Doing it All...
An Inside Look at In-House Counsel:
Executive Entrepreneur Manager Visionary Advisor
Looking Forward

When Alan Resnick joined the faculty of the law school 30 years ago, he was 26 years old, the youngest professor to ever join. Now, 30 years later, Resnick is an internationally recognized expert on bankruptcy law whose impressive career has included 12 years of service as reporter to the Advisory Committee on Bankruptcy Rules of the Judicial Conference of the United States. At Hofstra Law School he is the Benjamin Weintrab Distinguished Professor of Bankruptcy Law. He is also counsel to the firm of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson. On his first day occupying the dean’s office in June, he talked frankly about his expectations for his tenure as interim dean.

Q. Why did you decide to take on the job as Interim Dean?

A. When the president of the university, who is a good friend and former dean of the law school, asked me to put aside my other activities to make room for this, I couldn’t say no. I have tremendous pride in Hofstra Law School. I’ve seen it thrive and grow into a major law school. When I came here in ’74, those who started this place, who were my mentors, had a model in mind for the school as a first-rate teaching law school. Professors here are expected to be players in their fields, to influence legislation, to speak at professional and academic seminars, to participate in bar association activities and pro bono service, and to produce first-rate scholarship. But that said, first and foremost, the emphasis is on teaching excellence. We are here for our students. The classroom is the center of our gravity, and I’m extremely proud of that.

Q. Do you view yourself as a caretaker while the search for a permanent dean goes on?

A. No, I will not be a caretaker. If you stand still, you’re moving backward. I want to help promote our extraordinary faculty and attract new faculty who are first rate. I’m already meeting with people to bring in new programs and new funds. I want to get the new evening division off on the right foot. We have grown tremendously in stature internationally because of our international programs, and I’m working on a new alliance with another school in Europe so that Hofstra’s international presence continues to expand. I want to build on our strength in health care…family law…technology and the law. We are searching for a new faculty member to replace Bill Ginsberg (who retired) so we don’t miss a step in our environmental law curriculum. These are only a few of the many tasks ahead of me this year.

Q. Looking back over your career at Hofstra, what gives you the most satisfaction?

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Hofstra Law Report  |  News & Events  

Student Affairs Update

The student organizations were very busy during the spring semester. With panels and end-of-year banquets, the student events calendar was quite full.

Some of the highlights of the semester were: Moot Court Association’s First Lecture Series at the University Club; Hofstra Law Women and Hofstra’s Older and Wiser Law Students (O.W.L.S.) hosted a career panel breakfast where various speakers discussed their career paths and offered advice and guidance to current students. Professor Ku was the honored speaker at the Corporate Law Society’s Annual Wine and Cheese Networking Event held in March; the month of March also featured the Public Justice Foundation’s successful Annual Goods and Services Gala Auction. The auction included a special tribute to Professor Monroe Freedman, for his 30 years of service to the Law School and the professional community; the Sports and Entertainment Law Society ended the month of April with a panel presentation that included leading attorneys from the field; some of the other organizations to hold banquets included the Black Law Students Association, the Latin American Law Students Association, the Asian Pacific Law Students Association, the Hofstra Law Review Alumni Association, Hofstra Law Review, Hofstra Labor and Employment Law Journal, and Phi Alpha Delta.

The students ended their celebrations with the Barrister’s Court Association’s First Lecture Series at the University Club; Hofstra Law Women and Hofstra’s Older and Wiser Law Students (O.W.L.S.) hosted a career panel breakfast where various speakers discussed their career paths and offered advice and guidance to current students. Professor Ku was the honored speaker at the Corporate Law Society’s Annual Wine and Cheese Networking Event held in March; the month of March also featured the Public Justice Foundation’s successful Annual Goods and Services Gala Auction. The auction included a special tribute to Professor Monroe Freedman, for his 30 years of service to the Law School and the professional community; the Sports and Entertainment Law Society ended the month of April with a panel presentation that included leading attorneys from the field; some of the other organizations to hold banquets included the Black Law Students Association, the Latin American Law Students Association, the Asian Pacific Law Students Association, the Hofstra Law Review Alumni Association, Hofstra Law Review, Hofstra Labor and Employment Law Journal, and Phi Alpha Delta.

This year, 27 third-year student ambassadors will work together with the Office of Enrollment Management to help recruit the class of 2008. These students were selected through a competitive interviewing process to represent Hofstra Law School across the country at over 100 undergraduate institutions and law school forums. The ambassadors are third-year students who represent the following organizations: Black Law Students Association, Corporate Law Society, Hofstra Law Review, Hofstra Law Women, International Law Society, Latino American Law Students Association, Moot Court Association, Phi Alpha Delta Fraternity, Public Justice Foundation, Sports and Entertainment Law Association, Street Law, Student Bar Association and the Unemployment Action Center.

The Office of Admissions invites any Hofstra Law School alumni who would like to be involved with recruitment initiatives to please contact Deborah Martin, Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management at (516) 463-5916 (ext. 2) or lawadmissions@hofstra.edu. Interested alumni should contact Alex Levkovich at alevko1@pride.hofstra.edu or Colleen Klanchnik at ckklanc1@pride.hofstra.edu. This year’s topic was a constitutional issue loosely based upon a controversial case from several years ago between the student organizations and stark increase in out-of-state enrolling students (40 percent in 2004 and 45 percent in 2005). More than 5,500 applications were received, totaling more than 3,500, creating the most competitive enrollment year Hofstra Law School has experienced. The Admissions Committee only admitted 25 percent of the applicants (compared to 30 percent in 2003 and 35 percent in 2002). The success of the Student Ambassador program, initiated last fall, is reflected in the total number of out-of-state applications (60 percent of the total applicant pool) and stark increase in out-of-state enrolling students (40 percent of the entering class).

International Moot Arbitration Team

The Hofstra International Moot Arbitration Team participated in the Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot in Vienna, Austria, from April 1 to April 8, 2004. Over 800 students from 135 schools and 42 countries participated in the international competition, judged by 380 professors and practitioners from all over the world. The Hofstra team competed against Upsala University from Sweden, the University of Silesia from Poland, Germany’s Bonn University, and China’s Nanjing University. Although the team did not progress to the final rounds, the students had the unpar-

Admissions Report

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Moot Court Team Wins Competition

Hofstra Law School’s Moot Court team, Andre Carberry, Daniel Gibbons and Stanley Roberts, won first place at the Long Island Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Nassau County Bar Association at the Nassau Academy of Law. The team was coached by Hofstra Law Professor Barbara Barron and Hofstra Law School alumni assistant coaches Barbara Lukeman ‘00 and Matt Lampert ‘03. “This is a great accomplishment and we are very proud of these students,” said Hofstra Law Professor and Moot Court Coach Barbara Barron. “Working with our alumni assistant coaches provided our Hofstra team members with valuable insight and an experience they will remember forever. Our team did a remarkable job, as did our dedicated assistant coaches.”

This year’s topic was a constitutional issue loosely based upon a controversial case from several years ago between
**Hofstra Law Report**

**NEWS & EVENTS**

If you would like to make a tax-deductible gift to Hofstra Law, email pjflaw@hofstra.edu. If you have questions about giving, please contact Paula Frome.

A brilliant career

**Judge John Farley Retires**

By Rosamaria Mancini

Every great experience must come to an end. That is the sentiment Hofstra Law School alumus John Farley expressed as he completed a 15-year term as a justice on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims this September.

Farley, who received a juris doctorate from the Law School’s first graduating class in 1973, helped build the court’s reputation as the place that veterans could turn when they were seeking to appeal cases in federal court.

“It’s been simply a thrill. We built this court’s reputation, and we set precedent,” said Farley, one of the founding justices of the court that was established in 1989. The court has grown extensively over the past 15 years, and now hears about 2,400 cases each year.

Farley, a disabled veteran from the Vietnam War who lost a leg and has a body full of scarred, said hearing cases involving issues such as veterans’ disabilities has been fulfilling. “It has been a pleasure to be part of a system that assists veterans in getting what they are entitled to,” he said.

Prior to the judicial appointment by President George Bush, Farley worked in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was a member of the senior executive service and the director of the forts branch, civil division. There he oversaw the defense of the federal government in massive asbestos litigation, and his office also represented and defended federal employees in common law and constitutional tort litigation.

Farley, 62, has surely made an impact in Washington, D.C., but he has never forgotten his origins. Born in New Jersey and raised in Massapequa, New York, Farley has maintained an amicable and working relationship with his alma mater. “There is always a special feeling about Hofstra, there is a special bond,” he said.

It was during his tenure on the court that Farley turned to the Law School for legal talent - 10 of his 24 law clerks were from Hofstra. “It was about finding quality, and I could count on those clerks having a solid legal background,” said Farley, of the former Hofstra Law students.

Farley is quite resolute about his love for Hofstra. “It’s a special place” - adding that he is impressed by how much it has grown into a national player.

One of the factors that led Farley to Hofstra in 1970 was its status as newly founded, which presented him with an opportunity to be part of a class of students that would build the Law School’s frame.

“I remember there being a slight debate in my mind because the Law School then wasn’t even accredited, but I knew it would be exciting to be part of something new and take a chance,” said Farley, who served as the founding editor-in-chief of the Hofstra Law Review.

In 1970 when Farley began his studies, the Law School was situated in a modest two-story building, but that has changed. “I’m always surprised and impressed with the manner in which the Law School has grown,” said Farley, who pointed not only to the expanding campus, but also to the diverse law clinics and the faculty. Asked what other “great experiences” he had planned next, Farley said he couldn’t exactly pinpoint a single plan or direction, but he would continue to remain active in lecturing, teaching and reaching out to veterans. “There are so many things I want to do, and I will now have some time to do them,” he said.

**In Memoriam**

**Hofstra Law Students Win LSPIN Grants**

The Charles H. Revson Foundation offers the Law Students Public Interest (LSPIN) Fellowship Program each summer. The LSPIN Fellowship Program provides summer grants for first- and second-year law students attending law school in New York and New Jersey to work with public interest organizations in the metropolitan area for ten weeks during the summer. This year, five Hofstra students were selected to receive the grants, in the amount of $3,500 and have placements: Maureen Downing at CARE-CEN, a Central American Refugee Center; Daniella Fine at Queens County District Attorney’s Office; Dvena Patel at New York City Health and Hospitals Corporation; James Polk at In Motion, formerly Network for Women’s Services; and Yonatan Zamir at New York Legal Assistance Group.

**Students Win Writing Competitions**

Congratulations to Christopher Barbaruolo, winner of the 2003 New York State Bar Association’s (NYSBA) Law Student Intellectual Property Award. Chris is the first Hofstra Law student to win this prestigious award.

His article, “Why Should Radio Stations Pay? The Controversy Governing Royalty Liabilities for Radio Stations that Simultaneously Stream their Broadcast Over the Internet” will be published in the next edition of NYSBA’s newsletter, Bright Ideas.

Timothy Cameron’s paper, “The Court is Not the Only Source of Justice: The Need for an Alternative Dispute Resolution Discussion Requirement in New York State” won the 2004 New York State Bar Association Law Student Ethics Award for Hofstra Law School.

