Employment Law Journal will publish his article, "Is Religious Freedom the Ultimate Employer Prerogative?" and Cambridge University will publish his chapter on catholic social teaching. Professor Gregory has offered welcoming remarks recently for several prominent labor and employment law speakers at St. John's Law, including the general counsel for the New York Giants, the chief labor negotiator for New York City, and the chairman of the National Labor Relations Board.

FACULTY FOCUS

{ KRISHNAKUMAR }

Professor Anita S. Krishnakumar presented two papers, "Reconsidering Substantive Canons" and "Textualism and Statutory Stare Decisis," at a statutory interpretation theory seminar at Yale Law School. She also organized and co-hosted a legislation roundtable gathering of nearly 30 legislation and statutory interpretation scholars, including Second Circuit Chief Judge Robert Katzmann. Professor Krishnakumar presented her article, "Textualism and Statutory Stare Decisis," at that same gathering. Her article, "Reconsidering Substantive Canons," has been accepted for publication in the *University of Chicago Law Review*.

{ MOVSESIAN }

Professor **Mark L. Movsesian's** article, "Of Human Dignities," appeared in the *Notre Dame Law Review* at 91 Notre Dame L. Rev. 1517 (2016). The article was part of a symposium on the 50th anniversary of *Dignitatis Humanae*, the Catholic Church's declaration on religious liberty. Professor Movsesian's essays, "Christian but Not Religious" and "The Smartphone and the Virgin," appeared as web exclusives at the *First Things* blog. He posts online regularly at *First Things* and at the *Law and Religion Forum* blog.

{ SALOMONE }

"The Rise of Global English: Challenges for English-Medium Instruction and Language Rights," an article by Kenneth Wang Professor of Law **Rosemary C. Salomone**, has been published in *Language Problems and Language Planning* at 39 Language Problems & Language Planning 145 (2015). Professor Salomone presented her paper, "Heritage Languages and Educational Equality in the Global Knowledge Economy," at an international symposium

on "Politiques Linguistiques Familiales et Processus de Transmissions Intergénérationnelles en Contexte Migratoire," in Angers, France. She also presented "Educational Equity, SDGs, and the Commodification of English in the Global Economy," at a New York symposium on "Language and the Sustainable Development Goals."

{ SOVERN }

Professor **Jeff Sovern** spoke at the University of Houston's "Teaching Consumer Law Conference" about the study he and St. John's University Associate Professor Kate Walton are conducting into FDCPA validation notices, funded by the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges Endowment for Education. Professor Sovern published an op-ed in *USA Today* titled "The War on Consumer Protection." Another op-ed, headlined "Keep Banks from Playing Tricks," appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, and he had a letter in the *New York Times. Bloomberg BNA, Politico*, and *Law360* have all quoted Professor Sovern in recent stories.

{ SUBOTNIK }

Professor **Eva E. Subotnik's** article, "Artistic Control After Death," was accepted for publication in the *Washington Law Review*. Another project, "Empirical Study of Intellectual Property, Photography, and Changing Aesthetic and Business Practices," co-authored with Professors Jessica Silbey (Northeastern University School of Law) and Peter DiCola (Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law), was awarded a \$10,000 research grant from the Spangenberg Center for Law, Technology & the Arts at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. Professor Subotnik also moderated a panel and Q&A session with the Hon. Pierre N. Leval of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit at the St. John's Intellectual Property Law Center's spring symposium on "Values, Questions, and Methods in Intellectual Property."

For regular updates on the scholarly work, activities, and initiatives of the St. John's Law faculty, visit our Faculty Scholarship Blog at **stjlawfaculty.org**.



You'll also find our faculty members on Twitter:

@chris_borgen • @DeanMikeSimons • @GinaCalabrese3 • @jnsheff • @MarcODeGirolami @markmovsesian • @nelsonj1 • @ProfLCunningham • @SusanLandrum1

MEET OUR NEWEST FACULTY MEMBERS



Furthering its commitment to offering students an outstanding legal education and to fostering significant legal scholarship, St. John's Law welcomed two new faculty members this fall.

KATE LEVINE has joined the full-time faculty as assistant professor of law, bringing with her stellar academic credentials, noteworthy practice skills, and significant teaching experience. After receiving her undergraduate degree from Harvard College, Professor Levine earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School, where she served as an editor of the *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*.

After law school, Professor Levine was a federal law clerk in the Southern District of New York, practiced law as a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, and then worked as an appellate public defender in New York. She started her career in academia as an acting assistant professor in NYU School of Law's lawyering program, where she taught a 1L legal research, writing, and skills course.

During her time at NYU, Professor Levine also worked as a research fellow and organized programs on police transparency and civil access to justice. Her legal scholarship to date has focused on these same issues, and her writing on police suspects and prosecuting the police has gained recent placements in the Columbia Law Review, the Georgetown Law Journal, and the Iowa Law Review.

"We're so pleased that Kate has joined our faculty," says Dean Michael A. Simons. "At a remarkably early point in her career, she's already an accomplished scholar. She'll bring that powerful combination of a scholar's mind and a practitioner's skillset to the classroom when she teaches criminal law this year, all to the benefit of our students."

RACHEL H. SMITH is the newest member of the Law School's legal writing faculty. She comes to St. John's after spending six years at the University of Miami School of Law, where she was a member of the legal communications and research skills faculty.

A graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz and the University of California at Berkeley School of Law, Professor Smith started her legal career as a litigator at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP. Moving to academia, she spent three years at Santa Clara University, where she taught legal analysis, research, and writing to 1Ls and appellate advocacy to 2Ls. She won the legal writing professor of the year award twice during her time at Santa Clara.

Among other legal research and writing accomplishments of her own, Professor Smith has authored two books, *The Legal Writing Survival Guide* and *The Handbook for the New Legal Writer* (with Jill Barton). "Rachel brings a wealth of experience as a practitioner and a teacher. She is a true expert in the teaching of legal writing," Dean Simons says. "Whatever career path our students take, strong legal writing skills are a bedrock of their success. Our legal writing faculty does an excellent job of teaching these skills, and Rachel is a wonderful addition to that team."



WELCOME OUR NEW DEANS

The Law School's bold, five-year strategic plan is well underway, and its success is evident in measures that matter most to the St. John's Law community: Incoming student credentials are up; graduate employment is up; and alumni giving is at an all-time high.

Anchoring the plan are twin goals of academic excellence and student success. These goals are being met, in key part, with the help of the Law School's newest deans.

LARRY CUNNINGHAM continues his dedicated service in the Dean's Office in the new role of vice dean. He supervises the internal functions related to the program of legal education, and is also responsible for assessment, strategic planning, accreditation compliance, and relationships with outside agencies, among other areas of supervision. Professor Cunningham has played a pivotal leadership role at St. John's Law for the past six years, most recently as associate academic dean. In that time, he led a successful redesign of the Law School's career development offerings; he helped to develop and implement the strategic plan; and he shepherded a number of curricular improvements and innovations.

MARK O. DEGIROLAMI is taking on the important work of associate academic dean, overseeing the Law School's curriculum, adjunct faculty, and examinations. For the past two years, he has served ably as the associate dean for faculty scholarship, helping to enhance and publicize the faculty's scholarly output and achievements. A prolific scholar who serves as associate director of the Law School's Center for Law and Religion, Professor DeGirolami has published 18 articles, essays, and book chapters in the past 11 years, plus a notable book with Harvard University Press. He's also a regular contributor to online publications in

his field of expertise, including the *Law and Religion Forum* at lawandreligionforum.org.

KIMATHI GORDON-SOMERS is the Law School's new assistant dean for students. For the last several years, he served as an associate director of career development and the externship program coordinator, roles that earned him a well-deserved reputation as a mentor and advisor to St. John's Law students. Professor Gordon-Somers is also an accomplished classroom teacher who revitalized the Law School's Externship Seminar. His work as dean will focus on ensuring that St. John's Law is a caring and inclusive place for all students. In particular, Professor Gordon-Somers will be the administration's point person on diversity and inclusion initiatives. He will also oversee compliance with academic and accreditation rules, provide student advisement, and assist students with a range of personal, financial, and professional issues.

ANITA S. KRISHNAKUMAR is the new associate dean for faculty scholarship at St. John's Law. She is an accomplished scholarly researcher and writer who has produced nearly a dozen articles and essays, including recent placements in the *Duke Law Journal* and the *George Washington Law Review*. Professor Krishnakumar has also organized a series of gatherings for the faculty, where they share ideas for new projects and get crucial feedback at an early stage of their writing.

BRIAN J. WOODS, who has served as the Law School's chief development officer since 2012, has been promoted to associate dean for law school advancement. Under his leadership, total annual giving has increased from an average of \$1.8 million to over \$5 million. The 90th Anniversary Gala in June raised over \$1 million to benefit student scholarships at St. John's Law. This impressive outcome wouldn't have been possible without Woods' past work on behalf of the Law School and his ongoing contributions across a range of operations and initiatives.

