ST. JOHN’S LAW GOES IN HOUSE
Alumni Take the Lead as General Counsel
Our Challenges

- Law school applications have declined significantly nationwide
- Our endowment is much lower than most of our peer schools
- The entry-level legal job market is still struggling
- A legal education is unaffordable for many prospective students

Become Opportunities

- We have become smaller by reducing J.D. enrollment by more than 15%
- Students now have more hands-on opportunities to gain practical skills and experience
- Renewing our focus on successful bar passage, we redesigned our Academic Success Program
- Career development is proactive, integrated, and individualized from the first semester on
- We added two more transnational LL.M. programs for American and foreign law graduates
- The Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program launched this fall to build endowed scholarships

To Achieve

- The Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program has brought in over $6.4 million to date
- Our bar pass rate has climbed four points to 88%
- Our employment rates have been improving steadily for the past two years
- 75% of the Class of 2013 participated in at least one externship or clinic
- Enrollment has tripled in the three transnational LL.M. programs

And while achieving all of this, we’ve held the line on the cost of legal education by greatly increasing scholarship assistance and by keeping our average student debt level down. In fact, we’re one of only 30 law schools in the entire country—and the only law school in New York City—where the average student debt level hasn’t increased in four years.

We truly appreciate your generous support and invite you to keep the momentum going by making a gift to the Law School before our fiscal year ends on May 28, 2014. You can use the enclosed envelope to mail us your contribution, or you can give online at lawgiving.stjohns.edu. Thank You.
FROM THE DEAN

After the rough New York winter, it was great to take a 15-mile bike ride from my home on Long Island to St. John’s on a sunny spring day last week. The renewed vitality of the season was all around, and it reminded me of the many ways the Law School is transforming for the better.

In this time of great change in the legal profession and in the world, St. John’s Law is on the rise. I’m happy to report that our key indicators are up this year: applications are up 11%, employment is up 8%, our bar passage rate is up 4%, and alumni giving is up 110%.

This positive momentum is captured in the pages of this magazine, which has been renamed St. John’s Law Magazine to reflect a revitalized focus on, and collective pride in, alma mater. The stories shared here are snapshots of the great strides we’re making at St. John’s Law.

Our curriculum—which remains grounded in rigorous teaching of the fundamentals—now also provides extensive opportunities for hands-on learning (p. 4). Indeed, 75% of the class of 2013 participated in at least one clinic or externship. Our clinical program not only gives students valuable experience with real-world legal practice and advocacy, it also introduces them to St. John’s Vincentian mission of serving society’s most needy (p. 11). Many of our students continue this important work as mission-driven lawyers focused on the common good (p. 13).

St. John’s alumni also make their mark as leaders of iconic New York City cultural institutions (p. 22 and p. 29) and as trailblazers for a diverse and inclusive profession (p. 34 and p. 36). And they are transforming the business landscape as general counsel for top corporations (p. 18). I’ve gotten to know many of the alumni featured in these stories, and each one shares a drive and determination that embodies the spirit and tradition of St. John’s Law.

Steven M. Rapp ’83, featured in the magazine’s cover story as Vice President and General Counsel of Unilever North America, will bring his expertise home to St. John’s this fall when he teaches our new course on the Role of the In-House Counsel, one of many innovative new courses that we’re introducing. Rapp joins the Law School’s adjunct and full-time professors who bring a wealth of experience to educating the next generation of St. John’s lawyers (p. 3). In addition to being dedicated teachers, our faculty members are accomplished scholars and sought-after media experts (p. 8 and p. 9).

The magazine also shares some of the many activities and accomplishments of our wonderful alumni (p. 23 and p. 30). As Dean, I’m always thrilled to spend time with the St. John’s alumni family. And I’m particularly proud of how you came together with unprecedented generosity to support the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program, which has raised more than $6.4 million in gifts and pledges to fund endowed scholarships for deserving students (p. 26). Your generosity this year will have a profound impact on the future of the Law School.

I hope you are inspired by the stories in the new St. John’s Law Magazine and I look forward to seeing you very soon.

Michael A. Simons
Dean and John V. Brennan Professor of Law and Ethics
Andrew J. Simons ’65

With the 50th anniversary of his graduation from St. John’s Law approaching, Vice Dean Emeritus Andrew J. Simons sat down with Communications Director Lori Herz to discuss a long and successful life in the law—a career path that includes almost a quarter century of service to the Law School in faculty and leadership roles.

LH: What are some of the highlights of your career at St. John’s Law to date?

AJS: Well, clearly, the highlight of my career at St. John’s has been working with Mike Simons since he became dean in 2009. When you think about it, he was born when I was editor-in-chief of the St. John’s Law Review in 1964. And who could ever have imagined that the two of us would be teachers and deans here together 50 years later? That’s been wonderful. I’ve also been fortunate to have had the guidance and friendship of other deans at the Law School, starting with Deans McNiece and Murphy during my days as a student. About eight years later, Dean Murphy asked me to join the faculty as assistant dean. I happily held that position and taught until 1982, when I left St. John’s to practice environmental litigation as a partner at Farrell Fritz. I came back to the Law School in 2000 with Dean Bellacosa, and then worked closely with Dean Daly until her untimely death in 2008.

LH: As a lawyer, you’ve worked in public service, as an educator and a dean, and as a private practitioner. Was this a planned professional path?

AJS: When I graduated from St. John’s in 1965, I clerked for Judge Adrian P. Burke at the New York Court of Appeals for two years. They were two of the happiest years of my professional life—it was like a post-graduate course, studying at the highest level of jurisprudence. At the time it never occurred to me that I would find a career in teaching. It was not on my horizon at all until Dean Murphy offered me the job. When I mentioned the offer to a friend she said: “Well of course you’re going to be a teacher. You’re always teaching. Just listen to yourself with your children!” Even while I was in private practice at Farrell Fritz, which I truly enjoyed, I couldn’t completely leave academia. I taught as an adjunct law professor, at St. John’s and elsewhere.

LH: How did St. John’s Law prepare you for such varied work in the legal profession? What resources and attitude did you cultivate as a law student here that you’ve applied throughout your career?

AJS: Between college and law school I served for two years at sea as an officer in the United States Navy and learned the value of hard work and discipline. I drew on that experience at St. John’s where I got a great education. Nothing was handed to us. The professors were all very demanding and very knowledgeable. I came to St. John’s on a full-tuition St. Thomas More scholarship, and I could only keep it if I made the St. John’s Law Review. So, I was highly motivated and serious in my studies, and ended up doing well. That same focus and drive have served me well in my career.

LH: You’re a wonderful mentor to St. John’s Law students and alumni. Have you had any mentors here?

AJS: What was a real treat about joining the faculty after being a student here was that all those feared teachers became my colleagues. And that took a little getting used to. But I’d say that my mentor and classroom model at the time was Ned Fagan, a very tough and demanding torts professor who was the “Professor Kingsfield” of St. John’s. I think mentoring comes naturally to most professors, and I encourage students to go through our open doors and take full advantage of that. There is nothing a professor likes more than talking about the subject matter he or she teaches.

LH: What is it about the culture here that makes St. John’s Law so special?

AJS: The atmosphere here is very positive and supportive. It really is like a family. I think the essence of the Law School is captured at our annual St. Patrick’s Day sing-a-long. Some of us faculty members play music in the solarium while the rest of the community joins in hearty song. The warmth is palpable. And it’s not just like this on special occasions. This genuine, down-to-earth atmosphere and camaraderie are what set St. John’s Law apart as a culture.

LH: You have graced the Law School community with your musical talents and tales from your world travels and outdoor adventures. You’re also a devoted family man. Do you think the rich fabric of your personal life has made your life’s work in the law all the better?

AJS: The short answer is yes. Just look around my office, there are no diplomas or citations on the walls. All you see are photos of my family, my cartoon collection, and mementos from trips. My wife, children, and grandchildren regularly come to the Law School and are very much part of my life here. I’m lucky to have this great synergy between my personal and professional life. And working with Mike for a law school we both love is the icing on the cake—or on my 50-year career in the law!
**New York Law Journal Honors St. John’s Law Alumni and Faculty**

At a November 4, 2013 gala celebrating its 125th anniversary, the *New York Law Journal* honored three St. John’s Law alumni with its Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes lawyers who “have made a profound impact on the law and New York’s Legal Community.” The St. John’s recipients were Hon. Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick ’67, ’03HON, Hon. Mario M. Cuomo ’56, ’75HON, and Hon. Milton Mollen ’50, ’78HON. At the gala, the *New York Law Journal* also presented its Impact Award to Hon. Cecelia G. Morris, the Chief United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Southern District of New York and an adjunct professor in the Law School's LL.M. in Bankruptcy program. The Impact Award recognizes individuals, groups, or projects that have had significant and lasting impact on the legal community in New York. Judge Morris was recognized for pioneering the use of e-filing in federal court.

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**PGA Tour, Inc. v. Martin**

In *PGA Tour, Inc. v. Martin*, in which the Supreme Court held that the PGA Tour was required to provide Martin with reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. “Roy Reardon’s visit with the students was both educational and inspiring,” said Associate Academic Dean Larry Cunningham. “His lessons on strategy, brief writing, and oral argument are ones that the students will cherish for the rest of their careers.”

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**ABA Journal Selects Center for Law and Religion Forum as a Top 100 Best Blog for a Legal Audience**

The editors of the *ABA Journal* have named the Center for Law and Religion Forum, produced by St. John’s Center for Law and Religion, one of the top 100 best blogs for a legal audience. CLR Forum is one of 15 blogs selected for the “Niche” blog category. “It’s wonderful to receive this national recognition,” said Professor Mark L. Movsesian, who produces and contributes to the blog as Director of the Center, together with Associate Director Marc O. DeGirolami. “When we started CLR Forum two years ago, Professor DeGirolami and I envisioned it as an online hub for a vital dialogue on law and religion issues — issues that impact everyday life across the globe. We’re proud to see our vision come to fruition and have such a positive impact.”

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**Students in Securities Arbitration Clinic Gain Practical Experience in Dispute Resolution**

On Friday, November 22, 2013, students in the Law School’s Securities Arbitration Clinic participated in a mock arbitration at the New York City office of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Arbitrators from FINRA’s neutral roster volunteered their time to hear the dispute, running the hearing much like
an actual arbitration. “The level of preparation and the quality of the presentations by each of the students who participated in the program were exceptional,” said James M. Hubbert ’81, one of the volunteer arbitrators. “In fact, the arguments of each of the teams were so persuasive that they resulted in a split decision of the three member panel of arbitrators. The participants had the opportunity to experience, first hand, the FINRA arbitration process in the actual forum. The only difference between this presentation and an actual FINRA arbitration proceeding was that no check was written as a result of the award.”

St. John’s Law and American Bankruptcy Institute Hold Third Annual Bankruptcy Mediation

The Hugh L. Carey Center for Dispute Resolution, a leader in the ADR field, and the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), the nation’s leading provider of quality bankruptcy educational programs, held their third annual 40-hour bankruptcy mediation training on December 4-8, 2013 at St. John’s Manhattan campus. A diverse group of 30 bankruptcy judges, lawyers, financial professionals, and practicing mediators from around the country participated in the program to apply their bankruptcy expertise and to learn more about the practice and process of bankruptcy mediation. A distinguished advisory board worked with Elayne E.

Moot Court Honor Society Wins National Competitions

Displaying talent and tenacity, the Law School’s Moot Court Honor Society has excelled at recent national appellate advocacy competitions. St. John’s bested a field of 20 teams to take first and second place at the 43rd William B. Spong Moot Court Tournament. The championship team included student advocates Andrew Lee ’14 and Cristina Delise ’15, brief specialist Kristin Lee ’15, and coach Lauren Bryant ’14. The runners-up were student advocates Jason Birriel ’15 and Danielle O’Boyle ’15, brief specialist Terrence Russell ’14, and coach Gabriella Formosa ’14. Marilyn Filingeri ’06 was the faculty coach for both teams.

A team representing the Moot Court Honor Society also won the National First Amendment Moot Court Competition at Vanderbilt Law School. The St. John’s team included David Hommel ’14, Kelly Porcelli ’15, and coach Colleen Spain ’14. David and Kelly were also runners-up for Best Brief. Marilyn Filingeri ’06 served as a faculty advisor for the team. Hosted by Vanderbilt Law and the National First Amendment Center, and recognized as one of the nation’s finest appellate advocacy competitions, the event drew 32 teams from law schools around the country.

Greenberg, Assistant Dean for Dispute Resolution Programs, Professor of Legal Practice, and Director of the Carey Center, to create a program that emphasized the particular skills that are requisites for bankruptcy mediators. Utilizing lectures, exercises, and simulations focusing solely on bankruptcy conflicts, the training covered both the core skills essential for all good mediators and the specialized bankruptcy issues inherent in Chapter 7, 9, 11, and 13 mediations.

