



# In Brief

Field Notes by & for Alumni

## WELCOME TO IN BRIEF

Greetings,

We're pleased to bring you another edition of In Brief, our quarterly e-newsletter for and about St. John's Law alumni. This curated content spotlights how graduates give back to alma mater in a variety of ways and make their mark in the field. We also offer a sampling of Class Notes and tell you about events, programs, and initiatives brought to you by the Law School and our Alumni Association. Enjoy!



Best,

Brian J. Woods  
Associate Dean for Law School Advancement



## YOUR IMPACT



### Generous Gift Benefits Women at St. John's Law

"Our daughter thrived at St. John's, so we're delighted to give back to the institution that supported her so beautifully by **funding programs and initiatives for women at the Law School**," said the parents of a recent graduate. We're incredibly grateful for their generosity, which will benefit our students now and into the future.

### Putting Our Students to Work in the Public Interest

Each year, generous alumni donors and bidders at our Public Interest Auction help to fund the Law School's **Summer Public Interest Fellowship Program**. This past summer, we were able to award 60 fellowships that **provided a total of \$236,000 in support** for deserving St. John's Law students, including **Abigail Sloan '23**, who spent the summer at Catholic Charities. You can [read more about the program's success](#).



### Clean Out Your Closets for a Great Cause

Want to spark some joy? Many of our students have limited means and can't afford work clothes. So we've launched the **Career Closet**, a new service to help them dress for success. **We're accepting donations of** new or clean and gently worn suits, blazers, shirts, blouses, skirts, and pants that are appropriate for **business attire**. Please contact Vernadette Horne at [hornev@stjohns.edu](mailto:hornev@stjohns.edu) to donate today!



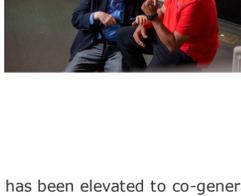
## LET'S HEAR IT!



### On Campus

**Hon. Karen Gopee '97**, who presides in New York City Criminal Court, returned to campus in late August to administer the oath to our incoming 1Ls at our New Student Orientation and Convocation. If you haven't already, you can [read all about the entering Class of 2021](#), our most diverse class to date.

It was also great to have author, producer, brand architect, and attorney **Billy Burke '18** back on campus for his work on a documentary film about legendary New York City point guards that features former St. John's star Mark Jackson and the incomparable coach Lou Carnesecca.



### Leadership Moves

**James Denniston '07** has been elevated to co-general counsel for the New York Mets. [More here](#).

**Amanda Jaret '13** has been promoted to chief counsel at the National Labor Relations Board.



### Let's Celebrate

Congratulations to **Jayshree Narendran '14** and **Michael Virga '15** on their recent marriage.

Wedding bells also chimed for **Ryan DeBiase '19**, **Marissa Harrell '15**, **Catherine Mapelli '21**, and **Alyssa Zuckerman '13**, and we wish them all the happiness in the world. You'll find more news of marriages and births in our alumni community at [stjohnslawseeinfra.com](http://stjohnslawseeinfra.com).



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Celebrating a Life Well Lived

We were **planning to celebrate the life of Erica B. Fine '82**, a beloved alumna, colleague, classmate, and friend, on 10/9. But, given public health concerns, we're **going to gather in person on 5/21 instead**, close to the one-year anniversary of Erica's passing. We'll follow up with more details in the new year. In the meantime, **please hold the date**.

### Different Name. Same Fabulous Book Club.

It was a great conversation for the season launch of [The Black Authors Book Club](#) (formerly the First Friday Book Club) on 9/2. Dynamic and professor Michael Eric Dyson, wonderful **hosts Professor Sheldon Evans and Professor Cheryl Wade**, and a trio of amazing student facilitators guided a discussion about *Jay-Z: Made in America*. We can't wait for the next meeting on **10/7**, when author **Isabel Wilkerson** will discuss her book, *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Don't miss it. [Register today!](#)

### Just for Recent Grads

Our **First 10 series for alumni who graduated in the last 10 years** is back. For the season opener on 10/13, Dean Michael A. Simons will host a lively conversation **Michael Lydakakis '13**, Counsel Legal & Business Affairs, Madison Square Garden Entertainment Corp; **Christina Suarez '11**, Senior Vice President, Business and Legal Affairs, Universal Music Group; and **Mike Zitelli '11**, General Counsel & VP, Business Affairs, Edrington Americas; President, Wyoming Whiskey, Inc., who **will talk about working in house in sports and entertainment**. There will be an audience Q & A at the end. We'll share registration information soon.

### Law (Still) Matters

We're launching Season 2 of the popular *Law Matters* webcast. For the kickoff episode on 10/19, host **Dean Michael A. Simons** will lead a **lively conversation** with guests **Meghan Carroll '07**, Vice President, Labor Policy and Health, National Football League, and **James Denniston '07**, Co-General Counsel, New York Mets. They'll discuss their careers in the **sports industry** and issues at the forefront of **professional sports today**. Alumni in the virtual audience will have a chance to contribute to a discussion during a Q&A session. It's quick and easy to [register online](#).

### Need CLE Credits?

No worries! Our online **Fall CLE series** runs from October to December with great offerings across practice areas, including: Pandemic-Related Real Estate Litigation: Where Do We Stand? (**10/13 register here**); Adult Guardianship Proceedings: Separating Fact from Fiction (**10/27 register here**); The End of the Shell (Company) Game: New Disclosure Requirements in New York Real Estate Transactions (**11/10 register here**); and Dram Shop Liability in New York (**12/1 register here**). Ticket pricing available for any or all of the courses. Questions? Email [mckeevec@stjohns.edu](mailto:mckeevec@stjohns.edu).



## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPOTLIGHT

### Get Your Gear Here (But Hurry!)

Want some **great St. John's Law apparel**? We've got you covered. Our **virtual pop-up shop** is open 24/7 for a limited time only. Come grab your hoodies, hats, tees, & more today. It's quick and easy to [shop and make your purchases online](#) now through 9/26.

### One Hour Can Change Lives

In mid-October, we're launching the **#IGiveAnHour fundraising campaign** on social media and via email. The concept is simple: We're asking alumni to **gift the equivalent of your hourly wage to support public interest** programs and initiatives at St. John's Law. Watch your inbox for more information about this important fundraiser sponsored by the St. John's Law Alumni Association.

### Hit Your Stride

The St. John's Law Alumni Association's Alumni of Color Chapter is back with its **5K Run for Racial Justice at the end of October**. Whether you're hitting the road, track, sidewalk, or trail, our virtual pop-up shop will be open again this year and stocked with all the high-quality, event-branded gear you'll need to **run in style for a great cause**. All sale proceeds go directly to **support the Law School's diversity & inclusion initiatives**. Watch your inbox for more details.

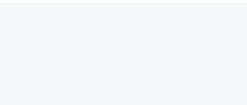
## WE ARE HIRING

### Looking for Your Dream Job?

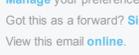
Always dreamed of working . . . at your great Law School . . . with wonderful law students . . . as part of a fabulous team? You're in luck! **We have job openings** in our Career Development Office, in our Office of Graduate Studies (which oversees in our LL.M. programs), and on our Rittenberg Law Library team. Interested, or know someone who might be? You'll [find all the details online](#).

### Comments, Suggestions, or Content Ideas?

Please email Brian Woods, Associate Dean for Advancement, [brian.woods@stjohns.edu](mailto:brian.woods@stjohns.edu).



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