SARAH JEAN KELLY rounds out the new leadership slate at St. John's Law as assistant dean for graduate studies. She is responsible for the Law School's LL.M. programs in Transnational Legal Practice, U.S. Legal Studies, International Sports Law Practice, and Bankruptcy. Kelly has worked as a higher ed administrator for 11 years, most recently as director of LL.M. academic services at Georgetown University Law Center. She also has extensive experience in marketing, external relations, business development, and admissions. This summer, Kelly traveled to China, where she met with some of the Law School's strategic partners there and with Chinese law students who are studying in St. John's LL.M. program this year.

"I'm delighted to welcome these outstanding individuals to their new roles at St. John's Law," says Dean Michael A. Simons. "They're all wonderful additions to a leadership team that is steadfast in its commitment to our students. The progress that the law school has made in the past few years is poised to continue with this great team in place."



90TH ANNIVERSARY GALA RAISES FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

hantel Castro '16 knew early on that she wanted to be a lawyer and serve the ends of justice. She witnessed her brother's struggles with the law, and she sat in the courtroom for the trial of her cousin's murderer. Pursuing her dream, Castro worked as a Medicaid eligibility representative to pay for school. She earned her B.A. *summa cum laude* and, as the first college graduate in her family, she enrolled in the evening program at St. John's Law. She thrived there while

working full-time as a New York City court officer. Now, Castro says, she'll use her law degree in service to her community.

About halfway through college, Long Island native Stephen DiMaria '17 decided to go to law school, where he could apply the classical logic and penchant for dissecting arguments he honed as a philosophy major. Drawn to St. John's because of the sense of community he found there, DiMaria quickly made his mark as a member of the St. John's Law Review and as a student fellow for

the Center for International and Comparative Law, among other activities. He spent the summer at Baker Botts LLP pursuing his interest in corporate and securities law, and he aims to put his legal skills to work one day in the private spaceflight industry.

Sophie Tan '16, a first-generation Chinese American, chose St. John's over other law schools because it stood out as the only one with a heart. Her experiences as a law student, she says, made her a better person, and she relished her leadership role on the *American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review*. Feeling a strong and enduring connection to her St. John's Law family, Tan looks forward to helping future students fulfill their dreams.

Growing up in rural Pennsylvania, Quinn Wetherall '16 visited New York City regularly and loved it. So it was only natural that he set his sights on attending a law school that could help him become a top New York lawyer. St. John's, he says, was just what he was looking for. Rising to the challenge of his legal studies, Wetherall achieved academically and earned a spot on the



St. John's Law Review. This fall, he starts his career as an associate in the corporate department at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. Although they traveled very different paths to St. John's Law, Castro, DiMaria, Tan, and Wetherall have a strong common bond: They're all proud recipients of endowed scholarships generously funded by alumni who were honored at the Law School's 90th Anniversary Gala in June.

Held at the iconic Waldorf Astoria New York, the milestone event celebrated the Law School's founding and ongoing mission of making a top legal education—and the legal profession—accessible to students of every race, ethnicity, background, and religion. Toward this end, the 700 celebrants joined with many other donors to raise over \$1 million for current use student scholarships.

Addressing the attendees, Dean Michael A. Simons noted that the gala capped a memorable 90th anniversary year marked by unprecedented support from the Law School's alumni community. Some 15,000 strong, its members have achieved success at every level of the

profession and in every corner of the globe. And they've given back to ensure that St. John's continues its tradition of excellence while remaining a proving ground for smart, hardworking students seeking the American dream and looking to make a difference in the world.

"Ninety years after our founding, one thing that has truly changed is the way in which our alumni are investing in the Law School's future," Dean Simons shared. "In the past three years, we have created—you have created—more endowed scholarships than in the previous 87 years combined. And each of the last three years has shattered previous fundraising totals. Three years ago, we raised \$3.7 million, more than doubling what had been the average. Two years ago, we raised \$4.6 million. And in the year that just concluded, our alumni and friends gave \$5.8 million to support the Law School."

A cornerstone of this fundraising effort, Dean Simons said, is the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program that launched in 2013 with a corpus of \$2.5 million thanks to a leadership gift from John V. Brennan '63C, '66L, '93HON and major support from

Nicholas M. Cannella '75 and Joanne Welty '76, The Estate of Robert J. Dixson '29, '69HON, Mary Kay Vyskocil '83, and Arthur Wiener.

The Law School's robust scholarship program is having a measurable impact. According to a recent report, students at St. John's Law carry the lowest debt burden of any private law school in New York. Along with alumni, the Law School's faculty, staff, and friends have been instrumental in sustaining the program. Last fall, they came together on Giving Tuesday to support the \$90 for 90 Campaign, raising \$71,150 to fund a full-tuition scholarship for a deserving member of the Class of 2019.

While scholarship funding is key to its continued success, the Law School also thrives on gifts that build its academic programs, that nurture its graduates, and that strengthen its faculty.

St. John's Intellectual Property Law Center opened its doors two years ago through the generosity of Shephard Lane '66, William F. Cavanaugh, Jr. '77SVC, '80L, Robert J. Gunther '81C, '84L, and Daniel A. DeVito '87, who together gave \$1.1 million towards this ambitious project. In late 2015, a lead gift from Joseph M. Mattone, Sr. '53C, '55L, '94HON and his family founded the Mattone Family Institute for Real Estate Law at the Law School.

John P. Clarke '55CBA, '57L facilitated a substantial gift from the Olive L. Reedy Trust recently to establish the Immigration Law Post-Graduate Fellowship at the non-profit Catholic Migration Services in Brooklyn. And with his \$1.6 million gift, Cary Fields '86HON has funded the Fields Professorship—selflessness that inspired an anonymous donor to provide a \$1 million matching fund to incentivize more gifts of professorships.

As Dean Simons observed, the gala offered a prime opportunity for the Law School community to revel in the great strides St. John's Law has made, in partnership with its accomplished alumni, over 90 years.

So it was with great pride that he introduced the evening's four honorees—alumni who came from humble beginnings, used their law degree to build storied careers, and established endowed scholarships at the Law School so that students like Shantel Castro, Stephen DiMaria, Sophie Tan, and Quinn Wetherall can reach their professional goals. The honorees were:

- Lisa Chun '00, Senior Vice President, Paulson & Co. Inc. (Scholarship Recipient: Sophie Tan)
- Elisa D. Garcia C. '85, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, Office Depot Inc. (Scholarship Recipient: Shantel Castro)
- Joseph M. Mattone, Sr., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mattone Group, LLC (Scholarship Recipient: Stephen DiMaria)
- Terence Winter '88, Executive Producer and Writer Director,

























The Sopranos, Boardwalk Empire, The Wolf of Wall Street, and Vinyl (Scholarship Recipient: Quinn Wetherall) Chun admitted that, at first, she didn't understand the importance of receiving a scholarship to St. John's Law. But she soon learned that it "afforded freedom"—freedom to choose the job she wanted after law school and to stay in a job she wanted to stay in, "without the financial burden and obligation of paying back a law school debt." Winter then captured the sentiment shared by his fellow honorees and endowed scholarship donors in stating, "I consider myself blessed to be able to help, and the reason I'm able to help is because of [the] education I received at St. John's."

Taking the stage to accept the first-ever St. John's Law Lifetime Achievement Award, Mattone acknowledged his supportive family, friends, and colleagues and thanked St. John's for making him the beneficiary of an education, "in both character development and the absorption of the law," to which he attributes his success.

The gala's keynoter was Hon. Janet DiFiore '81, chief judge of New York State.

Addressing the attendees, Judge DiFiore said: "My fellow alumni, we have every reason to cherish and take pride in our roots as a uniquely diverse and democratic institution of learning, a place that widened the circle of opportunity for those who were once excluded." She then noted some of the many Law School graduates who "rose from anonymity and modest circumstances to achieve success, prominence, and great accomplishment." St. John's students are fortunate to attend a law school that "trains our hearts as well as our minds," Judge DiFiore shared, and to learn that "there is a higher purpose to the practice of law [and] that lawyering is, indeed, a serving profession."

Shantel Castro found this message inspiring, and enjoyed spending time at the gala with her scholarship benefactors, Elisa D. Garcia C. and her husband, John Hasluck '85. "I'm truly proud and humbled to be an endowed scholarship recipient," she says. "Any scholarship is wonderful, of course, but an endowed scholarship is particularly rewarding. It makes a real connection between you and the donors. Ms. Garcia is helping me complete a journey that she once completed herself. That she's a successful Hispanic woman makes it that much more of an honor to receive the Garcia-Hasluck Family Scholarship. Her success story inspires me to think about all that the legal profession holds for me."

To Castro, and to all those making the journey through St. John's Law and into the profession, Garcia offered three simple but powerful words of encouragement: "Sí, se puede"—Yes, it's possible.