St. John’s Presents Joint Colloquium in Law and Religion

St. John’s Law and Villanova Law collaborated to present an exciting new seminar for Spring 2014, the “Joint Colloquium in Law and Religion.” The course invites leading law and religion scholars to make presentations to an audience of selected students and faculty. The schools connect in real-time by video link so that students and faculty at both schools can participate in a virtual classroom experience. “The Joint Colloquium is modeled on the highly-successful Colloquium in Law, which the Center for Law and Religion hosted at St. John’s in 2012, “Professor Mark Movsesian said. “Our partnership with Villanova enriched the course by allowing our students to participate in conversations with their counterparts at another school. It also took advantage of new distance-learning technologies that St. John’s provides.”
St. John’s Law—University of Glasgow Exchange Program Launches with Great Success

The Law School’s global curriculum is designed to provide students with a broad exposure to the practice of law in a transnational setting, and the opportunity to explore diverse legal systems across the globe. The latest addition to the slate of global offerings is an academic exchange program with the University of Glasgow School of Law. Through the program, St. John’s students spend a semester abroad studying at the school’s beautiful campus in historic Glasgow, Scotland. In return, students earning their LL.B. degree from the University of Glasgow come to St. John’s Law for a year of study and immersion in New York City culture and community. “We’re very excited that this unique program is well underway,” said Jeffrey K. Walker, Assistant Dean for Transnational Programs at St. John’s Law. “Our students get to experience one of the best comparative law jurisdictions in depth and the participants from Glasgow learn the law in our wonderful school located at the epicenter of international business and law.”

St. John’s Law Students Spend Spring Break Helping Underserved Communities in New Orleans

Instead of heading to sand, slopes, or home for Spring Break, 10 St. John’s Law students traveled down to New Orleans for a week of volunteer service with the nonprofit Southeast Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS). St. John’s alumna Amanda Golob ’08, who has worked in the SLLS housing unit for five years, helped coordinate the trip, which was organized at St. John’s by the Public Interest Law Students Association (PILSA)—with lead work by PILSA executive board member Nicholas Bebirian ’14 and Public Interest Center director Rachel D. Andron. In addition to volunteering in the housing unit, the St. John’s students also assisted with legal issues related to employment and public benefits, family law, homeless advocacy, consumer law, foreclosure prevention, tax, and succession/title clearing. “The service trip was extremely rewarding,” said Nick Bebirian. “Not only did we get to give back to a community in need, we also learned new aspects of the law, gained real-world lawyering experience, and honed practical skills.”

St. John’s Law and ABI Host Annual Duberstein Competition

The competition is sponsored by St. John’s Law and the American Bankruptcy Institute and is named for distinguished St. John’s alumnus and former ABI Director Chief Judge Conrad B. Duberstein ’41, ’91HON, who passed away in 2005 at the age of 90. The ABI Endowment Fund provided the first place team with $5,000 and the second place team with a $3,000 prize. The event culminated with the gala awards banquet at the Sheraton Hotel in Times Square. Almost 1,000 guests, including many of the leading New York bankruptcy judges and practitioners, attended the event. Hon. Cecelia G. Morris, Chief Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, delivered a tribute to long-term Southern District Bankruptcy Judge Burton R. Lifland, who passed away earlier this year. Hon. Carla E. Craig, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, honored beloved former Clerk of the Eastern District Joseph P. Hurley, who also passed away earlier this year.

The Georgia State University College of Law overcame a tough challenge from the Mississippi College School of Law to win the 22nd Annual Duberstein Bankruptcy Moot Court Competition. A record 61 teams from law schools around the country competed in New York from March 1-3, 2014 at the nation’s only moot court competition devoted to bankruptcy law. The competition is sponsored by St. John’s Law and the American Bankruptcy Institute and is named for distinguished St. John’s alumnus and former ABI Director Chief Judge Conrad B. Duberstein ’41, ’91HON, who passed away in 2005 at the age of 90. The ABI Endowment Fund provided the first place team with $5,000 and the second place team with a $3,000 prize. The event culminated with the gala awards banquet at the Sheraton Hotel in Times Square. Almost 1,000 guests, including many of the leading New York bankruptcy judges and practitioners, attended the event. Hon. Cecelia G. Morris, Chief Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, delivered a tribute to long-term Southern District Bankruptcy Judge Burton R. Lifland, who passed away earlier this year. Hon. Carla E. Craig, Chief Judge of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of New York, honored beloved former Clerk of the Eastern District Joseph P. Hurley, who also passed away earlier this year.
St. John’s Wins International Negotiation Competition
A team representing St. John’s Black Law Student Association out-performed 16 teams from law schools across the country to take first place in the 8th Annual NBLSA Nelson Mandela International Negotiations Competition (NMINC).

Bringing the championship home to St. John’s Law were competitors Benjamin Clack ’15 and Zachary Chaitel ’15, and coach Masai Lord ’14. Held annually, NMINC offers law students a unique opportunity to develop negotiation skills and apply them in a global context. Each two-person team negotiates cross-border conflicts based on current issues impacting the global community. Students gain exposure to a range of negotiating styles, various ethical and social norms, and a wide array of business issues. They also learn to navigate the challenges of cross-cultural communication.

Public Interest Auction Raises over $116,000 to Support Public Interest Fellowship Program
The Law School community’s strong commitment to serving the common good was on display at the 18th annual Public Interest Auction. Students, faculty, administrators, and alumni came together to Bid One Bid All at the circus-themed event sponsored by the Public Interest Center, Public Interest Law Students Association (PILSA), and BarBri. Through silent and live auctions and other festivities, the event had another successful year, raising over $116,000 to support public interest fellowships for St. John’s Law students. “The Law School’s Public Interest Fellowship Program embodies St. John’s Vincentian mission, which is rooted in compassion for the poor and zeal for service,” said Dean Simons. “The auction’s success allows our students to fulfill that mission while simultaneously gaining valuable hands-on experience in solving legal problems.”

St. John’s Law Students Visit Nation’s Highest Court
In March, for the fourth consecutive year, 12 students selected on faculty recommendation had an exceptional opportunity to learn about law and advocacy in their highest form when they traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend oral arguments in the U.S. Supreme Court. Once again, Professor Janai S. Nelson organized the trip and led it with Professor Leonard M. Baynes. After hearing leading Supreme Court practitioners present arguments in the much-publicized “Hobby Lobby” case, the group met with Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, who candidly shared his experiences in life and the law before coming to the bench. He also discussed the importance of good writing, the purpose of oral arguments, and the change in advocacy tactics during his time on the Court.

St. John’s Law and NYU Law Co-Host Symposium on Title VII at 50
This year marks the 50th anniversary of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the landmark legislation prohibiting employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. On April 4-5, 2014, the St. John’s Law Review, the Journal of Civil Rights and Economic Development, and the St. John’s Journal of International and Comparative Law—in conjunction with NYU Center for Labor and Employment Law, The Ronald H. Brown Center for Civil Rights and Economic Development, the St. John’s Center for Labor and Employment Law, and the St. John’s Center for International and Comparative Law—hosted a two-day symposium commemorating this important milestone. Leading civil rights experts addressed a range of timely topics, including: the historical origins of Title VII and its current effectiveness; reforms or amendments to the legislation’s scope, implementation, or interpretation; and the important cultural, sociological, and societal changes compelled by Title VII.
The most important recent development in American religion is the dramatic uptick in the percentage of Americans who claim no religious affiliation at all—the “rise of the Nones.”

The exact numbers are disputed. A 2012 Pew Survey indicated that roughly 20% of all Americans, and 30% of young Americans, do not identify with a religion. Other surveys suggest the percentages are lower. Whatever the exact numbers, most sociologists agree that we are witnessing a transformation in American religion, one that began in the 1990s and shows no signs of stopping.

Surprisingly, perhaps, Nones do not reject faith. Only around four percent of Americans say they are atheists, a percentage that has not changed since pollsters started asking the question some 60 years ago. About two-thirds of Nones believe in God or a “universal spirit.” More than 90% pray; almost 40% pray once a week or more. Sixty percent believe in life after death. And about one-third of Americans who say they have no religious identity nevertheless declare that religion is “very” or “somewhat important” in their lives.

What Nones reject is organized religion. Rather than communal, received traditions, Nones favor an individualized spirituality that draws on multiple sources—what some have called “do-it-yourself” spirituality. They deny that any one religion is uniquely true and insist that everyone must follow his own spiritual path, appropriating, where necessary, elements from different traditions. They stress that wisdom lies in aligning oneself with the force that flows through the universe and within oneself.

Notwithstanding their rejection of tradition, Nones are themselves heirs to a long tradition in American religion, one that stretches back to the 19th century Transcendentalists and beyond. But in their numbers, and the way they permeate mainstream culture, they represent something new. Several factors explain their rise. Politics may be the most important. Many Nones, especially younger Nones, apparently reject organized religion because they associate it with the Right, especially on issues like homosexuality. High rates of religious intermarriage, and divorce, also play a role. Children of intermarriage are less likely to have strong attachments to religion, as are children of divorce. And, of course, Nones might simply reflect a larger trend toward de-institutionalization in American life, the sort of dropping out that Robert Putnam described more than a decade ago in Bowling Alone.

Whatever the reasons, the rise of the Nones will inevitably have an impact on many aspects of American life—including law. Courts have already begun to face the question whether Nones merit constitutional and statutory protection as a religion. It’s not an easy question under existing Supreme Court precedent. On the one hand, protecting Nones as a religion would advance important values: respect for the individual, the need for state religious neutrality, and the desire to avoid discrimination against new or unfamiliar belief systems.

On the other hand, protecting Nones as a religion creates difficulties. A recent federal appeals court case provides an example. A self-styled spiritual adviser—the government called her a “fortune teller”—objected when her county zoned her to an industrial district. The county had interfered with the exercise of her religion, she argued. When the county pointed out that she did not belong to a particular religion, she countered that she followed her “inner flow” and drew from a variety of traditions, including Christianity, Judaism, and several Eastern sources. Why should her personalized spirituality not qualify for legal protection along with more conventional faiths?

The appeals court rejected the claim that following one’s inner flow qualifies as a religion for legal purposes. Some link to a community is necessary, the court said, some reference to an authority beyond oneself. This seems sensible. The word “religion” has always suggested a community of believers, not just one. And, although the claimant in this case seemed sincere, requiring a believer to point to others who share her beliefs can help guard against frivolous and fraudulent claims.

Protecting Nones would also fail to capture important benefits communal religions provide. As Tocqueville saw, communal religions tend to discourage the self-centeredness that liberal democracy inevitably creates. Communal religions encourage people to associate with and feel responsible for others. This effect is not limited to group members. Participation in religious organizations correlates with greater involvement in secular charities as well. Even more: by offering competing objects of loyalty, communal religions act as important counterweights to the state, thereby promoting liberty for adherents and non-adherents alike.

The case of the spiritual adviser strikes us as unusual today, but it may not for long. Nones now comprise a significant and growing percentage of our fellow citizens; it is only a matter of time before claims like hers become commonplace. How American law responds to that pressure remains to be seen.
Real-World Scholarship

St. John’s Law faculty members research and write on cutting-edge legal issues. Producing scholarship with real-world significance, they regularly engage in public dialogue and academic debate in their areas of interest and expertise. The following is a selection...

ROSEMARY C. SALOMONE
“Unity through diversity”
*Times Higher Education*, October 3, 2013
“Regardless of how the situation turns out in the US, higher education officials on both sides of the Atlantic should not overlook the significance of racial diversity—in all its colours and however achieved—in breaking down prejudices and leading to a more integrated society.”

FRANCIS J. FACCIOLLO
“New Wave of Cases Involving Investment Adviser Fees”
“Given the tendency for plaintiffs’ securities class action lawyers to imitate causes of action brought by other plaintiffs’ lawyers, we can expect to see more cases involving sub-adviser fees, future cases for which [Kasilag v. Hartford Investment Financial Services] will be an important precedent.”

ANITA S. KRISHNAKUMAR
“We need a debt-limit do-over”
By Charles Lane
“Between 1789 and 1917, the federal government’s debt wasn’t much of an issue at home or abroad. As Anita Krishnakumar showed in a 2005 article for the *Harvard Journal on Legislation*, the U.S. government was small and generally went into debt only to pay for wars, or when recession temporarily dried up tax revenue.”

DAVID L. GREGORY
“N.F.L. Picks Lawyer to Lead Inquiry into Dolphins”
By Ken Belson
*The New York Times*, November 6, 2013
“[Ted Wells] has huge credibility as one of the best defense lawyers in the country and a football veteran [...] He’s exquisitely fair and will have an immediate understanding of the team, and even in his 60s, he looks like he can suit up tomorrow.”

LAWRENCE JOSEPH
“In a Post-Bubble Credit-Collapse Environment”
*The New Yorker*, November 18, 2013
“In a post-bubble credit-collapse environment/ three-hundred-and-fifty-percent interest rates on payday loans / and the multi-trillion-dollar market in credit-default swaps / are history.”

JEFF SOVERN
“Sunday Dialogue: Academia’s Two Tracks”
“Student evaluations are a better measure of popularity than competence. Adjuncts may in fact be better teachers, but studies not based on student evaluations are needed to prove it.”

CHRISTINE LAZARO
“PIABA seeks more Capitol Hill influence in 2014”
By Mark Schoeff, Jr.
*Investment News*, December 27, 2013
“[Expungement] is getting a much closer look now that the PIABA study has come out and shown how frequently customer complaints are being expunged....”