Sarah Katner and Holly Rich are the Law Student Initiative winners for the summer issue of the New York State Bar Association Journal, Associations Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Journal. Their winning submission will be published shortly.

**16th Annual Public Justice Foundation Auction!**

Hofstra Law School’s PUF will host the 16th Annual Gala Goods and Services Auction on Wednesday, April 6, 2005. The evening will feature live and silent auctions.

We hope you can attend. If you would like to make a donation to PUF, please email pfau@hofstra.edu.

All donations to PUF are tax deductible.

The Brooklyn Museum of Art and New York City Mayor Giuliani’s topic for an exhibit, which included violent and offensive images and a local museum. Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Roberts represented the team during oral arguments. Following preliminary rounds, where the team was undefeated, Hofstra Law students moved on to face St. John’s in the final round, presided over by the Honorable Arthur D. Spatt (E.D.N.Y.). The team took first place in the competition, and Mr. Roberts was awarded the Judge Edward J. Hart Memorial Award for “Best Oralist” in the competition.

**In Memoriam**

Noah Sher, a May 2003 graduate of Hofstra University School of Law, died suddenly on September 2, 2003. He was only 24 years old. He had been within the New York State Bar Exam and was about to begin a legal career at a local law firm.

Noah received a B.A. in psychology from Binghamton University in May 2000. He was an avid sports enthusiast as well as an accomplished debater. He was on the Dean’s List and received numerous awards throughout his high school and college career.

Noah related well to young and old. He volunteered at Long Beach Medical Center, bringing joy to elderly patients with his wonderful sense of humor. That humor was apparent in his high school summer job as a camp counselor. Being a kid at heart is what made him so special to all who knew him. A scholarship in his memory has been established through the efforts of President Stuart Rabinowitz. This scholarship will be awarded annually to a Hofstra Law student who best exemplifies Noah’s attributes.

The clinic won the case, 7-0. After the argument, everyone posed for a photo on the steps of the courthouse. Seen here, left to right are Jim Mulcahy, Professor Krieger, Paula Frome and Nelly Grabovich.

The Housing Rights Clinic teaches students a systematic approach for representing clients in any kind of litigation. Students learn methods for brainstorming alternative theories of the case, such as developing creative case strategies and preparing effective witness examinations.

Hofstra Law Students and Alumni in the Courtroom

Professor Stefan Krieger of Hofstra Law’s Housing Rights Clinic, assisted by two students, 2004 graduates James Mulcahy and Nelly Grabovich, argued a case in the New York Court of Appeals against Paula Frome, a 1974 Law School graduate. Paula was a great opponent and it was wonderful to have Hofstra represented on both sides of the counsel table.

The clinic was represented on both sides of the counsel table by a team of ten law students. On the winning side, Bright Ideas.

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Hofstra Hosts Consortium Conference

Propelled by the United States war on drugs and terrorism, the legal personality of criminals and terrorists is evolving in ways that increasingly deny their basic legal rights, according to Hofstra Law Professor Nora Demleitner at the third annual meeting of the European American Consortium on Educational Law (EACLE) held at the Hofstra University School of Law last May.

Hofstra Law School is a founding member of EACLE together with Ertleus University Rotterdam (The Netherlands), Helsinki University (Finland), Ghent University (Belgium), American University (Washington D.C.), and the University of Baltimore (Maryland). The highlight of the conference was the decision of Warsaw University Law School (Poland) to join EACLE. Hofstra Law Professor and International Programs Director James Hickey explained that “EACLE provides the sort of transnational interaction needed for law schools and 21st Century lawyers to function in the global economy.”

Each year EACLE meets at a member school for two days to discuss a substantive cutting edge legal topic and to make plans for future faculty and student exchanges. Under the EACLE program Hofstra Law Professor Robin Charlow visited Helsinki University in 2003 and taught a faculty workshop in international law. Past conference topics have included Euro-American conduction in international law. He called his upcoming semester “the chance to look across the borders of our own research to gain perspectives outside our own legal systems. She also said she finds that the small group setting leads to an in depth discussion of ideas that is rare at larger conferences.

Also attending the meeting was Brian Conroy, 29, a Hofstra Law student who will spend this fall semester at the University of Ghent Law School, in Belgium, under the EACLE exchange program. He is one of four current Hofstra EACLE exchange students. “When I enrolled at Hofstra, I didn’t expect this opportunity,” said Conroy, a graduate of West Point who is concentrating on international law. He called his upcoming semester “the chance of a lifetime.”

EACLE’s next annual meeting will be held at Ghent University, Belgium in May, 2005, to explore the topic “Agreements” in domestic and international law.

Hofstra University invites nominations and applications for the position of Dean of the School of Law. Located less than 25 miles outside of Manhattan on Long Island, Hofstra is an independent university with an enrollment of more than 14,000 students overall including approximately 900 full-time and 100 part-time law students.

The Law School, founded only 35 years ago, is in an exciting phase in its history. The faculty is deeply engaged in scholarship and professional service, the student body is strong and getting stronger, and new programs are creating new opportunities for the school. Over the past years, applications have increased dramatically, the median LSAT has risen significantly, and the class has grown in racial, ethnic and geographic diversity. The school currently offers the J.D. degree along with J.L.M. degrees in American Law (for foreign law graduates) and in International Law, as well as several joint degree programs. Additional joint degree programs and J.L.M. programs are in the planning stages.

Dean Search

Dear Law School Graduate:

The University is embarking on a very important search, a search for a new dean of the Law School. The University has tremendous pride in the Law School, in the quality of its faculty and students, and in the accomplishments of you, our graduates. We are looking for a dean who will build on our tremendous success to date, and maintain the impressive momentum that has characterized the School of Law for the three decades of its existence.

The search for a new dean is nationwide. We are looking for the best person and we would welcome your help. What follows is the ad for the position that we have already placed in The New York Times and The Chronicle of Higher Education. We would very much appreciate any recommendations/nominations of possible candidates. Please send or email those nominations directly to me or to any member of the search committee, which is also listed below.

I very much appreciate your help.

Sincerely,

Herman A. Berliner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Chair, Law School Dean Search Committee

Hofstra University School of Law Dean Search Committee

M. Patricia Adamski
Senior Vice President for Planning and Administration

Herman A. Berliner
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Chair, Law School Dean Search Committee

Alafia S. Burke
Professor of Law

Nora S. Demleitner
Distinguished Professor of Law

Dolores Frederick
Professor

Joanna L. Grossman
Professor

Eric Lane
Professor

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Eric Lane
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Martha S. Pope
Professor of Law

Salvatore F. Sodano
Professor of Law

Marshall E. Tracht
Professor of Law

Hofstra University is an Equal Opportunity, Employer. Women and minority group members are encouraged to apply.

Formal review of nominations and applications will begin in September and will continue until an appointment is made. Please send applications to Dr. Herman A. Berliner, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, 144 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549-1440.
The following profiles feature Hofstra alumni who have traded in their thriving legal practices for the rewards and challenges of life “in-house.” These five men and women have given up the comfort of a narrow focus for the fulfillment of a generalist approach – the modern-day equivalent of the jack-of-all-trades – and that’s just the way they like it.

O
urs is an age of specialization. This phenomenon is as true in the law as it is in every other dimension of our lives. There are trial lawyers who specialize in insurance cases, in mass tort cases, in business litigation, personal injury work or white collar crime. There are municipal bond lawyers, real estate lawyers, matrimonial lawyers (not to be confused with family law practitioners), bankruptcy lawyers, employment lawyers, tax lawyers, and the list goes on and on. Indeed, the ABA even has a “Standing Committee on Specialization,” which focuses on the increasing trend toward certifying lawyers in specific areas of practice. The jack-of-all-trades is, it seems, a figure of the distant past.

And while there can be tremendous satisfaction in mastering your field, sometimes that narrow expertise can begin to feel confining. Are there any opportunities left for a legal generalist? As the following profiles show, serving as corporate counsel can offer such an opportunity, allowing an already successful attorney to delve into new areas of the law, to develop different talents and engage in a much wider range of activities than other forms of legal practice often allow.

On any given day, a company’s chief legal officer must serve as a negotiator, litigator and advisor. He or she must deal with employment issues, real estate deals, tax and intellectual property law, as well as supervising other lawyers in-house or overseeing outside counsel. And in many cases, in addition to legal expertise, the “client” will expect its General Counsel to be an integral member of the management team, supervising business ventures, negotiating projects and lending perspective and expertise on any of a host of non-legal, business concerns.

Robin Goldfischer ’84
Vice President and General Counsel
The Valley Health System

In her third year of law school, while taking her first course in health law, Robin Goldfischer discovered what she wanted to do with her career. For the seminar, she wrote a paper analyzing the antitrust implications of the policies hospitals used to determine which doctors could use their facilities.

“I knew right then that I wanted to work in health and hospital law,” Robin recalls.

After clerking for the Honorable Sylvia B. Pressler, presiding judge of the New Jersey Superior Court, Appellate Division, she joined the health and hospital law department at the New Jersey firm of Brach, Eichler, Rosenberg, Silver, Bernstein, Hammer & Gladstone. For five years, she represented hospitals, nursing homes, HMOs and doctors in a wide range of matters, from general corporate issues and contract negotiations to “certificate of need” filings and patient care issues.

She joined McCarter & English in 1991 and continued to build her expertise and reputation in the field. It was here that she met executives of The Valley Hospital, a 450-bed community hospital in Paramus. “Like all hospitals, Valley was facing a myriad of legal and regulatory issues, and it was time for them to finally bring someone in-house.”

Robin says that since joining the management “the legal
department has become an integral part of this institution.” On a typical day, she may deal with a variety of unexpected legal issues. For example, she has had to represent the hospital in real estate transactions, an area that was new to her in this job. And she cites with pride her work in setting up a captive insurance company, based in the Cayman Islands, to help handle professional and general liability insurance issues.

The position has forced Robin to deal with a variety of unexpected legal issues. For example, she has had to represent the hospital in real estate transactions, an area that was new to her in this job. And she cites with pride her work in setting up a captive insurance company, based in the Cayman Islands, to help handle professional and general liability insurance issues.

While her Health Law Seminar played a pivotal role in Robin’s career, she also credits a number of faculty members with helping her to succeed. She remembers with particular fondness the hours spent in class in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure with Professor Burton Agata, and she says she often thinks of Professors Resnick and Bush, with whom she took Contracts and Torts.

She left Brach, Eichler for Newark’s McCarter & English in 1991, pleased to be joining a firm with a top reputation in the health law area, and continuing to build her expertise and reputation in the field. Robin always knew she wanted to go in-house. “That was my career goal from the very beginning. I wanted to focus on the health issues of a particular institution.”

And it has worked out the way she hoped. At the hospital, Robin has developed strong relationships with everyone from the CEO to the medical staff, and she has a commitment and connection to her “client” that can be hard to find in a firm setting.

“Anyone who thinks that by working in-house, you work fewer hours, is crazy. You put in more time because you have a vested interest in your client.”

But even with these hours, and two children at home, Robin finds time to serve the community. She is President of the Board of Trustees of The Elisabeth Morrow School, a nursery through eighth grade school in Englewood, New Jersey, and raises funds for the Community Chest of Englewood, which provides support to a range of non-profit organizations.

