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Ralph Nader

Nader Urges Students to Consider Public Advocacy

Ralph Nader brought his defiant message to a standing-room only crowd in the Dean Alexander Moot Court Room earlier this school year, urging students to use their legal skills to challenge the “abuse of corporate power.”

The relentless consumer advocate, who first targeted the auto industry with the book Unsafe at Any Speed, urged students to consider the public’s need for lawyers more than corporate and government work.

Students and faculty of the Albany Law Environmental Outlook Journal brought Nader to the school, with the help of Mark Dunlea ’88, who chairs the New York State Green Party.

Commencement Speech by Garcia

Michael Garcia ’89, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, delivered the keynote speech at Albany Law’s graduation for the Class of 2006 on May 19 at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. Garcia addressed 273 graduates, along with their families and friends.

Gabrielli Competitors Appeal Murder Conviction

Albany Law in the News

New York Law Journal, 02/03/06

“If the governor does appoint someone to replace Smith who would vote to sustain the death penalty, all bets are off unless [Judge] Robert Smith supports stare decisis. George Bundy Smith has made it clear that he is a certain vote against the death penalty. Just about anybody the governor would appoint to replace him would be more sympathetic to the death penalty than [Bundy Smith] is.” –Albany Law School Professor Vincent Bonventre in an article titled, “Defense asks court to separate issues in Taylor appeal.”

The Oregonian, 12/28/05

“Do you really buy this connection between the supposed negligence of the manufacturer and the shooting death? Or are there just too many things going on here to plausibly hold the manufacturer responsible?” –Albany Law School Professor Timothy Lytton in an article titled, “Lawsuit accuses drug firms of role in meth-related killing.”

The Associated Press, 01/15/06

“Typically appeals courts don’t chastise lower courts in their opinions. Clearly that’s what they did here.” –Albany Law School Professor Laurie Shanks in an article titled, “ Judges chastised for improper juror dismissals.”
More than 500 Seniors Gathered for Senior Citizen Law Day

Some 500 seniors, their children and caregivers drove, walked and rode busses to attend the 13th Senior Citizen Law Day put on by the Government Law Center this past winter.

Along with more than 30 seminars addressing the ever-growing health and legal issues faced by the senior population, a full session focused on the upcoming new Medicare-Part D law. Attendees packed the school gym for this before heading to smaller seminars that addressed driving safety, IRS audits, estate planning, identity fraud, wills, caregiver issues, funeral planning and more.

The day-long program, free to attendees, opened with The Nancy M. Sills Lecture, “What to Do if the IRS Audits Your Tax Return” presented by Albany Law’s Professor Harold Dubroff.

Sponsors included the Times Union, Albany County Department for the Aging, Child’s Nursing Home, the Civil Service Employee’s Association and Key Bank. New York State Senator Neil D. Breslin and Albany County Executive Director Michael Breslin also participated in the day.

Levi Strauss & Co.'s Chief Counsel for Asia Pacific, an Albany Law Grad, Tells Tales of Brand Wars

Wai B. Zee ’87 talks about protecting the Levi’s® trademark like a general talks about combat strategy. The brand protection activities of Levi Strauss & Co. (LS&Co.) are virtually non-stop where it raids a factory, warehouse or retail shop somewhere in the world, using local police, federal agents or private firms to confiscate some hundreds of thousands of units in over 1,500 raids annually.

Calling 501® jeans the most counterfeited product in the world, Zee, the company’s Asia Pacific chief counsel, told a group of Albany Law students in the fall semester that when “overseeing 53 countries, we can’t just win, we need to find the cheapest and easiest way to win.”

Wearing a $120 pair of Levi’s® Red Loop™ only available in Asia, Zee likened China to the “wild west” which kept him busy, though his division also includes the Middle East, Turkey, Africa and Latin America.

Born in Hong Kong and raised in the United States, Zee earned a bachelor’s at Cornell University, a J.D. from Albany Law, and an LL.M in trade regulations from New York University School of Law.

Law School Offered Many Paths

“One thing I noticed when I was here,” Zee said of his Albany Law days, “is that they promote the student to be innovative and inspire atypical careers,” adding that this is evident by the wide range of career paths of his law school peers. Along with memories of dorm living and sprained ankles from lost rebounds, he credited Professor Seita, whom he keeps in touch with, and Professor Hutter for stoking his interest in intellectual property and unfair trade practices.

He can sound more like a marketer than a lawyer, speaking at length on the importance of branding, the niche markets LS&CO. has focused on for the different countries, and the need to know well a company’s macro and micro business strategies for a lawyer to provide proper counsel. “I need to understand each new product and the strategy behind the rollout if I’m to support them legally,” Zee said, adding that with more than 100 different trademarks under three brands—including Dockers® and Levi Strauss Signature®—in 53 countries, he has a lot to track and protect.

Along with knowing legal distinctions in every country, Zee’s team needs to understand language, culture and even the political climate. He relies on experts in each country to help localize the legal strategy, and also provide public relations and marketing to educate the community.

“Employees come and go,” Zee told the Albany Law students, “but trademarks last forever.” For LS&CO., that’s certainly true. Its “Arcuate” stitching design on the back pocket of their jeans remains the oldest continuous used trademark for clothing in the country—1873.

It’s not always a battle for Zee, who showed some slides of the glamour side of his job. This included promotional campaigns and glitzy events with models, rock stars and other celebrities, Zee always in the mix. Despite the worldwide travel and swanky parties, Zee said he was glad to be in Albany again. “I always liked it here. And it seems like it hasn’t changed much.” —DS
**Guernsey Considered First Dean to Enter the Podcast World**

Albany Law Dean Thomas F. Guernsey doesn’t expect his lectures to trade illegally on any file-sharing networks but he does make them available for downloading. Using new technology called ClassCaster developed from the Consortium for Distance Education, Dean Guernsey’s class on Evidence, which he taught for the spring 2006 semester, is digitally recorded for students to download.

Twenty-five law schools in the country participated in the beta testing, and folks at the Center for Computer-Assisted Legal Instruction (CALI) believe it is the largest podcasting initiative in higher education to date. And as far as they know, Albany is the only law school in the country where the Dean participates. We believe them.

**Student-Led Phonathon Forges New Connections, Donations**

A team of 10 students raised $31,000 between October 2005 and April 2006 to support this year’s Albany Law School Fund. The Phonathon, a revived initiative of the school’s Development Office, reached out to selective alumni to provide them with school news, confirm contact data for networking purposes, and request support of the annual fund. Call after call students fell into conversations that led to career advice, horror stories about all-night cramming, and strategies to escape the stress of exams.

A Columbian-born student spoke coincidentally to an alumnus who worked at the U.S. Columbian Consulate. The two conversed in French, Spanish and English.

“No one connects with Alumni more than an engaging student,” said Diane Thompson, Asst. Director of Development of the Annual Fund. “From conversations about shared professors to favorite pubs, it seems both sides learned from one another.”

The new program will take place each semester, and alumni are encouraged to question and share experiences with the callers.

**New Web Site and Email Addresses for Albany Law**

Email addresses for all Albany Law School staff, faculty and students have changed. The new email addresses will end with @albanylaw.edu. Old addresses that end with @mail.als.edu are being phased out.

Some examples of new addresses: alumni@albanylaw.edu; admissions@albanylaw.edu; and cseba@albanylaw.edu (Christina Sebastian).

The school Web site has also changed to www.albanylaw.edu. Receivers of email from Albany Law will now clearly identify the source of the email, unlike the former addresses that were misleading. Likewise, the new Web site address will be easier to search and remember.
Student Group To Promote Pro Bono Work

Second-year student Olivia Nix is helping her Albany Law peers help others. Nix has started the school’s first Pro Bono Society. The organization seeks to encourage public service from Albany Law students through work with legal services organizations in the community.

“Our clinics and field placements are wonderful venues to experience public service law,” said Olivia Nix, acting president of the Pro Bono Society. “I want to see if we can advance a broader cross-section of the student population to appreciate service.”

The group held its first event, Pro Bono Day, Jan. 31, in the Rochester Moot Courtroom for 30 students.

“You don’t learn how to practice law until you go out and do it,” said Ellen Schell ’93, legal director of The Legal Project. Schell was just one of five panelists sharing her work experiences at Pro Bono Day. Other speakers included: Lillian Moy, executive director, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York; Anne Erickson, president and CEO, Empire Justice Center; Michael Friedman ’76 of Friedman & Molinsek, former president of the Albany County Bar Association (ACBA) and chair of the ACBA’s Pro Bono Committee; and Matt Truax, Albany Law student and legal volunteer for New Orleans hurricane victims.

Bookstore Moves to New Student Center

After more than 20 years of calling Room 100B home, the Albany Law School Bookstore is packing up and moving to the University Heights Bookstore in the brand new Albany College of Pharmacy Student Center. The new 5,000-square-foot store will serve ACP, Albany Law and Sage College of Albany. The Student Center is expected to open this summer.

Event Addresses Asian-Pacific Stereotypes, Models Leadership

The Albany Law School Asian-Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA) brought together a panel of Asian-Pacific American (APA) attorneys who addressed stereotyping of their work ethic and culture. Panel members encouraged students to promote the legal profession to the APA community and confront head-on myths around any ethnic heritage in the legal profession and beyond.

The program, called “Asian-Pacific Americans in the Law,” included Asian-Pacific American attorneys sharing their experiences for overcoming stereotypes, among other success stories. Speakers included Ronald J. Kim, Law Offices of Ronald J. Kim; Lisa Kwong, Assistant Attorney General; Hung Kay Lo ’92, State of New York Real Property Services Office; Heena Shaikh ’04, Law Office of Anne Reynolds Copps; and Donald Zee ’78, Donald Zee, P.C.

Pictured left to right are Beverly Roxas ’07, APALSA Social Chair, Hannah Yoo ’07, APALSA Secretary, Hung Kay Lo ’92, Ronald J. Kim, Josh Choi ’07, APALSA President, Lisa Kwong, Donald Zee ’78, Heena Shaikh ’04, Judy Tng ’07, APALSA Treasurer (seated) and Mindy Kim ’07, APALSA Vice-President (seated).
Students Give Legal Aid to Katrina Victims

Three Albany Law students spent their holiday break providing legal assistance to Louisiana and Mississippi victims of Hurricane Katrina under the supervision of practicing attorneys.

Ben Silbert ’08, Matthew Truax ’06 and Leah Williamson ’07 worked with the Student Hurricane Network, a national association of law students and administrators dedicated to providing long-term assistance to communities in the aftermath of hurricane destruction.

Hard work in the “Big Easy”
Truax left for New Orleans on New Year’s Day, Jan. 1, 2006. For the next two weeks he called St. Luke’s Episcopal Church his home where he and 40 other volunteers slept on cots in the basement.

Truax was assigned to the city’s lower Ninth Ward, an area severely flooded when the levees were breached by Katrina and Rita.

From day one Truax started working on a lawsuit filed against the city by several housing advocacy groups. The class action lawsuit, Kirk v. City of New Orleans, demanded that residents are notified before any damaged homes are demolished. In late December, city officials announced their intention to demolish within weeks about 2,500 buildings that inspectors found to be dangerously unstable after Hurricane Katrina.

Truax spent 12-14 hour days researching the class action litigation, which included interviewing survivors, chronicling their stories, participating in court and surveying homes—in many cases, the remains of homes.

“For many of the people living in the lower Ninth Ward their homes were all they had,” said Truax. “We were fighting for homeowners to not only have a chance at saving their homes, but the right to retrieve their personal belongings.”

Evictions in Mississippi
Leah Williamson ’07 worked with the Mississippi Center for Justice observing eviction proceedings in the Justice Courts of Gulfport, Biloxi and Ocean Springs. The Center was seeking a three-week snapshot of how tenants’ rights in its region were affected by hurricane Katrina. Mississippi has a huge housing shortage due to the destruction of Katrina. Tenants, jobless from the storm, can’t pay rent and landlords are raising rent due to the housing shortage. The combination is a lethal one and Williamson watched the chaos play out in the Justice Courts.

Often landlords could not contact tenants after they evacuated. In one situation a tenant’s trailer was demolished by FEMA with all of their belongings still inside. The landlord claimed that he had posted signs alerting the tenants to remove their belongings.

Williamson, a California native, interviewed tenants after their hearings to learn that they were unaware that free legal representation

Photos
Top: Top, Matthew Truax ’06
Middle: Hurricane damage in Gulfport, Miss., where Williamson volunteered to observe eviction proceedings.
Bottom: Leah Williamson ’07
was available. “I handed out flyers from the Miss. Center for Justice and encouraged the tenants to contact the organization if they were interested in appealing the decision,” said Williamson.

“There are so many problems down there,” said Williamson. “I never imagined the help that they need—legal and physical.”

Williamson stayed in a church in Gulfport, along with a volunteer construction crew that was rebuilding the house of the church’s pastor. Williamson drove down to Mississippi with her partner, a filmmaker, who documented the trip with her video camera.

**Notices for Demolition**

Ben Silbert ’08 also worked in the New Orleans lower Ninth Ward. His time was divided among three projects: conducting research on the *Kirk v. City of New Orleans* case for the People’s Hurricane Relief Fund (PHRF), the Pro Bono Project and the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

“For ACORN, I gutted flooded houses for two days so that they could eventually be resold. For the Pro Bono Project, I contacted lawyers and displaced clients and updated files accordingly,” recalled Silbert.

**Settlement with the city**

A few days after Truax and Silbert returned home from New Orleans, they received word that the city agreed to give homeowners advance notice and the advocacy groups dropped their suit.

Truax said the experience helped him to realize the value of *pro bono* work.