NINA J. CRIMM
“Why IRS customer service is bad (and may get worse)”
By Allison Linn
*CNBC*, January 20, 2014
“It’s a lose situation for … the average taxpayer, and it’s a lose situation for compliance and collection of revenues.”

JEFF SOVERN
“The Obama Administration Wants to End Racial Discrimination by Car Dealers. Why Are 35 Dems Getting in the Way?”
By Erika Eichelberger
*Mother Jones*, January 21, 2014
“It’s not usually considered a defense that the beneficiaries of racism should keep the lower prices that other groups pay for....”

LARRY CUNNINGHAM
“Phillip Seymour Hoffman autopsy is inconclusive”
By Michael Muskal
*Los Angeles Times*, February 5, 2014
“It is very difficult to convict a drug dealer for homicide as a result of selling drugs to someone who later dies....”
ELAYNE E. GREENBERG
“With Few Exceptions, Proposed Pilot Mediation Program Draws Support”
By Suevon Lee
New York Commercial Litigation Insider
February 26, 2014
“The idea of one in five doesn’t deal with the real issue of trying to encourage more cases to go into mediation. If there is still resistance by judges who don’t understand which cases would be appropriate or don’t feel comfortable ordering people into mediation, let’s deal with that resistance in a more meaningful way [...]. And if there are lawyers who are reluctant to bring their cases into mediation, let’s educate these lawyers and address their concerns.”

CHRISTINE LAZARO
“Why FINRA’s BrokerCheck is Under Fire”
By Andrew Welsch
On Wall Street, March 6, 2014
“If an investor relied solely on a BrokerCheck report, they may be misled into believing that the broker left on amicable grounds.”

JEFF SOVERN
“Restrain the Data Brokers”
“I wonder what other companies know about us, how much of it is incorrect, and to whom they provide the information. What consequences flow from the incorrect records? Why should strangers be able to buy private information about us without our knowledge, and what do they do with the information they collect?”

CHRISTOPHER J. BORGEN
“For Crimea, breaking away is hard to do”
By Michael Pizzi
Al Jazeera America, March 8, 2014
“Some have argued that the world community should be more accepting of secession when there’s an issue of long-term, severe, oppression—but only when there are facts to support that finding... As a matter of law, that is highly controversial.”

VINCENT C. ALEXANDER has published an article on “The CPLR at Fifty: A View from Academia” in the N.Y.U. Journal of Legislation and Public Policy. The article is based on remarks he delivered at NYU’s Dwight D. Opperman Institute of Judicial Administration, as part of a symposium on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of New York’s Civil Practice Law and Rules.

In a review published in Jotwell: The Journal of Things We Like (Lots), Professor Laura Heymann identified JEREMY SHEFF’s Stanford Law Review article, “Marks, Morals, and Markets” one of the best works of recent scholarship relating to Intellectual Property.

VINCENT M. DI LORENZO, Senior Fellow at the Vincentian Center for Church and Society, recently published an article, “Three Years after Dodd-Frank: Sacrificing Safety to Maximize Access to Credit,” in the Bureau of National Affairs, Banking Report.

Associate Dean for Bankruptcy Studies G. RAY WARNER is co-author, with Mark D. Bloom and Paul J. Keenan, Jr., of an article in The National Law Review on the Second Circuit’s new eligibility requirement for Chapter 15 bankruptcy cases—the debtor residency requirement.

EDWARD D. CAVANAGH has published an article in the Loyola University Chicago Law Journal on “Antitrust Law and Economic Theory: Finding a Balance.” In the article, he argues that economic theory has taken precedence over facts in antitrust analysis in the courts and that a re-calibration is in order. The online journal Concurrences nominated the article for its 2014 Antitrust Writing Awards.

The Hoover Institution (Stanford) published MARK L. MOVSESIAN’s recent interview of Samuel Tadros. Tadros is a research fellow at the Hudson Institute’s Center for Religious Freedom, a Professorial Lecturer at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University, and author of the book Motherland Lost: The Egyptian and Coptic Quest for Modernity (Hoover Institution Press, 2013).

CHRISTINE LAZARO, Director of the Law School’s Securities Arbitration Clinic, will publish her article, “Has Expungement Broken BrokerCheck?”, in the MSU Journal of Business and Securities Law.

“Bad Tax Shelters—Accountability Or The Lack Thereof: Ten Years Of Tax Malpractice,” an article by JACOB L. TODRES, has been accepted for publication in the Baylor Law Review.

PAUL F. KIRGIS has a new article on “Status and Contract in an Emerging Democracy: The Evolution of Dispute Resolution in Ghana” that has been accepted for publication in the Cardozo Journal of Conflict Resolution.

The Journal of Consumer Affairs, the leading peer-reviewed journal on the subject, has published JEFF SOVERN’s article, “Fixing Consumer Protection Laws So Borrowers Understand Their Payment Obligations.” The article appears in a special issue titled “The New Era in Consumer Protection Regulation.”
Students have many opportunities to learn by doing at St. John’s Law. Experiential learning permeates the curriculum in a rigorous writing program, and in upper-level courses in drafting, bankruptcy practice, patent application and prosecution, and business planning, among other offerings. Students also gain vital advocacy skills in the co-curricular Frank S. Polestino Trial Advocacy Institute, Moot Court Honor Society, and Dispute Resolution Society.

A cornerstone of experiential learning at St. John’s is the clinical legal education program. Through clinics offered in house and in partnership with outside organizations, students build practical skills by representing elderly victims of mortgage fraud, by prosecuting domestic violence cases, by advocating for abused and neglected children, by seeking asylum for refugees, and by providing a range of legal assistance to the poor and underserved in New York City. Working hands-on in this way, they see how the law can uplift people and benefit communities. They also learn invaluable lessons about connecting with the human beings behind the legal matters that lawyers take on every day.

Robert Nussbaum ’14 will never forget the welcome Dean Michael A. Simons gave him and other prospective students at an admitted students program. “He challenged us by asking why law,” Robert recalls. “And he answered because law matters.” This made good sense, Robert says, since so many hot-button issues of the day—gun control, New York City’s stop-and-frisk policy, marriage rights, and anti-terrorism measures—have a legal component. “But it wasn’t until I handled a real case, with a real client last spring through the Consumer Justice for the Elderly: Litigation Clinic that I fully understood what Dean Simons was trying to tell us.”

Working under a Student Practice Order from the Appellate Division, Second Department, Robert joined a four-student team assigned to help a woman named Mary* fight foreclosure on her late father’s home. “Arnie was an elderly Queens resident who suffered from dementia,” Robert explains. “He was befriended by a young woman who took advantage of him by obtaining a fraudulent power of attorney, procuring credit cards in his name, and stealing what amounted to thousands of dollars from him. As if that wasn’t enough, she also sold Arnie’s home to a straw buyer and then took out a mortgage on the home that she never intended to repay.” The woman and her accomplice had already been convicted on criminal charges when Robert and his team came on the civil case to get Arnie’s house back.

“We went right to work dialoging with opposing counsel and drafting responses to discovery requests,” Robert says. Over the next several months, guided by clinic Director Ann L. Goldweber and Associate Director Gina M. Calabrese, the students conducted research, wrote motions, made calls, appeared in court, and engaged in settlement negotiations. “A highlight for me was deposing the straw buyer who was convicted of mortgage fraud,” says Robert. “It was up to me to ask the right questions and to respond appropriately to the answers given. It was an incredible experience that many practicing lawyers never get to have.” Robert is equally grateful for the opportunity his clinic work gave him to help Mary keep her beloved family home in her father’s honor. “Above all else,” he shares, “Mary helped me understand what Dean Simons meant when he told us law matters.” Robert will carry this valuable lesson with him post-graduation, as law clerk to Hon. Cangilos-Ruiz, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of New York.

As Robert discovered, the Law School’s clinics give students an unparalleled opportunity to learn about the lawyer-client relationship first hand. When he started in the Securities Arbitration Clinic this fall, Alec Coquin ’14 expected to explore his interest in securities law while serving his community. What he didn’t plan on was having to tell his client that she didn’t have a viable case.

Gloria came to the clinic with a concern about a trade her broker had made without her consent. “When we looked at the one trade, we agreed that what the broker had done was questionable, but the law was very strict about potential damages,” Alec says. So he and his team considered Gloria’s case more broadly. After multiple follow-up interviews and extensive document reviews, they concluded that the broker had
acted improperly on more than one occasion. “Unfortunately, the law still wasn’t on our side given our client’s trading pattern and the broad market upswing,” Alec recalls. “We consulted with the clinic’s acting director, Christine Lazar, and brought in two experts who donated their time to the clinic to explore alternative theory of damages. In the end, all agreed that despite the broker’s wrongdoing, there was no way to establish damages.” Then came the hard part of telling Gloria that she had no legal recourse.

“Everyone on the team was nervous going into that client meeting,” Alec says. “The broker had messed up and Gloria missed out on a significant gain as a result. So it was easy to see why she believed in the righteousness of her position. We explained the facts and the law, giving the details of how we reached our conclusion. I think Gloria came away feeling that her concerns had been heard and that, even if the world isn’t always just, there are people who will still try their best to seek justice.”

Alec sees the tremendous value of working through this challenge. “Interacting with clients is a skill,” he notes, “and the clinic and our supervisor did a very good job of teaching us that skill. Sometimes lawyers have to deliver hard news to clients, and I now have the tools for handling these situations in a caring and constructive way.” After he leaves St. John’s, Alec will have an opportunity to use the tools he gained in the clinic as an associate at Labaton Sucharow LLP.

Effective client representation and effective lawyering go hand-in-hand, and students in the Child Advocacy Clinic this fall learned how an interpreter can facilitate this important dynamic. The clinic represented 16-year-old Gabriel in a guardianship proceeding. The boy had come to the United States after an earthquake destroyed his home in Guatemala and was seeking lawful residence here. “To support the guardianship case, my teammates and I needed to demonstrate to the family court that it was in Gabriel’s best interest to stay in the U.S. instead of returning to his native Guatemala,” recounts Alexandra Hastings ’15. To make their case, the students needed to hear from Gabriel, who didn’t speak English. So they turned to a Spanish-speaking interpreter for help.

“We spent a lot of time meeting with Gabriel and his family, learning his story in detail, and preparing to present it to the court through the appropriate paperwork,” says Bari Nadworny ’15. “The interpreter assisted us every step of the way, whether we met with our client in person or by phone. He also translated documents we received from Guatemala and affidavits we submitted to the court.” The students quickly recognized that working through an interpreter put Gabriel and his family at ease in what was naturally a stressful situation.

“The interpreter was able to bridge the language gap in a way that encouraged Gabriel to open up to us about his painful and traumatic experiences in Guatemala,” Alexandra says. “Without this connection, we likely would not have been able to elicit critical information that aided his family court case.”

Bari agrees, and considers her clinic experience a formative one on her career path. “My clinic experience will serve as a constant reminder of the importance of effective client communication,” she shares. “Language barriers are not the only type of communication hurdles that can inhibit the lawyer-client relationship. It’s always important to ask clear, concise, and thoughtful questions when trying to learn your client’s story. And there is a certain sensitivity that a lawyer must develop when representing children. Children often see the world through different eyes, especially a child like Gabriel who had a difficult upbringing. When I face these challenges as a practitioner, I know I’ll be grateful for the insight I gained in the Child Advocacy Clinic.”

Clinic participants not only learn how to build effective client relationships, they also learn the ups and downs of dealing with opposing counsel. And as Fatima Zahra ’14 discovered this fall in the Securities Arbitration Clinic, negotiating with a difficult adversary for the first time can be an eye-opening experience.

“Our client, Sarah, was an elderly woman who had invested in an unsuitable portfolio,” Fatima explains. “Our concerns about the remedies available to her compelled us to open bid-based settlement discussions with opposing counsel.” After some back and forth, opposing counsel put a conditional offer on the table, which the students and the clinic’s assistant director, Francis J. Facciolo, used to structure a final settlement proposal. But when opposing counsel responded to that final tender,

“Sometimes lawyers have to deliver hard news to clients, and I now have the tools for handling these situations in a caring and constructive way.”

–Alec Coquin ’14

*Names have been changed to protect clinic client privacy.
The Oscar-nominated thriller Captain Phillips trained a spotlight on Somalia, the coastal country in the Horn of Africa that became a homebase for modern-day pirates. As the film conveys in vivid detail, the rise in piracy didn’t occur in a vacuum. It was part of more sweeping disintegration in Somalia caused by decades of civil war, years of drought and famine, and waves of attacks by al-Shabab militants.

In recent years, the war ended, the rain returned, the al-Shabab retreated from the Somali capital, and the nation welcomed a new president and constitution. But even with these positive changes, Somalia remains in humanitarian crisis. After losing more than a quarter of a million people to starvation—half of them young children—the country is still plagued by food insecurity, malnutrition, poor sanitation, and inadequate water supply.

Throughout the years of civil unrest and famine, and despite being a target of al-Shabab’s ongoing terrorism, the United Nations has been on the ground in and around Somalia, working to ease the plight of its citizens at home and in diaspora. The UN contingent includes Lisa Kurbiel ’92, chief of the Social Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit at UNICEF Somalia.