“I say I have the best job in the world. It’s interesting and enjoyable. The issues are exciting, and they change all the time. I get up every morning, and I can’t wait to get to work.”

Neil Kurlander ’85

Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Development
Spa Finder, Inc.

It might sound like a dream job, being general counsel at Spa Finder, the nation’s leading spa media and marketing company for luxurious, pampering vacations. And it is a dream job, but probably not the way you think.

Neil Kurlander doesn’t spend long days sampling the pleasures at Green Valley, Canyon Ranch, or the Mandarin Oriental Spas. He spends long hours at the firm’s Fifth Avenue headquarters, where his responsibilities extend far beyond those normally expected from a general counsel. While Neil is responsible for the firm’s legal work, he also handles responsibilities ranging from recruiting and hiring to purchasing and publishing.

“We’re an entrepreneurial company, so we try to wear as many hats as possible. Obviously, some days are more legal than others, but a lot of days are just keeping the business running. What it all comes down to is, How do we grow this business? That really is my focus every day.”

Neil created this unique role himself. In fact, when he first approached Spa Finder to inquire about a job, they didn’t know they were even looking for someone with his skills and background.

And in fact, this isn’t the specific career path Neil had planned.

Neil decided he wanted to be a lawyer “when I was 12 or 13 years old and I saw the movie The Paper Chase. And it wasn’t so much that I wanted to be a lawyer – I wanted to go to law school. This was all I’d ever imagined.”

But he had little idea what a lawyer did, or what direction he wanted his career to take. “There are so many different areas, I don’t think most law students can ever really imagine all the different ways you can practice law. Everybody’s first vision of law is Perry Mason in a courtroom.”

“Through my first summer associate job, I entered the corporate side,” recalls Neil. “I was an M&A and secured finance lawyer, and it just seemed to be the path I took. I never had any particular business inclination, I never considered business school. I never considered being an entrepreneur. All I knew was that I had always wanted to be a lawyer.”

At age 30, after learning transactional law at a number of leading firms, Kurlander was offered a job as Vice President, Corporate Legal Affairs with one of his clients Horsehead Industries, Inc., a privately-held Fortune 500 company. “It just seemed like an interesting opportunity at the time,” he said. “But it tapped into something I’m not sure I realized I had – and once I got into the corporate setting, it was like a light bulb went off. Suddenly I realized that this was where I wanted to be, and this was where my skills and my personality worked best.”

For more than 10 years, Kurlander worked at Horsehead, where he played a major role in the consummation of approximately $1 billion in corporate financings, mergers, acquisitions and other commercial transactions.

But in 2000, Horsehead Industries was winding down, and Neil began looking for the next step in his career. “I knew that I wanted to stay in-house, but I also knew that those jobs were very, very difficult to come by.”

More than that, Neil didn’t want to settle for whatever job or opportunity might happen to come along. He started ed his own private practice, as an interim measure, then
set about creating the opportunity he wanted. “It’s a strategy that I would definitely recommend. I engaged the services of a career consultant, whose advice was invaluable. Basically his strategy was for me to create a job for myself. And I think that is what I am most proud of. I identified places in the company where I could make a contribution and I presented to the chairman.”

Neil’s current position arose from an article he saw in Crain’s New York Business, noting that a company named Spa Finder had been purchased by Peter Ellis, an Internet entrepreneur with whom he was familiar. Neil did some research into the company and its new owner. “I crafted a letter of introduction talking about where I thought the company was, where I thought it would be going, and discussing how my skill set might fit into their future plans.” Shortly thereafter, he was asked to come in for a meeting with Ellis, Spa Finder’s chairman.

The two hit it off immediately, but still couldn’t figure out exactly how they best could work together. For about five months, Neil worked for Spa Finder as an outside lawyer, until “we got more comfortable with each other, we saw where the needs were, and where I could help out.”

He joined the company in his current position in September 2002. And while he didn’t follow in Perry Mason’s footsteps, he is still proud to be a lawyer. “I had been aiming for law school since I was 13 years old, and I think that for the most part law school was as fulfilling as I had hoped it would be: I had never wanted to be anything else, and even today, while much of the time I’m a business person rather than a lawyer, running a business, I wouldn’t trade my legal education for anything. In fact, when we were creating my title here at Spa Finder, the chairman wanted me to have a business-oriented title and I said, that’s fine, but I also want my title to reflect the fact that I am a lawyer and I’m proud of that. It is a very important part of who I am, both personally and professionally.”

Michael Lerner ‘83
Vice President and General Counsel
Reliant Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Michael Lerner grew up in suburban New Jersey, the heart of the pharmaceutical and health care industries in the eastern United States. He likes to tell people that he learned the pharmaceutical business sitting at the dinner table: “Growing up, my father was in the industry, and I don’t know how – either genetics or osmosis – but in whatever way, I developed an understanding of that world.”

This background became one of his most valuable assets when he joined the prominent Newark, New Jersey law firm of Gibbons, Del Deo, Dolan, Griffinger & Vecchione as a litigation associate. While working as a general litigator and eventually transitioning into bankruptcy litigation, Michael began acquiring clients in the health care arena. “It was something that just happened,” he said. His ability to connect with clients did not go unnoticed. In the early 1990s, the firm asked Lerner to lead the development of its pharmaceutical and life sciences group. In five short years, he built the area into a seven-figure practice.

Joseph Krivuk and Stefan Agnar, the founders of a small, Manhattan-based start-up called Reliant Pharmaceuticals, quickly noticed Michael’s talent. As a fast-growing entrant in the highly competitive industry, they constantly faced complex legal issues – licensing arrangements, patent protection, regulatory approvals, financing and capital markets transactions. Michael provided them with crucial guidance, and in early 2000, they invited him to join the company as its vice president and general counsel.

Michael found the offer irresistible. “I was a partner in a well-established New Jersey law firm, with a nice practice. But I had always been interested in getting to the business side,” he explained.

“When I started working with Reliant, it was two guys with a great idea. They had a business plan, and they had acquired some initial seed capital. I had the dream job of actually designing my own position, building a legal department and helping to create a fully integrated pharmaceutical company from scratch.”

In the last four years, the in-house legal department that Michael heads has grown to five members, mirroring and supporting the growth of the company. Reliant now has more than 1,500 employees, five products on the market, a national sales force – and it has raised more than $600 million in equity. According to Michael, Reliant is the fastest growing pharmaceutical company in the history of the industry.

For Michael, already a highly respected and accomplished attorney, the position has provided an ongoing opportunity for professional growth, a way to broaden his expertise and responsibility. He oversees not only the legal department, but also supervises human resources and personnel. “A day in my life consists of any number of corporate matters, personnel issues, overseeing litigation, dealing with outside counsel, advising and counseling members of the management team, and dealing with calls from patients that somehow find their way to me. I also handle public relations. I deal with more things than I can count. We joke that there’s more action in a day at Reliant than you would get in a week in Las Vegas.”

When he arrived at Hofstra in 1988, Michael didn’t anticipate a future as corporate counsel, but he knew that he wanted to prepare for a legal practice in a business context. And he resisted the temptation to focus his studies exclusively on “practical” courses. “I went through the general curriculum and picked those courses that most interested me. They don’t teach you business acumen at Law School. They teach you how to think and understand the law.”

Among Michael’s clearest memories of law school was the first day in Professor [now Interim Dean] Alan Resnick’s Contracts class. “I still remember him asking if anybody would be available for a tennis game after class, and then basically using this to teach us about oral contracts.”

While the Socratic method that Michael recalls is still a
centerpiece in legal education, Hofstra has changed since Michael studied Contracts with Professor Resnick. At the time, Hofstra did not yet offer the type of transac-
tional skills courses offered today. There was no course in “Legal Interviewing, Counseling and Negotiation,” no “Real Estate Negotiation Techniques” or “Business 
Drafting,” no “Complex Corporate Transactions Seminar.” While it might have been nice to have had those options, Michael has no regrets. Having succeeded in two careers – at Gibbons, Del Deo and now at Reliant – he is grateful. “I wouldn’t trade places with anybody. I look forward to coming to work every day.”

Andrew Nathan ’81

President and CEO
Meritage Properties, LLC.

When Andrew Nathan entered Hofstra Law School in 1978, he had no intention of actually practicing law. “I wanted the training and perspective that law school offered, I was interested in the education,” he said. But then he spent time with a few of Hofstra’s storied professors, among them Malachy Mahon, John Gregory, Aaron Twersky and Mitchell Ganz.

“They lit a fire inside me that frankly had never been lit before, not even as an undergraduate,” he recalls fondly. “It was a real breakthrough for me, from saying I’m going to law school to get an education to saying, hey, I want to be a lawyer.”

Today, Andy states unequivocally, “I became a practicing lawyer because of the professors at Hofstra. That experience changed everything.”

After graduating in 1981, Andy joined the New York law firm of Schulte Roth & Zabel. “When they offered me a position, I jumped at it.” After a brief stint as a tax attorney, Nathan moved into the real estate syndications group which he called “interdisciplinary training at its best.”

By working on syndication deals, Andy said he learned how to practice in a wide variety of legal fields – including corporate securities, tax and real estate law. “I couldn’t have picked a better area for my interests,” he said. The syndications practice allowed him to hone his business skills and deepen his understanding of various corporate legal issues. He also found he had a natural ability to connect with business clients. “To survive in that world you have to have a real feel for what your clients are trying to do,” he said. “The legal process, in particular drafting and negotiation of documents, can’t be viewed as an end in itself, but rather as the means by which the business transaction both sides desire is brought to an efficient and mutually beneficial result. I am often surprised when lawyers don’t acknowledge that simple reality.”

Andy’s innate business acumen caught the eye of his chief client, Tishman Speyer Properties. One of the nation’s leading real estate operations, Tishman Speyer offered Andy a job in 1986. “It was a dream,” recalled Nathan. “Joining Tishman Speyer in a combined legal/business role gave me the opportunity to do everything I ever wanted to do.”

Though Nathan was on track to become a partner at Schulte Roth, and had always envisioned spending his career at the firm, he was prepared to change course. “I gave it a great deal of thought, as I really had come to love my role as a counselor. In the end though I realized this was unique position with a best in class organization.”

For the next 16 years, Andy was a key member of Tishman Speyer’s senior management, negotiating deals, overseeing transactions, reviewing contracts and managing litigations. He served at various times as General Counsel, Head of Eastern U.S. Acquisitions, and Chief Legal Officer. “Even as General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer, the role was always quasi-business,” he said. “I was responsible for the whole gamut of real estate activities. We retained outside counsel on every transaction, so my job was to coordinate and supervise the legal function, second seat the senior business person, manage risk from both a legal and business perspective and, ultimately, make certain the deal got done.”

And though he still refers to his work at Tishman Speyer as a “dream job” Andy eventually found even that role a bit too confining. “In the summer of 2002 I started to think about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. And the choice was to continue in a wonderful job with an outstanding company, with absolutely no downside risk, or follow what I know had always been my dream: to work for myself and have my own company.”