“I want to go back in 15 years and see the new New Orleans,” said Truax. “It would be nice to see the positive long-term effects of everyone’s hard work.”

**Katrina hits home for New Orleans Native**

Gavin Guillot ’08, born and raised in New Orleans, intended to volunteer during his winter break with the Student Hurricane Network, but decided to donate all his time to helping family and friends. While his parents did not lose their home, his uncles, aunts and grandparents did.

“My house suffered mainly reparable wind damage, and, thankfully, no flooding. My aunt was hit the hardest, for her home was less than one mile from the infamous levee breach in Lakeview,” explained Guillot. “Many of my close friends lost everything, from homes to cars to irreplaceable family photo albums; we were fortunate.”

Gavin’s parents live in a suburb of New Orleans called Metairie in Jefferson Parish. His grandparents also lived in Metairie and got slammed with 6.5 feet of water. His aunt, from Orleans Parish in an area called Lakeview, had 12.5 feet of water. Most of Gavin’s friends and cousins lived in Lakeview or in the same part of Metairie that flooded where his grandparents lived.

“Seeing my family and friends who endured the hurricane and withstood the aftermath, I could tell that everyone had aged,” said Guillot. “It was sad to go home to a devastated place that was known as ‘the city that care forgot’ prior to Katrina. Yet despite the unfortunate truth of that nickname, it was encouraging to see and witness the nation come around it and the surrounding areas with such support.”

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**Albany Law Developing Nation’s First Tech-Transfer Masters Program**

The Science and Technology Law Center received a $120,000 grant from the N.Y. State Senate to develop the nation’s first Master’s of Science in Legal Studies focused on technology transfer.

The new curriculum will be designed to help working professionals better understand the legal and business aspects of the tech-transfer process.

“This type of degree program benefits area universities and the companies that rely on technology transfer applications to successfully market high-tech goods and services,” Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno told a group in the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom.

The plan calls for the masters program to start in January 2007 and to develop the program with area universities and companies engaged in tech-transfer activity.

The Science and Technology Center is developing the content for the masters program, led by Director Saul Seinberg.

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**Who are they?**

The first 10 people to correctly name anyone in either photo wins an Albany Law School cap. The first five to correctly name three people in either photo, including their graduating year, win a school sweatshirt.

Submit your answers to Christina Sebastian, Director, Alumni Affairs, cseba@albanylaw.edu. Winners will be revealed in the next issue of *AlbanyLaw*.
How a skillful mediator got the New York City Transit System back on track
After 29 hours of mediation, Richard Curreri ’76 rode down the elevator of the New York Grand Hyatt, three days before Christmas 2005, to tell a throng of media that New York City’s bus and subway workers were going back to work. “Strangely enough my head was still screwed on straight” for the press conference, Curreri said after the event. Good thing for adrenaline, because his words made it into newspapers from Sydney to Beijing to Turkey.

**Transit System back on track**

By David Singer

A transit strike in New York City brought the country’s largest public transportation system to a grinding halt, forcing millions of commuters to find new ways to get around town.

Curreri has mediated high-profile disputes before as the Director of Conciliation for the New York State Public Employment Relations Board (PERB), but few conflicts reach this level of pressure and virtually none this level of media scrutiny. “They’re all intense,” he said, noting teacher strikes of years past in Buffalo and Yonkers, “but I’ve never done anything quite like this.” The New York Times dubbed it “the World Series of conflict resolution.”

To raise the stakes further during the three days’ worth of sessions, the city’s mayor, Michael Bloomberg, claimed that the city was losing $547 million a day in commerce, and spending $13.7 million on police overtime and other strike-related costs (all these numbers were challenged of course) due to 34,000 transit workers off the job. To add to the perfect mediation storm, a judge ordered a $1 million fine to the union for each day it stayed on strike.

Curreri chose two other mediators to work the sessions with him. “With a large-scale conflict like this, you don’t want to miss or misinterpret anything anyone says,” Curreri said. “For this, three people are better than one. We were able to bounce ideas off of each other and feel more confident about the direction in which we needed to go.”

Inside this frenzied climate the mediators kept the parties focused on collective bargaining. “We had to isolate them from the circus atmosphere,” said Curreri. “To the extent possible, we tried to keep them from becoming distracted by the press, Continued on page 10
Continued from page 9

the politics, and their personal emotions so they could stay on task, which was resolving the issues on the table.” For starters, Curreri quietly situated the mediation at a new hotel away from the site where negotiations had failed. To do this without commotion, the players exited individually and sporadically to avoid tipping-off the media.

He also kept the parties separate throughout most of the process. “Emotions were too high, there was a lot of animosity,” Curreri said. “We wanted to diffuse the tension and thought it more appropriate to keep the parties apart.”

In the end, for all its attention and public pressure, Curreri found the mediation itself to be not very different than any other. “You try to unearth the core problems underlying the parties’ demands. You reality-test not only whether the particular solution a party is advancing is rational, but also whether it stands any chance of being accepted by the other side. You probe to see whether alternatives exist that may be more acceptable to both sides while still remedying the problem.”

Richard Curreri ’76

The aftermath

Curreri’s 15-plus minutes of fame earned him momentary rock-star status as far as mediators go. The New York Times featured Curreri in an article titled, “The Mediator behind the Curtain in the Transit Strike” and the Daily News wrote, “Mediator Delivers for City,” describing him with terms like “master deal-maker,” “patience” and “good listening skills.” And yet, for all his good work, the dispute didn’t end because the transit union’s rank and file rejected the agreement—by just seven votes out of over 22,000 cast.

As of the printing date of this magazine, the transit workers continue to work without a contract, the union has agreed to resubmit the same deal to its membership for another vote, but the Transit Authority is claiming that the same deal is now off the table. Using the tag line of a City gossip columnist, Curreri quipped: “Only in New York, kids, only in New York!”

As conciliation director for public sector collective bargaining disputes throughout New York, Curreri oversees hundreds of mediations, fact-findings and arbitrations each year. His extensive administrative responsibilities limit the number of cases he can personally mediate, a situation he describes as “necessary, but unfortunate” given the intrinsic rewards attendant to a successful mediation.

Curreri attended Cornell University, where he earned a B.A. in government, ironically, having no interest in the school’s industrial and labor relations program. It was at Albany Law School that former professor John E. Sands first lit his interest in labor law and collective bargaining. He started in the field right after getting his J.D. in 1976, and plans to continue to help resolve negotiation disputes for the foreseeable future.
THE SHORT RISE AND FALL OF ALBANY LAW INTERCOLLEGIATE BASKETBALL

In their brief heyday they beat teams like Manhattan College, Tufts University, Fordham Law and Boston University (21-20). In their first and greatest year, they won 10 and lost four, trouncing St. John’s College 41-21, and defeating University of Vermont 23-19.

The season was 1921-1922, when law schools, as an undergraduate program, had the usual undergraduate frills of frats, dances and intercollegiate sports. Albany Law’s opening season earned a large enough reputation to draw power teams the following year like University of Detroit and the UConn “Aggies,” finishing that second season with eight wins and seven losses.

During these early seasons a freshman team competed with area high schools and served as a feeder system for the senior “Law” men.

The team collapsed for the next two seasons, finishing 5 wins-18 losses and 3 wins-9 losses. While the line-up suffered the typical losses of a college team—primarily loss of graduates and academic eligibility—the real problem came when the city of Albany’s school board voted to close its gym to the “Lawyers” halfway through the ’22-’23 season. The team moved to the National Guard Armory.

Things went from bad to worst when the team could not practice in the Armory unless it agreed to recruit students for the National Guard. Declining, the team drilled and scrimmaged on a tiny court in the YMCA. These cramped conditions prepared the players poorly for the Armory’s big court, leading to even bigger losses. Springfield, Queens, Hamilton and Union College (who Albany Law never seemed to beat) all crushed Albany Law by at least a 10-point spread in each 40-minute game (equivalent to at least a 20-point spread in today’s terms). After a six-year break, the anticipation of the new 1928 building with a full gym revived excitement for a basketball program. A season resumed before the building was finished, using Albany College of Pharmacy’s court. That year the “Law” men won one of 10 games, beating, ironically, only ACP.

The next year, with a gym of its very own, Albany Law went 6-3, winning the last five in a row, including beating RPI at the end after losing to them in the season opener. The year ended with a game against a collection of Albany Law alumni players, the older squad losing 43-31.

Before the start of the 1930-31 season, the school’s athletic council moved to end the basketball season, but the student body voted to keep the season. This turned into the school’s final year, ending with a 4-4 record.

Coach Barry remembered
Under coach Martin “Marty” Barry ’22 Albany Law beat St. John’s College, Fordham Law, Manhattan College and Tufts during the 1920-1921 season.

Barry coached the Albany Lawyers for the first two seasons, putting the school on the national basketball map for the first and only time. Unable to play because of his career with the State Teacher’s College, the Troy High School star gave his time every night to build the winning team from “material well nigh raw.”

The Albany Law Cheer
While women attended Albany Law in 1921, cheerleading was strictly a man’s game. The standard cheer at the time, led by Ely Koplovitz—voted “one of the best liked men” in the class of 1921—went like this:

ALBANY LAW!
ALBANY LAW!
RAH RAH RAH RAH
A-L-B-A-N-Y
ALBANY LAW!
ALBANY LAW!
TEAM-TEAM-TEAM!
By J.K. Hage III, ’78
Trustee; Chair of the
Dean’s Communications
Advisory Council

President and Dean Thomas F. Guernsey, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, has championed a vision for Albany Law as a world-class institution—a small, private law school, similar to the best of the nation’s small, prestigious liberal arts colleges.

A number of changes have been made to ensure that Albany Law lives up to this vision. Perhaps the most visible adjustment so far is the deliberate reduction in the size of the student body from over 900 students to 700. The result is a leaner, more selective student body. Meanwhile, faculty numbers remain the same, leading to a lower student-faculty ratio of 14 to 1. These changes represent just one component of an evolution that will position Albany Law as a world-class institution.

The way we present ourselves to the outside world must change to reflect Albany Law’s new aspirations. This magazine, along with a new Web site at a new address—www.albanylaw.edu—a new logo and a new look for all communication materials, marks the launch of a new brand for the school.

With the help of outside experts and with input from our faculty, administration, students and alumni, we have spent two years planning, researching and developing a clear brand that emphasizes our traditions and our strengths.

New Tagline

In order to position Albany Law as a historic, highly selective private law school whose students benefit from its location in New York’s capital, we needed a new theme, or tagline, to unite our communications materials. The words above were carefully chosen to reflect the value of location in one of the most influential capitals of the world. Study in Albany leads to passing the New York bar exam—and the New York legal system has a reputation for complexity and comprehensiveness.

In addition to professional opportunity, the new tagline calls attention to Albany Law’s stimulating and collaborative intellectual community. Research shows that most prospective students seek a scholarly, personalized educational experience. To them, our tagline represents an emphasis on academic opportunity.

New Logo
Albany Law has plenty to boast about, including an intimate setting and the advantages characterized by a small, private school experience. The new building icon captures the concept of a close-knit community of learning. Further, we’ve learned that the façade of the 1928 Building is the image that resonates most favorably with current students and alumni. Our new icon seeks to stir that positive association.

With the highlight of “NY” inside the word “ALBANY,” the logo reinforces the power of the school’s New York location, a message that can never be overemphasized.

A New Seal
The revitalized seal, shown above, preserves Albany Law’s century-old relationship with Union University, a relationship that helps express the school’s independence from any other institution. And more importantly, the use of the landmark façade

NEW BRAND REFLECTS ALBANY LAW’S VISION, STRENGTHS

Official seal
from the new logo emphasizes our history while creating a cohesive and memorable brand.

**The process**
To communicate effectively, we need to understand our audience. Prospective students make up one audience of many. A law school exists as part of a larger community of alumni, current students, the legal profession, prospective faculty across the nation, opinion makers, elected officials, employers and even media. We cannot be—or appear to be—everything to everyone, so we identified our audiences to determine appropriate messages.

The process started in 2004. The Dean's Communications Advisory Council, which consists of faculty, trustees, alumni and staff, solicited and reviewed numerous marketing proposals, interviewing three firms before securing GCF, a Baltimore marketing firm that specializes in higher education.

The Communications Advisory Committee Dean Guernsey assembled an advisory committee to help identify Albany Law's strengths and problem areas, understand issues surrounding our image, pinpoint the desired market position, and craft a theme and message that captures the heart of Albany Law School for intended audiences.

The advisory committee took a hard look at the school: Who are we now? How are we perceived? What do we want to become? What's possible?

Ideas were developed, tweaked, honed, tested and sometimes rejected after numerous drafts. Graphics, language, recruitment brochures, the logo, the Web site, the letterhead, business cards, this magazine and all other communications materials needed to be unified under one common goal: to tell the story of a private, independent law school located in the heart of Albany, N.Y., an important, globally-recognized place.

Together with genuine changes at every level, our new branding effort will communicate that we've entered and established a new era for Albany Law School.