This is a new role for Kurbiel, who has worked on human rights policies, legislative reform, programming strategies, and advocacy campaigns within the UN system for the last 18 years. In that time, she has led initiatives to combat sexual abuse and exploitation, human trafficking, and child labor around the world, and has advised governments on their long-term legislative, policy, and development strategies. Most recently, she worked as Senior Social Policy Specialist at UNICEF Mozambique, raising awareness of child development issues and building the region’s investment in its children and families.

Kurbiel traces her career in international humanitarian service to her third year at St. John’s Law, when she interned with the UN’s former Centre for Transnational Corporations, an entity that helped developing countries negotiate with multinationals over natural resources.

“I was tremendously affected by the imbalance of power I witnessed,” Kurbiel says. “Governments that had tremendous natural resources but no legal representation signed deals detrimental to their interests. It was so clearly unfair that I felt it was important to try and help. I joined the UN full time after passing the bar in 1992 and set off on a six-week mission to Mongolia.” Kurbiel’s work would...
later take her to eastern and souther-
ern Africa and then back
to the U.S. where she spent eight
years with UNICEF in
New York before relocating to
Mozambique with her
husband and children.

Aiding the Children of Africa
The family is now settled in Nai-
robi, Kenya. From there,
Kurbiel and her team endeavor to put
sustainable solutions
in place in emergency-prone Somalia.

“In my work, I try to
convince decision-makers to step up
as champions for their nation’s chil-
dren,” says Kurbiel. “The creativity
comes in
determining how best to reach that
minister, gain access to that member
of parliament, or negotiate with oil
executives to care about child rights,
whether by investing in education or
ensuring that a percentage of their
pre-tax profits support health care.”

As the team monitors and evaluates
UNICEF’s programs in Somalia, they
work to identify new ways to deliver
cash and other aid to the most vul-
nerable in al-Shabab-controlled
areas.

The legalities of providing aid, in-
cluding laws governing the transfer of
money, impact UNICEF’s humanitarian ef-
forts. Kurbiel takes the lead on inter-
preting these legal issues and their
impact on
her team’s mission in Somalia. “Law
school encouraged me to always see
the possibility in solving social prob-
lems,”
she shares. “As a lawyer within the
social policy field, I start with stan-
dards
enshrined in international law, such as
the Convention on the Rights of the
Child, and unpack them to advocate
effectively. In Mozambique, where re-
cent natural gas discoveries have the
country exploding with foreign direct
investment, I partnered with attorneys
based in Houston and New York to tap
their expertise in petroleum law and
to compel an equitable
investment of resource revenues.”

Harnessing the law’s power to fos-
ter change and serve the greater
good in this way reminds Kurbiel of
her upbringing. “My parents exem-
plified the spirit of
St. Vincent de Paul,” she says, “and
always prioritized my education, from
the Franciscans in high school to the
Vincentians at Niagara University and
St. John’s Law.” As she carries for-
ward the Vincentian mission, Kurbiel
continues to give back to St. John’s.
While based
in New York, she initiated an extern-
ship program at the UN for St. John’s
Law
students and, in 2012, she hosted
two law student interns in Mozam-
bique. “It was fabulous for me,” says
Kurbiel, “and it gave the students a
chance to see the day-to-day realities
of working in service of children in
one of the poorest countries in the
world.”

Preventing Homelessness in
New Orleans

A mission of serving the greater
good and redressing social injustice
also drives Amanda Golob ‘08 in her
work as a staff attorney at Southeast
Louisiana Legal Services (SLLS). Es-

tablished in 1979, SLLS is Louisiana’s
largest provider of free civil legal aid
for the poor, and serves 22 parishes
through six area offices
and multiple units. As the poor and
disenfranchised in the community
struggle to recover from the devast-
tion caused by Hurricane Katrina and
the BP oil spill, SLLS helps its clients
prevent the loss
of family, food, shelter, income, med-
icare, and personal safety. To rec-
ognize its extraordinary
contributions, the
American Bar Association presented
the organization with its 2012 Hodson
Award for public service.

For the last five years, Golob has
been assigned to the housing unit at
SLLS, where the primary goal is to
prevent homelessness by defending
evictions and subsidy terminations
from public housing, Section 8, and
other federally subsidized programs.
She also helps tenants who
are living in substandard conditions,
who have been discriminated against,
who are illegally locked out of their
units, or who are trying to get their
security deposits back. Golob finds
her job meaningful and rewarding. “In
Louisiana, most of the housing laws
haven’t been updated in about 100
years and leave tenants in
a disadvantaged position,” she ex-
plains. “Many people don’t know their
rights or believe they have no re-
course. The most rewarding thing for
me is to give people hope by showing
them that they are
entitled to basic human rights like
shelter and safety and that they have
an advocate who is willing and able to
fight for the
protections the law affords them.”

Golob’s dedication to the public
interest grew at St. John’s Law as
she explored different pathways to
the
Three first-year St. John’s Law students have been chosen to receive New York City Bar Diversity Fellowships for summer 2014. Janelle Aaron will spend the summer at Bressler, Amery & Ross, P.C., Stephanie Cipolla will work for Heidell, Pittoni, Murphy & Bach, LLP, and Lawson Huynh has been placed at Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP.

The Diversity Fellowship Program was launched in 1991 as an initiative of the New York City Bar Association Committee on Recruitment and Retention of Lawyers. Since its inception, hundreds of 1Ls from underrepresented populations have been selected to spend their summer as Program Fellows in a law firm, or in a corporate or government legal department.

To earn coveted spots in the program, the St. John’s Law candidates went through a rigorous selection process that included a legal writing requirement, a personal statement, a screening committee interview, and a second interview by a panel of attorneys and school representatives. Professor Jacob L. Todres and Career Development Office administrators assisted in advising students about this opportunity.

“Through this innovative program, the City Bar is helping to build a more diverse and inclusive legal profession, which benefits practitioners, legal consumers, and society alike,” said Dean Michael A. Simons. “I know that Janelle, Lawson, and Stephanie will bring a tremendous work ethic to their summer positions, while gaining essential lawyering skills, hands-on experience, and valuable mentoring.”
Scientists and artists have more in common than many believe. They both rely on Intellectual Property Law to protect their creations. The law tries to strike a balance between protecting and encouraging innovation, on the one hand, and promoting the free exchange of ideas, information, and vigorous competition on the other. That balance has been pushed by innovations like DNA sequencing and social media. At St. John’s, students interested in IP Law not only learn traditional concepts like patents and copyrights, but also explore how the law is responding to new technology.

Faculty Experts
Their engagement with IP Law starts with a faculty who are experts in their respective disciplines. Professor Jeremy Sheff teaches and writes in trademark law. His recent article in the Stanford Law Review looks at moral justifications for trademark protection. His current research examines 30 years of trademark filings to determine whether a change to the federal trademark statute has affected trademark applications.

Assistant Professor Eva Subotnik’s scholarship focuses on Copyright Law and policy in the context of changing notions of the professional and the amateur in this digital age. She has written about originality, authorship, and fair use issues related to visual arts, sound recordings, and other media.

Assistant Professor Deepa Varadarajan’s research explores intellectual property’s effect on innovation, the relevance of traditional property law and theory to intellectual property law, and intellectual property law’s impact on traditional cultures. Her most recent article, “Improvement Doctrines,” was selected for the 2013 Harvard/Stanford/Yale Junior Faculty Forum, a prestigious honor.

“The rapid pace of technological change we’ve seen in recent years presents really interesting challenges and opportunities for lawyers and policymakers,” says Sheff, a faculty member since 2008. “In copyright and trademark, for example, the law is struggling to resolve claims to legitimate use of others’ work in an environment where digital technology makes accessing, sharing, and altering that work easier than it’s ever been. Critics and fans of a brand, or of a work of literature, film, or music, may want to comment on, identify with, or repurpose that content. How does the law respond? We’re still working out the answer to that question.”

On the patent side, biotechnology research is making tremendous strides, and the law is struggling to keep up. For instance, in Association of Molecular Pathology v. Myriad Genetics, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that naturally occurring DNA molecules are not patentable.
“There is a multi-billion dollar industry trying to come to terms with the implications of this ruling for their businesses,” Sheff says. “Lawyers who can successfully navigate these types of issues are going to be in high demand in the industries that are powering the next wave of innovation and creativity. Hopefully they can also use their legal training to help build a society where the tremendous benefits of innovation and creativity are broadly shared.”

Well-Defined Career Pathway

St. John’s Law students interested in exploring these and other cutting-edge issues in IP Law have a well-defined pathway to follow. They begin with an introductory course in intellectual property, which surveys basic concepts in copyrights, patents, and trademarks. After successfully completing the survey course, students can take specialized elective offerings in these areas. Other electives help students hone their writing skills in license drafting and offer hands-on experience through externships in IP firms, entertainment agencies, and nonprofits.

Students build their professional network in the IP field through the Law School’s Entertainment, Arts, and Sports Law Society and the Intellectual Property Law Society. They are also guided along their career path by faculty mentors and Career Development Office counselors who help them secure jobs and internships. Students interested in sitting for the patent bar, but who lack sufficient coursework in science and math, can take courses at St. John’s College while completing their law degree.

“We’re very proud of our IP curriculum and faculty,” says Larry Cunningham, the Law School’s Associate Academic Dean. “A St. John’s law student receives a traditional grounding in the fundamentals, but also learns about cutting-edge innovation. The exciting things going on in the IP pathway demonstrate how well this balance can be achieved.”

New IP Law Center

All of these efforts will soon come under the umbrella of the Law School’s new Center for Intellectual Property Law. Alumni Daniel A. DeVito ’87, Robert J. Gunther ’81C, ’84L, Shephard Lane ’66, and an anonymous donor generously pledged more than $1.1 million to fund the project. The new academic center will enrich the curriculum by bringing practitioners, scholars, and students together to explore important issues in IP law. It will also support research to promote forward thinking and socially responsible legal and policy frameworks. Selected students will serve as Intellectual Property Fellows, contributing to the work of the center and helping to put on an annual conference.

In addition to raising additional funds for the Center for Intellectual Property Law, the Law School is seeking donations to support scholarships for students with a background in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines. Students from the STEM majors are in high demand by IP firms. Our goal is to raise $1.5 million toward this effort.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Brian J. Woods, Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations, at brian.woods@stjohns.edu or (718) 990-5792.

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St. John’s Leading IP Lawyers

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Firm/Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy R. Auth ’96</td>
<td>Partner, Cadwalader, Wickersham &amp; Taft LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carole F. Barrett ’81</td>
<td>Founder, Barrett IP Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>John M. Bergin ’71</td>
<td>Chief Trademark &amp; Copyright Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas M. Cannella ’75</td>
<td>Managing Partner, Fitzpatrick Cella</td>
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<tr>
<td>William F. Cavanaugh, Jr. ’77SVC, ’80L</td>
<td>Partner, Patterson Belknap Webb &amp; Tyler LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Conklin ’89</td>
<td>Vice President, Associate General Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Timothy Creagan ’94</td>
<td>Vice President Intellectual Property</td>
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<tr>
<td>Daniel A. DeVito ’87</td>
<td>Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &amp; Flom LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>John M. DiMatteo ’88</td>
<td>Partner, Holwell Shuster &amp; Goldberg LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Allan Fanucci ’82</td>
<td>Partner, Winston and Strawn LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>John G. Flaim ’92</td>
<td>Partner, Baker &amp; McKenzie LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rita A. Rodin Johnston ’93</td>
<td>Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher &amp; Flom LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kelly E. Jones ’05</td>
<td>Member, Harris Beach PLLC</td>
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<td>Juan C. Gonzalez ’01</td>
<td>Senior Managing Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>John R. Keville ’95</td>
<td>Partner, Winston and Strawn LLP</td>
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<td>S. Peter Ludwig ’68</td>
<td>Principal, Fish &amp; Richardson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne R. Moses ’81</td>
<td>Moses &amp; Moses, P.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael A. Nicodema ’84</td>
<td>Shareholder, Greenberg Traurig, LLP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Rosenberg ’75</td>
<td>EVP, GC, and Corporate Secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth J. Sheehan ’91</td>
<td>Qualcomm Incorporated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Stancati ’85SVC, ’92L</td>
<td>Assistant Chief Counsel, ESPN</td>
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<td>Alfred W. Zaher ’94</td>
<td>Partner, Blank Rome LLP</td>
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Alumni Take the Lead as General Counsel

Andrew Bonzani ‘89
Elisa D. Garcia C. ‘85
Denise F. Keane ‘76
Steven M. Rapp ‘83
By Susan Hansen

Over the past couple of decades, in-house legal departments have become the career destination of choice for more and more lawyers. Any legal recruiter can attest to the dramatic spike in the number of applicants for staff attorney positions in corporate law departments.

From the perspective of Denise F. Keane ’76, Vice President and General Counsel of Altria Group, her company and other leading corporations have an increasing number of top candidates applying for openings on their in-house legal teams. And the stack of resumes continues to grow. “In-house departments are magnets for really talented lawyers,” says Keane. “It’s become a very important career path.”