In March 2003, Andy founded Meritage Properties, which now owns five properties along the east coast valued at more than $100 million. “It’s been a very rewarding and successful beginning,” he said proudly. “I am profoundly appreciative for the support I have received from so many in the real estate business, including my colleagues at Tishman Speyer.” These days, he spends most of his time aggressively managing Meritage Properties’ growing portfolio, and looking for new acquisitions. He also spends considerable time fundraising and speaking with his investors. And though his role is a bit different from his days at Tishman Speyer, his philosophy hasn’t changed.

“To be successful in business or in law, you have to be able to manage relationships,” he said. “That’s really what it comes down to... I think I am most proud of my ability to build and maintain relationships, to be a person people turn to, someone people seem genuine-
ly enjoy working with.”
Patrick Quinn ’89

Executive Vice President and General Counsel
Roslyn Bancorp, Inc.

By definition, Patrick Quinn had it made. A 1989 graduate, he had become a partner at the Long Island law firm of Payne, Wood & Littlejohn. He was working in corporate finance, real estate and commercial transactions – the areas that most interested him – and had developed strong client relationships with a variety of Long Island and New York banking institutions. But after a decade of traditional firm practice, Patrick felt he needed something more.

“I got to a point in my career where I wanted to take it to a different place,” he explained. “It was a tough choice to leave a partnership and go in a totally new direction – it was certainly a risky decision. But change is good. If you shake things up once in a while, and you’re committed, things can turn out pretty well.”

When offered the chance to work for the broker-dealer Sanwa Securities (USA) in Manhattan, Patrick decided to go for it. As Associate Counsel responsible for NASD and Federal Reserve Board regulatory compliance at Sanwa, the change could not have been more dramatic. When Sanwa later discontinued its New York broker-dealer operations about a year later, Patrick found himself again reshaping his world. “Sanwa was exactly the kind of change I was looking for, but with change comes risk. It is important to be prepared for that.”

Having developed experience through both law firm partnership and in-house work, Patrick began to set his sights on a specific career goal: to be general counsel at a community bank, a place where he could make a noticeable difference – a place like Roslyn Bancorp, Inc., a Long Island institution founded in 1875 that had used its services while he was still a firm partner. Roslyn had never had an in-house legal department, but Patrick thought they needed one.

“I wrote a fairly extensive memo to the president and CEO of the bank, describing why I felt that they could use general counsel,” Patrick remembers. “I’m sure I was not the first one to say that they should be thinking about this, but you put yourself in the right place at the right time by writing that kind of memo and, sure enough, they called me one day.”

It didn’t happen overnight. After leaving Sanwa, Patrick became an associate in the Capital Markets Group at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in New York. “Cadwalader was good fun and crazy hours,” he said, “but when Roslyn ultimately made the decision to hire a general counsel and one day called to offer me the job, it took me about a minute to decide that I should take it,” he said.

Finally, he had his chance. Roslyn was a blank slate, a small bank on the verge of expansion. Here he could use all of his business and legal skills. He could drive in, full-ahead, and make his mark on a century-old institution.

Before taking the job he had to be at a wedding in Virginia. “So I took my family to breakfast on the day of the wedding and said, ‘You guys wait here, I’m going to use the pay phone.’ It was a Saturday and I was plugged into our board, our investment bankers and our outside counsel. I spent four and a half hours standing at the pay phone, with my family driving by giving me anxious looks.”

For the next five years, Patrick worked to build the legal department into an integral part of the growing institution. He hired two additional attorneys and a compliance officer and together they worked closely reviewing contracts, overseeing transactions and advising management. “As any general counsel will tell you, your job is just all over the place. One minute you put on your labor and employment hat, the next you’re wearing the hat of a corporate M&A lawyer, the next it’s a bank regulatory hat, and then, of course, there’s litigation and managing legal affairs – dealing with outside counsel and the billing and the budgets and the business of the bank. It’s a very significant undertaking.”

In January 2001, Patrick was promoted to executive vice president, in addition to general counsel and corporate secretary. He played a major role in overseeing the bank’s merger in October 2003 with New York Community Bancorp, Inc., where he continues to serve as executive vice president and corporate secretary, spearheading the new $25 billion thrift’s corporate governance efforts and guiding its Board and management through the still unsettled waters of Sarbanes-Oxley. Patrick also serves as a trustee for two charitable foundations: The Roslyn Savings Foundation and the Planting Fields Foundation.

At New York Community Bancorp, Inc., a bank holding company and parent of New York Community Bank, working with the Bank’s other in-house counsel has enabled Patrick to focus his work – almost all of his time is spent on corporate compliance and governance, a role that has become even more crucial in the wake of Sarbanes-Oxley. Among other things, he notes, “SOX has just put the whole world of lawyers’ ethics on steroids.” During his career, he said he often thinks about Professor Monroe Freedman’s Ethics Seminar: “All those issues we mulled over in Monroe’s seminar – it’s so true that you face these questions all the time as a lawyer, and if you’re in-house, the burdens can be even more challenging from an ethical standpoint.”

He said Freedman and other Hofstra professors clearly helped prepare him for his current role. “At Hofstra, it’s not like you spend three years locked inside a theoretical isolation tank thinking about the law,” he said. “The professors are very sensitive to real world issues.”

“I’m very proud of what I have accomplished, building an effective and vital legal department where there was none before, and successfully integrating myself and my staff as part of a business team,” he said. “You have to be totally committed and work with all your talents – not just what you learned at law school – but everything you have.”

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On the fiftieth anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, one of the most important Supreme Court decisions in the 20th Century, Hofstra University School of Law and the School of Education and Allied Human Services held a significant interdisciplinary conference.

In his opening remarks, Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz set the tone for the day when he asserted that Brown was a turning point in American law, politics, history and education. He added that this conference could help us “look at how far we have come and also how far we have to go” and examine “what still needs to be done.” on Long Island and throughout the nation. The School of Law’s Dean David Yellen, and the School of Education and Allied Human Services’ Dean James R. Johnson provided welcoming remarks in support of this conference.

The law school’s own Professor Norman I. Silber, a panelist, discussed his recently published book, With All Deliberate Speed, The Life of Philip Elman. Professor Silber extensively interviewed Mr. Elman in 1983 and 1984 and the book provides an oral history of their conversations and correspondence, including Mr. Elman’s explanation of the amicus curiae brief he wrote when he worked in the Solicitor General’s Office, on behalf of the plaintiff in the Brown case. The brief allowed for desegregation to be implemented gradually. Professor Silber quotes Elman as saying that the brief “proposed a middle ground, separating the constitutional principle from the remedy,” and allowed the Court to “end racial segregation without inviting massive disobedience, a way to decide the constitutional issue unanimously without tearing the Court apart.” (202) Many criticize Elman and believe that the language in this brief permitted defiant states to delay, for many years, desegregating their schools, which resulted in great damage to the cause of integration. As Professor Silber stated, however, Mr. Elman was largely responsible for getting the government involved in the Brown case, and in actively and officially taking a stand against school segregation.

Minnijean Brown-Trickey, the keynote speaker, gave a moving account of her experiences as one of the “Little Rock Nine,” the group of students who bravely integrated Little Rock’s Central High School in 1957, in the face of violent mobs and daily threats, as well as physical and emotional attacks. This self-described ordinary person has led an extraordinary life, on the cutting edge of the civil rights movement. She spoke to a room filled with more than 200 people, which included educators, lawyers, concerned citizens, and perhaps to her greatest delight, many students. Even while she told about the horrible attacks against her and her friends, she held out hope. Her resounding message to all, and most especially to the young students, was that they too could effect positive change in the world. She asserted that they should not stand by as silent witnesses to injustice, but should instead stand up for human rights and justice.
The impact and importance of this conference extended far beyond the extremely poignant keynote address. There were many notable speakers who brought various points of view, experiences, and insights. Michael Kurland, a research assistant from the Harvard Civil Rights Project, spoke about the trends in school segregation and desegregation throughout the country. She reported that, from the years 1968 through 1988, there was an overall decline in the number of African American students who attended intensely segregated schools. The 1980s represented, she said, “the peak of desegregation.” Unfortunately, the trend is reversing and Ms. Kurland stated that we are now moving toward re-segregation throughout the country, and especially in New York. She noted that Latino students are currently the most rapidly segregating minority group. She also presented data which showed that New York State had one of the three most segregated schools systems in the country during the years of 2001-2002.

“We’ve had feeble talk over the last 50 years about diversity and what it means, and how it translates into society but we have yet to fund the creation of the infrastructure to create that diversity.”

Professor Jenny Rivera, from City University of New York (CUNY) School of Law at Queens College, provided a history of Latinos’ plight for educational equality. She discussed Mendez v. California, an Orange County case in 1947 which was a precursor to Brown. In Mendez, the court ruled against the segregation of Mexican and Latino students in the state of California. Professor Rivera also reiterated and expanded upon the data that Kurland provided regarding the growing rate of segregation in schools, adding that in New York State, Latinos are segregated the most in New York City, and second most right here on Long Island.

Raymond Rhodes, commissioner of the Town of Hempstead Department of Planning and Economic Development, and a trustee on the Uniondale School District Board of Education, provided his thoughts on the subject, stating that, “we’ve had feeble talk over the last 50 years about diversity and what it means, and how it translates into society but we have yet to fund the creation of the infrastructure to create that diversity.” He asserted that we need to reform current systems to “build the capacity...for great outcomes.”

In contrast, Professor David Song, from the College of Staten Island of CUNY, claimed that if we are to ever create in equal education opportunity we will need to create a completely different public education system from the one we have. Additionally, Song asserted that the structure of segregated schools in the West was mostly unaffected by Brown and left intact until after the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

He described his experiences in school reform, particular-ly during the 1960s, when he served as special assistant to the U.S. Commissioner of Education and then as the assistant U.S. commissioner of education. At that time he was involved in what he referred to as, “mass production” of desegregating schools in the south and eliminating the Jim Crow system and the so-called gradual approach to school integration.

Other personal experiences, reflections and points of view were presented during the Friday, April 2 portion of the conference, which was organized primarily by Professor Alan Singer, from Hofstra’s School of Education and Allied Human Services. These speakers, consisting of civil rights activists from all walks of life, addressed a large audi-ence, which included students from various high schools on Long Island. Each person in this group served as an important part of the history of the civil rights move-ment. During the final portion of the day the attendees were able to explore learning exhibits designed to enable them to further understand the history of racial discrimi-nation and segregation in the United States.

This interdisciplinary conference addressed basic human rights and therefore addressed people of all backgrounds, fields and ages. In her keynote address, Minnijean Brown-Trickey stated that the civil rights movement was for everybody. Similarly, it is everybody’s responsibil-ity to protect the civil rights of all people. As panelist Professor Deborah Post from Touro College Law Center, said, “we will not progress... unless we can figure out a way to live together and that won’t happen... unless we live together, play together, are educated together, and deal on a personal basis with the myths and the beliefs and the feelings and the sentiments that we have about our differences.” All who attended this conference, indeed, were well educated, together, by this group of distin-guished and insightful speakers.


“Fascinating insider’s look at the Supreme Court during the 1940s and 50s.”