To see all the 90th Anniversary Gala photos and some video highlights, visit stjohns.edu/lawgala.



Closing the Justice Gap

The Public Interest Center Continues Its Mission-Driven Work

uring his tenure as Chief Judge of the State of New York, Hon. Jonathan Lippman '13HON regularly called the public's attention to a wide "justice gap" that leaves millions of low-income New Yorkers and people across the country without the professional help they need to face serious legal challenges.

At the same time, Judge Lippman and leaders in the field of social justice called on law schools to act as agents of change through initiatives aimed at making legal services and the courts more accessible to all. This call to action echoes the Vincentian mission that has animated St. John's Law for over 90 years.

It's the mission behind the Law School's Public Interest Center, which directs a range of programs and activities that promote the professional obligation lawyers have to serve those most in need. Among the center's offerings are its:

- Loan Repayment Assistance Program
- Orientation Day of Service
- National Celebration of Pro Bono
- Pro Bono Service Opportunities
- Pro Bono Training Workshops
- Public Interest Lecture Series
- Spring Break Service Trips

CENTER PIECE

The center's signature event is its annual Public Interest Auction. The St. John's Law community comes out in force for this themed event and, through silent and live auctions and other festivities, raises significant funds to support the Law School's Public Interest Summer Fellowship Program and other public service initiatives.

"The Public Interest Auction highlights the commitment of the St. John's Law family to our students and to our community," says Vice Dean Larry Cunningham. "Donations from alumni, faculty, staff, and students help to make the night a success, ultimately helping students to serve the public good through valuable summer internships and other experiences."

With this collaborative effort, the Law School announced its 2016 Public Interest Center Summer Fellows, as well as the recipients of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers Sam Dawson Fellowship (Anjelica Mantikas '18), the Catalyst Public Service Fellowship (Jimmy Rodriguez '18), and the Silver Family Fellowship in Children's Advocacy (William Forero '18). The 21 summer fellowships provided over \$100,000 in summer employment funding to these deserving St. John's Law students:

- Christina Brennan '18 (Manhattan Legal Services)
- Yesenia Campiglia '18 (The Door Legal Services Center)
- Samantha Chasworth '17 (Catholic Charities)
- Leighanne Daly '18 (Bronx DA)
- Meaghan Dunigan '17 (NY Attorney General)
- Victoria Hill '17 (Medicare Rights Group)
- Taisha Lazare '18 (Legal Aid Juvenile Rights)
- Anjelica Mantikas '18 (Texas Federal Public Defender)
- Christina Mavrikis '18 (Center for Family Representation)
- J. Ray Mechmann III '17 (Queens DA)
- Maria Ortega-Lobos '18 (Catholic Charities)
- Matthew Powers '17 (Queens DA)

- Ashley Prinz '17 (Brooklyn DA)
- Diana Ricaurte '18 (Human Rights First)
- Janel Rottkamp '18 (NY Attorney General)
- Thomas Salmon '17 (U.S. Attorney EDNY)
- Gabrielle Schwartz '18 (U.S. Commodity Futures Trading)
- Kristy Stainislawsczyk '17 (Westchester DA)
- Jenel Vales '17 (Legal Aid Juvenile Rights)

The Public Interest Center gets strong support from its studentrun executive board. Members work tirelessly to help organize the Public Interest Auction. They're also the driving force behind the annual center-sponsored service trips. This year, the center was able to send students to two different service trip locations—New Orleans, LA and San Antonio, TX—where they assisted two local public interest organizations, Southeast Louisiana Legal Services and the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services.

The 2016–2017 Public Interest Center Executive Board members are:

- Leighanne Daly '18 (Director of Speaker Series and Alumni Events)
- Kyle Gens '18 (Director of Public Relations)
- Philip George '18 (Director of Special Events)
- Taisha Lazare '18 (Director of Service Trips)
- Anjelica Mantikas '18 (Executive Director)
- Gabrielle Schwartz '18 (Director of Fundraising)
- Jenel Vales '17 (Director of Pro Bono and Service Projects)

"Our Public Interest Center embodies St. John's Vincentian mission, which is rooted in compassion for the poor and zeal for service," says Dean Michael A. Simons. "It allows our students to fulfill that mission while gaining valuable, hands-on experience in solving real world legal problems."

2015–2016 Public Interest @ St. John's Law



In-House & Partner Clinics:

Bankruptcy Advocacy Clinic Bread and Life Immigration Clinic Child Advocacy Clinic Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic Criminal Defense Clinic Domestic Violence Litigation Clinic Economic Justice Clinic Prosecution Clinic Refugee and Immigrant Rights Litigation Clinic Securities Arbitration Clinic



124 students

worked for a total

81 students logged a total of 29.800 hours doing pro bono and public interest work through the Law School

Project Leadership & Investment For Transformation (L.I.F.T.)

Pro Bono Programs Run Through, or in Affiliation With, the Law School:

Civil Legal Advice Resource Office (CLARO) Court Assistance Program (CAP) NYC Bankruptcy Assistance Project (NYC BAP) Street Law En Español Multilingual Legal Advocates Translation Program Uncontested Divorce Program Consumer Debt Volunteer Lawyer for the Day Program

70 students collectively in externship placements



Public Interest Externship Sites in and Around New York City

Bridges

AFTER 15 YEARS, THE LAW SCHOOL'S FEDERAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM IS STILL THRIVING

promise to be successful federal judicial clerks and public-spirited practitioners. The candidates must have an eligible unpaid internship with the federal courts, within the Department of Justice, or in a federal public defenders office, and they must serve a minimum of 10 weeks, at 35 hours per week, or the substantial equivalent. The number of Federal Scholars varies from year to year (between five and eight) depending on the funding available, and the stipend has usually been \$5,000.

"I've been administering the Federal Scholars Program application and selection process since the program's inception, and I have a strong appreciation for the impact the program has made on its award recipients," says Assistant Dean for Career Development Jeanne Ardan. "In addition to the valuable experience that students gain from their eligible summer internships, the honor of the Federal Scholar designation lasts throughout their careers. Award recipients have gone on to obtain law firm associate, counsel, and partner positions; judicial clerkships; and prestigious government jobs."

Past Federal Scholars echo Dean Ardan's praise. "The Federal Scholars Program at St. John's was absolutely paramount in launching my legal career," says John Pierpont '10, an assistant U.S. attorney in Connecticut. "After finishing my first semester, I was offered an internship with Hon. Sonia Sotomayor in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Although elated, the prospect of interning, taking summer classes, and working a second job to support myself was daunting. Enter the Federal Scholars Program. By taking care of the financial consideration, the program allowed me to work harder for, and develop a rapport with, Judge



ice Dean Emeritus Andrew J. Simons '65 recalls the scene back in 2001. "A small group of alumni had gathered to discuss fundraising and raising the profile of the Law School, which we all agreed could be helped by an increase in graduates seeking and obtaining federal clerkships," he says. "We also agreed that a great way to interest students in clerkships is to have them intern for federal judges after their 1L year. But those internships are unpaid and aren't funded by proceeds from the Law School's annual Public Interest Auction, since the federal government isn't a qualifying public interest organization. So a new funding mechanism was needed."

Driving home from the meeting, Hon. P. Kevin Castel '72SVC, '75L, '04HON and Patricia A. McLernon Castel '74ED, '77L, '04HON decided to address this funding gap and, with their generous support, the Law School's Federal Scholars Program was born. Fifteen years later, the program continues to thrive. "It's a family," Dean Simons says. "It's really taken on a life of its own. Of our 71 Federal Scholar graduates, 22 have gone on to federal clerkships, with another 23 Federal Scholars still in residence."

The program is highly selective. The committee of Law School faculty and administrators that chooses the Federal Scholars only considers a limited number of accomplished students who show outstanding

To Opportunity



Sotomayor. Her recommendation two years later was crucial in helping me secure a federal judicial clerkship. The Federal Scholars Program made all of this possible."

Being a Federal Scholar was also a formative experience for Melissa King '09, an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP. "As a recipient of the Federal Scholars award, I had the honor of interning for Judge Castel in the Southern District of New York," she says. "That internship, which was both challenging and fun, is among the experiences I hold most dear and it truly influenced the path of my legal career—going on to work at Davis Polk as a litigation associate and to clerk for Judge Castel. It's been wonderful to watch the Federal Scholars family grow and I welcome the opportunity the program provides to mentor and guide new Federal Scholars."