*The Dean's Advisory Committee*
J.K. Hage III '78, Chair
Dean Thomas Guernsey
John Bagyi '96
Daisy Ford, student
Professor Greg Mandel
Mary Ann McGinn '83
Harry Robinson '65
Dana Salazar '05
Professor Sandra Stevenson '71
Helen Adams-Keane, Vice President, Institutional Advancement
David Singer, Director, Communications
Bill Toomey entered Albany Law School in 1952 after completing three years of a sociology program at Siena College and accepting an academic challenge: If he successfully completed his first year at Albany Law, he’d receive a bachelor’s degree from Siena in the bargain. If he couldn’t hack law school, all he’d have to show would be the blank diploma he received at graduation as a participant in Siena’s 3+3 joint program with Albany Law. The odds seemed stacked against Toomey as Dean Andrew Clements—a blunt-spoken man—offered Toomey and 110 other first-year students an indelible lesson in the concept of jurisprudential survival-of-the-fittest.
“Our entire first-year class was crammed tightly into the largest of the three classrooms. Dean Clements reminded us that the classrooms were smaller for second- and third-year students and that some of us weren’t going to make it,” recalled Toomey, who had arrived not long after an enrollment spike of 400 students following the post-war bulge of World War II veterans entering on the G.I. Bill. Dean Clements underscored the dire warning for Toomey and his classmates by suggesting that the road ahead for the Class of 1955 would be littered with first-year roadkill. He closed his speech with a cautionary allusion: “The law is a jealous mistress.”

After three years, just 65 students graduated with Toomey in 1955, while the balance of the 110 aspiring lawyers that showed up on the first day had melted away. “Some of them only lasted a week and bolted when they saw how difficult the task was going to be,” Toomey said. His classmates, only three of them women, included several other Siena grads. His closest friend, Bill Redmond, grew up in the same Albany neighborhood and the pair had been buddies since grammar school; they remain close and have helped organize each Class of ‘55 reunion together. Toomey noted that his friends in law school tended to be those with surnames beginning with a letter near T, since his class was seated alphabetically.

Fast-forward 51 years and students are still seated alphabetically, with classmates tending to become closest with others seated around them due to their last names. Long gone, of course, is the nostalgic Albany Law ambiance of a musty men’s club with a running poker game in the lounge, a daily uniform of jacket and tie, rye on the rocks at formal dinner dances, gathering around the school’s single radio to hear breaking news, and never really sweating the $500-a-year tuition.

Changing Sideways
There is still an attrition rate in 2006, although it’s a fraction of the 1955 rate and currently stands at 9.3% attrition over three years, according to Richard Ludwick, vice president of enrollment management and student affairs. “We are working hard to lower that number.”

Competition to get into Albany Law remains stiff, with 2,500 to 3,000 applications vying for 250 first-year slots. The enrollment of women has increased steadily across the decades, though, and the current law school population of 726 students is evenly divided between genders (women account for 50.1% and men for 49.9%), while minority students represent 17.3% of the population. In fact, while the number of students has doubled in the past three decades, nearly all of that growth has been among women and people of color—while the overall number of white males has remained unchanged since 1973. About 30 percent of the students now come from states other than New York, as well as several foreign countries, adding to the growing diversity at Albany Law and underscoring a significant shift in the student body makeup from what had been a rather homegrown, homogeneous group just a few decades earlier. Yet, retaining the best parts of that closeness remains a goal.

“I talk to my friends at other law schools and they say it’s really cutthroat and everyone’s out for themselves,” said second-year student Lincy Thomas, 23, of Pomona, N.Y., whose internship with Attorney General Eliot Spitzer’s health care bureau solidified her goal of practicing health care law. “If you need help at Albany Law, there are lots of people ready to help you.”

Thomas is concerned, however, about the debt she expects to rack up in law school. She works throughout the academic year at the state Department...
I raised a few eyebrows in my job interviews when I said I’ve actually been enjoying law school lately.
–Jennifer Gentry ’06

The notion of reducing the class size to make it harder to get in at the bottom of the class, so to speak, will raise the standards overall.
–Professor Stephen Gottlieb

The most recent employment rate for Albany Law graduates is 96%, which is 6.26% above the national average.
–Sandra Mans, Assistant Dean for Career Planning

We can provide more individual attention and have additional interaction and dialogue with students with a reduced class size.
–Patricia Salkin, Associate Dean

Philosophical Shifting
In addition to cultural differences across the decades, the philosophical foundation of Albany Law School is transforming. Dean Thomas Guernsey has outlined an academic vision: Smaller, stronger and more selective. “We want to be a law school that’s more like a small, liberal arts college than a large, comprehensive university.” Guernsey said, suggesting his vision will result in a law school more akin to Williams College than New York University.

“The notion of reducing the class size to make it harder to get into at the bottom of the class, so to speak, will raise the standards overall, creating a more highly qualified student body across the board,” said Professor Stephen Gottlieb, a faculty member since 1979. “That’s fine by me as a professor.”

“We can provide more individual attention and have additional interaction and dialogue with students with a reduced class size,” said Associate Dean Patricia Salkin, a 1988 Albany Law grad and faculty member since 1992. “That’s a good thing for students and teachers.”

Although the closely watched bar passage rate accounts for only a small fraction of U.S. News & World Report’s law school ranking, it’s a priority for Dean Guernsey’s renewed emphasis on academic achievement.

To that end, Kathe Klare, Associate Professor of Academic Success, has set up additional individual counseling and academic support for new students in their first semester, followed by a course she teaches called Applied Legal Reasoning for students still struggling in their second semester.

“What amazes some of the other Student Bar Association presidents I talk with is when I tell them I can just walk into Dean Guernsey’s office anytime I want,” said Ben Gold, 26, a third-year student and president of the SBA at Albany Law. “Albany Law has that kind of open and friendly feeling I don’t think you find at many other law schools.” To counter any accusations of softness, he added, “We work hard, arguably harder than a lot of the higher-ranked law schools.”

Outcomes
The most recent employment rate for new Albany Law School graduates was 96%, which is 6.26% above the national average, according to Sandra Mans, Assistant Dean for Career Planning. The job breakdown for 2004 Albany Law graduates was: 57% private law firms; 22% government employment; 17% business and industry; 2% public interest; 2% academia.

And yet, despite changes, the landscape at Albany Law has remained remarkably changeless. Ask Jennifer Gentry, whose memories sound similar to those decades before her. “I lived in fear my first year of being cold-called by a professor in front of 150 other students and not knowing the answer,” said Gentry, 25, a third-year student who graduated from Siena College and grew up in the suburbs of Albany. Now, she’s settled into the intensity of law school and said she “raised a few eyebrows in my job interviews when I said I’ve actually been enjoying law school lately.”

Her memorable moments come from listening to the compelling stories of Professor Vincent Bonventre in lectures, and observing the courtly, Old World style of Professor David Siegel, who has a penchant for pausing in mid-lecture, closing his eyes, listening to the staccato clicking of keys on laptop computers echoing about the room, and declaring: “Ah, listen to the music.”

Charles Snow ’69 sometimes wonders how he managed to survive law school as a 39-year-old father of four who was also running a contracting and consulting engineer business. “I only went to law school because I got tired of fighting with so many lawyers in my business,” he recalled. Snow was urged to study law by Dean Ralph D. Semerad, the school’s 10th dean. Snow worried about the workload and multiple demands.
“Don’t worry, Charlie,” Dean Semerad counseled him. “Let them know you’re getting your law degree, double your rates and half your clients will drop off.”

His clients were so impressed that he was working toward a law degree that his business doubled. “The dean’s secretary, Jeannie Cappalino, took all my phone calls and took down messages for me from my clients,” Snow said. “There was a great feeling at the law school that everyone was there to help you succeed.”

Looking back on his experience in the 1950s, Bill Toomey realizes that some things are timeless. “I was in my office today, working on a case, and I pulled down my textbook from my Real Estate Law class and the notes I took more than 50 years ago were just as valid today as they were then,” he said.

When John Vero ’00, an attorney at Whiteman Osterman & Hanna in Albany, comes home after work each evening, the scene he encounters at the kitchen table gives him a sense of déjà vu. He finds his sister, Francine Vero ’06, a third-year student at Albany Law School, poring over textbooks, devising study flash cards and creating course outlines late into the night.

“Watching my sister, it seems like a lot hasn’t changed in the six years since I’ve been out of law school,” said John, who shares a two-family house in Albany with his sister and grandmother.

Perhaps the most obvious change between 2000 and 2006 at Albany Law, brother and sister observed, is how students use technology. John took all his notes in class with pen and paper. The attic in their house is filled with boxes of his handwritten notes and course outlines. Francine stores thousands of pages of notes and all her course documents on a portable computer drive the size of a cigarette lighter and she doesn’t step foot in the law school without her laptop computer, equipped with a wireless card that allows her free Internet access anywhere on campus. “I can’t imagine taking notes in class without my laptop, which is a foreign concept to my brother,” she said.

Looking beyond John’s first impression, one observes a myriad of other changes, large and small, that have occurred in the six-year interval between law school for the Vero siblings. For starters, he paid about $18,000 in annual tuition, compared to his sister’s cost of $32,000. Francine says law school costs are one reason she’s glad to live at home. “It’s very difficult financially, even though I stay on a strict budget and work part-time to earn money,” says Francine, who clerks at a local law firm and is grateful for an employer that allows her to stop working for a month each semester as she studies for exams.

One constant between his time and hers at Albany Law, both agreed, is that faculty members offer personal attention, a caring attitude and are always accessible. For John, favorites were Professor Jack Welch, whose Trust & Estates course offered excellent preparation for the bar exam and Distinguished Professor David Siegel’s “very intense, but outstanding” New York Practice course. For Francine, she benefited greatly from courses in Constitutional Law, Corporations & Business Organizations and Security Regulations with Professor James Redwood—whom she considers a mentor. “He can make a dry subject really interesting because he’s a great lecturer who knows how to use humor,” she said.

One thing the siblings strongly agree on is the value of an Albany Law School degree. Vero, a former member of the Albany Law board of trustees, is on the hiring committee at Whiteman Osterman & Hanna and he interviews Albany Law students applying for clerkships. “It’s obvious from those interviews that the school has maintained its academic rigor throughout the years,” he said. “We’ve also got a lot of Albany Law alumni working at our firm and we hold the school and students who go there in the highest regard.” The brother’s point is underscored by the fact that his sister accepted a position six months before graduation with the Albany law firm of McNamee Lochner Titus & Williams.—PG
Faces of the Campus for the Past Two Decades
1. From left to right, Rosetta Rawlins, Administrative Assistant/Paralegal, Family Violence Litigation Project; Suzi Nohai, Administrative Assistant/Paralegal, Civil Rights and Disabilities Project; and Barbara Chandler, Administrative Assistant/Paralegal, Field Placement Project and Litigation Project.

2. Edward Snyder, Maintenance Superintendent.

3. Robert Emery, Associate Director and Head of Reference, Schaffer Law Library.

4. Sherri Meyer, Student Services Coordinator.

5. Michael Cournoyer, Print Shop Operator.

6. From left to right, Donna Parent, Legal Assistant; Theresa Colbert, Moot Court/Legal Assistant; and Linda Murray, Legal Assistant.
Publications

Prof. Ira M. Bloom wrote and revised chapters in the recently published Klipstein and Bloom, *Drafting New York Wills* (LexisNexis Matthew Bender).

Prof. Melissa Breger wrote, “Introducing the Construct of the Jury into Family Violence Proceeding and Family Court Jurisprudence” which will be published in the Spring 2006 issue of the *University of Michigan Journal of Gender and Law*.

Prof. Stephen Clark published an article on sodomy laws and abortion rights in the Nov. 4, 2005, issue of the *Washington Blade*. Also, relying in part on Professor Clark’s article, “Same-Sex but Equal: Reformulating the Miscegenation Analogy,” the Maryland Circuit Court recently held that denying same-sex couples the right to marry violates the Maryland Constitution. Read Clark’s article “Same-Sex but Equal: Reformulating the Miscegenation Analogy” at www.profclark.net/pubs/texts/ssbe.pdf

Prof. Patrick M. Connors and adjunct professor Thomas Gleason ’78 authored three New York Practice articles appearing in the *New York Law Journal*. “Problems at the Starting Gate” talks about how the fate of many commendable cases in New York state is determined based on mistakes made by the clerk’s office. The article, “Representing a Recalcitrant Client Who Has Lied During Disclosure” addressed the problem of representing a client who has lied in civil litigation, and the article, “E-Discovery Problems with Computer Hard-Drive Clones,” is about the developing area of electronic disclosure. Connors also wrote, “Confronting Dilemma of Potential Client Perjury,” which appeared in the Sept. 12, 2005, edition of the *New York Law Journal* and the 2005 McKinney’s *Supplementary Practice Commentaries to Article 31 Disclosure*. He also authored the 2005 McKinney’s *Supplementary Practice Commentaries to the New York Lawyers Code of Professional Responsibility*, which includes an extensive treatment of the Letter of Engagement Rule under DR 2-106.


Prof. Michael J. Hutter published an article on New York evidence developments in the *Syracuse Law Review*.


Prof. Timothy D. Lytton’s commentary on gun legislation called, “Gun Bill a Messy Mix of Law, Politics,” was featured in Albany’s *Times Union* on Oct. 27, 2005.

Prof. Alicia Ouellette is publishing a paper, “Lessons Across the Pond: Artificial Reproductive Technology in the United Kingdom and the United States,” co-written with Glenn McGee, Art Caplan, and others in the *American Journal of Law and Medicine*.


Awards and Achievements

Prof. Deborah Mann was promoted to associate lawyering professor in the Spring of 2005.

Prof. Joan Leary Matthews has been elected treasurer of the Environmental Law Section of the New York State Bar Association.

Prof. Nancy Maurer was nominated for the 2005 NYSARC, Inc. Robert Hodgson/Augustus Jacobs Law Award. She received a certificate of appreciation for demonstrating outstanding commitment to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Prof. Nancy Ota was re-elected to serve another term on the board of governors for the Society of American Law Teachers.

Prof. Alicia Ouellette was appointed the director of the Health Law and Ethics Program at the Alden March Bioethics Institute at Albany Medical College. The institute brings together faculty from 14 institutions and publishes the top peer-reviewed journal in bioethics in the country.