...said David Garrow, The Nation reviewer discussing Professor Norman I. Silber’s new book With All Deliberate Speed: The Life of Philip Elman, An Oral History Memoir (University of Michigan Press, 2004). Civil rights leader and professor Roger Wilkins found it “One of the best American stories I have ever read.” New York Times columnist Anthony Lewis applauds it for giving the reader “fascinating insights into the Roosevelt era, the Supreme Court, the Justice Department,” and describes it as “funny, and extraordinarily human.” Judge Richard A. Posner considers it a “major contribution to modern American legal history.”

Professor Silber’s book had its origin more than 20 years ago when he interviewed Philip Elman for the Columbia University Oral History Research Office. Among his many accomplishments, Elman was the principal draftsman of the government’s brief in Brown v. Board of Education. Over the intervening years, Professor Silber transformed the transcripts of their interview sessions into an autobiographical memoir with historical commentaries. The commentaries are omitted from the selection below, which concerns another aspect of his work – his commit-ment to civil liberties.

Arguing for Civil Liberties in a Hostile Justice Department

T he 50’s Office was a small office, consisting of only the Solicitor General and eight lawyers, and the work couldn’t possibly have been better from my point of view. We were the government’s lawyers in the Supreme Court of the United States. We were responsible for every federal government case, whatever its nature and whichever government agency or department had handled it in the lower courts.

I was very fortunate in that almost by accident I became the lawyer in the office who had primary responsibility for all civil rights cases, starting with a case called

Screws v. United States, argued in 1944 and decided in May 1945, and going all the way to Gomillion v. Lightfoot, which was argued in 1960. During that period, of course, the Supreme Court decided the cases that changed the whole course of American history in relation to the legal treatment of blacks.

The Solicitor General’s Office when I was there possessed a unique and exhilarating spirit. The Solicitor General was not merely an advocate representing and advancing the interest of the United States in cases before the Supreme Court, the Solicitor General was also the con-science of the government. A former Solicitor General

“One of the best American stories I have ever read.”

back in the early years of the Office, named Frederick W. Lehmann, had written in a brief in which the govern-ment confessed error: “The United States wins its point whenever justice is done its citizens in the courts.” That is more or less an exact quotation. That sentence is now chiseled in stone in the entrance to the private office of the Attorney General of the United States on the fifth floor of the Department of Justice.

It may sound sentimental and corny in these very cyni-cal days, but we took it for granted, without making any big fuss over it or being self-righteous, that our job was to do justice, to people fairly and not give a damn what anyone thought. Now that was reflected in many ways.

If, in a criminal case that the government had won in a lower court, we felt that there had been some error or some unfair action or that for any other reason it was not becoming for the representatives of the United States to argue in favor of upholding the conviction, we would simply confess error. In those days the Solicitor General was regarded by Supreme Court as its monitor, as some-one who could be depended upon to spare the Court from having to deal with cases in which there might not be a technical basis for reversal, but where a conviction was one that would make decent people squirm.

The same was true for regulatory agency cases. There were many people who could not understand how a lawyer for the government, the Solicitor General, could renounce or disassociate himself from his client, but in our view the client was not the particular agency which had rendered the decision, the client was the United States and the people of the United States. As I said before, all this sounds very corny, but we believed it and acted on it.
One example of this which comes to mind — there are many I could give you, but one example is a case called Peters v. Hobby, decided by the Court in 1955. Peters was Dr. John A. Peters, a professor of medicine at Yale; Hobby was Oveta Culp Hobby, the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare at the time. This was when Simon Sobeloff was Solicitor General. Peters had been appointed to be a member of some government advisory board and there was an executive order at that time providing that security risks could not serve. Peters was found to be a security risk after a hearing in which he had no opportunity to confront his accusers. He did not know the identity of the people who had accused him of associating with communists. Nor, and this was crucial, did the members of the hearing board. He was represented by Thurman Arnold, who wanted to make a major test case of constitutionality of the federal employee loyalty program.

Simon Sobeloff was a bleeding heart liberal, who was very sensitive to unfairness in all its aspects. The government won the Peters case in the lower courts and Thurman Arnold filed a brief urging the Supreme Court to find the program unconstitutional because it denied procedural due process to Dr. Peters. The Civil Division was handling the case and the Assistant Attorney General in charge was Warren Burger. The Appellate Section of the Civil Division prepared a draft brief supporting the constitutionality of the program. It came to me for review.

I wrote a long memorandum for Sobeloff arguing that the loyalty program was unfair to employees in denying them an opportunity to confront and cross-examine their accusers. I also argued very strongly that the program made no sense at all, because the members of the board who had to decide the case, judges, could not make any evaluation of the credibility of faceless informers whose identity they did not know either. In short, they could not judge because they could not know how much weight, if any, should be given to the informers’ testimony. Sobeloff agreed that withholding the identity of the informers from the members of the board was totally indefensible. I drafted a memorandum for Sobeloff which he took to the Attorney General, Herbert Brownell. Anyway, Sobeloff came back and told me that Brownell agreed with us and wanted him — Sobeloff — to take the lead in getting the executive order revised to eliminate that provision.

Sobeloff was jubilant. He started a campaign that involved my writing many memoraanda and his having many meetings with other high Department of Justice officials, but in the end he got nowhere. The reason was that Hoover, J. Edgar Hoover, was adamant. He would not in any circumstances disclose the identity of FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) informants to anyone, not even the members of the hearing boards, who were, of course, chosen because they were totally patriotic and dependable. And Brownell caved in to Hoover.

By that point Sobeloff had gone so far out on a limb that he felt he could not argue the case supporting Hobby. He went so far as to refuse to sign the brief, which was an act of unprecedented courage — some would say disloyalty — for a Solicitor General.

And so the brief was eventually signed by Warren Burger, who also argued the case for the government. The government lost the case on a narrow ground involving interpretation of the executive order.

Peters v. Hobby was not an isolated incident. It was perhaps the most publicized and dramatic, but there were many others. On the other hand, Peters v. Hobby was an extraordinary case. There were very few cases in which the Solicitor General went outside his job of handling the brief and oral argument in Court. In Peters, Sobeloff became a reformer, he became an advocate for changing a critically important part of the employee loyalty program.


For Some, Two Degrees Are Better Than One

Christina SanPietro graduated from Hofstra Law School in 2003, but unlike most of her classmates, she hasn’t finished her education.

H

alway through her second year at Hofstra, Christina decided she would need every advantage in the highly competitive job market and so she enrolled in the M.B.A. program at Hofstra’s Zarb School of Business, hoping to further distinguish herself from her peers.

“It was a difficult choice,” she said. “Adding the M.B.A. meant a lot more time and more money. Still, I think it will be worth it.”

Christina’s not alone in this assessment. Nationwide, the number of students pursuing joint degrees has increased 10 to 15 percent in recent years, and the most popular combined program is the four-year law and business degree. More than half of all dual-degree graduates earn the J.D./M.B.A. each year, according to the Council of Graduate Schools.

“It used to be that having an M.B.A. or a law degree was all you needed to distinguish yourself in the job market,” said Debra Stewart, council president. “But now the M.B.A. is standard fare, and so is the law degree, so people are looking for new ways to separate themselves from the crowd.”

“The overall trend in education is toward tearing down barriers between disciplines,” Stewart added. “Students want the broadest possible preparation for their careers.”

Given our increasingly complex global economy, the movement toward interdisciplinary studies is natural, and the combination of business and law is a perfect union. Today, businesses that want to succeed must carefully navigate an intricate, and often confusing legal road map, with tax issues, environmental and safety regulations and consumer, antitrust and tort concerns all playing important roles in many decisions. Moreover, businesses often must address these issues in an international context, simultaneously managing regulatory lawyers from several countries. An education encompassing law and business provides the foundation needed to succeed in this new world order.

“It is very challenging today, especially in the public corporations sector, to comply with all the rules and regulations that directly effect even run-of-the-mill ongoing day-to-day business activities,” said Stuart Bass, director of graduate programs for the Zarb School of Business and an associate professor of legal studies in business.

“Anyone wishing to work in corporate law must have a true understanding of business principles, in terms of accounting, in terms of marketing, in terms of management problems and employee relations, if they want to be effective,” said Bass.

A 1979 graduate of Hofstra Law School, Bass first earned an M.B.A. in international commerce and an associate professor of legal studies in business. Bass added. “Students want the broadest possible preparation for their careers.”

A 1979 graduate of Hofstra Law School, Bass first earned a master’s degree in taxation and accounting from New York University. “I speak from experience when I say that an M.B.A. gives law students a whole different perspec-
If you are a lawyer who understands the business world, you become the one that business people turn to, as opposed to the accountant. Sanjay Rao, who graduated Hofstra with a J.D./M.B.A. in 1997, said the joint degree has given him additional flexibility in the job market. After five years with the Battery Park City Authority, where he served as assistant general counsel, he is now working in the corporate sector as a client adviser at Marsh Inc., a leading risk and insurance services firm. “I may stay in the business world, and I may not,” he said. “Either way, there are a lot of areas that call for a multidisciplinary background.”

“Having both degrees certainly gives you added flexibility for future career or job changes,” said Professor Tracht. “At the same time, the combination can allow you to get into certain careers that require the constant integration of the two spheres.” Some of the many career options for which dual degrees are beneficial include: mergers and acquisitions attorney; in-house corporate counsel; entertainment and sports agent; insurance

think about returning for an MBA?

Even an experienced attorney can gain important knowledgetrade skills and perspective from an M.B.A. program. And more and more, successful professionals are returning to school to earn an M.B.A., according to Professor Stuart Bass, director of graduate programs for the Zarb School of Business. For lawyers interested in adding an M.B.A. to their credentials, there are several options and a few important things to keep in mind.

First, all applicants with a J.D. will automatically have the GMAT exam waived. Second, number of law school courses also can be applied toward the M.B.A., which reduces the credits needed by nine, from the normal number of 41-48 credits. And third, all M.B.A. courses are offered in the evening, so that you can pursue the degree while working.

“Having both degrees certainly gives you added flexibilitiy for future career or job changes,” said Professor Tracht. “At the same time, the combination can allow you to get into certain careers that require the constant integration of the two spheres.” Some of the many career options for which dual degrees are beneficial include: mergers and acquisitions attorney; in-house corporate counsel; entertainment and sports agent; insurance

Thinking About Returning for an MBA?

If you are not interested in an M.B.A. but would still like to add some business education to your background, the Zarb School of Business also offers a variety of M.S. programs and advanced graduate certificate programs. Alumni interested in these offerings should call the Office of Graduate Business Programs at (516) 463-5683.

Attorneys interested in the Executive M.B.A. program, a 20-month lockstep program that meets on alternating Fridays and Saturdays, should contact Lisa Welch in the Office of Graduate Business Programs (516) 463-5144, or discuss the options with Zarb School Business Professors Dr. Barry Berman or Stuart Bass.

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In the simplest of terms, Justice Kay and I hit it off. I was drawn to his down to earth manner and grateful for his interest in my student note topic on international custody disputes involving Islamic nations. He, I think, found my seeming discomfort in a tie and obvious lack of colour disconcerting. We had arranged to meet in the city to attend an opera at Lincoln Center in a fortnight’s time, oh sorry, that’s two weeks. At dinner, he asked what law I wanted to practice and what I would like to do after law school. I told him international and that it would be a dream to work in London, where I had done an internship the previous summer. Justice Kay informed me that he knew Dame Butler-Sloss and, while not promising anything, would send an email.