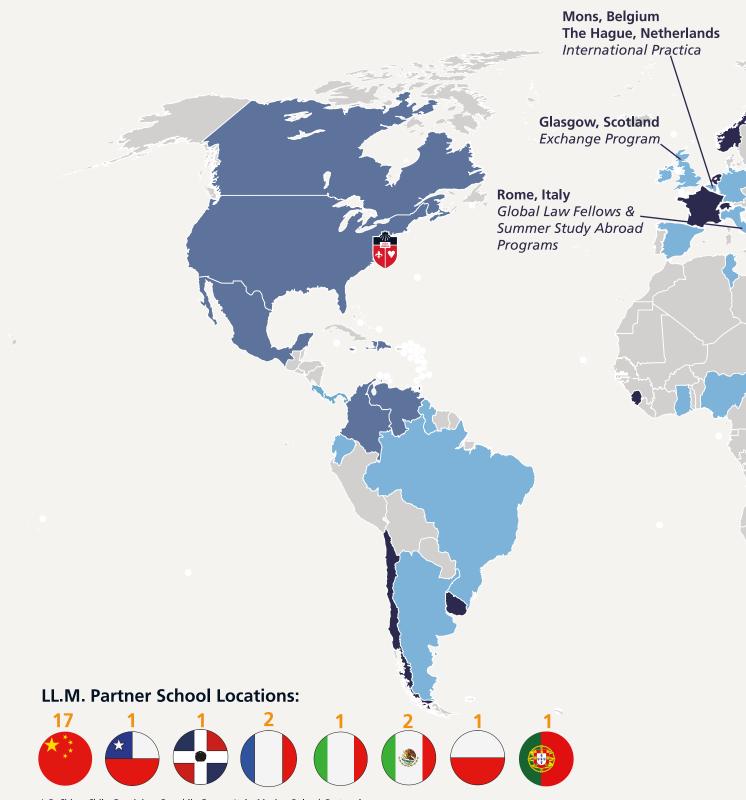
A tremendous benefit of the program is the camaraderie among the past and present Federal Scholars. Each year, they gather with program donors, summer employers, and Law School faculty and administrators to enjoy a celebratory evening of dining, fellowship, and professional networking. "Each new batch of Federal Scholars has the opportunity to meet the Federal Scholars from years past, talk to them about their career paths, and get their advice," says

Kaitlin Decker '17, who serves as editor-in-chief of the *St. John's Law Review*. "Each year, the institutional knowledge in that room grows, and I hope that it's a tradition that never fades away. It's a small family within the St. John's Law family that takes care of one another, and for that I'm so grateful."

THE SUCCESS OF THE FEDERAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM inspired another generous alumnus to establish a state counterpart, the Law School's New York State Court of Appeals Fellows Program. The program awards stipends to qualified students for uncompensated summer internships with the New York State Unified Court System, the Office of Court Administration, and the Center for Court Innovation. In this way, it encourages students to follow in the firmly established St. John's tradition of serving the legal system of the State of New York with honor, devotion, hard work, and keen intellect.

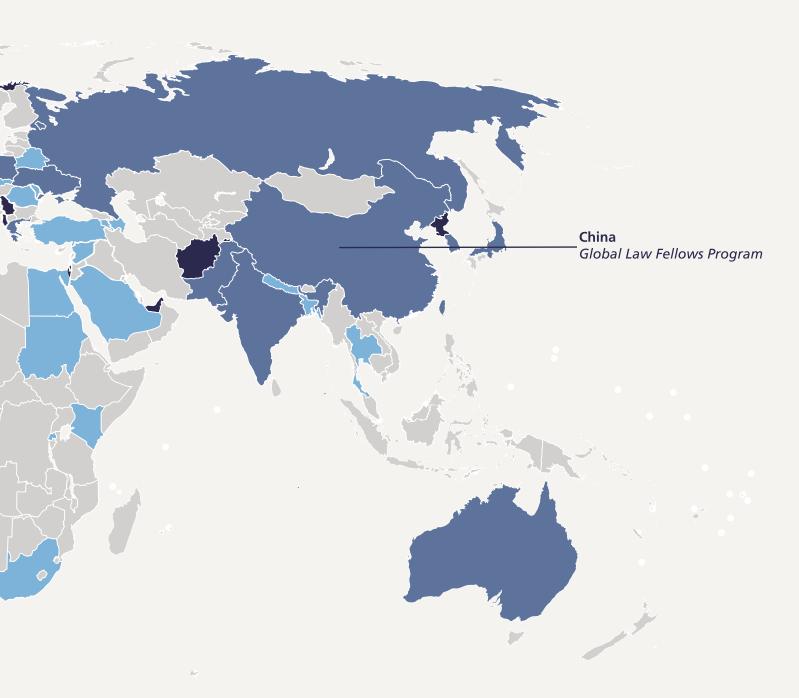
St. John's Law: A World

St. John's Law Students, Past and Present, Represent 70 Countries Across the Globe



Of Opportunity

• J.D.s • LL.M.s • Both J.D.s and LL.M.s



Dean's Travel Study Program Destinations:











Pamela McCormack '96 and Kelly Porcella '03 TCB, '07L Help Lead Commercial Real Estate

5

amela McCormack was waitressing at Houlihan's, waiting for a fajita order to be up, when she lamented to one of the line cooks that she didn't know what to do after

college. He suggested that she apply to

St. John's Law, where he'd just finished his first year. McCormack took her friend's advice and, after becoming the first college graduate in her extended family, she became the first one to go to law school.

At St. John's, McCormack thrived surrounded by good friends and excellent professors. She enjoyed the challenge of engaging in critical thinking and refining her analytical, problem-solving, and communications skills. "I appreciated the Law School's focus on teaching students how to speak and write clearly, concisely, and cogently, which are critical to any legal career and helpful to most others as well," she says. A highlight of her time in law school, McCormack notes, was being a staff member and, then, an editor of the *St. John's Law Review*. "That experience was really one of the first steps towards building my self-confidence," she says.

After graduating from St. John's Law, McCormack was hired to be a litigation associate when her career path took an unexpected turn. "I was 'lent' to my firm's commercial real estate and finance group during

my first year and never went back," she explains, adding, "I much preferred the transactional nature of real estate and finance work and the client interaction." McCormack cites a combination of people skills, hard work, networking, and the ability to delegate as key to

her success over the years as she went from law firm commercial real estate practice to working as in-house counsel at investment banks.

Finance Powerhouse Ladder Capital

McCormack was in-house at UBS when Kelly Porcella met her during her 1L summer. "That meeting shaped my career," Porcella

says. "I interviewed with Pamela for a securities law internship at UBS, but wasn't eligible for the position. Pamela asked if I'd be interested in interning with the company's Global Commercial Real Estate Department instead. The rest is history." Porcella, who excelled academically in law school and served as an associate managing editor of the *St. John's Law Review*, continued working at UBS the summer after her 2L year and part-time as a 3L. Throughout, McCormack remained an invaluable mentor to her.

A little over a year into her tenure with UBS, McCormack moved to the business side of commercial real estate finance. "I like to say that the role was a 'quasi-legal' position as it required the ability to manage outside counsel and legal issues as well as a comprehensive understanding of the business and economic issues," she shares. When the business winds eventually shifted, McCormack and three close colleagues decided it was time to start their own venture.

Ladder Capital launched in October 2008 with McCormack serving as general counsel. "We felt there was a huge opportunity in the market and, fortunately, that proved to be true," she says. "For me personally, it was a chance to do something entrepreneurial which is something I've always aspired to. I like taking control of my own fate and

I felt confident that I was with the right team to do that."

That team soon came to include Porcella, who joined Ladder in March 2009. "At that time, there were only about 15 employees,"





Porcella recalls. "I was the only junior person and everyone needed help, so I basically worked in every department. It was a fantastic experience. I'd come in early and assist the trading desk. I'd help manage our securities portfolio. And when the markets eased and we started making loans, I would close loans. As Ladder began to explore potential strategic initiatives, I was part of the deal teams and really gravitated toward participating in, and managing, corporate projects."

Porcella was promoted to associate general counsel in 2013 and played a leading role in structuring and executing Ladder's initial public offering, conversion to a real estate investment trust, and multiple corporate debt issuances. In time, Ladder grew to become a publicly traded company (NYSE: LADR) with approximately \$6 billion in assets and \$1.5 billion of tangible book equity.

In March, McCormack was named chief operating officer at Ladder, and Porcella was appointed its new general counsel. "As COO, I'm able to focus more on the day-to-day operations of running Ladder," McCormack says. "I've always enjoyed managing people and shaping how a business grows, and this role enables me to do that much more freely. I genuinely believe that I couldn't have transitioned into this new role without Kelly's help. She had effectively been acting as Ladder's general counsel for the past few years prior to her official appointment."

Porcella is enjoying the work, and is quick to credit the support of her longtime mentor. "My job constantly presents me with new topics and areas of the law from which I have to identify and anticipate possible issues for Ladder and then quickly address them," she says. "Pamela has taught me the importance of trusting my instincts and my education and of having the confidence to ask questions and identify potential issues, even if outside counsel or other members of the deal team may have more experience in that area."