No question, it’s turned out to be a smart career move for Keane, who opted to go in house almost immediately after law school and has headed Altria’s legal department since 2008. She’s in very good company in the St. John’s Law community. Consider Steven M. Rapp ’83, Vice President and General Counsel of Unilever North America, a food and personal care consumer products company. Andrew Bonzani ’89 oversees a 60-lawyer legal department for global advertising giant Interpublic Group. And Elisa Garcia ’89, was recently promoted to Chief Legal Officer at Office Depot, Inc.

Running the legal departments of some of the biggest names in the Fortune 500 puts these lawyers in an elite club. As the top legal advisers for their companies, they face enormous challenges, including a barrage of new regulations stemming from Dodd-Frank, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and HIPAA data privacy rules, to name just a few. Unlike most lawyers in private practice, they need to be generalists. Indeed, their jobs require them to manage a wide array of matters. And given that these matters occasionally involve bet-the-company risks, in-house expertise in risk assessment and compliance matters has become more indispensable than ever. The stakes can be extraordinarily high.

Of course, all this variety helps keep things interesting. “It’s a very rich practice,” says Unilever GC Rapp, whose workload covers everything from M&A and marketing matters to environmental regulation and class action defense. He’s also a member of Unilever N.A.’s leadership team, which gives him a voice on key strategic planning decisions. “The in-house department’s handprint is on every important thing the business is involved in,” Rapp adds. “The sweep of it is impressive.”

An Expanding Role

Rapp and his St John’s colleagues aren’t just filling a critical role as legal counselors at their own companies. They are also leading the charge on efforts to transform the legal profession. All are convinced that the Big Law firms need to re-examine the way they have traditionally performed and priced legal services. As GCs, they also happen to have tremendous clout in the market, considering the hundreds of millions of dollars their companies spend on outside legal services every year. And they’ve been using that leverage to get outside law firms to rethink their outdated business model.

“I think the law firm industry has woken up to the fact that there are matters that don’t need three partners and two associates,” says Interpublic GC Bonzani. “They have to be more nimble or risk losing out to smaller regional firms.”

Along with helping to spur broader industry reforms, Rapp notes that he and other GCs have been playing a bigger part in shaping broader business strategy at their companies. “It’s no longer just a purely protective role,” he says. As a member of the company’s leadership team, Rapp is regularly asked to weigh in on potential expansion plans. His evaluation of possible risks is especially prized. “But they’ll also say ‘now let’s talk about how we grow the business,’” he shares.

Garcia, for her part, has also been pushing boundaries at Office Depot. Last year she served as the point person and chief strategist in the company’s effort to merge with rival Office Max. Unlike with Office Depot’s previous attempt to merge with Staples, when federal antitrust regulators refused to grant approval, last fall the Office Max deal went through. It was a definite coup for Garcia, who says “in the past, I don’t think you saw many GCs leading major transactions.”

The Recession’s Silver Lining

Of course, even as they continue to redefine the GC role, top in-house lawyers also have legal departments to manage. That, as Interpublic’s Bonzani observes, has gotten harder with the recent economic downturn. Like other corporate managers, GCs have been under non-stop pressure to slash costs. That’s the bad news. The good news is that all the cost-cutting pressure has forced them to take a hard look at their budgets, and particularly their spending on outside legal providers. As a result, Bonzani and his fellow GCs have re-thought the way they and their outside firms do business, including making more effective use of technology and alternative fee agreements to drive down costs.

Bonzani, for example, points to the new e-billing system that Interpublic’s legal department recently implemented, which, among other things, has made it far easier to track and analyze outside legal bills. This helps keep outside bills in check, and also helps Bonzani identify
areas where in-house investment makes sense, like his recent hiring of a Privacy counsel. The in-house department at Unilever N.A., for its part, is now deploying e-discovery software that allows for far speedier document searches, and reduced litigation costs, according to Rapp. To further reduce litigation expenses, Rapp is a proponent of what he calls “unbundling.” Instead of giving all the work in a major litigation matter to just one firm, he farms out document production or other time-intensive tasks to lower cost providers who specialize in those tasks.

Likewise, Rapp and his fellow GCs say that their use of alternative fee arrangements has been effective. This includes providing a single flat fee to outside firms for handling all matters in specific areas, such as corporate filings or governance work. There are also hybrid arrangements featuring discounted hourly rates along with “success fees” for positive results.

Bonzani doesn’t think that alternative fee agreements are going to upend the traditional law firm billing model anytime soon. “I can’t foresee a near-term or even a mid-term future without the billable hour,” he says. Still, given that these types of arrangements do help control costs and also make overall legal costs more predictable, he’s confident that their popularity will continue to grow. Altria’s Keane agrees. “When it [alternative fee arrangements] works, it really can work exceptionally well,” she says.

Office Depot’s Garcia is even more adamant. Indeed, her in-house department has been on a mission “to blow up the billable hour,” as she puts it, and has become a model in the corporate counsel community for its successful use of alternative fee arrangements. “You wouldn’t build a house based on an hourly rate,” says Garcia, who contends the billable hour only serves to incentivize inefficiency. “Why would you bill legal matters that way?”

Office Depot’s success on this front would seem to prove her point. Thanks to the alternative fee agreements Garcia has struck with outside firms, in just three years she has managed to achieve a 30% reduction in outside legal expenditures—a feat that has received industry-wide recognition. In all, Garcia estimates that roughly 60% of Office Depot’s outside legal work is now done on an alternative fees basis. In most instances, that involves paying a fixed fee for all work in, say, single-plaintiff employment cases and real-estate leasing matters as well as SEC filings and motions in class action defense. “Whether it’s 50 a year or 500 a year, it’s a flat fee,” says Garcia.

Along with the gratitude of her CEO and board, Garcia has won plaudits for her pioneering work on alternative billing from the Association of Corporate Counsel, which named her their 2013 “Value Champ.”

**Broadening the Mix**

Garcia and other GCs aren’t only interested in shaking up the legal industry’s billing structure. They are also committed to opening doors for more women and minority lawyers, so that the legal profession better reflects the rich diversity of the country as a whole. To that end, they have been nudging their outside counsel to hire and promote greater numbers of diverse lawyers. And they have been keeping tabs on progress made by asking for regular reports on staffing, associates, and partners. What’s more, they have made it clear that diversity is an important part of the criteria they use in hiring outside counsel.

They also practice what they preach. At Interpublic Group, for example, more than half of the in-house department’s New York-based attorneys are women, and roughly a fifth, including at least three senior lawyers, are ethnic minorities. Based in part on those stats and its overall commitment to promoting diversity in the profession, the New York Law Journal recently named Interpublic to its 2014 list of outstanding legal departments. Bonzani, who started with the company in 2012, gives his predecessor in the GC’s office a good part of the credit and says that the department’s commitment is reflective of Interpublic’s commitment. “There was already a strong commitment [to diversity] when I joined,” he says. “I plan to continue building upon that commitment.”

At Unilever N.A., approximately 60% of the attorneys in the department are women, and just less than half of the department’s senior attorneys are women. There are also a number of women and minority lawyers in house at Altria and Office Depot. “I firmly believe diverse teams give you better results,” says Altria GC Keane. “And you’re doing the right thing for the profession at the same time.” Garcia agrees, adding that diversity ensures a wider range of perspectives when it comes to tackling legal issues, and thus begets a more effective legal team.

“The diversity of thinking you get is very important,” she says. “It leads to a much more creative approach to problem-solving.”

Both Keane and Garcia are working hard to spread that message, by taking on leadership roles with key diversity advocacy groups. (Keane serves on the boards of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity and the Commission on Women in the Profession, while Garcia is a board member for the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession.)

Still, while they do see some signs of progress, they lament that far too few minorities are attending law school.

And the numbers suggest that many promising minority and women lawyers wind up frustrated and discouraged and exit the practice of law altogether.

At Altria, Keane has certainly been doing her part to develop training opportunities for diverse lawyers. She and her team have instituted a number of programs that are designed to support the hiring, retention, and advancement of women and diverse lawyers, both at the company and at their outside firms. They include internship programs for first-year law students, secondment programs for senior associates, and trial advocacy training programs for women.
and diverse lawyers who are potential candidates for their trial teams.

**Promoting Pro Bono**

Keane, Garcia, and their respective in-house teams also serve the greater good by regularly taking on pro bono matters, something that hasn’t been the province of corporate legal departments historically. Garcia, who sits on the board of the Pro Bono Institute, says she expects Office Depot lawyers to work on at least one pro bono or diversity-related project a year. “I think it really adds to who we are as a team,” she says.

Garcia traces her commitment to pro bono service back to law school and her work in St. John’s Street Law program, where she offered mini-seminars in Spanish on tenant rights for low-income area residents. “You could see the benefit it brought to people,” she recalls.

Interpublic’s Bonzani also believes that lawyers should give back to their communities. His department’s commitment to service reflects his company’s unique position, with his attorneys supporting Interpublic’s agencies in their social responsibility and public service efforts around the world—ranging from education on local issues of train safety in Australia, to preservation of President Kennedy’s online library in the U.S.

Bonzani and his fellow GCs say that St. John’s helped them foster the practical skills and critical thinking they rely on in virtually everything they do. Garcia recounts that she knew how to handle a closing straight out of law school thanks to the course she took in real estate law at St. John’s. And Bonzani notes that his tough 1L contracts class turned out to be extremely formative. “The rigor of that class left me extraordinarily well prepared,” he says. Unilever’s Rapp has a similar outlook on his legal education and training at St. John’s Law. “It was a rigorous, fact-based, intensely practical way of looking at things, and all of those things have served me well,” he says. “It’s very translatable to what I do.”

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**St. John’s Leading In-House Lawyers**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Joseph C. Benedetti ‘67UC, ’68L</td>
<td>Senior Vice President and General Counsel</td>
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<td>New Jersey Devils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian P. Campbell ‘88</td>
<td>Vice President</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Business and Legal Affairs and General Counsel</td>
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<td>Dice Holdings, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eugenie M. Cesar-Fabian ’04</td>
<td>General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer</td>
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<td>Palladium Equity Partners</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lawrence M. Egan, Jr., ’88SVC, ’91L</td>
<td>Vice President, Associate General Counsel</td>
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<td>CA Technologies Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua P. Foster ‘00</td>
<td>Vice President and General Counsel</td>
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<td>Honeywell Security Group</td>
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<td>Honeywell International Inc.</td>
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<td>Jonathan I. Friedman ’95</td>
<td>General Counsel and Corporate Secretary</td>
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<td>Sirona Dental Systems, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerard M. Gallagher ’78</td>
<td>Senior Vice President of Business Affairs, General Counsel and Corporate</td>
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<td>Secretary 1-800-FLOWERS.COM, Inc.</td>
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<td>Pamela L. McCormack ’96</td>
<td>Secretary and General Counsel</td>
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<td>Ladder Capital Realty Finance, Inc.</td>
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<td>William Thaddeus Miller ’79</td>
<td>Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Secretary</td>
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<td>Calpine</td>
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<td>Elizabeth D. Moore ’78L, ’89HON</td>
<td>Senior Vice President and General Counsel</td>
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<td>Consolidated Edison, Inc.</td>
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<td>Joseph E. Oliva ’91CBA, ’94L</td>
<td>General Counsel</td>
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<td>St. John’s University</td>
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<td>Reginald M. Rasch ’95</td>
<td>General Counsel</td>
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<td>Rakuten Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donald Rosenberg ’75</td>
<td>Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary</td>
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<td>Qualcomm Incorporated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neil Rube ’86</td>
<td>Senior Vice President and General Counsel</td>
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<td>Raymour and Flanigan Furniture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas G. Seaman ’86</td>
<td>Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer</td>
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<td>Teladoc, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Catherine Vaczy ’88</td>
<td>Co-founder, VP and General Counsel</td>
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<td>NeoStem, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas G. Vetter ‘88C, ’91L</td>
<td>Vice President, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary</td>
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Susan Hansen is a freelance writer and editor based in New York. Her articles have appeared in The American Lawyer, Corporate Counsel, and other publications.
Madison Square Garden has been at the epicenter of sports, entertainment, and culture for 134 years. It has welcomed 14 U.S. Presidents and Pope John Paul II, and has showcased some of the greatest athletes in the world. History has been made in its arena, which has hosted three Democratic National Conventions, one Republican National Convention, and the “Fight of the Century” between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier, among other notable events. Marilyn Monroe performed a smoldering “Happy Birthday Mr. President” there, and it was where celebrated musicians helped lift the indomitable spirits of New Yorkers everywhere after 9/11 and Hurricane Sandy. “The World’s Most Famous Arena” is quintessentially New York, so it’s no surprise to find Irene Baker ’02 working to guide Madison Square Garden through a period of transformation and growth.

A Queens native, Baker has spent most of her formative years in New York City. She attended the evening program at St. John’s Law, where she thrived in the company of dedicated professors and supportive classmates. “Being part of the evening program and having to manage both my academic workload and a full-time job helped me learn time management and the importance of prioritizing,” Baker says. “My fellow students had spouses, children, work, or family responsibilities. Studying alongside such a diverse and determined group helped me keep my own priorities and goals clearly in sight. The positive energy, collective determination, and steadfast commitment to excellence were palpable. It was an incredible motivator throughout my legal studies, and in my career.”