Prof. David Pratt has been elected to the board of directors of the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA). He was also named Chair of the Tax Committee of the N.Y. State Bar Association, Trusts & Estates Law Section.

James D. Redwood was one of six finalists for the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction for his unpublished book of short stories Love Beneath the Napalm.

Prof. Patricia Salkin has been appointed to the American Bar Association House of Delegates to represent the State and Local Government Law Section. She was also appointed chair of a new special task force on eminent domain by New York State Bar Association President Vincent Buzard. She is currently serving a two-year term on the ABA Nominating Committee and she was on the faculty of the 2005 ALI-ABA Land Use Institute.

Prof. Evelyn Tenenbaum became a member of the advisory board for the Sage Graduate Programs in Management. She has also joined the core faculty of the newly formed Alden March Bioethics Institute.

Professional Service

Prof. Ira Bloom participated in a drafting session involving Division VI (Powers of Appointment), Restatement of the Law of Property (Wills and Other Donative Transfers). The session was held at the American Law Institute’s offices in Philadelphia in September.

Prof. Bridgit Burke, director of the Civil Rights and Disabilities Law Project, testified before a joint Legislative Assembly Hearing (Taskforce on People with Disabilities/Committee on Oversight Analysis/Committee on Health) in November on the delays in the N.Y. Health Department’s prior approval process and the fair hearing process for funding the medically necessary durable medical equipment needed by individuals with disabilities to prevent institutionalization, chronic pain and lack of integration into the community.

Prof. Stephen Gottlieb, as president of the Capital Region New York Civil Liberties Union, presented the Carol S. Knox Award to William Schurman for his pro bono handling of a four-year long Freedom of Information litigation culminating in N.Y. Civil Liberties Union v. City of Schenectady, 2 NY 3d 657 (2004) in November. The award was established to honor Carol S. Knox, wife of Lee Wasserman ’83 and a community activist and civil libertarian who died an untimely death.

Prof. Sheldon Halpern, as a member of the American Law Institute, participated in a special meeting on “Intellectual Property: Principles Governing Jurisdiction, Choice of Law, and Judgments in Transnational Disputes” in January 2006.

Prof. Michael J. Hutter was in Bangkok, Thailand, at the invitation of the Thailand Supreme Court and its Criminal Division for the Prosecution of Political Figures for Corruption. With a
federal judge, a former prosecutor and a defense counsel, he presented programs to the Thai judges regarding how the United States prosecutes public officials on corruption charges and the trial of such cases.

Prof. Sandra Stevenson attended a “Meet the Authors” session at the American Association of Law School’s annual convention in Washington, D.C., in January for her books.

**Presentations**

Prof. Melissa Breger presented an evidence lecture to court attorneys in September and November on behalf of the New York State Judicial Institute.

Prof. Joseph M. Connors presented “Advocating for Adolescents with Mental Illness” to a network of school district and social services administrators in December. In January, Professor Connors and Health Project graduate law intern Noelle Pecora ’05 presented “Navigating the System while Living with Cancer” at Gilda’s Club, a community resource center.

Prof. Patrick M. Connors presented the “Ethics and Professionalism” component of the New York State Bar Association’s Update 2005 Program in Syracuse, N.Y. He also presented the “Ethics Update” at the N.Y.S. Bar Association’s Seventh Annual Institute on Public Utility Law in Albany. He presented the “Ethics and Professionalism” portion of the N.Y. State Bar Association’s Update 2005 Program in New York City.

Prof. Harold Duboff delivered the Nancy M. Sills Memorial Lecture, “What to do if the IRS Audits Your Return,” at Albany Law School’s Senior Citizens Law Day in October.

Prof. James Gathii presented “The Stakes of WTO Reform” at a workshop for the faculty of the Law University of Nairobi in July.

Prof. Stephen Gottlieb spoke on “The Legacy of the Rehnquist Court” at a faculty member seminar at Rockefeller College of the University at Albany. He also spoke to the congregation at Masjid As-Salem in Albany, N.Y., on the subjects of equal protection and immigrants’ rights.

Prof. Peter Halewood presented two lectures and conducted distance-learning workshops on international trade law at the International Development Law Organization in Rome, Italy, with lawyers in Uganda and Kenya.

Prof. Sheldon Halpern spoke on the Supreme Court’s trademark jurisprudence at Albany Law School in November. In February, he presented a workshop on trademark law at the William Mitchell School of Law in St. Paul, Minn.

Prof. Michael J. Hutter participated in the 2005 Summer Judicial Seminar for the N.Y. State Trial Judges. He presented the civil and criminal evidence and the Crawford v. Washington updates, and participated as a panelist in a program involving the presentation of expert testimony.

Prof. Katheryn Katz presented a paper, “Parenthood from the Grave: Postmortem Gamete Retrieval” at the University of Chicago Legal Forum, “Definitions and Decision-making,” in October.

Prof. Timothy D. Lytton spoke at a conference on self-defense and firearms at George Mason University School of Law in November. Also in November, he spoke on the impact of gun litigation on public health policy at Brooklyn Law School.

Prof. Gregory Mandel presented “Biomedical Patents and Biologic Generics” at “The Evolution and Reform of U.S. Patent Law: Appraisals and Critiques from the Bar, the Bench, and Academia,” hosted by the Center for Law, Technology & Communications at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and Qualcomm, Inc. He also presented “Promoting Environmental Innovation through Intellectual Property Innovation” at the Intellectual Property Scholars Conference at Cardozo Law School.

Prof. Joan Leary Matthews presented “Successful Strategies for Watershed Protection” at Pace Law School in October.

Prof. Alicia Ouellette presented a lecture, “Disability and the End of Life,” at the University of Dayton Law School. She also presented at Union College on “Abortion and the Law.” In June she presented “Ethical Issues of Flu Pandemic” at a conference hosted by SUNY’s School for Public Health and the Regional Resource Center for Emergency Disaster Preparedness.

Prof. David Pratt spoke at the Los Angeles Benefits Conference, co-sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service, American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA), the National Institute of Pension Administrators, and the Western Pension and Benefits Conference.

Prof. Patricia Salkin spoke at Indiana School of Law—Indianapolis, for their annual program on the government attorney-client privilege. She also spoke about the U.S. Supreme Court decision in Kelo v City of New London at the University at Albany.

Prof. Saul Seinberg, director of the Science and Technology Law Center, presented “Ethical Considerations in Ex Parte Investigations” as part of a day-long CLE session for the N.Y. Intellectual Property Law Association.

Prof. Laurie Shanks taught at the National Criminal Defense College in Atlanta, Ga. She critiqued attorneys in small groups and presented a lecture on “Developing a Theory and Theme in a Criminal Case.” The college is an intensive two-week trial tactics program which brings together criminal defense attorneys from throughout the United States.

Prof. David D. Siegel and Prof. Patrick M. Connors presented an “Update on Recent Developments in N.Y. Civil Procedure” to the N.Y.S. Appellate Judges Seminar in Cooperstown, N.Y. The program, attended by the judges on the New York State Court of Appeals and the four Appellate Divisions, included presentations by Professor Erwin Chemerinsky and author Anna Quindlen.
1958
CLASS AGENTS:
Richard A. Frye
Foley, Frye & Foley
Utica, N.Y.
ffclaw@dreamscape.com
Matthew H. Mataraso
Pryor Cashman Sherman & Flynn
Albany, N.Y.
mmataraso@aol.com
Matthew H. Mataraso was the 2005 recipient of the Trustees' Gold Medal Award presented at Albany Law School's annual Barrister Ball. An Albany Law School Trustee from 2001 to 2006, the Law School continues to benefit from his counsel in his capacity as Trustee Emerti and as a member of the Government Law Center’s Advisory Board.

1959
Hon. James P. King, commissioner of the New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform and adjunct professor at Albany Law School, has been named to the N.Y. State Temporary Commission on Lobbying by Gov. George Pataki. Before his current role, he served as a Court of Claims Judge and was a member of the state Assembly. Judge King is the inaugural Government Lawyer in Residence for the Government Law Center of Albany Law School.

1960
Hon. Irad S. Ingraham of New Berlin, N.Y., retired from his position as a New York State Supreme Court Justice in 1999. He is now a self-employed commission portrait artist who has painted portraits including Hon. Patrick Monserratte, John Baker, former Dean of Albany Law School, and many other judges who are Albany Law School alumni.

1964
Hon. James Harvey of Canandaigua, N.Y., retired from the Ontario County Court in November after 30 years of public service.

1965
Paul S. Boylan is a senior partner at the Boylan Law Office in LeRoy, N.Y. In 2005, Paul was appointed by Governor Pataki to the Commission on Health Care Facilities for the 21st Century, where he represented the Western New York region.

1966
Hon. James B. Canfield of Troy, N.Y., retired as a justice in the 3rd Judicial District, completing his 14-year term.

John F. Rausch retired from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in Albany, N.Y., in September 2005. He had been an attorney with the IRS for 40 years.

1968
Hon. Ronald A. Cicoria, the longest-serving judge in the history of Livingston County, has retired after 30 years of service.

1969
Hon. George Pulver Jr. won another term as Greene County Court judge. Pulver, who will serve a 10-year term, presides over County Court, Surrogate’s Court, Family Court, state Supreme Court, and the county’s Drug and Family Dependency treatment courts. Pulver has been Greene County Court judge since 1996.

1970
Leonard DePasquale is retired from the N.Y. State Comptroller’s Office after 26 years in its Division of Legal Services. He was previously Chief of the Institutional Establishment Section of the N.Y. State Board of Social Welfare.

1972
Hon. Bernard J. Malone Jr., ’72, was recently promoted from N.Y. State Supreme Court justice to the Appellate Division, First Department, where he will preside over cases in Manhattan and the Bronx. Judge Malone, appointed by Gov. Pataki to fill a vacancy, will serve a seven-year term.


Please send your news to alumni@albanylaw.edu. We will do our best to include your news in the next issue.
Dale M. Thuillez of Loudonville, N.Y., was appointed to the Albany Law School Board of Trustees for a four-year term. Thuillez is a partner at the Albany law firm Thuillez, Ford, Gold, Johnson & Butler. He leads the firm’s litigation department and provides services in insurance defense, medical malpractice, commercial and personal injury litigation.

Wendell J. Van Lare, vice president and senior labor counsel, will head the Labor Relations group at Gannett Co., Inc. Van Lare joined Gannett in 1977 from the Rochester, N.Y., law firm of Harter, Secrest, and Emery, where he specialized in labor law.

1973
CLASS AGENT:
Phil Curtin
Curtin Law Office PLLC,
Manchester, N.H.
pcurtin@curtinlawoffice.com

Bruce Wilson has retired from his practice in Ithaca, N.Y., after 32 years.

1974
CLASS AGENTS:
James N. Benedict
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP
New York, N.Y.
jbenedict@milbank.com

Donald R. Alvarez of Scottsdale, Ariz., is a senior partner in the law firm of Alvarez & Gilbert in Phoenix, Ariz. He is the chairman of the Maricopa County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees and a trustee for the Youth Partners Foundation which helps troubled and at-risk youths.

James G. Held has been named president and chairman of the Shop At Home television retailing network and its online business, www.shopathometv.com. Held had served as president and chief executive officer at the Home Shopping Network (HSN) and QVC’s executive vice president in charge of merchandising, planning, marketing, new business development and strategic alliance.

Thomas O’Connor, partner of Hiscock & Barclay, LLP, has been named the managing director of the firm’s Albany office. O’Connor focuses his practice on commercial litigation and first party insurance defense.

1975
CLASS AGENTS:
Robert C. Batson
Government Lawyer in Residence, Albany Law School
Albany, N.Y.
bob.batson@gmail.com

Peter C. Kopff
Kopff, Nardelli, & Dorf LLP
New York, N.Y.
pkopff@knndny.com

Donald R. Alvarez of Scottsdale, Ariz., is a senior partner in the law firm of Alvarez & Gilbert in Phoenix, Ariz. He is the chairman of the Maricopa County Bar Foundation Board of Trustees and a trustee for the Youth Partners Foundation which helps troubled and at-risk youths.

Diane De Furio Foody of Clifton Park, N.Y., is employed by the New York State Office of the Comptroller in Albany, N.Y., and is active in the Securities Fraud Litigation Unit. Diane is married to Bob Foody ’76.

Drinking Dow Jones’ Islamic Indexes

After Rushdi Siddiqui ’91 created, launched and successfully marketed the Dow Jones Islamic Market Indexes in 1999, he has since launched for Dow Jones specific Islamic indices in Kuwait, Turkey, Bahrain and Malaysia, with several more pending.

While these index groups may sound obscure to the general U.S. investor, all which Siddiqui oversees as Global Director of the Dow Jones Islamic Index Group, they continue to gain mainstream traction with investors and institutions everywhere.

The indices track the stock of companies consistent with Islam’s Shari’ah law. Companies outside the law fall into the “sin” sector. These are firms involved with alcohol, pork-related products, and entertainment companies like casinos, the cinema, most record labels, tobacco and even conventional financial services companies like banks and insurance companies.

“Over the last eight years since its inception,” said Siddiqui, “we’ve seen the shift of potential licensees more interested in compliant components and data and less interested in the identity of board members and religious rulings.”

Most recently Muslim-country stock exchanges and the largest financial institutions in those countries are pursuing joint ventures with Dow Jones indexes for marketing and branding leverage. This year Siddiqui launched an index that combines principles of Islamic investing with social-conscious companies.

“Lately we’ve seen established Western companies, like BASF for example, inquire as to whether they’re listed on our indexes, and if not, they ask us how to get on the list,” said Siddiqui.