As Ladder has grown, so has its roster of Law School alumni, which now includes President Michael Mazzei '88, Executive Director in Transaction Management Michael DiOrio '99C, '02L and Human Resources Director Stephanie Lin '15. Also part of the Ladder-St. John's Law family are Timothy F. Nelson '96 and Brian V. Breheny '90CBA, '96L, who regularly provide the company with outside counsel. "We all know what we get when we work with St. John's graduates," Porcella observes. "We're all tough and hardworking, but also creative and thoughtful in finding practical solutions to business issues. I'm very proud that we can represent St. John's Law at Ladder and in the business world."

Drawing on her experience in law and business, McCormack offers this advice to current St. John's Law students: "Treat others as you would like to be treated, be confident, and don't be afraid to ask questions. It's critical to know what you don't know." Citing two indispensable tips she received, McCormack adds: "First, prioritize your work and prioritize the significance of issues. Always step back when evaluating an issue and ask yourself, if everything that could possibly go wrong went wrong, how bad is it? And how much should you care? If not too bad and not too much, move on. Second, don't be afraid to delegate. You can only grow with the help of others. The key to my success has been building a loyal and great team. And to do that, you have to invest in the careers of those you manage as well as your own, which ultimately should translate into growth for all."



COMING IN 2017

Mattone Family Institute for Real Estate Law St. John's School of Law | 3rd Floor

SECOND ACTS



TOM CURRAN '91 Journeys from J.D. to Investment Banker

om Curran has some good advice for St. John's Law students considering next steps on their career path: "Pursue what you're passionate about," he says, "whether it's inside or outside of the law. And don't be surprised if it takes some time to discover what really interests you." It's practical wisdom that Curran draws from his life experience as a lawyer who changed his professional course to become an investment banker.

Curran was a junior in college when he decided to go to law school instead of pursuing a job in public accounting. "I

thought that law school would be a natural extension of my undergraduate business education," he recalls, adding, "I'm sure there was another part of me that just didn't want to face the real world."

St. John's Law was the only school that the native Long Islander seriously considered. "Beyond its great academic reputation and strong alumni network, St. John's had the values and culture that I was looking for, and the students seemed happy to be there," says Curran. "So it was a pretty easy decision."

Although Curran didn't gravitate to any particular area of the law at St. John's, he did find a life-changing mentor in Herb Schwartzman, who was legal counsel for St. John's University at the time. "I worked for Herb as a 2L," Curran shares. "He was an outstanding lawyer and an even better person. We spent months on an appellate brief, and it was under his tutelage that I really learned how to think and write like a lawyer. I'm blessed to have met him."

When Curran graduated from St. John's in the middle of a recession, it was Schwartzman who helped him land his first job in private practice. After earning an LL.M. in Tax, Curran went in house at MetLife, where he spent a number of years working as a tax lawyer. The company sponsored him for an MBA and, with that degree in hand, Curran began his transition from law to finance.

"I first thought about a bigger career shift a few years later, when I was with MetLife's treasury group," Curran says. "I was handling various projects that involved investment bankers and a few of the banks I worked with thought I'd be a good addition to their team. The job seemed interesting and the opportunity to interact with many different clients appealed to me. I figured I'd regret not giving it a try."

Curran started his investment banking career at Merrill Lynch and then moved to UBS, where he led a team of bankers responsible for originating and executing capital management initiatives, including debt/hybrid offerings, reserve financings, contingent capital, capital relief, and yield enhancement solutions. Last year, he joined Wells Fargo as head of insurance investment banking and capital solutions. He loves what he does. "I enjoy the team approach our firm takes in helping our clients," Curran says. "We engage with insurance companies on interesting issues. And I get to partner with talented individuals at our firm—working towards a common goal. So I'm really fortunate to have this opportunity."

Curran is quick to point out that his transition from J.D. to investment banker wouldn't have been possible without the support of his family, which has close ties to St. John's Law. He met his wife, Maria Montanti '91, when they were moot court competition partners. His brother, John Curran '94—who was the first of the siblings to move into investment banking—is married to Ann Joyce '95.

Investment banking is a competitive and challenging field, Curran notes. But it's one that St. John's Law students are well equipped to achieve in. "The caliber of students at St. John's is as good as any in the world," he says. "They're bright, driven, and practical in tackling issues. But it's their compassion, humility, and integrity that really sets them apart. St. John's has a long history of developing these types of leaders, and it's the culture, as much as the education, that makes the Law School and its students so special."

OVERCOMING IMPOSSIBLE ODDS

Jamel Oeser-Sweat '01 Finds His Calling in the Law

Jamel Oeser-Sweat describes his 10-year-old self as "a homeless fugitive." Plagued by mental illness, his mother evaded child welfare workers by taking him and his brothers from their home and into the shelter system. They ended up in a midtown Manhattan welfare hotel that, Oeser-Sweat says, "warehoused some of the worst types of people that 1980's New York City had to offer." The family eventually moved to public housing, but when his mother's health problems recurred, Oeser-Sweat was uprooted again and placed in a group home. "I was in kiddie prison," he recalls.

Life took an unexpected turn for the better when the teenage Oeser-Sweat enrolled in a biotechnology class at Mt. Sinai Hospital. He was introduced to Dr. Edward J. Bottone, an infectious disease specialist, who took Oeser-Sweat under his wing and into the lab to conduct research in microbiology. "Dr. Bottone saw a lot of himself in me," says Oeser-Sweat. "I spent summers and my school semesters working with him, and I was fortunate to be on a team that discovered a new route of disease transmission through loofah sponges."

Oeser-Sweat's research earned him a 10th place finish as a finalist in the prestigious Westinghouse Science Talent Search (now the Regeneron Science Talent Search). His story of triumph over adversity made him a media darling, and he found himself on the front page of the *New York Times* and featured in television news shows. "One day I was invisible, and the next I was sneaking into school to avoid cameras," Oeser-Sweat shares. "It was very strange and overwhelming."

While developing as a scientist, Oeser-Sweat also nurtured an interest in the law. In his senior year of high school, he won the New York State Bar Association's moot court competition with the highest score in the state. And he continued to study law as an undergraduate at NYU, which he attended on a full scholarship. "I loved my politics classes," says Oeser-Sweat. "I also loved my biology classes. But I really wanted to make a change in the world. I had no idea what that meant yet, but I knew law school was the place I was going to make it happen."

St. John's Law was a natural fit for Oeser-Sweat. "Of all of the law schools I got into, it was the only place I felt at home," he says. "And the decision to go there was one of the most important



"There's a credibility and sense of trust that comes from overcoming impossible odds. I've been fortunate, enough to have had that experience."

decisions of my life." In addition to being active in the Student Bar Association and in the Black Law Student Association, during law school Oeser-Sweat took the patent bar and co-authored a book on DNA and litigation that includes a foreword by Dr. James D. Watson, the famed co-discoverer of the double helix. "My St. John's Law classmates and professors were very supportive throughout," says Oeser-Sweat.

When he graduated from St. John's, Oeser Sweat worked in private law firms before going out on his own. His practice focuses on criminal casework, civil litigation, small business and intellectual property matters, and matrimonial law. He also mentors young attorneys and gives back to his community through *pro bono* service.

Reflecting on how his past informs his present vocation as a lawyer, Oeser-Sweat shares: "Being homeless and poor taught me to appreciate the simple things. I'm often surprised when people think of it as a bad experience. It made me strong, and it happened early enough that I was able to get the benefits of valuable lessons about life and people. It also gives me a unique reason for people to empathize with me. They know I am of the people. That's a real strength. There's a credibility and sense of trust that comes from overcoming impossible odds. I've been fortunate enough to have had that experience."

ALUMNI **HIGHLIGHTS**



Friends,

I am privileged (and proud) to serve as the president of our Alumni Association for the 2016–2017 term.

Our 90th Anniversary Gala in June was a wonderful celebration of our Law School's history, its present and its future. The diversity and success of those we honored (like so many of our alumni)—keyed as the evening was by the fitting remarks of our own Chief Judge Janet DiFiore '81—brought into focus that which has long set us apart: Since its inception, St. John's Law has opened its doors wide, welcoming all, and those who have taken advantage of that opportunity have excelled, whatever path they have followed.

The gala also served as a reminder (if we even needed one) that the Law School continues to be led, dynamically and successfully, by Dean Michael Simons, together with a faculty who embody the true spirit of legal education in this 21st Century.

I look forward to working closely with Dean Simons, as well as with Brian Woods, Claire McKeever '80SVC, '93L, and the entire Law School staff, during this year and to ensuring the Alumni Association's continued role in providing support to St. John's Law, by mentoring students and offering employment opportunities to those entering the profession.

I urge you to take advantage of the many professional benefits our organization offers, including our CLE programs and the myriad networking opportunities our events provide. We are here as a resource for all of you and hope that you take advantage of what is offered.