Shortly thereafter I received an email from the President’s clerk and the Lord Justice who handled the JA hiring. Things progressed nicely, sending my résumé and recommendations, until mid-January when I had not heard anything for awhile. Thinking I had nothing to lose and everything to gain, I decided to send an email informing the relevant parties that I was planning a visit to London in February, and if they wanted to meet, it might be my only chance. They agreed, a bit to my surprise, and I was quickly on the path of circumstances. During my third year of law school, I was the Managing Editor of the Hofstra Law Review (FCR) law journal. That fall, I had set the itinerary and planned the day. Justice Joseph Kay was starting a holiday in Australia when he visited Hofstra Law School for a visit Hofstra and the FCR staff. Schepard, the FCR’s Editor-in-Chief. Justice Kay was keen to serve as a Judicial Assistant (JA) to the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, and as the title of this article may suggest, the interview went well.

The interview was, however, the product of a very unique path of circumstances. During my third year of law school, I was the Managing Editor of the Family Court Review (FCR) law journal. That fall, I had set the itinerary and planned to shadow a Justice of the Appeal Division of the Family Court of Australia when he visited Hofstra Law School for the day. Justice Joseph Kay was starting a holiday in New York for the Australian summer. He had contributed to the journal and was acquainted with Professor Andrew Sheppard, the FCR’s Editor-in-Chief. Justice Kay was keen to visit Hofstra and the FCR staff.

I was in the chambers of Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, President of the Family Division of the High Court of England and Wales who was accompanied by Lord Justice Mathew Thorpe, Chair of the President’s International Family Law Committee. I was interviewing to become, as I was later made aware, the first United States’ citizen to serve as a Judicial Assistant (JA) to the Court of Appeal of England and Wales, and as the title of this article may suggest, the interview went well.

In the interview, I was the student note topic on international custody disputes involving Islamic nations. He, I think, found my seeming discomfort in a tie and obvious lack of colour disconcerting. We had arranged to meet in the city to attend an opera at Lincoln Center in a fortnight’s time, oh sorry, that’s two weeks. At dinner, he asked what law I wanted to practice and what I would like to do after law school. I told him international and that it would be a dream to work in London, where I had done an internship the previous summer. Justice Kay informed me that he knew Dame Butler-Sloss and, while not promising anything, would send an email.

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The oppression of apartheid lasted for three centuries, 300 agonizing years during which the white minority used the law to maintain power and control over the black majority of South Africans. But in just the 19 years that have passed since the demise of apartheid and the establishment of a new Constitutional Court, South Africa has become an international leader in human rights, protecting a range of liberties that are still not established rights in the United States, among other countries.

A major participant in this remarkable transformation has been Richard Goldstone, one of the original appointees to the new Constitutional Court, a well-known human rights activist and recipient of numerous honors and awards for his international justice work. In early March, Justice Goldstone delivered the annual Howard & Iris Kaplan Memorial Lecture at the Hofstra University School of Law, describing in fascinating detail the process through which a new constitution took hold in South Africa. The lessons that can be drawn from that process, he noted, could be used to overcome some of the challenges faced by Iraq and other nations trying to nurture new democracies.

“We now have the widest human rights of any country in the world,” declared Justice Goldstone before an audience in the Siben & Siben courtroom. The first foreign jurist to deliver the memorial lecture, Goldstone explained that the right to human dignity was the “cornerstone” of South Africa’s Bill of Rights, which specifically grants freedom from discrimination outlawed based not only on race and religion but on 12 other grounds, including sexual orientation, pregnancy, gender, marital status, age, disability, culture, language and birth.

A small, trim man, with a precise but graceful and engaging speaking style, Goldstone, 65, recently retired from South Africa’s Constitutional Court and has been living in New York while teaching as a visiting professor at New York University. In introducing him to the Hofstra audience, Dean David Yellen commented that his biography made him wonder if Goldstone “is one of those people with a secret twin how can one person do all that he has?”

In addition to his work in South Africa, a partial list of Goldstone’s other posts includes Chief Prosecutor of the United Nations International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, chair of the International Inquiry on Kosovo, chair of the International Task Force on Terrorism established by the International Bar Association, President of World ORT, and Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg.

“He is a luminary in the field of international protection of human rights,” noted Fuy Rosenfeld, senior assistant dean for student affairs at the law school. “Hearing about the transition from apartheid to democracy was an inspiration to everyone in the room.”

The process of setting up a system to protect South Africans’ rights began, according to Goldstone, with the decision to adopt the method used in post-World War II Germany to establish a new supreme court. Instead of replacing the members of the existing court that had interpreted the nation’s constitution under apartheid, South Africa followed Germany’s example and created a new court above the existing one. The bench of this new court was then filled with human rights advocates including six jurists from the old judiciary, Goldstone among them. Two of the six were black. To fill out the 11 seats, two women, one black and one white were added, as were two more black men and one white man.

Meanwhile, Goldstone continued, South Africa, like Iraq in early 2004, was in the throes of a struggle to create a new constitution. The new South African president, Nelson Mandela, wanted the constitution to be adopted in a democratic process. Former South African President Frederik Willem de Klerk feared this would result in a document embodying Socialist principles. A “novel solution” was found, said Goldstone, in the decision to adopt an interim constitution, under which elections to the new Parliament would be held, that contained “34 principles” on which the final constitution had to be based. Then, the newly elected Parliament would draft the final constitution and the Constitutional Court would decide whether it was consistent with the 34 principles.

The 11 judges of the new court, using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and bills of rights from other countries for guidance, found 12 areas of the new constitution inconsistent with the principles. Parliament then made the necessary amendments, and in February, 1997, the final document became effective.

Helping to create the conditions for this compromise, Goldstone explained, were two facts: first, South Africa already had existing institutions that could be modified; and, second, the white minority, facing rule by the black majority, recognized the need for a strong bill of rights to protect themselves. Having existing, functioning institutions, noted Goldstone, was an advantage for South Africa that the former Soviet Union, for example, did not have. In Iraq, the former ruling minority faces majority rule as did the whites of South Africa.

Zaharoula Mavrikos, a third-year student at the law school, said she was surprised and delighted to hear Goldstone, a white male who could have been part of the oppressive elite during apartheid, speak “as if he was one of the people who suffered.” She added that she was particularly fascinated to hear about how the new Constitutional Court justices carefully considered the impact of every detail, such as the color of their robes and the height of the dais where they would sit. “The psychology behind it was great,” she said, with the justices deciding that green robes and a dais at the eye level of petitioners would be less intimidating.

Once these details and other issues were decided, the court was ready to hear its first case, a challenge to the death penalty, said Goldstone. They ruled that the death sentence was inconsistent with three provisions of the new constitution: the right to life; the prohibition against cruel and inhuman punishment; and, the right to human dignity. Other important cases decided by the court since then include its ruling that social assistance grants can not be limited to citizens only, but must also be available to millions of legal immigrants; and, that the government must provide housing for people left homeless by fire, flood or other emergencies.

Today, Goldstone said with pride, of 1,886 judicial officers in South Africa, 41 percent are black and 19 percent female. “My one regret is that it took South Africa so long to do this,” said Goldstone, lamenting “the talent lost” and the suffering during 300 years of racial oppression. Many problems still plague the country, including poverty and crime, he concluded, but South Africa today “is a much happier country by far than when I became a judge.”

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The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of Hofstra University or the Hofstra Law Review.
When Tropical Storm Allison washed across Houston in 2001, one of the casualties was the law library at the University of Houston. Half the library was flooded, destroying nearly 200,000 volumes.

Michelle Wu

“We had to replace all those materials, get funding from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), investigate grant funding, file insurance claims – between doing the disaster recovery and hiring to fill vacant positions, all my time was spent getting the library back up to speed,” remembers Michelle Wu, who became acting director of that library in March 2002.

Now Wu faces a far more pleasant task: transitioning Hofstra’s Deane Law Library into a model for the development of libraries in the age of technology.

Wu is the new director of Hofstra’s law library. She has also been appointed an associate professor of law, and will teach a course on copyright and licensing in the spring 2005 semester. She came to Hofstra because she “wanted to move to the next level, to take charge of a library that is already where it should be and could contribute to the rise of the entire school.”

In addition, notes Wu, “a library is only as good as its users.” She says she was impressed by the quality of Hofstra’s students and faculty, whose resumes display the breadth and depth of their scholarship and involvement with the American Bar Association and other professional forums.

“Michelle is a dynamic, knowledgeable law librarian,” said Dean Alan Resnick. “We’re fortunate that our library is already excellent, but I am confident that she will lead it to even better things.”

Wu, 34, earned a law degree from the California Western School of Law in San Diego and a master’s degree in library science from the University of Washington in Seattle. Originally, she says, she intended to go to medical school, but when she helped her roommate prepare for the LSAT exam, she found herself drawn to the idea of law school.

“I found the analytical portion of the exam entertaining,” says Wu. “I like puzzles and word games, and the LSAT was like that.” She decided to take the exam and did well enough to win a full scholarship for her first year. While she was going to law school, she worked in the San Diego County Law Library. That experience helped her realize that “I loved the theory behind the law, but I wasn’t as intrigued with the practice. Library work was more suited to my personality.”

Wu says she plans to spend her first few months at Hofstra talking to the librarians, faculty members and students “to determine their needs.” While technology is transforming law libraries, making it less and less necessary for users to go to the library building to do research, she says she doubts that everything will be available electronically in her lifetime.

Besides, she adds, libraries not only provide an area to congregate and have open discussions about hot topics in law, but they are also the place where users can get help from the librarians. “There is such a flood of information that people need help to decide how and where to search,” she says. “I think that will always be true.”

Michael Siebecker

As an expert in laws affecting the Internet, Michael R. Siebecker has a new idea about stopping spammers. Instead of prosecuting them for committing fraud or invading privacy, this new associate professor at Hofstra University School of Law suggests charging them with trespassing.

“To get around the problem of statutes that immediately become obsolete given the speed of change, we need to use old principles applied in a new context,” said Siebecker, whose doctoral thesis in political theory, “Common Law at the Speed of Light,” analyzes this concept. Internet advertisers use people’s own computers to store ‘cookies’ that keep track of every Web site they’ve ever visited,” he explained, and that, he believes, constitutes trespass. Class action lawsuits against spammers that used fraud and privacy statutes have failed.

“It may seem odd to apply the Internet principles (like trespass) that centuries ago helped give relief to peasant farmers for injuries sustained by their livestock,” continued Siebecker, “but in the case of the Internet, the old adage is true again: ‘Everything old is new again.’” Cases against Internet advertisers for trespass would have to be brought under state laws, he added. The Southern California Law Review published an article by Siebecker about the problem last year titled, “Cookies and the Common Law: Are Internet Advertisers Trespassing on Our Computers?”

Siebecker, 35, lives in Manhattan where he has been an adjunct assistant professor at Hunter College while completing his Ph.D. in political theory at Columbia University.