Siddiqui, who speaks English and Hindi/Urdu, depends on a supervisory board of prominent Islamic scholars appointed by Dow Jones to create criteria for determining eligibility. Panel members come from Syria, Pakistan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the United States.

Siddiqui remembers struggling his early days at Albany Law. “More than anything else, law school taught me how to think, and how to meet head-on downside consequences,” Siddiqui recalled. “It takes time to figure out what works for you, what is right, and what you have a passion about.”
Gary H. Lieberman of Las Vegas, Nev., retired in 2004 after 27 years of public service working for the Clark County Public Defender’s Office.

Ronald M. McNeil is employed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division as Senior Litigation Counsel for the Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section. His position in the Department of Justice primarily concerns the prosecution of international drug traffickers, particularly cocaine traffickers in Columbia. His work for the Department of Justice requires him to make frequent trips to Bogotá, Columbia.

Michael W. Murphy of Liverpool, N.Y., is employed by the National GND USA Service Company, Inc. in Syracuse, N.Y. He has been president of the Liverpool Central School District Board of Education for the past two years.

Rory J. Radding is a general partner at the law firm of Morrison & Forrester, LLP in New York City where he is the head of the firm’s Intellectual Property department.

Sharon P. Stiller is now a partner at Jaeckle, Fleischmann & Mugel, LLP in Rochester, N.Y. Her focus is in the firm’s litigation department and its labor and employment law group.

Sherrie McNulty received the 2005 John H. Hamilton Award for Excellence in Law Guardian Representation from the Appellate Division of the New York Supreme Court for her commitment to clients.

Mitchell H. Pally of Stony Brook, N.Y., was appointed to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board in June 2005. Pally is currently the vice president for government of the Long Island Association. He is responsible for all governmental and community activities of the association.

1977

CLASS AGENT:
Garrett E. DeGraff
Hiscock & Barclay, LLP
Albany, N.Y.
gdegrafl@hiscockbarclay.com
Donna E. Wardlaw
Wardlaw Associates P.C.
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
dwardlaw@wardlawassociates.com

Larry Schiffer, a partner at LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae LLP in New York City, is now serving as President of the National Alumni Association and was named as a “Leader” in the Insurance category (New York) of the Chambers USA 2006 guide to lawyers and law firms.

Don Twietmeyer was “elected” as a New York Fellow of the American Bar Foundation in 2005. He still serves as a director of the Foundation of the Monroe County Bar, Chair of the Tax Section of the Monroe County Bar (and co-chair of the Tax Section’s 40th Rochester Tax Institute held on Nov.18, 2005), and director of the Rochester General Hospital Foundation. He is “of counsel” to the Rochester office of Hiscock & Barclay, LLP.

In other news:
Patrick J. Curran has been named executive director of the Energy Association of New York State. Previously, he was the association’s vice president and assistant general counsel.

James McCarty was recently named first deputy district attorney by Westchester County District Attorney Janet DiFiore. He will serve as chief of trial operations and directly oversee all trials in the superior and local courts.

Kathryn Grant Madigan, a partner in the Binghamton, N.Y., law firm of Levene, Gouldin & Thompson, LLP, has been named president-elect of the New York State Bar Association. Madigan takes office in June 2006.

1979

CLASS AGENT:
Larry P. Schiffer
LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae LLP
New York, N.Y.
larry.schiffer@llgm.com

From the class agent:
Larry Becker, who practices surety and fidelity law, construction litigation, and bankruptcy with his wife Ellen in Albany, has been involved in a non-profit restoration of the abandoned St. Anthony’s church into a community arts center. The project was started by their daughter, a Bard College graduate.

Fred Burr was appointed as Town Justice for the Town of Binghamton in August 2005 and in November 2005 was elected to a four year term.

Krista Gottlieb has been a partner in her present Buffalo, N.Y., law firm since 1990, and effective Jan.1, 2005, the name of the firm was changed to Mattar, D’Agostino & Gottlieb, LLP. Krista is now striving for balance with a life outside the office now that her name is on the door.

Thomas D. Keleher was inducted into the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers in October 2005 and in November 2005 was elected to the Executive Committee of his firm, Bond Schoeneck & King LLP, where he continues to head up the trial practice. Tom’s son Ryan is a first year student at Albany Law School.
Stephen G. Schwarz, a partner in the firm of Faraci Lange LLP of Rochester, N.Y., has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, one of the premier legal associations in America.

1982
McKen V. Carrington has been appointed dean of Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston, Texas, after serving as the interim dean from May 2002-May 2005. Previously, Carrington served the law school in other administrative capacities, including associate dean for academic affairs from 1992-1995 and associate dean for administration from 1987-1992. He has been a member of the law school’s faculty since 1991.

Christine M. Galvin, a partner in the Latham, N.Y. law firm of Gordon, Siegel, was honored with the Sister Maria N. Dolan Award for Humanitarian Services by Hispanic Outreach Services, an agency of Catholic Charities of Albany, N.Y.

Richard A. Kaplan, a trial lawyer at the Chicago law firm Brinks Hofer Gilson & Lione, has been named an “Illinois Super Lawyer” in a survey conducted by Law & Politics magazine. The publication surveyed more than 47,000 Illinois attorneys, representing 65 areas of practice, and asked them to identify the best Illinois lawyers they had personally worked with or had observed in action.

1983
CLASS AGENT:
Martha Miller
General Electric Company
Erie, PA
martha.miller@trans.ge.com
Jameson P. Wells
Wells & Daisley, PA
Charlotte, N.C.
jwells@wdlawoffice.com

Hon. Colleen Quirion is still working at Albany Family Court and has been in her current position (Support Magistrate) for nearly 15 years.

Elizabeth Van Nest now serves as vice president for legal affairs for the Albany, N.Y.-based Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cIcu). She will continue as cIcu’s general counsel, a position she has held since 1985. Van Nest specializes in statewide regulatory, legislative and governance issues involving cIcu’s members and board.

Peter Wilson of Chapel Hill, N.C., has been promoted to managing director of RSM McGladrey, Inc., in Raleigh. Wilson joined the business consulting, accounting, and tax firm in 2003. As a member of RSM McGladrey’s National Tax office, he is responsible for tax practice quality assurance and professional standards matters.

1984
CLASS AGENTS:
Barbara D. Cottrell
U.S. Attorney’s Office, Northern District of New York
Albany, N.Y.
barbara.cottrell@usdoj.gov
Barbara A. Sheehan
Nicoletti Hornig et al
New York, N.Y.
bsheehan@nhcslaw.com

Mark V. Dolan has joined the firm of Napierstki, Van Denburgh and Napierstki, LLP in Albany, N.Y. He will concentrate his practice in the defense of complex personal injury cases.

Christine K. Krackeler, of Menands, N.Y., a partner in the Menands-based law firm of D’Agostino, Krackeler, Baynes & Maguire, P.C., has been selected for inclusion in the 2007 Best Lawyers in America list. Krackeler concentrates her practice in appellate law.

James Orband, managing partner of Hinman, Howard & Kattell LLP, has been appointed by Governor George E. Pataki to a seven-year term on the Binghamton University Council. The council reviews budget requests, makes regulations for student conduct and reviews plans for improving faculty, staff and the physical plants.

Joseph B. Porter of Loudonville, N.Y., has been named vice president for legal and governmental affairs and general counsel of Excelsior College.

Elaine Crosson of Lloyd Harbor, N.Y., writes that she has been deputy counsel at Long Island University for the past seven years. Her husband, Matthew T. Crosson, is president of the Long Island Association.
When Passion Calls Outside the Law

Steven Errick ’89 studied English literature in college, expecting to take over his family’s Manhattan printing and typesetting shop in 1985. That’s when desktop publishing emerged to drive the family business out-of-business.

“I chose to pursue a law degree and thought I’d start a little practice in the Adirondacks or Vermont, where I loved living,” said Errick. “I saw myself eventually running a used bookstore and a small publishing company on the side—my real love.”

But during his time in law school he recognized that he lacked a passion that he witnessed in other students. “I struggled in embracing the idea of practicing law,” said Errick. “I remember two classmates: Michael Garcia and Mike McDermott, who clearly loved learning law. All this time I knew I did not have that same passion for practicing law. So in my third year I realized I had two choices: I could be a mediocre attorney; or I could pursue a career in publishing with an eye toward making the best use of what law school taught me.”

After law school Errick landed a job in Manhattan’s West Village as an editor developing manuscripts for legal practice publisher Clark Boardman Callaghan. Several more publishing jobs led him to his current spot with Aspen Publishing—formerly Little Brown—overseeing their legal education division, which now includes Aspen Casebooks (Dukeminier), Emanuels, and Casenotes. “The chance to oversee the leading legal education publishing company in the market, with over 300 casebooks and another 200 study aids has been everything I could have hoped for.”

Errick, with his family, recently purchased an old mason lodge and turned it into Book and Leaf, a used bookstore in Westport, N.Y., on Lake Champlain, which they operate on and off during weekends and summer hours.

And more central to his original dreams, Errick, with his father and a third party, launched a legal history independent press called Twelve Table Press that publishes two to three books a year on “great legal individuals in law” (www.twelvetablespress.com). One of their books, Crusaders in the Courts, by Jack Greenberg, one of the last living attorneys from Brown v. Board of Education, has been optioned into a movie with New Line Cinema with filming to begin December 2006.

Did Law School Matter?

“It’s essential I understand about 100 subjects in law—I’m a mile wide and an inch deep and this is good. But, I combine this with great detail about the publishing process, which few of my publishing peers can reference equally,” said Errick.

In the course of his work he’ll cross paths with Albany Law professors Alex Seita and Dan Moriarty. “Professor David Siegel and I went for a walking tour of the West Village last fall. This past January I met Sheldon Halpern at an Aspen author party. . . . I only hope they don’t remember me from my days at school.”

Francis G. Hoare of Loudonville, N.Y., was formerly counsel and chief of staff to Assemblyman Herman D. Farrell, who chairs the Assembly’s Ways & Means Committee and the New York State Democratic Party. In 2003, Francis served in Iraq as a major in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, where he was honored with the Bronze Star Medal.

Richard E. Honen, managing partner at the Albany law firm Honen & Wood, P.C., has been tapped by publisher LexisNexis Matthew Bender to compile and edit the Practice Insights to the LexisNexis online versions of the N.Y. State Business Corporation Law, the N.Y. State Limited Liability Company Law and the N.Y State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. Contributors include Honen & Wood partner Kelly Mooney Lester ’93 and corporate associate Benjamin M. Farber ’99.

Reverend Dorothy Burton Pearlman of Buffalo, N.Y., writes that over six years ago, she received her Masters of Divinity and became a Presbyterian Church (USA) minister. Currently, she is pastor of the Maryvale Drive Presbyterian Church in Checktowaga, N.Y., a suburb of Buffalo. Her legal work includes representing the Presbytery of Western New York in ecclesiastical matters when they arise.

Martha Villanigro-Santiago of Fairfax, Va., writes that she is currently the deputy director of Fairfax County’s Office of Equity Programs.

Hon. Bruce J. Wagner of Castleton, N.Y., is employed by McNamee, Lochner in Albany. Since 2005, he has been a faculty member of the Town & Village Justices Continuing Judicial Education program.

1996

CLASS AGENT:
Gregory V. Serio
Park Strategies
Albany, N.Y.
gserio@parkstrategies.com

Patrick M. Sheller has been named Eastman Kodak Company’s first compliance officer. He will be responsible for ensuring that Kodak’s compliance programs and policies continue to meet the highest legal, regulatory and ethical standard; monitoring adherence to these programs and policies; working with regulatory agencies on compliance matters; and implementing compliance awareness programs and training.

1997

CLASS AGENT:
Sean M. Doolan
Hinman Straub P.C.
Albany, N.Y.
seand@hspm.com

Margaret C. Tabak was awarded The Legal Project’s Stanley A. Rosen Memorial Award for her service to victims of domestic violence. She is a Capital District Women’s Bar Association (CDWBA) director, and co-chair of CDWBA’s sole practitioners/small firm committee, and a past president of CDWBA.

1998

CLASS AGENT:
Christopher R. Lyons
Ryan & Smallacombe, PLLC
Albany, N.Y.
clylons@ryansmallacombe.com

Daniel J. Stewart has joined the Queensbury, N.Y., law firm of Brennan & White LLP. Stewart has been partner with the Albany law firm of Dreyer Boyajian LLP for the past 15 years. He is an adjunct faculty member.
of Albany Law School and teaches in the area of civil rights litigation. Stewart’s practice has an emphasis on state and federal litigation including civil and criminal matters, employee and labor matters, discrimination and civil rights violations and municipal law.

1990

CLASS AGENT:
Jon A. Dorf
Dorf, Karlen & Stolzar, LLP
Mamaroneck, N.Y.
jdorf@dorflaw.com

From the class agent:
Kathleen Resnick Arnold of Albany is employed by New York State Office of the Attorney General in Albany.

John Burke Doar of West Hartford, Conn., writes that he is the Vice-President of Sales and Marketing at Trumpf, Inc. in Farmington, Conn.

Heather Nowicki recently received her M.B.A. from the University at Albany, after traveling to Argentina in October 2004 to study the country’s peso crisis of 2002. She studied in the part-time program while working for New York State Comptroller’s Office, where she served as counsel to New York’s 529 College Savings Program.

Frank C. Sarratori of Troy, N.Y., writes that in May of 2004 he assumed the position of senior vice-president and general counsel for Pioneer Savings Bank.