Finally, for those who can, please think about giving back to the Law School, whether with your time or financially. Brian Woods and his development team have done a remarkable job, working with alumni in creating and endowing general and specific scholarship funds. But much more is needed. These funds not only help the highly qualified students who need assistance in meeting the demands of law school tuition, but, importantly, they also help Rob Harrison and his admissions team immeasurably in attracting and recruiting highly talented undergrads to the Law School.

I look forward to working with you and invite you to actively engage with the Alumni Association and the Law School.



Rich Hans '93





1 I On March 10, 2016, Stephen J. Murphy '97, a partner at Block O'Toole & Murphy, hosted this year's Irish Alumni Night at Arno Ristorante in Manhattan. It was a fun and festive gathering and everyone enjoyed connecting with friends old and new.

2 I The Law School's Corporate and Securities Law Society and the Alumni Association's Manhattan Chapter cosponsored a Corporate and Securities Law Roundtable at Skadden on March 31, 2016. Classmates Brian Breheny '90CBA, '96L, a Skadden partner, Pamela McCormack '96, co-founder and COO of Ladder Capital, and Jonathan Santelli '96, general counsel and corporate secretary at Raymond James Financial, served as panelists for an informative CLE program that addressed the evolving role of the general counsel within a complex regulatory environment.

The Nassau Chapter hosted two **Networking Nights** at City Cellar in Garden City on April 6, 2016 and May 3, 2016. The events drew a multi-generational crowd and the attendees exchanged business cards and stories throughout the evening.

Pax Romana in White Plains was the setting for an April 13, 2016 **CLE Program** with Neal Comer '73 on Dealing with Client Perjury. The Westchester Chapter and the Greater Hudson Bank co-hosted this engaging and timely discussion.

3 I On April 20, 2016, Robert E. O'Connor '10, an associate at Montgomery McCracken, was the guest of honor at the **Joseph A. Calamari Admiralty Law Society Dinner** at Villa d'Este Restaurant in Floral Park. Admiralty law practitioners, students, and





faculty in the St. John's Law community always appreciate this very special opportunity to network and to celebrate their craft.

4 I The Law School hosted its Schermerhorn Scholars Luncheon on May 20, 2016, welcoming alumni who graduated in or before 1965 to campus. Participants enjoyed breakfast with current students before heading out for a tour of the Law School building. Later, they lunched with Dean Michael A. Simons, who updated them on all the innovative courses, programs, and initiatives that are underway and upcoming at St. John's Law.

5 I On May 23, 2016, the Alumni Association hosted the **Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72, '07HON Memorial Golf Outing** at the beautiful and challenging Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle. The warm and sunny day was made even more wonderful by the presence of this year's special honoree, Professor Robert Parella '11HON. Once again, event chair Philip McManus '68C, '72L did a spectacular job raising funds for the Law School's Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72 Memorial Scholarship.



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

At the **Alumni Association Annual Meeting** on May 17, 2016, Dean Michael A. Simons presented outgoing president Alfred C. Cerullo, III '83NDC, '86L with an award in recognition of his dedication and outstanding leadership over the past year. Here is the Alumni Association's new slate of officers and directors:

OFFICERS

President

Richard F. Hans '93

President - Elect

Lourdes Martinez-Cipolla '92

Vice Presidents

Hon. Daniel Angiolillo '77 Steven J. Gartner '84 Michael Mattone '91

Secretary

James Herschlein '85

Treasurer

Rachel Paras '04

DIRECTORS

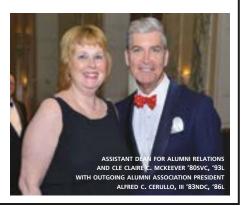
Second Three-Year Term Expires in 2019

Meghan Carroll '07 Matthew Didora '04 Thomas Foley '93 Janice Robinson '82 Hon. Matthew Sciarrino '90NDC, '93L

First Three-Year Term Expires in 2019

Ralph Carter '14 John Curley '08 Melissa King '09 Megan Quail '13 Howard Sontag '70ED, '75L Richard Spatola '08

Term Expires in 2017 Masai Lord '14







7 I On June 27, 2016, the **Suffolk Chapter Golf Outing** was held at The Vineyards Golf Club in Riverhead. The terrific weather and lovely surroundings complemented a fun evening capped by a window breaking contest spearheaded by Hon. Gigi Spelman '84, the event chair, who invited Dean Michael A. Simons to take the first swing.

8 I A fun time was had by all at the July 13, 2016 **PTAI Alumni Reception** hosted by Dean Michael A. Simons at John Sullivan's Bar and Grill in Manhattan. Alumni, coaches, and friends of the Law School's Frank S. Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute enjoyed the festive evening, which included some informal networking.





CLASS **NOTES**

Joseph DiBenedetto has retired from Winston Strawn and opened JDB Mediation, LLC in New York City.

> Edward McCarty III has joined Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP as of counsel in the trusts and estates administration and litigation practice groups.

John O'Reilly has joined McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter. LLP as counsel resident.



Brigadier General (ret.) Thomas J. Principe, was inducted into the ROTC National Hall of Fame at Fort Knox, KY. He was also sworn in as president of the Columbian Lawyers of Queens County.

Dennis P. Orr has joined White & Case LLP as a partner in the firm's global commercial litigation practice group.

Michael E. Ferdman, a partner in the litigation: general commercial practice group at Barclay Damon LLP, is recognized as a notable practitioner in the 2016 edition of Chambers USA.

> Gregory W. Kehoe, a shareholder at Greenberg Traurig LLP is recognized in the 2016 edition of Chambers USA. He concentrates his practice on white-collar crime and government investigations.

John R. Calcagni, a partner at Haley Weinblatt & Calcagni, LLP, was installed as president of the Dutchess County Bar Association. Margaret (Peggy) Ranft Day

received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Niagara University in May after serving for three years on its board of advisors and for eight years on its board of trustees. While a trustee, she served as secretary of the board and as chair of the board's Student Affairs Committee.

Alan Kirschner has been named a visiting professor at the College of Law and Humanities of Huazhong Agriculture University in Wuhan, China and will be teaching contract law there next summer.

'81

'82

Peter N. Cubita, of counsel at Ballard Spahr LLP, received a Burton Award for his distinguished legal writing. The Burton Award is a non-profit program run in association with the Library of Congress and the American Bar Association.

Arthur A. Rouse, senior counsel at Wyatt, Tarrant & Combs LLP, is recognized as a leader in real estate in the 2016 edition of Chambers USA

'83 James Cartiglia, a shareholder at Patterson Intellectual Property Law, has been named a fellow of the Nashville Bar Foundation.

> Donald A. Ottaunick, a member at Cole Schotz P.C., has received the designation of certified civil trial attorney from the Supreme Court of New Jersey Board on Attorney Certification.

Hon. Mary Kay Vyskocil was sworn in as U.S. bankruptcy judge for the Southern District of New York in June. Before assuming the bench, Judge Vyskocil was a senior litigation partner at Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett LLP.

James J. Wrynn has accepted the position of senior managing director of FTI Consulting's Global Insurance Services

Practice. Before joining this global business advisory firm he served in a range of insurance industry leadership positions, including superintendent of the New York State Department of Insurance, first deputy superintendent of the New York State Department of Financial Services, and executive director of the New York State Insurance Fund.

'86 Hon. Jeannine Baer Kuzniewski was appointed a judge of the New York City Housing Court in Kings County. Following in their mother's footsteps, daughters Megan and Kayla are attending alma mater.

> Linda M. Oliva, a plaintiff's medical malpractice attorney at Pegalis & Erickson LLC, has been elected president of the Nassau County Women's Bar Association.

Maria Allen was named corporate secretary at Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

> Jon P. Devendorf, a partner in the litigation: general commercial practice group at Barclay Damon LLP, is recognized as a notable practitioner in Chamber USA's 2016 edition.

Hon. Melinda Katz, the Queens borough president, was named "Woman of the Year" and was honored at the Queens Memorial Day Parade.

Frank R. Seddio, founding member of Seddio & Associates and chairman of the Brooklyn Democratic Party, was installed as president of the Brooklyn Bar Association. He previously served as an assemblyman and as Kings County surrogate.

Christopher Caputo, a solo practitioner in the area plaintiff's personal injury law, was installed as president of the Richmond County Bar Association.

'88

CLASS **NOTES**

David C. Banks is president and CEO of the Eagle Academy Foundation, a network of innovative all-boys public schools in New York City founded on the principle that excellence, both in character and scholarship, opens doors and provides a bridge to equality. Banks and 40 Eagle scholars had the great honor of sharing this inspiring message at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

Timothy Graulich, a partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, received a Burton Award in recognition of his distinguished legal writing.

> Adam Markel has penned a new book. Pivot: The Art and Science of Reinventing Your Career and Life.

Anthony J. Albanese has been named chief regulatory officer of the New York Stock Exchange.

> **Jack I. Habert** has joined Akerman LLP as a partner in the firm's corporate practice group.

Sumit Handa is the chief investment officer for Tiber Capital Management, BNY Mellon.