Wu received a B.A., magna cum laude, from Yale University, and a J.D. and LL.M. from Columbia University School of Law. He also received a master’s degree in philosophy from Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where he worked in both the litigation and corporate departments.

Siebecker has also served as an arbitrator for the National Association of Securities Dealers and as an appellate administrative judge for the New York City Environmental Control Board.

Last year, Siebecker drafted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in the case of Nike v. Kasky, a commercial speech case that had implications for the mandatory disclosure and reporting obligations of corporations under securities laws. His clients in the case were a group of socially responsible investment firms. They were challenging Nike’s claim that its public statements dealing with sweatshop labor, among other things, were political speech. As such, Nike argued, the company could not be held accountable for the truthfulness of those statements under a California consumer fraud statute because the statements were fully protected under the First Amendment. Siebecker said that he and his co-counsel agreed with the view of his clients that the integrity of the capital markets depends on corporations like Nike being liable for false statements about their labor and environmental practices, among other things. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the California courts.

While at Hofstra Law School, Siebecker will continue research to address the intersection of law and political theory and will focus primarily on securities regulation, business organizations and the Internet.
A Welcome Visit
Hofstra Law Students Benefit from Visiting Professors

Professor James Garland hopes he can look back and reflect upon a career that positively influenced many law students through a unique and entertaining classroom experience. Measured by this standard and more, he is certainly on the path to a successful career.

At Hofstra University School of Law, Professor Garland is responsible for introducing the class Sexuality and the Law. “This class deals with issues that are particularly divisive in American politics and culture and teaches important lessons to students.”

He is equally as proud of leading Hofstra’s implementation of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) Fellowship, awarded to three incoming J.D. students each year, based on advocacy for the LGBT community. “Hofstra is the first law school in the country to reward students with substantial tuition and externship funds for their efforts and commitment to working for equality for sexual minorities.”

In addition, Professor Garland will be teaching environmental law, “attending somehow to fill the void” left by retired professor William Ginsberg. “It’s important to have someone here full time to try to continue his work – his model for teaching is the one I learned, and I want to pass that on as best I can.”

Professor Barbara Stark brings international legal expertise to Hofstra this fall as a visiting professor from the University of Tennessee College of Law. She is teaching torts as well as international business transactions and other international law courses. “I don’t think there’s any field of law practice that isn’t touched and particularly all the venues for experiencing art.”

Kevin J. Greene’s seminar in entertainment law introduces students to an exciting addition to the curriculum. A Visiting Professor from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego where he is associate professor, Greene will show the film clips and play the audio clips that are the basis for disputes in the entertainment industry. But then, things will get serious. “Entertainment law is constantly changing and very complex,” says Greene, who likes to be called K.J. “It incorporates contract law, intellectual property law and copyright law.”

Greene, who grew up in Westbury, had no plan to specialize in entertainment law when he graduated from Yale Law School and joined a firm. He became involved in an anti-trust case between Time Warner and Viacom and his work attracted the attention of an entertainment law boutique. He had found his niche. He has represented clients including film director Spike Lee and the Rap group Public Enemy.

Greene is married, with two children, and describes himself as a “rabid Yankee fan.” He says he also loves Manhattan and particularly all the venues for experiencing art.

Professor Robert A. Baruch Bush

Harry M. Reins Distinguished Professor or Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Settlement Law


Matthew Bodie

Associate Professor of Law


Robin Charlow

Professor of Law


Nora V. Demleitner

Professor of Law


Activities: Demleitner presented a paper “The Internationalization of Liberalism: Criminals and Terrorists,” at the European American AALS annual meet-ing in January in Atlanta, she moderated a session on the fundamentals of islamic law. • She participated in the European American Consortium for Legal Education meeting held on May 21 at Hofstra Law School.

Herbie DiFonzo

Professor of Law

Activities: Professor DiFonzo participated in a program on Constitutional and Legal Issues Surrounding Gay Marriage, sponsored by the Nassau County Bar Association on April 22, 2004.

Janet Dolgin

Jack & Freda Dicker Distinguished Professor of Health Care Law


Activities: Dolgin delivered several lectures to medical residents at Nassau University Medical Center on patient confidentiality, human rights protections, and health. She lectured on bioethical issues at a confer-ence on “Emerging Threats in health and Medicine” held at Mt. Sinai Medical School in March. • She presented a paper, “Exaggerated Individualism in Doctor- Patient Relations” at the European American Consortium for Legal Education meeting held on May 21 at Hofstra Law School.

Eric M. Freedman

Professor of Law


Monroe H. Freedman

Professor of Law


Activity: Freedman participat-ed as Ethicist-in-Residence at a three-day conference of the NY State Defenders Association in Saratoga NY in July 2004. In addition, he gave a talk on current issues in criminal defense ethics.

Honor: Freedman became a member of the National Committee on the Right to Counsel established by The Constitutional Society and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association.

Leon Friedman

Joseph Kushner Distinguished Professor of Civil Liberties Law


Linda Galler

Professor of Law


Mitchell Gans

Professor of Law

Publication: The Final Income Regulations: Their Meaning and Importance, 103 Tax Notes 899 (2004).

Activities: Gans delivered a
Joanna Grossman
Professor of Law and Associate Dean for Faculty Development
Publications:
- The Beliefs of Children Against Same-Sex Marriages, Newsday, May 19, 2004 editorial
- Grossman continues to write regular columns for FindLaw's Whirl on family law, same discrimination and other issues.
Activities: Grossman presented her paper "Understanding the Sexual Harassment Culture" with Vicki Magley and Lisa Kith at the Law, Culture, and Humanities Conference in Connecituc on March 12 and she served as a discussant for a panel entitled "The Canon of Family Law: Defining Family Law and Defining the Family." She presented a paper on sexual harassment at the annual meeting of the Law Society and the Association in Chicago on May 28.
Grant M. Hayden
Professor of Law
James E. Hickey, Jr.
Professor of Law & Director of International and Comparative Law Programs
- Challenges to Secession: Council Monopoly Power Over the Use of Force in Enforcement Actions, the Case of Regional Organizations, 10 Ius Gentium 75 (2004).
Activities: Hayden presented a paper entitled "The Role of Parties in the Reservation Trend" at the Northeast People of Color Legal Scholarship (EACLE) Conference held on May 21, 2004 at Hofstra University.
Danielle R. Holley
Associate Professor of Law
Activities: Holley presented her paper "The Role of Parties in the Reservation Trend" at the Northeast People of Color Legal Scholarship (EACLE) Conference held on May 21, 2004 at Hofstra University.
Bernard Jacob
Alexander M. Bickel Distinguished Professor of Communications Law
Activities: Jacob presented a workshop on Aristotle’s Book on Justice to the Hofstra Philosophy Department on April 14.
Mark Movsesian
Professor of Law
Activities: Movsesian presented a paper titled "A New York Perspective on Corporations and Governmental Reform" at a Haynes Foundation conference entitled "Reform, Los Angeles Style: The Theory and Practice of Urban Governance at Century’s Turn," held at the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development on September 19, 2002. Lane has been quoted in several governance reports in The New York Times.
Theo Liebmam
Clinical Instructor & Attorney-In-Charge of Hofstra Child Advocacy Clinic
Activities: Liebmam delivered a lecture at North shore University Hospital Forensic Psychology Conference at Hofstra University in May entitled "Forensic Evaluations in Family Court: Their Use and Mis-Use."
Linda McClain
Resident Distinguished Professor of Law
- She also participated in a program on Constitutional and Legal Issues Surrounding Gay Marriage, sponsored by the Nassau County Bar Association on April 22.
Mark Mosvesian
Professor of Law
Activities: Movsesian presented a paper titled "A New York Perspective on Corporations and Governmental Reform" at a Haynes Foundation conference entitled "Reform, Los Angeles Style: The Theory and Practice of Urban Governance at Century’s Turn," held at the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development on September 19, 2002. Lane has been quoted in several governance reports in The New York Times.
Activities: McClain made a presentation on "Child Custody Decision Making: Past, Present and Future" at Loyola University Chicago's Children's Summer Institute on May 24. She participated in a panel discussion on the approximation rule in child custody dispute resolution at the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts in San Antonio on May 14. She spoke about child custody reform at the New York State Courts' Divorce Mediation Conference on April 30.
Michael R. Siebecker
Associate Professor of Law
Publications: To Be or Not To Be Out in the Academy, 22 Journal of Law & Equality 141 (2004).
Norman I. Silber
Professor of Law
Activities: Silber spoke about the government’s role in the Brown case at Hofstra University’s "Silber Distinguished Professorship" Lecture Series on May 4.
Activities: Scheimp presented a "Child Custody Decision Making: Past, Present and Future" at Loyola University Chicago's Children's Summer Institute on May 24. He participated in a panel discussion on the approximation rule in child custody dispute resolution at the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts in San Antonio on May 14. He also accepted an invitation to serve on the External Relations Committee of the American Bar Association's Consumer Interests.
Roy Simon
Hofstra Lithuania Distinguished Professor of International Law
- Several columns in New York Professional Responsibility Report.
Vern R. Walker
Professor of Law
Activity: Walker participated as an expert at a workshop on "Risk, Uncertainty, and Dissent" (with 'Chancy' Science and 'Chancy' Society), held in Seville, Spain on 25-26 June. Professor Walker was invited by the Institute for Prospective Studies of the European Community (IPTS) to present the project at the Conference of the European Commission.
David Yellen
Professor of Law
Activity: Yellen was named reporter of a Sentencing Initiative of The Constitution Project, which is designed to provide assistance and advice to legislatures and sentencing commissions post-Blakely.
Class of ’74

Hon. Maryanne Trump Barry was honored with the 2004 Hofstra University Alumni Day of Service Award by the Nassau County Bar Association. Judge Trump Barry serves on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Hon. Susan Kluwer has been named the 102nd President of the Nassau County Bar Association. Judge Kluwer has served as a Nassau County District Court judge since 2000.

Bert Weinstein has been named vice president of corporate compliance for Purdue Pharma L.P., a Stamford, Conn.,-based pharmaceutical company. He will serve as a member of Purdue’s executive committee and chair a compliance committee that provides leadership and governance for all compliance-related matters for Purdue or any of its U.S. independent associated companies. He will represent the company externally regarding health-care law compliance.

Michael J. Schaffer has become a partner in the law firm of Mattice, Lippe, Goldfeder and Bristowe, LLP. Michael concentrates his practice in domestic and international estate planning, wills and trusts, and charitable giving.

Class of ’77

Katherine McManus was named to deputy general counsel at Nevro Corp., a publicly traded medical device company based in Garden City, N.Y. Ms. McManus was previously a partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz.

Class of ’76

Mary E. Mongioi has joined the law firm of Dewey, Ballantine, Babanco,옴 & Stiver, LLP as an associate.

Class of ’75

Douglas B. Lyons has had his fourth book published, Broadcast Nukes and Sites: I Saw It On The Radio With The Boston Red Sox. This book was co-authored with Joe Castiglione, the radio voice of the Boston Red Sox. Mr. Lyons also co-authors the book, From An Orphan To A King, with Eddie Turner Jr. of the King And His Court (2004); Out Of Left Field (1998) and Curveballs And Screwballs (2001), both written with his brother, Jeffrey.