Baker’s career in New York public service and government spans two decades. Prior to attending St. John’s, she worked as a constituent liaison in the district office of Congressman Thomas J. Manton ’62, ’93HON, Chairman of the Queens County Democratic Party. There she focused on Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, healthcare, and women’s issues. She ran Ann-Margaret Carrozza’s campaign for a seat in the New York State Assembly, and worked on numerous other political campaigns at the federal, state, and local level.

After St. John’s, Baker took on various positions in the public and private sectors. In 2008, she reentered public service, first working as Executive Counsel to then-Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, and then assuming senior executive roles at government agencies as Governor Cuomo’s appointee. “The driving force behind my career choices has been my belief that each of us has a responsibility to serve the common good,” says Baker. “The theme of Governor Andrew Cuomo’s administration is ‘We serve the people—performance, integrity, pride.’ I believe this holds true regardless of profession or purpose. No matter where we find ourselves in our careers, each of us has a responsibility to serve others.”

Baker carries this credo to her current work as Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for the Madison Square Garden Company. Her duties include directing the company’s government relations activities, and managing legislative and policy matters in support of its growing businesses in and outside of New York. Though her daily focus is on building strategic relationships and instituting clear and effective communications strategies, Baker never loses sight of the organization’s important place in the community. “MSG has demonstrated a commitment to New York and civic life in a way that reflects the gratitude it has to the fans and patrons that have filled its seats and stands for generations,” she says.

This commitment includes charitable work. “The Garden of Dreams Foundation is an incredible example of how private companies like MSG can be of service,” Baker says. “Because of its relationship with us, Garden of Dreams is able to do what no other charity can—use the magic and power of MSG’s personalities and properties, including the Knicks, Rangers, Liberty, MSG Media, and MSG Entertainment—to brighten the lives of children who are faced with a range of challenges, from homelessness and extreme poverty, to illness and foster care.”

Reflecting on her career path to date, Baker credits those who have guided her along the way. “I’ve been so fortunate in my life to have mentors who taught me the greatest lessons about success in work and in life,” she says. “I’ve learned that success is living a life of integrity, persevering in the face of failure, learning from your mistakes, and finding joy and humor in everyday things. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, we’ve lived a successful life if we ‘leave the world a bit better’ than we found it.”
On November 12, 2013, the Alumni Association held its annual ABI Law Review Alumni Reception at the Manhattan offices of BakerHostetler. Professor G. Ray Warner, Associate Dean for Bankruptcy Studies, was on hand to greet the St. John’s Law alumni and faculty members who attended the event.


2️⃣ Each year, Dean Michael A. Simons hosts a New York Bar Passage Reception to celebrate this important milestone with St. John’s Law graduates. This year’s reception was held on December 3, 2013 at the Warwick Hotel in Manhattan, where faculty and alumni joined students for the festivities.

3️⃣ Hon. Daniel Angiolillo ’77 graciously organized the December 6, 2013 Westchester Chapter Holiday Luncheon, which was held at the Westchester Hills Golf Club. The honoree was Nicholas M. Cannella ’75, a partner at Fitzpatrick, Cella, Harper & Scinto and the President of the Law School Alumni Association.

4️⃣ The Brooklyn Chapter Holiday Party and Toy Drive, led by Ben Darvil ’03, took place on December 11, 2013 at Vineapple Café in Brooklyn. Together with the Alumni Association’s Westchester Chapter, the Brooklyn DA’s Office, and the Appellate Division, over 650 toys were collected and donated to St. John’s Bread and Life for the St. John’s Parish in Bedford Stuyvesant.
The Alumni Association sponsored a U.S. Supreme Court Admission Day for Law School alumni on December 15-16, 2013. Dean Michael A. Simons held an opening reception at the JW Marriott in Washington, D.C. for the 31 alumni and their guests. The next morning, the group was sworn in by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, with Dean Simons serving as the movant. After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a tour of the iconic courthouse.

Over 40 alumni and practitioners gathered for a Bronx Chapter CLE Program on the “General Duties and Responsibilities of a Guardian Ad Litem in the Surrogate’s Court” on February 19, 2014. Hon. Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., Westchester County Surrogate, and Chief Clerk/Court Attorney Joseph M. Accetta presented the program, which was organized by Rev. Richard Gorman ’00 and sponsored by Hudson Valley Bank.

On March 8–9, 2014, the Law School held its Spring CLE Weekend, offering a selection of classes that included: Ethics, Legal Research, Drafting, Employment Law, Estate Planning, Elder Law, Expert Testimony, Bankruptcy, and Real Estate Litigation. Attendees received 16 credits (3 ethics, 6 skills, and 7 practice area) for the entire weekend.

On January 31, 2014 the Law School Alumni Association held its Annual Luncheon at the Hilton New York. Alumni Association President Nicholas M. Cannella ’75 presided and welcomed over 325 alumni, faculty members and students.

Cannella and Dean Michael A. Simons then presented the Recent Graduate Service Award to Rachel R. Paras ’04. Paras—a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and an active supporter of St. John’s Law—is a private practitioner in Rockville Centre, NY, where she specializes in adoption, estate planning, and real estate.

After introductory remarks, Dean Simons presented the St. Thomas More Award to Hon. Raymond W. Kelly ’71, ’98HON, former Police Commissioner of New York City. With 50 years in public service and two tours of duty as Police Commissioner, Kelly is one of the world’s most well-known and highly regarded leaders in law enforcement.

Dean Simons said: “Ray Kelly’s life has been a life of service. In the best Vincentian tradition, he has used his St. John’s law degree to serve others. And for that, the Law School Alumni Association is proud to present him with the St. Thomas More Award for outstanding moral leadership.”
The annual Law Review Alumni Reception was held on March 18, 2014 at the Metropolitan Club in Manhattan. Organized by Nina Shreve ’77, the evening celebrated the successes of St. John’s Law Review students, as noted by Editor-in-Chief Kevin Wallace ’14. Dean Michael A. Simons then presented the Law Review Alumni Award to Richard F. Hans ’93, Chair of DLA Piper’s 100-attorney New York Litigation practice and a member of its New York Office Steering Committee.

Celebration Honoring Professor Margaret Valentine Turano ’77 for her efforts to build an exceptional writing program at St. John’s Law. Turano founded the Writing Center in 2000 and still guides it as Faculty Director.

The celebrants included Hon. Janet DiFiore ’81, Westchester County District Attorney, and her husband Dennis Glazer ’79, a former partner at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP (ret.). Patricia A. McLernon Castel ’77, ’04 HON, Turano’s Law School classmate and a member of the St. John’s University Board of Trustees, shared touching anecdotes about Turano’s unrivaled contributions to the Moot Court Honor Society and the St. John’s Law Review as a student.

On March 25, 2014, over 60 former and current Writing Center Consultants, alumni, faculty, and friends of the Law School gathered for a surprise celebration honoring Professor Margaret Valentine Turano ’77 for her efforts to build an exceptional writing program at St. John’s Law. Turano founded the Writing Center in 2000 and still guides it as Faculty Director.

On April 3, 2014, St. John’s Latin American Law Student Association (LALSA) held its inaugural Alumni Appreciation Reception at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in New York. Welcoming the alumni and student attendees to the event—which was hosted by Mary Kay Vyskocil ’83—LALSA President Edda Santiago ’14 noted that LALSA is “la familia,” a family that strives for academic achievement, networking opportunities, community service, social opportunities, and fostering the Latino legal perspective at the Law School.

LALSA then presented its Alumna/us of the Year Award to Elisa D. Garcia C. ’85, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for Office Depot, Inc. Accepting the honor, Garcia gratefully acknowledged the St. John’s Law classmates who served with her on the LALSA board, recalling their work translating for clients in the Street Law Program. She also shared how this early service experience helped shape her ongoing commitment to pro bono work—a commitment she brings to her world-wide legal team.
O ur alumni have always been supportive of our students—it’s truly one of the hallmarks of St. John’s Law. Confident I could count on our alumni, I made a promise to our students during last year’s Endowed Scholarship Reception that the development team would raise an additional 10 scholarships prior to the 2014 Scholarship Reception.

It became increasingly clear last summer, as the Admissions Office recruited the fall class, that 10 new scholarships would not be enough. Dean Simons and I resolved to launch a matching program to encourage new endowed scholarships. Thanks to extraordinary gifts from Arthur Wiener (parent), Nicholas Cannella ’75 and Joanne Welty ’76, Mary Kay Vyskocil ’83, the Estate of Robert J. Dixon ’29, ’69HON, and other alumni and friends, Dean Simons was able to establish a matching fund of $1.5 million.

Then something extraordinary happened. In October 2013, John V. Brennan ’63C, ’66L, ’93HON committed to a $1 million gift to increase the matching fund to $2.5 million. This fund would allow Dean Simons and the development team to reach out to alumni with a compelling opportunity. Each gift of $50,000 or more to establish a new endowed scholarship or to augment an already endowed scholarship would be matched 1:1, doubling the effect of the gift.

We intended to contact alumni quietly at first to get the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program off the ground, and then formally launch the program at the Law School’s Endowed Scholarship Reception on February 11, 2014. But along the way another extraordinary thing happened. Our alumni responded, and they responded with overwhelming enthusiasm.

As of May 1, 2014, some 50 alumni and friends—including 13 alumni from the 1990s and one from 2000—have already given over $3.2 million in new endowed scholarships. With the 1:1 match, these new gifts will increase the Law School’s endowment by $6.4 million. Once fully funded, these scholarships will enable St. John’s Law to award an additional $320,000 annually to talented students in need of financial assistance.

The matching program will have a profound impact on the school; both in the alumni it has attracted as major donors, and in the students who will receive generous scholarship support.

St. John’s Law is hitting its stride, and you and your fellow alumni are leading the charge. Thank you for allowing us to serve your alma mater with pride.

Brian J. Woods
Executive Director of Development and Alumni Relations
After four years of active service in the military, John V. Brennan began his college education at St. John’s College as an evening student on the G.I. Bill in 1957, earning his baccalaureate degree in English in 1963. In 1960 he joined United States Aviation Underwriters, the largest aviation insurance organization in the world. He never left, assuming positions of ever-increasing responsibility within the corporate structure. He earned his J.D. from St. John’s School of Law in 1966 and became a specialist in products liability law, publishing numerous scholarly articles and actively participating in many aviation insurance and legal seminars. In 1990 he was appointed to the position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Aviation Underwriters and served as its leader until his retirement in 1994.

His professional responsibilities involved him in numerous cases that received worldwide attention, including the tragedy of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Such involvement created in him an acute concern for airline safety, and he served on the boards of several foundations concerned with this issue. He received the Federal Aviation Administration’s Distinguished Service Medal in 1991 and the Flight Safety Foundation Presidential Citation in 1992.

Yet, despite his enormous professional responsibilities, he remained committed in true Vincentian fashion to serving God and those of God’s family who have special needs. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Papal Foundation, the organization charged with assisting in the financial support of the Holy See and is a Steward of St. Peter, as well as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre. In 2012, the Brennans were received into the spiritual family of St. Vincent de Paul.

In 1982, the Brennan Family took a leading role in establishing The INN (The Interfaith Nutrition Network) on Long Island. In 2000, they became the primary benefactor in building the St. Thomas More Church and became major contributors to the Carnesecca Arena. They are pleased to continue their support of St. John’s today.

John and his wife Anita, a 2008 recipient of the St. John’s University St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal, have five children, two of whom, like their father, are alumni of the School of Law.

St. John’s recognized in John Brennan one who combined the ideas of education with the ideals which are a special part of Vincentian education and, in 1993, proudly conferred upon this loyal and illustrious alumnus, *honoris causa*, the degree of Doctor of Laws and awarded him the Medal of Honor in 1995.
### Alumni and Friends Whose Generosity Established the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>John V. Brennan ’63C, ’66L, ’93HON</td>
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<td>Nicholas Cannella ’75 and</td>
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<td>Joanne Welty ’76</td>
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<td>Estate of Robert J. Dixson ’29, ’69HON</td>
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<td>Mary Kay Vyskocil ’83</td>
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<td>Arthur Wiener (Parent)</td>
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### Alumni and Friends Who Have Newly Funded Endowed Scholarships Through the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program

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<td>Vincent C. Alexander ’75 and</td>
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<td>Anne Dillon Alexander ’76C, ’80L</td>
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<td>Leonard D. Andrew ’68</td>
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<td>Anonymous (2)</td>
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<td>Roberta M. Beary ’78</td>
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<td>Michael P. Conboy ’86</td>
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<td>Kerry B. Conners ’82</td>
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<td>Joseph G. Dell ’88CBA, ’91L and</td>
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<td>James D. Herschlein ’85</td>
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<td>Steven J. Gartner ’84</td>
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<td>Brian A. Jarmain ’98 and</td>
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<td>Christopher Keller ’97</td>
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<td>Shephard Lane ’66</td>
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<td>Joseph M. Mattone, Sr. ’53C, ’55L, ’94HON</td>
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<td>Marie Kaiser Napoli ’89C, ’93L and</td>
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<td>Paul J. Napoli ’92</td>
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<td>Michele and Kenneth E. Newman ’71</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mark L. Regante ’78</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas C. Rice ’78C, ’81L</td>
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<td>Hon. Reinaldo E. Rivera ’76, ’06HON</td>
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<td>Courtney R. Rockett ’98 and</td>
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<td>Patrick J. Rohan, Jr.</td>
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<td>Andrew J. Simons, Sr. ’65</td>
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<td>Richard A. Spehr ’86</td>
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<td>George J. Tsunis ’92</td>
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<td>Douglas G. Vetter ’88C, ’91L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terence P. Winter ’88</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Family and Friends of Lauren Marcus:</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lauren Nicole Marcus Memorial Scholarship Fund</td>
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</table>

### Endowed Scholarships Established in 2013 Prior to the Creation of the Brennan Family Scholarship Matching Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class/Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frances Babb (spouse of Bernard Babb ’53C, ’58L)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael John Borrelli ’01</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Troy G. Rosasco ’89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Francis J. Scahill ’84</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marea M. Suozzi ’80</td>
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<td>Isaac Torres ’01</td>
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### $6.4 million in New Endowed Scholarships!
In January, New York City’s Apollo Theater turned 80. It was a major milestone for this legendary cultural institution, which has been charting a course to revitalization for more than a decade under the leadership of Jonelle Procope ’77.