David R. Juneau has joined the Albany, N.Y., law firm of McNamee Lochner Titus & Williams P.C. as a shareholder and head of the firm’s real estate department. McNamee Lochner Titus & Williams P.C. has recently merged The Juneau Law Firm into its practice.

Andrew S. Turret, of Cheshire, Conn., has been appointed the managing attorney of Liberty Mutual Group’s New Haven, Conn., field litigation office, now known as the Law Offices of Turret and Brennan. Andrew joined Liberty Mutual as a trial attorney in 2000.

1991

CLASS AGENT:
William J. McCann, Jr.
New York State Board of Elections
Albany, N.Y.
wmcann@elections.state.ny.us

Michael J. Masino of Fairport, N.Y., will be inducted into the JPMorgan Chase Scholarship Basketball Tournament Hall of Fame. Masino, a guard from Hobert College, was regarded as the Statesmen’s finest player during their 26 years of tournament participation. Masino is a partner at the law firm of Harris Beach PLLC in Pittsford, N.Y.

Terri Jo Conrad Regan has joined Marvin and Company, P.C. in Latham, N.Y., as a manager in its tax department.

1992

CLASS AGENTS:
Joseph P. Eriole
Veneziano & Associates
Armonk, N.Y.
jpe1@venezianox.com

David Fernandez
Emmer, Marvin & Martin LLP
New York, N.Y.
dfernandez@emmetmarvin.com

James G. Cavoli has joined the New York office of the international law firm Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP as of counsel in the litigation group.

Robert P. Coan has joined the Schenectady, N.Y., law firm Parisi & Saccocio PLLC as an attorney. The firm has changed

Kendall ’95 Moves From Courtroom to FOX Newsroom

By Nicole Soucy

After nine years as a corporate litigator, Megyn Kendall ‘95 moved from the courtroom to the newsroom. In 2004, Kendall made her debut as FOX News Channel’s general assignment correspondent, reporting on historic stories such as the retirement of Justice Sandra Day O’Connor from the U.S. Supreme Court and the confirmation hearings of both Chief Justice John Roberts and Judge Samuel A. Alito.

Before joining FOX, Kendall served as a legal and general assignment reporter for Washington, D.C., ABC News affiliate WJLA-TV. During her tenure at WJLA, Kendall covered national and local cases as well as legal issues, including the rape shield law, Megan’s law, and the juvenile death penalty.

For as long as she could remember, Kendall wanted to be a journalist. “I went to Syracuse University for my undergraduate education, and from there I thought I would pursue a career in broadcasting. But once I got to college I was drawn to political science, and soon my focus shifted to a legal career. Before I knew it, I was a litigator.”

While attending Albany Law School, Kendall put her journalism skills to work as editor of the Albany Law Review. After graduating, Kendall joined Bickel & Brewer in Chicago, and then joined Jones Day, for whom she worked in New York, Chicago and Washington, D.C. “It was a great ride—I tried cases in state and federal court, argued before the federal courts of appeal, traveled extensively for depositions and hearings and random legal dog-fights—but ultimately, I was ready for a change,” says Kendall.

Once Kendall decided to make a career change, she read everything she could get her hands on about journalism, television reporting and writing for TV news. She practiced law during the day and took journalism classes at night at a local college in Chicago. A friend in the television business helped her make a resume tape.

“When my husband and I moved to Washington, D.C., a short time later, I walked into the offices of the ABC affiliate and told the vice president of news who I was and why he should hire me. The next thing I knew, I had a job,” says Kendall. She spent part of her week working at WJLA-TV and the other part at Jones Day, until deciding to make the full-time leap to broadcasting.

Today, instead of interviewing clients, Kendall is busy interviewing politicians and other newsmakers. She says her most memorable interview was with someone not on the front pages of any paper, but with a man whose son was killed in Iraq while trying to stop a homicide bomber from barreling into his base camp. “He looked at me so hopefully, wanting so badly for me to understand his son. That interview broke my heart, but also inspired me.”
its name to Parisi Coan & Saccocia PLLC, since Coan joined. Coan was a partner in Higgins Robert Beyerl & Coan where he focused on real estate law, with expertise in commercial and residential property matters.

Karina M. Thomas is working hard to keep her estate and business planning practice, Schafer & Thomas, PC thriving in Denver, Colo.

1993

CLASS AGENTS:
Peter S. Grenis
Law Office of Peter Simon Grenis
Syracuse, N.Y.
Adam R. Shaw
Boles, Schiller & Flexner LLP
Albany, N.Y.
ashaw@bsfllp.com
Brian D. Casey is married to Susan P. Ciani Casey ’99.
John W. Dietz received a master of laws (LL.M.) degree in insurance law from the University of Connecticut School of Law. At graduation, he was awarded the Insurance Center LL.M. prize. Dietz is a partner in the Westport, Conn., office of Halloran & Sage LLP.
Stephen J. Drohosky was recently promoted to vice president and general manager of Cummings Center in Beverly, Mass. In his new position, Drohosky is responsible for all daily operations at Cummings Center, Cummings Properties’ largest facility.

1994

CLASS AGENT:
Tracey I. Levy
Proskauer Rose LLP
New York, N.Y.
tlevy@proskauer.com
Dana Anagnostou was recently named counsel of the Paris office of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP. She practices international corporate law, including mergers & acquisitions, securities, structured finance and technology law.

Kimberly Y. Jones has been named the Boston Bar Association’s labor and employment law section liaison to the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD). She is a member of the litigation and business practice groups at the Boston law firm of Looney & Grossman LLP, where her practice includes litigation and representation of individuals and corporate clients in employment, ADA, real estate, contract and wrongful death matters as well as representation of religious organizations in First Amendment cases.

Perry Nusbaum has been promoted to vice president of sales, eastern U.S., to lead the expansion of SpecificMEDIA, an online media company that provides advertisers, marketers, and agencies with technologies that pinpoint desired audiences on the Internet.

Sean M. Murphy has been named partner in the litigation department in the New York office of the international law firm Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP. Formerly of counsel, Murphy’s practice focuses on complex securities and antitrust matters.

Kimberly O’Connor has been appointed New York’s Medicaid Inspector General by Governor George E. Pataki. As Medicaid Inspector General, O’Connor will coordinate the Medicaid fraud, waste and abuse control activities of state executive agencies whose clients are served by Medicaid. She currently serves as chief counsel to the director of criminal justice and is a deputy commissioner and counsel with the state’s Division of Criminal Justice Services.

1995

CLASS AGENTS:
Erin L. Herbst
New York, N.Y.
ELH212@hotmail.com
Jennifer P. Hughes
Hopps, Strauss, Dean & Walker
Washington, D.C.
jen389@hotmail.com
Elena Adolphus has been promoted to senior corporate counsel at Pfizer Inc, in New York, N.Y.
Tamara Kahn has worked as a special assistant attorney general for New York state in Manhattan for the past eight years.
Susan J. Mitola (formerly Susan J. Kissel) of Hauppauge, N.Y., is employed by Russo & Apoznanski, Esqs. in Westbury, N.Y., where she is the Assistant Managing Attorney for the Nassau County/Suffolk County Office of GEICO Staff Counsel.
Patrick T. O’Connor of Fayetteville is vice president at Kopp Billing Agency in Syracuse, N.Y.

1996

CLASS AGENT:
Elizabeth Dailey McManus
LeBoeuf Lamb Greene & MacRae LLP
Albany, N.Y.
edm8583@hotmail.com
John M. Bagyi has been named the New York State Society for Human Resources Management’s (NYS SHRM) first general counsel.

As general counsel, Bagyi will provide legal advice to NYS SHRM’s leadership, and serve as an ex officio member of NYS SHRM’s governing body. Bagyi was also the 2005 recipient of the Donald D. DeAngelis Excellence in Alumni Service Award presented at Albany Law School’s annual Barrister Ball. He is currently a member (partner) with the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC, in Albany, N.Y.

Peter A. Lauricella has joined the Albany, N.Y., law firm of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP as of counsel. As a successful litigator in state, federal and bankruptcy courts, Lauricella has extensive experience handling all phases of the litigation process, including trials and appeals.

Jennifer Hynek Lawson is now working for the New Hampshire firm of Rath, Young and Pignatelli, which acquired her previous firm, Stalter & Kennedy, P.C. in April 2005. She is continuing to practice in the area of bonds and commercial real estate, as well as general corporate work.
Michael Piecuch recently left the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office to become the chief counsel to the Judiciary Committee at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He is also an adjunct professor at Widener Law School in Harrisburg, Pa.

Kenneth D. Suzan, a senior associate in Hodgson Russ LLP’s Intellectual Property & Technology Practice Group, was elected to the board of directors of Buffalo Arts Studio, a nonprofit arts organization whose mission is to provide affordable studio space and regular public exposure for regional, national, and international artists through exhibitions. Suzan was also recently appointed to a two-year term as a member of the Young Practitioners Subcommittee of the International Trademark Association Membership Services Committee.

Molly A. Wilkinson was the 2005 recipient of Outstanding Young Alumni Award presented at Albany Law School’s annual Barrister Ball.

1999
CLASS AGENT:
Jason N. Cooper
NYS Legislative Bill Drafting Commission
Albany, N.Y.
cooper@ldbc.state.ny.us

Natalie A. Carraway has joined Sheehan Greene Carraway Golderman & Jacobs in Albany, N.Y.

Susan P. Ciani Casey has resigned from her position of sex crimes/child abuse prosecutor at the Schenectady County District Attorney’s Office. She is married to Brian D. Casey ’93.

Hon. Julie Garcia was elected as the first female district attorney in Essex County. Garcia was a defense attorney in Schroon Lake, N.Y., for three years, and formerly a prosecutor in Suffolk and Rensselaer counties.

Hon. Michelle Holmes Ladouceur has been sworn in as town justice of Waddington, N.Y.

2000
CLASS AGENT:
Kevin Harp
Ulster County District Attorney’s Office
Kingston, N.Y.
kharp@hvmc.cc.rr.com

Tatiana N. Coffinger of Greenwich, N.Y., is senior court attorney for the Warren County Supreme Court. She is a founding member and board member of the Adirondack chapter of the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York.

Scott Jones is an attorney with the firm Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP in Albany, N.Y.

Steve Natoli continues to work in a private practice in Clifton Park and as legislative counsel in the New York State Senate. He is married to Lisa Natoli ’01.

Kimberly A. Steele has been hired by Oswego County National Bank as vice president of commercial sales and corporate counsel.

2001
CLASS AGENT:
Ryan Donovan
D’Agostino Krackeler, et al
Menands, N.Y.
rtdd@dkbmlaw.com

Paul Gomez moved back to California in 2004 and is now practicing in the healthcare practice group in the Los Angeles corporate office of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky and Walker.

James Marotta, Jr. of Selkirk, N.Y., has been named the corporate compliance manager for Farm Family Insurance Companies of Albany, N.Y.

Lisa Natoli has been appointed co-chair of the Family and Matrimonial Law Committee for the Women’s Bar Association of the State of New York for 2005-2006. She has also been re-elected secretary of the Adirondack Women’s Bar Association. She is married to Steve Natoli ’00.

2002
CLASS AGENT:
Amy Kellogg
Harter Secrest & Emery
Albany, N.Y.
ajkellogg@aol.com

Hon. Brian R. Haak was elected the 59th town supervisor for the Town of St. Johnsville, N.Y. He was also recently appointed to the New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Court Operations.

Brandy B. (Tucker) Murphy of Ballston Spa, N.Y., was recently promoted to assistant counsel for the Albany-based Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu). As part of the clcu’s expanded counsel’s office, Murphy deals with regulatory, legislative and governance issues affecting independent colleges and universities in New York state.

Kelly (Carr) Oliver married Jeffrey Oliver on Oct. 8, 2005, in Milford, Mass. In attendance were Lisa DiCocco ’03 and David Rubackin’02, who also presided over the ceremony.

Kristie L. Stromecki is a principal law clerk to presiding justice Eugene S. Pigott Jr., New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Department.

2003
CLASS AGENT:
Lisa Bonacci
NYS Dept. of Economic Development
Albany, N.Y.
lbonacci@empire.state.ny.us

Adrienne Bonilla was appointed director of the office of research compliance at the University of Albany, SUNY. She is responsible for ensuring the university maintains a coordinated compliance assurance system for human subjects and animal research. She also serves as the research integrity officer and HIPAA privacy officer.

Matthew F. Guilbault has established M.F. Guilbault Government Relations in Albany, N.Y. The firm specializes in lobbying, advocacy, communications and public relations.

Kristopher Jones was recently recognized as the Entrepreneur of the Year by Bank of America, the Great Valley Technology Institute.

John N. Vagianelis has joined the Albany, N.Y., law firm of Segel, Goldman, Mazzotta & Siegel, P.C.

Michael Piecuch was recently hired by the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office to become the chief counsel to the Judiciary Committee at the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He is also an adjunct professor at Widener Law School in Harrisburg, Pa.
Two Law School Buddies Find Themselves—28 Years Later—Sharing a Trailer in Baghdad

By David Singer

They met on the first day of law school. Alphabetical seating put Dooley and Downey two seats apart. Three years later one ushered for the other’s wedding. Twenty-eight years later, after going separate ways for career and family, they found themselves sharing a trailer in Baghdad behind “The Palace,” two old friends plucked from their normal lives to land in a surreal time and place.

“It was a little weird, leaving the trailer together for work in the morning like we used to walk to class,” said Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin P. Dooley ’80, who, as the Regime Crimes Liaison for the U.S. Government, oversaw a staff of approximately 75 people in Iraq, including some 20 attorneys, and was responsible for coordinating all U.S. and International assistance to the Iraqi High Tribunal (IHT) in the Saddam Hussein trial.