Class of ’78

Denise Sher was awarded the 2003-04 Hofstra Law Women’s Distinguished Alumnae Award at their Spring Luncheon on April 28, 2004.

Irene S. Cooper was appointed to the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association. Ms. Cooper was also named to a three-year term as secretary to the Suffolk County Bar Association. She is a partner in the trusts and estates practice group at Garfattin, LLP in Uniondale, N.Y.

Kenneth M. Roth has authored The Successful Lawyer with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Mr. Roth is a partner in the New York office of Schlissel Ostrow Karabatos LLP. He has been a part-time lecturer throughout the country on topics related to trusts and estates. Michael is also a certified public accountant.

Class of ’79

Irene K. Coats is a partner in the trusts and estates practice at the law firm of Castiglione & Athey in Brooklyn, N.Y. She is a member of the Association of Professional Insurance Consultants, Family Law Section, of the New York State Bar Association, Family Law Committee, and Child Custody Committee. She is a Barrister member of the New York Family Law American Inn of Court and the New York State Bar Association, Family Law Committee.

Class of ’80

Marc D. Powers has moved to the New York office of McDermott Will & Emery, an international law firm recently serving as vice president and assistant general counsel and corporate compliance officer.

Class of ’81

Ben B. Robinowitz of Gair, Cagian, Steigman & Mackauf and a Law Journal columnist, has been sworn in as president of the New York City Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Class of ’82

Kathleen McComas has been promoted to deputy general counsel at MBIA Insurance Corp. Ms. McComas joined MBIA’s public finance department last August in a newly created director position, where she serves as product specialist for derivatives and other complex transactions for the bond insurer’s western region group. Following her promotion, Ms. McManus will continue to exercise those responsibilities in and outside of the western region, in addition to supporting the public finance department.

Class of ’83

Mary E. Mongioi has joined the law firm of Dewey, Ballantine, Babanco,omb & Stiver, LLP as an associate.

Class of ’84

Hope Schwartz Zimmerman was awarded the Rona Seder Award by the Nassau County Women’s Bar Association at their Annual Installation Dinner on May 14, 2004.

Class of ’85

Larry Rudolph represents Britney Spears and has joined the firm of Greenberg Traurig in New York. Mr. Rudolph is also on his own as Rudolph & Baer for many years.

Class of ’89

P. Joseph Campisi, Jr. has joined Bristol-Myers Squibb Company in Princeton, N.J. as Senior Counsel, Corporate Development, Mergers and Acquisitions.

Class of ’93

Ronald Maggiore was named partner in the New York office of Angell, a national law firm specializing in securities and corporate finance work.

Class of ’91

Joseph DePirocola and his wife, Kim (McKeel), announced the birth of their twins, Grace Ann and Joseph Thomas, who were born on August 4, 2003. Joseph is with Investec USA Holdings Corp., New York, N.Y.

Michael J. Schaffer has become a partner in the law firm of Mattice, Lippe, Goldfeder and Bristowe, LLP. Michael concentrates his practice in domestic and international estate planning, wills and trusts, and charitable giving.

Class of ’94

Jeffrey Sattill has a new partnership—Wenig Ginsberg Sattill & Greene in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Class of ’95

Jeanne M. Kohler has been named senior attorney with more than 300 attorney/associates focusing on financial services, insurance, real estate and equity venture capital. A published author and frequent speaker, Ms. Kohler is dedicated to practice law in New York and is a member of the Association of Professional Insurance Consultants, Family Law Section, of the New York State Bar Association. She has been published in Reinsurance News and Insurance Day among other industry publications.

Steven J. Malawer was appointed vice president, associate general counsel and assistant secretary at Berkley International L.L.C., Greenwich, an insurance holding company. Mr. Berkley Corp., Greenwich, owns 65 percent of the company.

Mr. Malawer was an attorney at W. R. Berkley Corp. since joining it in 1994. Jason A. Newfield is a partner in Frankel & Newfield, Garden City, N.Y.

Mr. Nykamp has become a partner in the firm of Twomey, Latham, Shea & Kelley, LLP. Mr. Nykamp will continue to practice in the areas of commercial litigation, as well as environmental, real estate and land use matters.
Class of ’96

Jennifer B. Appel has been named at Catalyst’s Balin’s Real Estate Practice Group anding in the areas of commercial and residential real estate, representing builders and developers in the purchase and sale of real estate. In addition to transactional law, she also represents builders and developers in zoning and land use matters before local government boards and also in any resulting litigation, including Article 78 proceedings.

Class of ’97

Joseph A. LePiccola has joined the law firm of Hessian, Becher & Cooper L.L.P. as a senior trial associate in the Garden City, NY office. The firm’s practice focuses on Criminal and Civil Commercial Litigation. Mr. LePiccola, formerly a Senior Trial Attorney with the Legal Aid Society of New York City, will be specializing in state and federal criminal defense and trials. Joseph, his wife, Maria Zafonte Levine, and son, Frank, will welcome the newest member of their family in February 2005. 

Marina O’Leary has started her solo practice in Lake Success, NY. Her practice will focus principally on commercial litigation and insurance issues.

Class of ’98

Andrea Silverstein Glaser has joined the firm of Greenbaum, Rosén, Rabin, Davis & Himml LLP as an associate in its Litigation Department located in the firm’s Roseland, NJ office.

Kristen Alford and Michael Knox ‘97 were married on October 31, 2003 in Portland, OR. Kristen is an associate at Harris Beach LLP, in New York City and Michael is Staff Sergeant, serving in the US Army National Guard’s Counter-Terror Task Force.

Class of ’01

Jonathan is married to Maria Zafonte Levine, Donald X. Clavin, Jr. of the Executive Board of the New York Bar Foundation located in the firm’s Roseland, NJ office. Prior to joining the firm, Ms. Clavin was President of a new law firm and another New Jersey law firm. She also served as a law clerk for the Honorable Albert S. Stern of the United States Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey.

Sandi Isaacs has joined Silverman, Perlstein & Acampora as an associate. Ms. Isaacs will practice commercial litigation.

Class of ’02

Vincent R. FitzPatrick III was married to Katie Kurzt at Vassar College on June 12, 2004. Vincent is an associate in the litigation department of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in Manhattan.

Christopher J. Kula has joined the firm of Forchelli, Curto, Schwartz, Mines, Carlin & Cohn, LLP as an associate.

Class of ’03

Renee Coté is working for Gosier, Gabriele, Garden City, NY.

Michelle Hofkin was enrolled in Hofstra 2003-2004 in Hofstra University’s MBA program and will be attending Hofstra 2003-2004 in Hofstra University’s MBA program and will be attending

Making a Difference: Law School Donors September 1, 2003 – August 31, 2004

The 2003-2004 Hofstra University School of Law Annual Giving Campaign concluded August 31, 2004. We gratefully acknowledge the generous gifts and commitments of alumni, students, faculty, staff, parents and friends that will enhance extracurricular activities such as Mock Court. Thank you for your generous gifts.

David Biederman ($50,000 - $99,999)

Karen M. Kart, in Forest Hills, NY.

MaryBeth Ott and Steven Hofkin ‘03 have opened their law firm, Samuel & Ott, LLC, in Syosset, NY. Annalisa is a fund administrator for another New Jersey law firm. Michael is Staff Attorney for the Nassau County Department located in the firm’s Roseland, NJ office.

MaryAnn O’Leary has started her solo practice in Lake Success, NY. Her practice will focus principally on commercial litigation and insurance issues.

Class of ’04

Steven Wikins has written an article on “Bankruptcy Can Affect Your Medical Malpractice” which was published in the NYSBA Torts, Insurance and Compensation Law Journal November 2004, Volume 33 No. 1.

Bond, Schoeneck & King’s Labor and Employment Practice is one of the largest in the Northeast. Ms. Dariozo concentrates her practice in Labor and Employment Law. She was a Contributing Editor to the 2002 and 2003 Cumulative Supplements to The Developing Labor Law, which is published by the American Bar Association.

Daniel W. B. Haim has joined Robin Radical LLP, a placement firm for attorneys, paralegals, and support staff. Joseph Russell is with Robin Radical LLP’s Professional Liability Practice Group.

Andreia Silverstein Glaser has joined the firm of Greenbaum, Rosén, Rabin, Davis & Himml LLP as an associate in its Litigation Department located in the firm’s Roseland, NJ office.

Class of ’99

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Marjorie Cavanagh ‘84
Gregory Chercherian ‘86
Paul Cherney ‘74
Meadow Chafetz ‘79
Jerome Channell
Scott Chadwick
Donald Clayton ‘96
Patricia Clarke
Dana & Berberians
Melissa Delmonico ‘10
Karen Derr
Exercise Service
Roberta Diamond
Stanley Diamond ‘77
Katharine Dietrich
Mary DiRienzo ‘89
Robert D’Alonzo
Shevane D’Alonzo
Carrie Edelson
Miriam Erfordt-Wright
Beezie Felder ‘76
Markus Foppa
Martin Foppan ‘79
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121 Hofstra University
Office of Law Alumni Affairs
Hofstra University School of Law
Please fax or email this form by November 22, 2004 to: Nancy Rudolph
Director of Alumni Relations
121 Hofstra University
Hempstead, New York 11549-1210
Email: lawalumni@hofstra.edu

Call for Nominations! Hofstra University School of Law Alumni Association Distinction Award

The Alumni Association of Hofstra Law School will present an annual Distinction Alumni Awards at the annual Alumni Dinner on March 16, 2005 at the Princeton Club in New York City. The nominations committee invites all alumni, faculty and members of the bar to submit nominations by returning this form and any supporting information by November 22, 2004. Decisions will be made in one of the following ways:

• Demonstrated commitment to justice for all
• Distinguished reputation
• Professional achievement
• Role model for others in the profession

Anyone previously nominated for the award will automatically be reconsidered. Self-nominations and those from other members of the bar will be welcome!

Nominee

Class Year

Submitted by

Phone / Email

Nominees qualifications, including biographical information: [Attach additional letter if necessary]

The Stuart Rabinowitz Hofstra University Faculty Award

In April 2001, the Hofstra Law School Alumni Association established the Stuart Rabinowitz Outstanding Faculty Award (affectionately known as the “Stuwie”). This award is presented to an outstanding faculty member as voted by Hofstra Law alumni. Past recipients include President Stuart Rabinowitz, Professor Vern Walker, Dean Alan N. Resnick and Professor Roy Simon. Please nominate a faculty member based on his/her overall performance in the following areas:

• Excellence in teaching
• Contributions to legal community
• Scholarly achievement

The faculty member with the most votes will receive the award at the Distinction Alumni Awards Dinner on Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at the Alumni Awards and Reunion Dinner.

Please mail or e-mail your nomination by November 22, 2004: to

Nancy Rudolph
Director of Alumni Relations
121 Hofstra University
Hempstead, NY 11546-1210
Email: lawalumni@hofstra.edu


If you have moved or changed your contact information, please let us know. Send news and information to:

Law School Alumni Office
121 Hofstra University
Hempstead, New York 11549-1210
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