Growing up, Procope spent summers in Harlem with her half-brother, John L. Procope, who was the publisher of the Amsterdam News. She got to know the Apollo as a cornerstone of the community, where emerging and established artists—including Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, and Michael Jackson—performed before a wonderfully diverse audience.

Procope went on to get a B.A. from Howard University and a J.D. from St. John’s Law. She then enjoyed a successful career at the intersection of law and entertainment, starting as an associate with Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP in New York and rising to senior management positions at Viacom, Bristol-Myers Squibb, and the independent record label, Blackground Records.

During this time, the Apollo faced fiscal and other challenges that called for concerted action. The nonprofit Apollo Theater Foundation launched in 1991 and, in 2003, Procope moved from the Board of Directors to become the organization’s President and CEO. It’s been an ambitious effort to date, and Procope has seen her role evolve over time. “When I came on, we were in building mode,” she says. “It was a fresh start and our focus was on establishing our infrastructure, getting on a firm financial footing, and developing our Board of Directors to carry the organization forward.”

The steps to revitalizing and growing the Apollo as an artistic, educational, and community pillar have included multiple multi-million dollar renovations. Procope has also cultivated a “fabulous Board of Directors,” chaired by renowned businessman Richard Parsons, and a staff of “seasoned professionals with a depth of knowledge in programming, marketing, and development.” Procope is characteristically straightforward when reflecting on this support system. “I’m comfortable in my own skin and I know what I don’t know. I’m very fortunate to have people around me who do their best work for the good of the organization.”

With this solid foundation, Procope is now turning her attention to the “21st Century Apollo Campaign,” a $20 million fundraising initiative that will help the institution support the work of new artists, deepen its engagement with its audiences, and expand its reach nationally and internationally. As the campaign enters its public phase, the Apollo has already raised $10 million towards its $20 million goal. Procope attributes her success as a fundraiser to skills she gained along her career path. “I would never have chosen fundraising as a career,” she says. “But I’ve learned that it’s really all about relationships and communication, and I’ve been able to build skills in both these areas as a professional.”

With this infusion of funds, the Apollo has expanded its programming to include the “Uptown Hall” series, which presents discussions on cultural and civic issues important to the Harlem community along with programs for local school children and families. There is also a new club-like performance space called the “Music Café,” and a “Salon-Series” for mid-career artists who are pushing creative boundaries. Anchoring all these offerings, and the Apollo’s main-stage events, is a mission of connecting people to the larger community. “We take our role as a community not-for-profit very, very seriously,” Procope notes.

And, looking back, Procope credits St. John’s Law with helping her realize the importance of community. “I feel so blessed and grateful to have had the opportunity to go to St. John’s,” she says. “It’s a very nurturing and inclusive environment and, after all these years, it continues to inspire my work helping the Apollo Theater foster a vibrant community of artists and thinkers in Harlem, across New York City, and around the world.”

**Jonelle Procope ’77**  
Leads the Revitalization of a New York City Cultural Institution
1967
The Board of Directors of the National Automobile Dealers Association has elected William C. Fox Vice Chairman for 2014. The position puts him in line for Chairman in 2015.

1969
Hon. John Gerard Ingram was appointed to the New York State Supreme Court, Kings County.

Michael Rashkin was appointed Chief Financial Officer of Marvell Technology Group Ltd., a global leader in integrated silicon solutions. He has been with the company since 1999, serving in a variety of roles in the finance area.

1971
Raymond W. Kelly ’98HON, former New York City Police Commissioner, has been named President of Risk Management Services (RMS), a division of Cushman & Wakefield. Kelly will help clients identify potential vulnerabilities and prepare for and manage risk across a number of critical areas, including physical and cyber security intelligence, crisis management, due diligence, and emergency preparedness.

1974
Norma Skoog has been named a trustee for Clovernook Center of the Blind and Visually Impaired in Cincinnati, OH.

1975
Donald J. Rosenberg, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary with Qualcomm, Inc., was installed as a Co-Chair of the National Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law’s Board of Directors. This non-profit organization was formed in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy to involve the private bar in providing legal services to address racial discrimination.

Steven Siesser has joined the National Waste & Recycling Association as the Director of Administrative Services. Siesser will be responsible for the Association’s human resources, information technology, and finances.

1976
Sandra Busell, a partner at Davidoff Hutcher & Citron, LLP, was included in the Long Island Business feature “Ones to Watch: Long Island Law.” She focuses her practice on law and government relations in the firm’s trusts and estates group.

1977
Hon. Patricia A. Harrington was sworn in as a Nassau County Court judge on January 14, 2014.

Hon. Judy Harris Kluger has resigned as Chief of Policy and Planning for the New York State Unified Court System to head the non-profit Sanctuary for Families, an organization that aids domestic violence victims, sex trafficking victims, and their children.

1979
James F. Burdi has been promoted to partner in the Business and Transactional Law Practice Group at Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP.

1980
Kathryn Driscoll Hopkins, Chief Clerk of Nassau County Supreme Court, is the recipient of the Long Beach Lawyers’ Association’s 2014 Lawrence E. Eloich Leadership Award.

1981
Kevin J. Harding ’81, Suzanne Q. Burke '01, and Christine M. Hogan ‘08 have formed Harding, Burke & Hogan, PLLC in Garden City, NY.

Hon. Arthur G. Pitts was re-elected to the New York State Supreme Court for the 10th Judicial District in Riverhead, NY.

1983
For over 30 years, Walter Lundahl, Rob Sorge, Craig Coughlin, Kevin Reina, Bill Clark, Ed Kelly, Gerry Brave, and Stu Haas (who refer to themselves as “The Assize”) have been meeting on the St. John’s campus to play a friendly game of touch football.

1985
Robert J. Jordan, Jr. has been promoted to Vice President at Coca-Cola in Atlanta, Georgia.

1986
Gary Miret was honored by the Latino Lawyers Association of Queens County as Latino Lawyer of the Year. He was also appointed to the Board of Managers for the Queens County Bar Association, and named Vice Dean of the Association’s Academy of Law and Vice Chair of its Criminal Court Committee.

Scott Ratchick was named to the 2013 Super Lawyers Business Edition list for his work in business litigation. He is a shareholder in the Atlanta office of Houston-based Chamberlain, Hrdlicka, White, Williams & Aughtry, where he focuses on complex commercial and securities litigation and shareholder and business disputes.

Dennis Russo has joined BakerHostetler as a partner. He heads the firm’s New York Real Estate Practice Group and handles sophisticated real estate financing, workouts, restructurings,
joint ventures, acquisitions, dispositions and development projects.

1987
Edward C. Mohlenhoff has joined Schroder & Strom LLP as an associate, focusing his practice on tax certiorari.

Robert E. Sandler, a partner in the Real Estate Practice Group at Farrell Fritz, P.C. in Uniondale, NY, was appointed to the Farmingdale College Foundation’s Board of Directors.

1988
Robert Moy has joined Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana, LLP as a partner in the Trusts and Estates and Corporate Law Practice Group.

Rebecca L. Myers is the EVP/Chief Administrative & Chief Legal Officer at Connextions, a division of Optum Health. She leads the company’s legal, physical and data security, real estate, and regulatory teams.

1989
Mary Elizabeth Anderson is the new Director of the Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project, a New York City civil legal services group that uses direct legal and social work services, as well as education, community organization, and impact litigation, to assist people with mental illness to achieve better measures of recovery and live fuller, more stable lives.

Axinn, Veltrop & Harkrider LLP announced that Delphine Knight Brown has joined its Intellectual Property Group as a partner. She will be based in the firm’s New York office. Brown concentrates her practice on intellectual property and commercial cases involving a wide range of industries and products, including pharmaceuticals, medical devices, computer software and hardware, and business methods and processes.

William A. Frank has joined the law firm of Bluestein, Shapiro, Rich & Barone, LLP, and heads the firm’s Municipal Law Department.

1990
James P. Cronin has joined the law firm of Kerley, Walsh, Matera & Cinquemani, P.C. as a partner and manager of the firm’s Trusts and Estates Practice Group.

Hon. Melinda Katz was elected Queens Borough President in November 2013.

1992
Anthony Barbiero was elected to serve as the Managing Partner of Bartlett, McDonough & Monaghan, LLP.

Maximiliano Rinaldi has joined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP as Department Attorney and will be based in the firm’s New York Office. He focuses his practice in the areas of real estate, finance and capital markets, and related commercial litigation.

1993
Gary Giampetruzzi has joined Paul Hastings LLP as a partner in the Litigation Department in their New York office. Prior to joining Paul Hastings, he served as Vice President, Assistant General Counsel, and Head of Government Investigations at Pfizer Inc., with responsibility for government investigations across the company’s multiple business units and operations globally, and associated government litigation with U.S. and international prosecutor offices.

1994
Carolyn Austin has been named a partner at Arent Fox LLP in the firm’s New York Real Estate Practice Group.

Douglas E. Fleming, III has joined Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, LLP as a partner. He defends companies in complex litigation, concentrating his practice in the areas of mass
torts, products liability, environmental torts, and insurance.

**Andrew Goldsmith** has been named the Executive Vice President of AMIT. AMIT operates 110 schools, youth villages, surrogate family residences and other programs, constituting Israel’s only government-recognized network of religious Jewish education incorporating academic and technological studies.

**John A. Loannou** has joined Motley Rice LLC in their Antitrust Practice Group. He litigates antitrust matters for a range of industries, including horizontal and vertical restraints of trade and monopolization claims.

**Nicholas E. Rodriguez** has been elected to partnership at Jones Day. His practice involves U.S. and Latin American cross-border mergers and acquisitions, private equity, joint ventures, restructuring, capital markets, and infrastructure transactions, including matters in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Chile, and the Dominican Republic.

1995

**Gary Abelev** is a partner at Andrews Kurth, where he represents a large number of domestic and foreign clients in a variety of areas, including patent litigation, due diligence studies, patent portfolio management and procurement, negotiations/disputes, and licensing matters.

**Austin Faberman** has been named a shareholder at Nachmias Morris & Alt, P.C. He practices in the area of commercial real estate, concentrating in leasing, purchase and sale, and financing transactions.

**William J. Kelleher, II** has joined People’s United Bank in Bridgeport, CT as First Vice President and Corporate Counsel.

**Frank Lombardi** was sworn to a second term as Councilman and Deputy Supervisor of the town of Carmel in Putnam County, NY.

1996

**Adam J. Gottlieb** has joined Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP as a partner in the Trusts and Estates and Corporate Law Practice Group.

**Krista Miniutti** has been elected a partner at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, in their Real Estate Practice Group.

1998


**Steve Semerdjian** is Managing Counsel for the Bank of New York Mellon.

1999

**Nicholas J. Cremona** has been elected to partner at BakerHostetler in the firm’s Business Practice Group. He practices in bankruptcy litigation and debtor and creditors’ rights, including representing secured lenders, creditors, debtors, and fiduciaries in complex Chapter 11 proceedings and out-of-court restructurings.

**John M. Guerriero** is an associate in the New York office of Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney, Ltd. He concentrates his practice in environmental, toxic tort, and product liability matters.

2000

**Theresa A. Driscoll**, who is Of Counsel at the Garden City law firm of Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP, was recently elected Vice President of Programming for the Turnabout Management Association’s Long Island Chapter.

**Darryl Gibbs** received the NYSBA’s 2014 Diversity Trailblazer award, which was presented at the NYSBA’s annual meeting in January 2014.

**Samuel H. Megerditchian** has joined Gibbons P.C. as counsel in the firm’s Intellectual Property Practice Group. He is a seasoned patent agent and attorney with over 15 years of experience in chemical, pharmaceutical, biotechnological, electrical, and mechanical matters, with a concentration in the development, management, and enforcement of patent portfolios.

2001

**John Harrison** was promoted to counsel in the Real Estate Practice Group at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP.