“It almost felt like old times, except we weren’t hitting Ralph’s or Pa’s at night,” said Ed Downey ’80, a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves, referring to their younger days in Albany. The two went separate ways during the day—Dooley to the Palace and Downey to the Judge Advocate General offices—but at night after work they’d get together to eat, chat about the day and wind down with a DVD.

“The work was challenging and the days were long,” said Dooley. “It was really a benefit having a good friend there, and it made for a unique bonding experience.” Dooley, a prosecutor since graduating from Albany Law 25 years ago, called his time in Iraq “the most rewarding work of my life.” This work included uncovering mass graves, supporting investigations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by members of the Baathist regime of Sadaam Hussein, and coordinating the security arrangements for all participants in the process during the Hussein trials. Dooley said this work was crucial as part of the process of establishing the rule of law in Iraq.

Currently an Assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of New York in the Binghamton office, Dooley was selected to work for the Regime Crimes Liaison Office (RCLO), which helps the Iraqis conduct investigations and trials.

“My wife and I went to Ed’s farewell party in September 2004 before he left for Iraq,” said Dooley, “so when I saw the recruitment email three months later, I contacted Ed and he encouraged me to apply for the job.” Dooley arrived in the country in April 2005 as an attorney/advisor to the IHT for the RCLO, was appointed Deputy RCL in September 2005, and became the RCL on Dec. 22, 2005.

Downey’s year in Iraq focused on building a military court structure based on due process, a system that didn’t exist previously. “We assisted the Iraqis as they drafted a new code of military justice and helped train the Iraqi’s, who had about 50 lawyers in their military—equivalent to our Judge Advocates. . . . For example, when 100 suspected insurgents are detained, each one needs to be afforded due process through the Iraqi legal system. This would drive them crazy, because what takes three hours here takes three days there. You can’t just drive around from place to place.”

Downey, a Guilderland, N.Y., resident and lawyer for St. Paul Travelers Insurance, has seen his fair share of conflict through service in the Army Reserves, including tours in Panama, Honduras and nine months in Bosnia, Croatia and Hungary as a military defense lawyer. “Each time I return back to Travelers, it doesn’t look the same,” he said.

They lived and worked together for six months in the Green Zone, where they both stated the living conditions were very decent. The two started and ended their days together. Both described their experience as safe, despite occasional indirect fire from mortars and rockets, where daily chores like preparing food and doing laundry were taken care of for them by the government, which provided them with more time to get in 15-hour workdays. Much of their work was done with assistance from Arabic translators.

Laughing at the image of the two of them walking to work, Downey said, “There we were, two guys from law school days together again trying to put a country back together.”
Georgia Nucci ’94 provides interest-free loans to help families in her Mexican village build their own homes. “These aren’t gifts,” she explains on a phone call with Albany Law magazine. “It’s very difficult for working Mexicans to own a home. Mortgages are practically unknown here.”

Nucci helps the village of El Chante families to build their own houses. She also helps them obtain visas, translate documents and negotiate through the mire of emigration. Nucci is retired and finally has the time to help how and who she wants.

This year Nucci chose to help Albany Law School with a $750,000 charitable gift annuity for the school’s endowment.

Nucci named a stream of reasons for the gift. “The school was a lifesaver to me. They accepted me in my 50s and provided a haven for me during a hard time in my life. Now I want to help it grow.” The school is under-endowed, she said, “I want to help make it easier on students who need financial help.”

Nucci’s hard time refers to her loss of two children. Her 18-year-old daughter Jennifer Jones died of hepatitis in 1988, and her 20-year-old son Christopher Jones died on Pan Am Flight 103 when the plane exploded above Lockerbie, Scotland, in December of the same year.

Nucci entered law school, but not before adopting four siblings from Columbia, ages ranging from four to 12. After law school she worked in the Hudson, N.Y., law firm Coffin, Inman, Christiana and Desnoyers, and was the assistant counsel to state Sen. Roy M. Goodman, where she worked on taxation issues. Nucci grew active in victims of Pan Am flight 103, an organization formed by crash victim survivors to influence airline-disasters policy and to lobby for the much needed change in the law regarding aviation security.

Now, 17 years since Lockerbie, retired, living with her husband Tony on a lake in a small village one hour from Guadalajara, Nucci says she’s living a good life. “I can’t think of any place I’d rather live than right here in my little village.”

“There’s a hopeful spirit here. Mexicans work hard and feel very free.” Nucci contrasted this with U.S. living since 9-11. “When bad things happen, we need to turn it into something positive. You have to be brave. We’ve changed in negative ways all over the country because of terrorism. And ironically, the least fearful is New York City.”

Nucci believes strongly that every compromise of freedoms on U.S. soil—a slippery slope near-impossible to reverse—provides a victory for the terrorists. “When my son was killed I would not shed a tear in public. I would not give them the satisfaction of claiming another victim in me,” she said defiantly.

Part of Nucci’s reason to make Mexico her home is the people’s inherent freedom of spirit, which is expressed in their lifestyles. She described a scene she witnessed that captures her vision of Mexico: “A man on his donkey, sitting on a wooden saddle, wearing a large sombrero and talking on a cell phone. That’s Mexico to me.”

Emerson Foundation Gives School $50,000
The Fred L. Emerson Foundation Inc., Auburn, N.Y., awarded Albany Law $50,000 to support the establishment of the Emerson Scholars Endowment Fund to permanently provide annual scholarships to students from Cayuga County. In the event that there are no candidates from Cayuga County, the Fund will then be open to students from Onondaga County.

“Many Albany Law students hail from upstate New York and pursue careers in New York,” said Thomas F. Guernsey, President and Dean. “With support from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation Inc., Albany Law School will be able to provide financial assistance that will benefit those students.”

Swyer Foundation Donates to Clinic
The Swyer Foundation Inc., Albany, N.Y., gave a $50,000 grant to support client advocacy education and litigation in the Law Clinic, which provides services to low-income clients in the community. The grant will be paid over two years and will allow the Clinic to build resources for advocacy and litigation such as transcripts from past cases, evidence-related equipment and publications. It will also support the costs of litigation during the summer to offset the reduction in students and faculty on campus.

The Swyer Foundation has also made grants to the Law School since 1995 for The Swyer Academic Success Program, an academic enrichment program consisting of lectures in the fall, and workshops in the spring for first year students.
Sandman Family Gives for Fellowship

The family of Edgar A. Sandman ‘46 and Margaret Sandman recently gave a major gift in honor of Edgar and Margaret’s 60th wedding anniversary. Edgar, a Trustee Emeritus of Albany Law School, was chairman of the Board from 1986 through 1990. The family also made a gift in honor of their parent’s 50th wedding anniversary, both times in support of the Edgar and Margaret Sandman Fellowship Program in Aging/Health Law.

Albany Law students compete for the fellowship which provides a financial stipend and office at the Government Law Center.

Hinman, Howard & Kattell Launch New Fellowship with Gift

The Binghamton firm Hinman, Howard & Kattell kicked-off the effort on Feb. 28, 2006, to endow the Senator Warren Anderson ’40 Graduate Fellowship in Government Administration and Law with a $25,000 lead gift. The School looks to raise a $650,000 endowment in the next two years to support the fellowship in perpetuity.

The endowment would provide a salary for a recently-graduated lawyer to serve on the staff of the Law School’s Government Law Center. The Law School will seek support for the endowment from law firms, alumni, Senate and Assembly colleagues of the Senator, and many others who have admired him as a political leader and lawyer over the years.

Alliance and several chambers of commerce in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Jones is president and CEO of pepperjam SEARCH.com, a Wilkes-Barre-based search-engine.

Soma S. Syed has opened her own practice, The Law Offices of Soma S. Syed, in Forest Hills, N.Y. Her practice primarily focuses on real estate transactions, business law such as incorporation, lease negotiation, and immigration.

Jill VanBortel married Daniel Clemente ’05 in the summer of 2005.

2004

CLASS AGENT:

Crystal Doolity Cioffi, Slezk, Wildgrube, P.C. Niskayuna, N.Y.
cdoolity@cslwlawfirm.com

Anthony D. Burrows was hired as claims counsel for Fidelity National Financial.

Daniel Clemente married Jill VanBortel ’05 in the summer of 2005.

Elizabeth L. Fairbanks-Fletcher has opened her own practice, The Law Offices of Elizabeth L. Fairbanks-Fletcher, PLLC, in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. The firm handles business law; real estate closings, including title and abstract work; wills and trusts; tax issues; entertainment and trademark law; as well as divorce, family law and bankruptcies.

Ivan C. Lindars of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., has joined McCabe & Mack LLP as an associate attorney in the firm’s litigation department.


2005


Colin Jay Donnaruma was hired as an associate at O’Connell & Aronowitz in Albany, N.Y. His areas of concentration are health law, administrative law, and constitutional law and civil liberties.


2005


Colin Jay Donnaruma was hired as an associate at O’Connell & Aronowitz in Albany, N.Y. His areas of concentration are health law, administrative law, and constitutional law and civil liberties.

Ryan Finn has joined the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC as an associate in the firm’s Albany, N.Y. office.

Jessica Blaine Lewis is currently working with Albany County District Attorney David Soares ‘99 in developing a new narcotics eviction unit.

Kyle McCauley married Douglas Belokopitsky on Nov. 4, 2005. Justina Cintrón Perino ’00 was one of the bridesmaids. The couple resides in North Greenbush, N.Y.

Bethany Schumann-McGhee was reelected to a second term serving the 3rd Ward of the City of Amsterdam on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors. She is currently working as an associate at Tabner, Ryan and Keniry, LLP in Albany, N.Y.

Michael Mulé began working as the Hanna S. Cohn Equal Justice Fellow in September 2005 at the Empire Justice Center, a new organization formed by the combining of the Public Interest Law Office of Rochester, N.Y. and Greater Upstate Law Project. As part of the two-year term, Mulé will focus on the legal needs of Monroe County’s Spanish speaking population. His project will include outreach, community education and legal assistance in the areas of employment, housing, disability rights, education and civil rights.

Rachel Ryan joined the Albany, N.Y., office of Hiscock & Barclay LLP as an associate attorney. Ryan focuses her practice on financial services, public finance and real estate.

Brendan Wolf, of Troy, N.Y., is an associate in the law firm of Carter, Conboy, Case, Blackmore, Maloney and Laird, P.C. in Albany, N.Y.

Matthew Young has joined the law firm of Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC as an associate in the firm’s Albany, N.Y., office.
Reunion Weekend 2005

Over 600 alumni and guests, faculty, staff and students came together on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 2005, for a variety of reunion activities, including the 10th annual golf tournament, a continuing legal education course, the Barrister Ball, breakfast and toast to our Senior Partners (Classes of 1955 and prior), a tour of the city by land and water with the Albany Aqua Ducks, rugby games and an alumni picnic featuring the music of Tim Miller ’01, culminating with class dinners for classes ending in “0” and “5”.

The following alumni awards were presented during the Barrister Ball.

1. Distinguished Alumni: Frank L. Fernandez ’80 and his wife Maureen.
2. Donald D. DeAngelis Excellence in Alumni Service: John M. Bagyi ’96, with his wife Dania and his mother Barbara.
3. Outstanding Young Alumna Molly A. Wilkinson ’96, with her mother Carol.
4. Trustee’s Gold Medal Award, Matthew H. Mataraso ’58.
5. Class of ’80 at Reunion Weekend 2005.
6. From left, Thania Fernandez, ’85, Betty Lugo ’84, Martha Villanigro-Santiago ’85.
The National Alumni Association organized its community service day on Feb. 11. Alumni, staff and students assisted the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York by preparing previously donated items for distribution in their Latham, N.Y., warehouse.

Pictured above is Mary Barry ’94.

Alumni, faculty, staff and students are gathering in cities around the country to reconnect with Albany Law School.

Professor Daniel Mariarty and Andrew Klein ’92 in Washington, D.C., at an alumni reception.

Hon. Victoria A. Graffeo, ’77 and William F. Collins, ’76, received the 2006 Albany Law School Distinguished Alumni in Government Award during a reception at the New York State Executive Mansion in Albany.

Professor David Siegel poses with U.S. Attorney Michael Garcia ’89 at an alumni event in New York City.

Stay engaged
Stay in touch with Albany Law School Alumni online at www.albanylaw.edu/alumni

Alumni, their families and friends attended a reception in the Empire State Plaza Convention Hall for all graduates who passed a bar exam. The event was held in conjunction with the N.Y. State Bar induction ceremony.

From left, Ricja Rice ’05, Dana Salazar ’05 and Carol Wojtowicz ’05.

Stay in touch with Albany Law School Alumni online at www.albanylaw.edu/alumni
1936
Maurice T. Brunner, 94, of Rochester, N.Y., died on Sept. 23, 2005. He was a retired Lieutenant Commander of the U.S. Navy Reserve. In 1976, he retired as an editor of Lawyer's Cooperative Publishing Company.

1938
Thomas H. Ivory, 91, of Norwich, N.Y., passed away on Dec. 8, 2005, at the NYS Veterans’ Home in Oxford, N.Y. Ivory joined the New York State Bar Association shortly after his graduation from Albany Law. He served as a naval officer from 1941 to 1946. After the war, he joined the New York State Department of Transportation as an attorney, and worked out of offices in Binghamton and Albany, N.Y. He retired in 1979 and lived in Albany until he moved to Norwich in 1993. Ivory was a member of the American Legion and a supporter of many local organizations.