Pamela McCormack has been named chief operating officer at Ladder Capital Corp, a commercial real estate investment company that she co-founded and previously served as general counsel.

John P. DiMascio, Jr. of DiMascio & Associates was recognized for his firm's exemplary pro bono services by the Nassau County Bar Association, in conjunction with Nassau Suffolk Law Services and The Safe Center LI.

> Consuelo Vasquez has joined HAP Investments LLC as assistant general counsel for litigation.



In April, 2016, Maj. Joseph V. Moreno's U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's Corps unit hosted its annual conference at the Naval Warfare School in Newport, RI. The guest of honor was Col. (ret.) Milton Norman '48, a

Jewish-American U.S. Army soldier who was captured in January 1945 and held as a POW in Germany. After his active duty, Col. Norman had a 30-plus year career as a JAG Corps reservist before retiring (see story on p.34). He's pictured here flanked by Maj. Moreno (left) and fellow JAG officer, Maj. Patrick O'Malley '92 (right).

James P. (J.P.) Duffy has joined Baker & McKenzie LLP as a partner, focusing his practice on international arbitration and related litigation.

Irene M. Baker is the vice president of state government relations at JP Morgan Chase.

> Gregory M. Koch has joined the National Security Council as deputy director of access management at the White House.

Hon. Ben Darvil, Jr. was sworn in as an interim civil court judge and has been assigned to sit in Kings County Family Court.

> Ferish Patel is a partner at Gunderson Dettmer Stough Villeneuve Franklin & Hachigian, LLP, working in the firm's new Singapore office.

Kelly A. Frawley has been named a partner at Kasowitz Benson Torres & Friedman LLP. She concentrates her practice in family and matrimonial law.

Heather P. Harrison has been named counsel at Farrell Fritz, P.C., where she represents employers in all aspects of litigation, arbitration, and mediation.

Lauren B. Grassotti has joined '05 Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, P.C. as of counsel in the litigation and dispute resolution and employment law departments.

Randolph Adler is co-chair of Dentons' startup program and a member of the firm's venture technology and emerging growth companies practice. He was honored by A Caring Hand, a nonprofit that operates the only freestanding bereavement program in New York City.

Kelly Porcella has been named general counsel at Ladder Capital Corp, where she is primarily responsible for the commercial real estate finance company's corporate governance, legal, and regulatory matters.

Megha R. Thakkar has joined Hill Wallack LLP as counsel and is a member of the firm's family law practice group.

> Eun Chong (EJ) Thorsen, a litigation associate at Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP, was elected president of the Queens County Women's Bar Association, a chapter of the New York State Women's Bar Association.

Michael Smith has joined the Harry Fox Agency as the director of business and legal affairs.

Preston C. Demouchet has joined Carter Ledyard & Milburn LLP as an associate in the trusts and estates department.

'08

CLASS **NOTES**

David J. Lee, is an associate at Lax & Neville LLP, where he concentrates his practice on securities, employment, and corporate disputes before the Financial Regulatory Authority and the American Arbitration Association.

Daniella E. Keller is associate counsel at the New York State Department of Health.

John Coco, of the Law Offices of John Coco, PLLC, has been named chair of the Nassau County Bar Association's Personal Injury Committee.

Stephen Halouvas is an attorney at the Realty Advisory Board on Labor Relations, Inc.

Chelsea Marmour, is an associate at Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP.

Maximilian J.G. Querci has joined Miller, Montiel & Strano, P.C. as an associate.



Othman Al Tamimi, a graduate of the LL.M. in Transnational Legal Practice, presented Dean Michael A. Simons with a gift of dried dates to express his gratitude to the Law School. Al Tamimi is starting work soon in Dubai at Al Tamimi & Co., one of the largest law firms in the Middle East.

MARRIAGES

Stephen Halouvas '15 and Colleen Mangan were married in September 2015.

Christine Guida '11 and Courtney Charles '11 were married in October 2015.

Peter Swift '02 and Carolyn Filandro were married in April.

Maryanne Kaishian '15 and Sayed Masoud Mortazavi '15 were married in July.

BIRTHS

Matthew Didora '04 and wife Jamie welcomed Rose in June.

Cindy Espinosa '10 and husband Alex McAloon welcomed Nova Rose in January.

Joseph Moreno '99 and wife Terra welcomed Bridget Evangeline in July.

Nicole Tobin '11 and husband Thomas McEneny welcomed Thomas Ryan in March.

IN MEMORIAM

Ernest Doerfler '35 Hon. Jack Dubinsky '37 Theodore Zoob '38 Shirley Mitgang '41 Harold Karmiol '46 Albert Esselborn '48 Seymour Hittner '48 E. Robert Giuntini '51 Robert Mintz '51 James Dowden '52 Samuel Sheres '52 Louis J. Gallo '52 John K. O'Connor '52 Michael T. Gasparik '53 Sidney Gilman '53 Robert J. Giuffra '53

Hon. John Santucci '53, '81HON Arthur G. Supon '53 Peter J. Graham '55 Paul J. Smaldone '55 Joseph Maddalena '55C, '56L Hon. Charles F. Cacciabaudo '59

Frank H. Czajkowski '57UC, '59L Joseph T. Schmidt '57C, '59L Robert J. Walter '56CBA, '59L Rene L. Basile '54CBA, '60L Edward T. Buhl '60 Hon. Richard J. Shay '61 Walter K. Coffin '56UC, '62L Leonard A. Lampert '62 Stephen G. Remuzzi, Jr. '62 John L. Fort '63 James Magee '64 Robert E. Nowak '64 George R. Dirkes '67 John L. Kenny '67 Gregory J. Gleason '70 Robert J. Phillips, Jr. '70 Richard C. Gernert '73 John M. Risi '73 Ross M. Branca '74

R. Bruce Claro '74

Adam McBeth '11

Joseph L. Marino, Jr. '75

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.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Mary Kay Vyskocil '83

Takes the Bench

n April, Mary Kay Vyskocil was sworn in as the newest bankruptcy judge in the Southern District of New York. She sat down with Director of Communications Lori Herz to talk about her new role.

LH: Becoming a U.S. bankruptcy judge is a wonderful honor and a fitting tribute to your prior career as a top trial attorney and appellate advocate. Did you always aspire to serve on the bench?

MKV: No, honestly I cannot say I always aspired to be a judge. I am a teacher by training (secondary ed, social sciences), but was always intrigued by the law as a profession. When I entered law school, I was certain that I wanted to be a litigator and, in particular, to do trial work. But I never imagined that I would be fortunate enough to have the opportunity to practice law, as I did for over three decades, at a firm as prestigious as Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, where I was privileged to handle high profile, interesting cases with cutting edge issues—much less to become a federal judge.

LH: How does your extensive experience as a courtroom litigator inform your work as a judge?

MKV: Much of what happens in bankruptcy court is consensual and is negotiated between or among the parties. However, there is often litigation over a contested matter or a trial of an adversary proceeding filed in a bankruptcy case. My 30-plus years of trying cases and arguing appeals has prepared me well to oversee the litigation

of these disputes. I am very comfortable with the litigation process: I am able to streamline issues and focus on the heart of a dispute; I know how a trial should be conducted; I understand what it takes to prepare a case for trial; I know the rules of evidence; I appreciate the importance of clearly articulating your story and the relief you are seeking. In addition, as a result of my years of practice, I am well positioned to understand the complex business issues or other disputes that parties come before me to have resolved.

LH: What most excites you about this next chapter in your professional journey?

MKV: There are many things that I find exciting about it. I am enjoying the challenge of a new role and immersing myself in bankruptcy practice. The cases are interesting and each one brings a unique set of issues, challenges, and problems to be resolved—a process that I very much enjoy. It has been exciting to meet and work with a wonderful group of new colleagues on the bench here in the Southern District, elsewhere in New York, and throughout the Second Circuit, and to be welcomed so warmly by the bankruptcy bar and community.

LH: What are some of the biggest challenges for U.S. bankruptcy judges, especially those working in such a busy courthouse?

MKV: The biggest challenge is probably dealing with the enormous volume of materials that get filed and that a judge needs to digest and master, often on very

short timeframes, especially in the larger cases. Many of the "mega" cases are filed here in the Southern District of New York. and when they are filed, the debtor often seeks relief on an urgent basis by motions filed right at the start of the case (called "first day motions"), which are supported by binders of materials. Some of the motions seek approval of complicated financing transactions and other matters that have to be studied and ruled upon in a very compressed time. Another challenge, which is part of what makes the work interesting and exciting, is ruling on complicated and often unsettled legal issues that arise in the context of the bankruptcy case.

LH: Why is serving on the bench important to you?