**Jeffrey Varsalone** has been named Managing Director at CBIZ MHM, LLC in Boston, MA.

2002

**Robert A. DelGiorno** has been named a partner at Garfunkel Wild, P.C. He is a member of the firm’s Compliance and White Collar Defense, Health Care, and Litigation and Arbitration Practice Groups, primarily focusing his practice on health-care fraud and abuse.

**Mark T. O’Rourke** has been named the Regional Director of State Government Affairs, Northeast Region, for Astellas Pharma US, Inc.

**Daniel J. Scott** is a member of Pryor Cashman’s Trust and Estates Practice Group.
Nathan Weber, an associate at Carter, DeLuca, Farrell & Schmidt, LLP was included in the Long Island Business feature “Ones to Watch: Long Island Law.” His practice focuses on intellectual property.

Adam Weiss is a partner at Fugazy & Rooney LLP in their Glen Cove, NY office. He specializes in labor and employment law.

2003
Zandra L. Johnson has opened Zandra L. Johnson, LLC with offices in Greenville, SC.

Kristina M. Wesch is counsel in the Bankruptcy and Creditors’ Rights Practice Group at Farrell Fritz, P.C. in Uniondale, NY.

2004
Akhshay N. Belani is a partner at Bingham McCutchen LLP. He focuses his practice on derivatives and the application of derivatives in trading, structured products, and capital markets.

Cindy Chen Delano has joined AIG Investments as Associate General Counsel.

Heather P. Harrison has been promoted to counsel at Farrell Fritz, P.C. in Uniondale, NY. She is a commercial litigation attorney concentrating in labor and employment law.

Joseph T. LaFerlita has been promoted to partner at Farrell Fritz, P.C. in Uniondale, NY. His practice focuses on estate planning and administration of trusts and estates.

Nicholas J. Mauro has been named Bureau Chief of the Special Investigations Bureau at the Office of the Special Narcotics Prosecutor for the City of New York.

2005
Kelly E. Jones has been named a partner of Harris Beach PLLC. Her practice is primarily focused on the defense of pharmaceutical and life science companies in complex mass torts.

Stacy K. Marcus has been promoted to partner at Reed Smith LLP in the firm’s New York office. She is a member of the corporate and securities practice group. She concentrates her practice on advertising, entertainment, and technology law.

Chris Paton has opened Chris Paton, LLC, in Charleston, SC.

Laura Paris Paton has been elected to the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Women Lawyers Association.

2008
Bryan J. Ferrara has joined Rawle & Henderson LLP as an associate in the firm’s New York office. He concentrates his practice in the areas of insurance coverage, medical professional liability, and casualty and premises liability.

Donna Kim has joined the law firm of Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP as an associate in the firm’s Landlord and Tenant Practice Group.

Joshua Liebman is an associate at Rosenberg, Calica & Birney LLP in Garden City, NY focusing on commercial litigation.

Rachel Rosenberg Liebman works as a Deputy County Attorney for the Nassau County Attorney’s office in the Family Court Bureau prosecuting child abuse and neglect.

Megha R. Thakkar has joined the matrimonial and family law practice group at Norris McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A. as an associate in the firm’s New Jersey Office.

Eun Chong (EJ) Thorsen, an associate in the Litigation Practice Group at Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP, was named one of Queens Courier’s 2014 Rising Stars.

2009
Jamie Friedman has been named Deputy Director and Associate Counsel at Greystone & Co.

Peter J. Ryan has joined the Yorio Law Group, P.C., in Danbury, CT. He focuses his practice on trusts and estates, real estate, and business representation.

2010
David Bloom has joined the Appellate Practice Group as an associate in the Valhalla, NY office of Kaufman Borgeest & Ryan LLP.

2011
Preston Demouchet has joined McCarthy Fingar, LLP as an associate in the firm’s Trusts and Estates Practice Group.

Bettina Hollis has joined the Law Offices of Philip J. Rizzuto in Carle Place, NY as an associate in the Litigation Practice Group.

City Council Minority leader Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore) selected Brendan Lantry to be a senior staff member assigned to City Hall.

Asad Rizvi is a law clerk to Hon. A. Kathleen Tomlinson, United States Magistrate Judge, Eastern District of New York. Previously, he served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the New York City Law Department.
2012

Adam J. Roughley is an associate in the Corporate and Finance Practice Group at Farrell Fritz, P.C. in Uniondale, NY.

Dominique Sainte-Forte is Senior Court Attorney at the New York State Court of Appeals.

2013

Rebecca Goldberg’s article “Proposal to Amend EPTL § 2-1.7 (a),” appeared in the Spring 2013 New York State Bar Association Trusts and Estates Section Newsletter. Another article, “New York Estates, Powers and Trusts Law § 5-1.4: Why Divorce May Not Do You and Your Ex-Spouse’s Relatives Part” (co-authored with Rob Harper) will be in the Spring 2014 issue of the Quinnipiac Probate Law Journal.

Andrew Hamilton is an associate at the McLane Law Firm in Manchester, NH.

Amanda Jaret has accepted an offer to join the staff of the Chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, following her current appointment as Graduate Fellow in the Office of the AFL-CIO General Counsel.

A paper that Reesa Miles wrote at St. John’s Law, “Defamation is More Than Just a Tort: A New Constitutional Standard for Internet Student Speech,” has been published in the Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal.

David Torreblanca has joined Collins, McDonald & Gann, P.C. as an associate in the Mineola, NY office. He is a member of the law firm’s Dietary Supplement Practice Group.

Ravi Vohra is an associate at Jaspan Schlesinger LLP, in the firm’s Banking and Finance Services Practice Group.
**Tim Sullivan** can trace his successful career crafting sophisticated M&A deals to his post-college days working as a paralegal in the Washington, D.C. firm where legendary securities lawyer Harvey L. Pitt ’68, ’02HON practiced. A skilled strategist and advisor who earned the respect of colleagues on both sides of the table, Pitt was an inspiration to the young Sullivan, who came to St. John’s Law eager to replicate Pitt’s career.

Though still inspired by his early mentor, as he shares in the Q&A below, Sullivan has forged a rewarding career path that’s very much his own—moving from the M&A practice at Sullivan & Cromwell to successive investment banking positions at Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, and Argus Capital Partners, and then joining Notch Partners where he helps private equity clients put new investment dollars to work.

What compelled your decision to leave the law for the business of investment banking? I loved my time at Sullivan & Cromwell and thought I’d never leave. My assignments were front-page hostile takeovers and complex M&A deals. But it was the tech-telecom bubble of 2000, and almost all my mentors were jumping from law into the M&A side of investment banking. Also, at that time, M&A lawyers and M&A bankers all thought of themselves as “strategic, trusted advisors.” So the roles weren’t seen as very different at all.

What do you enjoy most about your current work at Notch Partners? I enjoy finding, structuring, and executing the M&A deal—whether it’s a large parent company divesting a division; an entrepreneurial management team that wants to be owned by more generous, patient, or aggressive capital; an executive leader in a particular sector who wants to consolidate her industry; or a family business considering a shift in ownership. Finding solutions and calmly navigating all the complex issues is what I’ve always loved to do. When the parties to a transaction are open to trusting an advisor who has experience and insight, it’s a very important and rewarding role.

How would you describe the connection between your legal education and your work? Throughout my career, I’ve found that when things get tough in any way, everyone starts looking for the “adult” perspective in the room. And that perspective invariably comes from someone with a law degree. When things need to get done, and next steps have to be taken, it’s the lawyer who speaks up and crafts the plan.

**What particular attributes do you think St. John’s Law students have that equip them to succeed in today’s business world?** I think this is an important question. Like many St. John’s Law alumni, I’ve sat at conference tables with graduates from all the top law schools. I’ve competed with them inside law firms. I’ve negotiated against them in deal settings. And I’ve carried a bit of a chip on my shoulder about my law school vs. their more famous law school. I believe that chip has served me very well and I know I’m not alone in that belief. The professional world doesn’t seek “big minds” as much as it seeks resourceful problem solvers. St. John’s Law students graduate with a hunger in their bellies and with the tools they need to come up with smart, workable solutions without wasting time. I’d stack this can-do spirit and drive up against any other law school that leans on its prestige.

**You continue to support St. John’s Law as a donor. Why is giving back important to you?** My law degree has been a springboard for a wonderful career that has been rewarding and challenging in ways I could never have predicted. In class and as a member of the *St. John’s Law Review*, I learned how to think and how to analyze issues from different angles. I gained the confidence I needed—and that I still draw on—to go out and make things happen. I’m grateful for what St. John’s has given me and I’m now in a position where I should give back and, in this way, help current St. John’s Law students find success.
Marie Beary ’44 knew the value of a thick skin and a good sense of humor. As a cum laude graduate of St. John’s Law, she relied on both to complement her keen intellect. At a time when almost all women working in New York law firms were secretaries, Beary found a job as a lawyer for an insurance company. In the courtroom, she navigated gender-related hurdles and drew on her skills to become an adept litigator.

Beary was no stranger to breaking through barriers. The only child of Italian immigrants, she grew up in Brooklyn with a hard-working father who believed in education and who constantly reminded her—in word and deed—that she could be anything she wanted to be. Beary carried this encouragement to become the first college graduate in her family, and then to pursue a law degree at St. John’s. She thrived as a law student, and she appreciated that the Law School opened its doors to people from all walks of life.

The law became a family affair for Beary when she met her future husband, St. John’s Law alumnus Patrick Beary ’32C, ’34L, ’53LL.M. as the two worked opposite sides of a case. Contrary to the custom of the day, she continued to work after marrying Patrick in 1947. Beary and her husband established a joint practice in Queens, NY. and started a family that would grow to include children, Patricia, Kevin, Roberta, and David.

Always civic-minded, Beary devoted time to improving her community through political activism, including several campaigns for elected office. As an advocate for inclusion, she sought to join the all-male Queens County Bar Association. When her bid was rejected, Beary successfully sued to end the organization’s 84-year ban on women members.

And she kept making professional and personal strides. Beary was the youngest women of her time admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Taking a job as an Assistant Attorney General in New York in 1964, she worked to protect the interests of wards of the state until she retired as a supervisor in 1988. Beary received the Law School’s first Woman of the Year award in 1976, and was honored with the President’s Medal in 1994 for her outstanding service to society and to St. John’s University. She also received a commendation from the National Association of Women Lawyers for her advancement of women’s rights, and was nominated to the Women’s Hall of Fame.

Beary’s positive influence is evident. Inspired by her, two first cousins—Ines T. Aull ’55 (nee Monaco) and Santina A. Vaughan ’55 (nee Cuti)—graduated from St. John’s Law. Daughters Roberta and Patricia are 1978 and 1982 Law School graduates, respectively, and currently practice law. “My mother always stressed that women should be able to support themselves,” Roberta recalls. “Growing up, I watched her live that credo as a litigator and as an advocate, but I didn’t realize how unusual it was at the time.”

Patricia, a solo practitioner who worked as a top-level federal government lawyer for many years, similarly credits the unique perspective she gained from her mother. “When I decided to attend law school, I chose St. John’s because my mother always spoke of the excellent legal education she received. She encouraged me to work in the public sector because of the opportunities available there. Through her example, I learned that if I conducted myself with dedication, determination, and integrity, I could achieve any goal to which I aspired.”

Marie Beary passed away in September 2013. Her legacy of fortitude, tolerance, and action against injustice endures in the Marie A. Beary Memorial Scholarship generously established by her daughter, Roberta, as a perpetual scholarship to benefit female students at St. John’s Law.
The Law School Alumni Association hosts and participates in many events throughout the year. Below are highlights of upcoming events. Please visit our online event calendar at stjohns.edu/law/events for full event details and updates.

May 19, 2014
Hon. John E. Sprizzo Reception

May 21, 2014
Alumni Association General Meeting

June 1, 2014
Law School Commencement

June 4, 2014
Suffolk Chapter Golf Outing

June 11, 2014
Brooklyn Chapter Spring Reception

June 12, 2014
Alumni of Color Chapter An Evening in Harlem

June 12, 2014
Hon. Charles Rangel ‘60, ‘83HON Congressm an for New York’s 13th District

July 31, 2014
Post Bar Reception

September 22, 2014
Hon. Guy J. Mangano Golf Classic

THE LAW SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION’S ALUMNI OF COLOR CHAPTER PRESENTS

AN Evening IN HARLEM

Thursday June 12, 2014

Guest of Honor
Hon. Charles Rangel ‘60, ‘83HON Congressman for New York’s 13th District

Tour of the Apollo Theater
253 West 125th Street

Reception at Red Rooster Harlem
310 Lenox Avenue

Fee | $75 per person

More Information:
Claire C. McKeever | mckeever@stjohns.edu | (718) 990-6028
There’s no time like the present to make a difference.

Please make a gift to St. John’s Law before the end of our fiscal year (May 28, 2014). Your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and 100% of it goes to the Law School.

**The benefit to St. John’s Law, our legacy, and our students is far reaching!**

Use the enclosed envelope to make your gift, give online at lawgiving.stjohns.edu, or contact Mary-Anna Schaefer at (718) 990-2438 or schwarzm@stjohns.edu.

**Thank you for your support!**