1939
Neils K. Pedersen, 95, of Kirkwood, N.Y., passed away on Dec. 18, 2005. Pedersen practiced law in Binghamton for more than 50 years. He was a longtime member of the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Binghamton, the New York State and Broome County Bar Associations, a charter member of the Kirkwood Lions Club, a member of Elks Lodge #852, and the Kirkwood Senior Citizens.

1942
Benjamin Fuller Allen, 89, passed away on Nov. 25, 2005, at his home in Plattsburgh, N.Y. He started his law career by working at his father’s Plattsburgh law office and as a U.S. Commissioner. Later, following a brief teaching career, Allen established his own practice. From 1966 to 1988, he was an attorney for the State of New York in Albany. Allen also served as a local historian and genealogist, publishing a number of books and articles. He was active in Kiwanis, Little League baseball, and the Plattsburgh United Methodist Church.

1948
John Abram “Jack” Buyck, 86, of Scottsdale, Ariz., died Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2006. He was born in Rochester, N.Y. Before law school, Jack was a naval officer during World War II. In the final months of the war he taught ROTC at Columbia University Midshipmen’s School and served as a LCDR in the Naval Reserve in Rochester for many years. In 1948, he graduated from Albany Law School, and with his Justinian Society Key and joined the law firm of his father-in-law Joseph Corcoran. The firm eventually became known as Corcoran, Buyck, Baxter, Springer, Gerace & Fitzsimmons. From 1948-65 he served as Monroe County Special Tax Bureau Director. He also served as Henrietta Town Attorney from 1951-57 and Monroe County Comptroller from 1965-67. Jack was a founding president of the Monroe County Easter Seals Society and on its board for 25 years. He served as the first president of the R-H Rotary Club, past commander of the Ely Fagan American Legion Post #1151, and general chairman of the 1968 Henrietta Sesquicentennial celebration. In 1985 Jack and his wife, Virginia, retired to Arizona. They volunteered with Meals on Wheels and Jack also directed volunteer tax preparers at the Scottsdale Senior Center.

Robert G. Conway, 83, of Delmar, N.Y., died on July 30, 2005. Conway served as a naval officer in the Pacific during World War II. After graduating from Albany Law School, he was in private practice and served as an assistant attorney general in the claims and litigation bureau of the New York State Attorney General’s office. Conway was a Little League baseball coach and a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. His son, Robert G. Conway, who survives him, graduated from Albany Law School in 1976.

Ainard Gelbond passed away on April 11, 2005.
By Nicole Soucy
The Honorable Constance Baker Motley’s name may not be as well-known as some other civil rights leaders, but Judge Motley’s career was filled with many historic firsts. The first African-American woman to serve in significant elected positions—N.Y. state senator (1964–1965), Manhattan borough president (1965–1966)—Motley was also the first black woman appointed to the federal judiciary, serving on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1966. Along with representing Martin Luther King, Jr., she was the first woman to serve as chief judge in 1982, and in 1986 she assumed senior status. She sat on the bench until her death on Sept. 28, 2005, at age 84.

Albany Law School presented Constance Baker Motley with the Kate Stoneman Achievement Award in the spring of 1997. As Judge Motley addressed Albany Law students, faculty and staff, she described her long, difficult journey from college graduation to her appointment to the Southern District Bench. “If a poll had been taken of those least likely to succeed in the profession, I would have headed the list,” said Motley. She noted that neither she nor the pollsters could have foreseen that “post war America would be convulsed by two revolutions, one that carried . . . women into the mainstream of American life.”

Constance Baker Motley assisted in leading that revolution by helping break down political, social and professional barriers.

Breaking Gender–Racial Barriers
Judge Motley was born in New Haven, Conn., the ninth of 12 children. Her mother, Rachel Baker, was a founder of the New Haven NAACP. Her father, Willoughby Alva Baker, worked as a chef for the Yale University students’ organizations.

Her interest in civil rights grew at age 15 after officials turned her away from a public beach because of her skin color. She plunged into studying political affairs, race relations, black history and the law. She earned a degree in economics in 1943 from New York University, and three years later a law degree from Columbia Law School. While attending Columbia, a graduating law student suggested that she take over his job as the law clerk for Thurgood Marshall at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund (LDEF). After working with the future Supreme Court Justice through her graduation from law school, she took a full-time position with his legal staff.

Judge Motley played pivotal roles in such landmark cases as Brown v. Board of Education and James Meredith’s victorious admission to the all-white University of Mississippi. In the early 1960s, she represented “Freedom Fighters,” who rode interstate buses to test the success of desegregation laws.

In 1993, Judge Motley was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame and in 2001 President Clinton awarded her the Presidential Citizens Medal.

Judge Motley broke barriers that have ensured women a solid place in the legal profession—and her a solid place in history. “Becoming part of history is a special experience, reserved for only a few,” Judge Motley wrote in her autobiography, Equal Justice under Law. “It’s like earning a law degree or a Ph.D.; nobody can take it away from you. You may be forgotten, but . . . you will always be there.”
Arnold L. Mayersohn, 85, of Little Rock, Ark., passed away on Jan. 3, 2005. He served in World War II and became a First Sergeant in the 78th Infantry Division seeing action in the Battle of The Bulge. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. After graduating from Albany Law, he and his wife Janet moved to Little Rock where he began his career with Sterling Stores Company, Inc. He was a long time member of the Board of Sterling Stores, served on the Board of Trustees at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and the Board of Directors of First Commercial Bank.

Stephen J. Banks, passed away on March 4, 2005, at St. Peter’s Hospital in Albany.


Wayne M. Harris, 79, of Rochester, N.Y., passed away on Sept. 5, 2005. Harris was a recipient of the Bronze Star for his service as a member of the 157th Regiment Infantry, 45th Division in the European Theatre, G Company, liberators of Munich and Dachau. After graduating from Albany Law, Harris became an accomplished trial lawyer and senior partner of Harris, Chesworth, O’Brien, Johnstone, Welch & Leone, LLP. He was also the founder and President of Delta Laboratories, Inc., and was active in numerous conservation organizations and has received many commendations for his efforts. He was a member of the federal, state and local Bar Associations.

William P. Murtagh, 89, of Great Barrington, Vt., died on Jan. 12, 2006. He served as a captain of the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and was honorably discharged in 1946. After graduating from Albany Law, Murtagh returned to Great Barrington and established a law partnership with George McCormick. He later served as town counsel and town moderator for 25 years. Murtagh was director of the Pittsfield Cooperative Bank until this past fall. He was a member and former president of the Massachusetts Bar Association, and he belonged to the Knights of Columbus, the American Legion and the American Bar Association.

Peter R. Paravati, 81, passed away on Aug. 24, 2005, in Fruitland Park, Fla. Paravati was a member of the U.S. Navy and became a pilot while stationed in Saipan during World War II. He was discharged from the military as a Lieutenant, Junior Grade in 1949. After graduating from Albany Law on the GI Bill, he began practicing law in 1951 and focused on pension cases in federal court. Later in life, Paravati enjoyed traveling with his wife, Jenifer.

W. Joseph Shanley, Jr., 78, of Saratoga Springs, N.Y., died on Oct. 8, 2005. Shanley served in the Navy during World War II. After graduating from Albany Law, he was a patent attorney for 26 years for General Electric in New York City as well as for Harris Company in Melbourne, Fla. He was an alumni associate of both Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Albany Law, and a member of the ELFUN Society of General Electric. He is survived by his son W. Joseph Shanley III, a 1981 Albany Law graduate.

Vincent R. Corrou, Jr., 73, of Utica, N.Y., died on Nov. 17, 2005. He was a lawyer with Ferris, Hughes, Dorrance & Groben and a partner in Felt, Hubbard, Hopkins, Bach & Corrou and most recently at Oriska Insurance Co. Corrou served with high honors in the U.S. Army from 1955-1957. He was also involved in a number of civic activities including being a member of the Alumni Council at Albany Law and a member of the National Alumni Association’s Board of Directors. Corrou was also the former president of the Oneida County Bar Association and a member of the House of Delegates of the New York State Bar Association.

Michael Joseph McDonald, 72, of New Hartford, N.Y., died on May 15, 2005. McDonald served as a specialist in the Army during the Korean conflict. Shortly after graduating from Albany Law, McDonald moved with his wife, Mary, to the Utica area where he began the practice of law with the firm of Helmer and Shaffer. McDonald retired as an attorney for Oneida County Department of Social Services.

David B. Klingaman, 64, of Troy, N.Y., died on July 26, 2005. He served on the staff of the New York State Court of Claims for 40 years, nine as chief clerk. In January 2006, Klingaman was honored posthumously with the New York State Bar Association’s Award for Excellence in Public Service.

Andrew C. Jacobs, 60, of Schodack, N.Y., and Ponce Inlet, Fla., passed away suddenly on April 24, 2005. Jacobs practiced law in the Capital Region for 32 years.
1987

Gina A. Gulotty, 45, of Albany, N.Y., died suddenly on Aug. 19, 2005. Gulotty’s distinguished career as an attorney included working for New York State Department of Tax and Finance, Deloit & Touche, the Internal Revenue Service, Teahan & Constantino and the New York State Office of General Services.

1982

Bryan P. Cullen, 52, of Albany, N.Y., died on June 21, 2005. As a lawyer for the New York State Department of State, the Dublin, Ireland, native was counsel to the office of Fire Prevention and Control and an expert in the field of coastal resource management.

1983

Hon. Joseph R. Cannizzaro, 51, of Albany, N.Y., died on July 21, 2005, after a long battle with cancer. Cannizzaro was an assistant public defender for Albany County and was an associate in the law firm of Wertime, Robinson, Ries & Van Ullen. He also served as principal law clerk Supreme Court Justice Joseph Harris. From 1994-1999, Cannizzaro represented the people of the 10th Legislative District and was the deputy majority leader from 1996-1999. He was elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 2000 and was justice of the court until his death. Cannizzaro served his community as a Westland Hills Little League coach, a religious education instructor at St. Catherine of Siena, a member of the Knights of Columbus, the Knights of Pythias, the Albany City School District PTA, the LaSalle Institute Parents Association, the Sons of Italy and the West Albany Italian American Benevolent Society.

Class of 1977 Honors
Peter R. Porco

On Thursday, Nov. 17, 2005, Peter R. Porco ’77 was remembered by his classmates at a dedication ceremony in the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom. In honor of their friend and classmate, the class of 1977 raised funds for new furnishings in the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom. Speakers, Hon. Victoria Graffeo ’77, John R. Polster ’77, and Donna E. Wardlaw ’77, remembered the life, career and friendship of their classmate. Peter’s wife, Joan, received a standing ovation from the 75-plus attendees.
In 1983 Morris “Marty” Silverman decided to attend an Albany Law alumni reception in Manhattan, not far from his office. After 40 years of virtually no interaction with the school since his 1936 graduation, Silverman expected to see a few familiar faces. Instead he knew no one. But that didn’t stop him from handing a $100,000 check to a young staff member of the law school’s Alumni Office without warning.

“I’ll never forget how much that school did for me when I needed it most, and how the faculty members guided me along,” wrote Silverman in his memoir, Stepping Stones.

Silverman passed away on Jan. 26, 2006, at the age of 93. The check he handed to a stranger that day was the first brick of many more to come that would eventually lead to the present complex of campus buildings called University Heights.

Why Albany?

Silverman toiled for six decades in the trenches with entrepreneurial chutzpah and old-school sweat and tears. From the infamous gas station he built and ran in Watervliet, to pay his way through law school, to the mega-millions he created through the telecommunications industry, specifically MCI.

Along the way he earned Purple Hearts in World War II, virtually invented and built the rental industry, and oversaw an initial public offering that brought him to the pinnacle of his wealth. With the death of his wife Dot in 1983, fate turned his attention—and dreams—to Albany Law. Specifically to the creation of University Heights.

Would Albany Law look like it does today without Silverman’s antics? Without his brash, uncanny ability to demand what he dreamed, what would Albany College of Pharmacy, Albany Medical School and the Sage Colleges look like today?

There are numerous small, undocumented Silverman contributions—financial and otherwise—that pepper the four campuses. Then there are those infamous gifts meant to inspire an entire community, most notably the largest U.S. prize in medicine—an annual $500,000 Albany Medical Center Prize in Medicine and Biomedical Research—and the catalyst for a $200 million University Heights campus. Silverman sought the University Heights project to be larger and more advanced than the Mayo Clinic, certainly a dream beyond the typical Albany scope.

The story of Silverman’s Albany Law admission captures well this ambitious spirit. Calling the school “one of the best law schools in the country,” and famous for “flunking out” 10 percent of its students annually, this son of a Jewish Troy tailor skirted the admissions process to avoid rejection. Instead he met directly with Dean Alexander. Using charm and nerve, he stated his case to the Dean, who, in the end, responded, “Let’s give it a try.”

Those fated words, which seem to reflect Silverman’s own approach to the world, started a chain of events that sent ripples of fortune through countless people and institutions in the Albany region and beyond.

Now that Silverman has passed away, some 70 years after his graduation from Albany Law, the school remains determined to play its part in fulfilling Silverman’s vision for a world-class medical and education community.—DS
“I’ve wanted to go to law school since I was a child, but the stark reality of my life is that law school is too expensive for me or my family to afford.

Thanks to the generosity of private support at Albany Law School, I’m living my childhood dream.

I’m now in my 4th semester at Albany Law. I am a Judicial Clerk at Albany Police Court. Previously, I assisted battered immigrant men and women as a legal intern at the Empire Justice Center and this summer I plan to study and intern abroad in Capetown, South Africa.”

Jennifer Filomeno
Class of 2007
SAVE THE DATE
August 27, 2006
10th Annual Day at the Races
September 29-30, 2006
Reunion Weekend 2006