MKV: I feel very strongly that being a lawyer is an honored and privileged profession and that each of us is entrusted with the responsibility to see that justice is afforded to everyone, most particularly those most in need. With our privileged position comes a responsibility to give back to the community, to strive to make a difference in the lives of people in need of assistance, and to make a meaningful contribution to our community. I was very fortunate to have had the opportunity to practice law at my firm, Simpson Thacher, and tried to use that platform to be involved in charitable organizations and judicial improvement efforts. I am blessed that after retiring from my firm, I continue to have the opportunity, in a new role as a judge, to make a meaningful contribution.



Col. Milton Norman '48

ALIFE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS

hen New York City native Milton Norman graduated from James Madison High School in Brooklyn, it was just two months after the calamitous attack on Pearl Harbor. As soon as he turned 18 in 1943, he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

After receiving his uniform at Fort Dix, NJ, Norman went through infantry basic training at Fort Benning, GA, and then was assigned as a rifleman to Company L, 301st Regiment, 94th Infantry Division in Mississippi. It was a bit of a culture shock, Norman says, since most of his fellow soldiers in the 94th were from "middle America" and had never met a Jewish person—especially one from Brooklyn—before.

In July 1944, the 94th, 15,000 strong, shipped out to England on the Queen Elizabeth. Three months later, they landed on Utah Beach in Normandy and made their way to the Brittany peninsula to contain the Germans who had submarine bases nearby. "After the Battle of the Bulge, they needed us up where the real war was," Norman recounts, "So we went through Northern France and into Germany."

Norman vividly recalls the day in January 1945 when he and two fellow soldiers came under heavy machine gun fire while on patrol. The ground was covered with snow and, as he lay there, Norman could feel the bullet-scattered cold hit his face. Eventually, Norman and the two other men were captured. The teenage German soldier who took his rifle away said, with a touch of envy, "For you the war is over." Given how the German war effort was unfolding, Norman says, "I think he would have gladly changed places with me."

Norman spent 75 days in Stalag IX-B, a prisoner-of-war camp just outside the town of Bad Orb in Hesse, Germany. "I was very lucky," he shares. "The Germans weren't prepared to handle the number of prisoners they took. They never looked at my dog tags, so they didn't know I was Jewish."

It was a brutal winter and food and medicine were scarce. "I was on a starvation diet, but I was a very healthy 19-year-old at the time," says Norman. "All this conspired to keep me alive. It was an adventure, being a kid from Brooklyn suddenly in the middle of Germany as a prisoner. It wasn't until years later that I realized just how frightened I should have been."

American troops liberated the camp on April 2, 1945, which was Easter Sunday and Passover. Norman was flown to Camp Lucky Strike in France, where he developed hepatitis due to the malnutrition he suffered as a prisoner. He eventually returned to the United States, where he recuperated and reunited with his family, first at Camp Kilmer, NJ, and then at Fort Dix.

The 20-year-old Norman received a medical discharge in November 1945 and, resuming his civilian life, he soon learned that there were available seats at St. John's Law. He applied, was accepted, and spent the next 24 months straight earning his LL.B. with the guidance of "excellent professors." He passed the bar and was admitted to practice in November 1948.

The following year, Norman got a direct commission as a reserve officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps. "This decision didn't require deep thought," he explains. "I wanted to

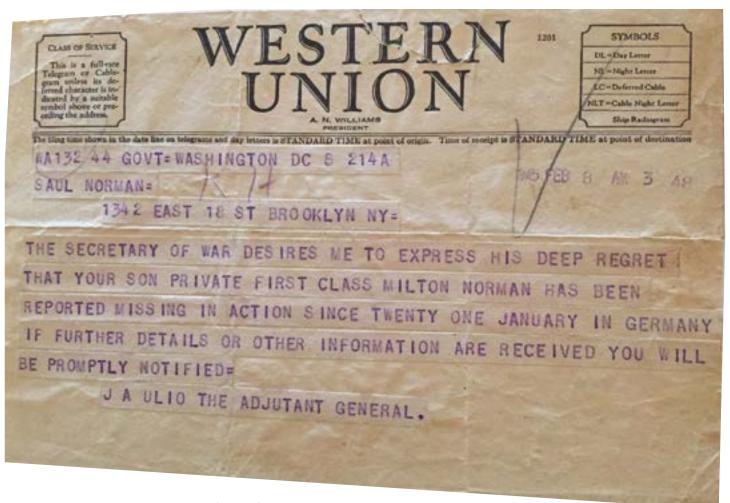


PHOTO LEFT: PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MILTON NORMAN (STANDING) WITH FELLOW SOLDIER. PICTURED ABOVE: ORIGINAL TELEGRAM REPORTING PFC NORMAN MISSING IN ACTION.

give back because the Army and VA took such good care of me after my repatriation."

While he served in the reserves, Norman married, started a family, and built a private law practice with a focus on real estate and trusts and estates work. In 1959, the U.S. Army created JAG units across the country and he was one of 65 officers assigned to the 4th JAG Detachment in New York City. Over the years, he rose through the ranks from first lieutenant to colonel. When Norman retired from the JAG reserves in 1980, he helped to form the 4th JAG Officers Association, which he served as president until 2013 and remains active in today.

"The association supports active reservists in a number of ways," Norman says. We try to operate as one big family and we're a wonderful networking organization for our members. Being in the JAG requires a lot of sacrifice and balance of personal, professional, and military commitments. But most everyone who's done it would do it all over again. I would urge my fellow St. John's graduates to explore legal services in the military. It's rewarding both professionally and personally."

Beyond his military duty, Norman has lived a life of service on many fronts. In the mid 1980s, he helped to launch the Riverside Park Fund

(now the Riverside Park Conservancy), an organization dedicated to restoring, maintaining, and improving Riverside Park on Manhattan's Upper West Side. He served as board chairman for seven years and is now chairman emeritus.

Norman is also on the board of Project FIND, which provides lowand moderate-income and homeless seniors with food, housing, and the social services and support they need to enrich their lives and live independently. "With people living longer, this need will only increase in the years ahead," Norman observes. And he serves on the board of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Association, a group devoted to preserving Riverside Park's Soldiers' and Sailors' monument, which honors those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Norman retired from law practice last year. At 91, he takes pride in a very full life that includes his 61-year marriage to his wife, Lenore, who passed away in 2012, and his two children, Stephen and Judith. Making the connection between his legal education at St. John's Law and his JAG career, he says: "St. John's, like the JAG, has changed over the years. But what remains constant with respect to both is their core values and objectives. Men and women in the JAG are motivated to give back and serve their country. Men and women who go to St. John's are taught what it means to use their legal talents to make the world a better place."



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REPORT of GIFTS

(JUNE 1, 2015 - MAY 31, 2016)



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October 25, 2016

Nassau Chapter Fall Luncheon The Carltun, East Meadow, NY

November 5 and 6, 2016 Fall CLE Weekend School of Law, Queens, NY

November 17, 2016 Class Reunions New York Athletic Club New York, NY

November 17, 2016

Bar Passage Reception New York Athletic Club New York, NY

December 1, 2016

Law Loughlin Reception and Dinner *Metropolitan Club, New York, NY*

December 7, 2016

Brooklyn Chapter Holiday Party and Toy Drive Floyd NY, Brooklyn, NY

January 27, 2017

Alumni Association Luncheon Hilton New York, New York, NY

Spring 2017 St. John's Law Diversity and Inclusion Gala New York City

May 17, 2017

Alumni Association Annual Meeting School of Law, Queens, NY

May 22, 2017

Hon. Theodore T. Jones, Jr. '72, '07HON Memorial Golf Outing Wykagyl Country Club New Rochelle, NY

June 12, 2017

Suffolk Chapter Golf Outing The Vineyards, Riverhead, NY

December 11, 2017

St. John's Law Group Admission U.S. Supreme Court, Washington, DC

SAVE THE DATE

December 1, 2016

Law Loughlin Society
Reception and Dinner

In recognition of the Law School's most generous donors. Hosted by Dean Michael A. Simons.

For information on becoming a Law Loughlin Society member, please contact Brian J. Woods, associate dean for law school advancement, at brian.woods@stjohns.edu or (718) 990-5792.

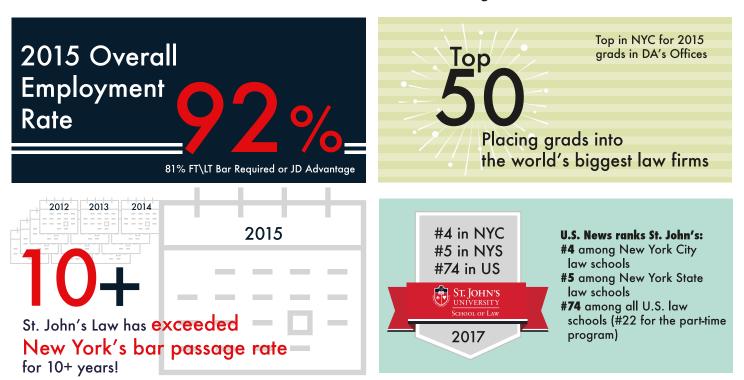






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