SUMMER 2016

ALBANY LAW MAGAZINE

ALBANY LAW

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ALBANY LAW and University at Albany
Continue to Build a Collaborative Affiliation

Grads Make Mark in Government Affairs

DEAR FRIENDS,

I have been extremely fortunate to have had a varied professional career—from Union College to Army Intelligence, to law school and the JAG Corps, to graduate school and clerkships and a Supreme Court Fellowship. Yet long before I began teaching at Albany Law School some 26 years ago, I fell in love with this place. I remember my first experience here, a moot court competition while in law school. Right then I told my family I’d love to teach here someday. I still love it here.

I choose to support the law school through my personal giving because I love this school, my students and my colleagues. I believe in the work that we do here and the alums I helped educate. Together, we ARE Albany Law School. I hope that you will join me in supporting our Annual Fund, this year and every year. It is our way to keep our Albany Law School strong.

Warm regards,
VINCENT M. BONVENTRE

PROFESSOR OF LAW
JUSTICE ROBERT H. JACKSON DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

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FEATURES

14  The 165th Commencement
22  An Affiliation with University at Albany
26  Grads Make Mark in Government Affairs
67  Report on Giving

DEPARTMENTS

3  In Brief
6  Students
16  Campus Events
34  Faculty Notes
42  The Career & Professional Development Center
44  Alumni Events
50  Class Notes
63  History
76  In Memoriam
A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND DEAN

ALICIA OUELLETTE

Dear Friends,

There is nothing more constant than change. Fortunately, Albany Law School has planned for changes in legal education, and has worked strategically to get ahead of the curve.

You will learn from this issue that we are advancing the school on many fronts, and while there are always challenges ahead, we are well-positioned for success. The story of the year may be our formal affiliation with University at Albany. You can learn about the details—particularly the opportunities we gain from the relationship—in this issue. But that is only part of this year’s story. For starters, our employment rate increased to impressive levels—thanks to our alumni community for hiring our students. We were also happy to welcome a larger class with stronger credentials than past years.

Looking forward, we announced a number of new programs that will lead to growth. Our new Clinical program—the Community and Business Development Clinic—will serve as a hub for legal and technical business planning to support emerging micro-businesses in the Capital Region. The new Clinic is made possible by a generous gift—our largest in recent memory—from Edward P. Swyer. We thank him profusely.

In January we will begin offering a two-year accelerated J.D. program. We expect the program to attract extraordinary students with experience in the workforce who are ready to complete their J.D. in just 24 months.

This fall we begin the new Master of Science in Legal Studies with three separate concentrations: Government Affairs & Advocacy, Health Law & Healthcare Compliance, and Social Entrepreneurship. Next January we roll out our first exclusively online Master’s program in cybersecurity. A student can participate in this distance-learning program from anywhere in the country, and the world. These Master’s programs are led by our new Dean for Strategic Initiatives, Antony Haynes. Dean Haynes’ experience building programs for the Air Force Academy and other roles fit well with the School’s needs.

As you can see, we have a keen eye on the future, and it looks promising.

You will see in these pages that the faculty continue to achieve at impressive levels in areas of scholarship, improved teaching methods, and community service. Our professors care for our students and engage them far beyond the classroom, creating a rich, energized campus environment.

Finally, I encourage you to watch Megyn Kelly ’95 speak online at this year’s commencement ceremony. She has no qualms about giving Albany Law School full credit for her success. Nothing in her life, she said—not her home, not her college, not her years at law firms—was as important to her success as her law school years, where she gained her tools for life. Her remarks resonated with our graduates, the faculty, and everyone else who heard them.

I have met many of you this year in my travels to Florida, California, Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Boston, all over N.Y. State, and more. When I describe the goals of the law school and the various ways we will achieve them, I hear encouraging words from our graduates, along with suggestions, occasional criticism, new ideas, and great (often hilarious) stories of the past. We need to hear your voice, we welcome your input and we take it seriously. I hope to continue meeting more alumni, and I encourage you to attend Reunion in the fall. You will be amazed at the campus and the transformation of the neighborhood.

All the best,

Alicia Ouellette || President and Dean
Albany Law Ranked No. 1 Nationally for Preparing Students for Government Law Careers, Named 6th for Criminal Defense and Prosecutor Jobs

When it comes to preparing law students for careers in government, Albany Law School is top in the nation, according to preLaw magazine.

In its winter 2016 issue, preLaw ranked Albany Law No. 1 for government careers, citing “A” grades in curriculum and employment. Albany Law, also slotted sixth-best for criminal defender and prosecutor jobs, was one of only eight law schools named to more than one category in the cover story, “Best Schools for Public Service.”

The magazine based its rankings on employment statistics, curricular offerings — including related concentrations, clinics, and centers — and financial data. Employment was the highest-weighed component, factoring in at 50 percent.

PreLaw is distributed to more than 45,000 law school professors, administrators, and prospective law students across the United States. In 2014, Albany Law was named a top public interest law school by preLaw’s sister magazine, The National Jurist.

Albany Law School Launches Master’s Program in Legal Studies

The学校 launched a master’s program for professionals and recent college graduates looking to advance their careers but not interested in a law degree. The program is offered this fall, with three concentrations:

- **Government Affairs & Advocacy**, a guided course of study to prepare a master’s student to succeed in the field of lobbying.
- **Health Law & Healthcare Compliance**, designed to equip those employed — or seeking employment — to thrive in the dynamic career of health care.
- **Social Entrepreneurship**, an alternative degree for individuals looking to build a business or pursue a career that serves the legal and societal needs in their communities and beyond.

A study of the Capital Region’s professional environment shows that the region’s professionals, and their employers, can benefit greatly with advanced learning of the law in these areas of study.

“Albany Law School has a long and proud history of training students for careers in the law,” said Alicia Ouellette, President and Dean of Albany Law School. “The law affects every career today, and knowledge of the law can advance a career in new ways. We’re thrilled to be able to open our classrooms and offer our talented faculty to those individuals looking to increase their legal knowledge and improve their opportunities in these professions.”

“**We’re thrilled to be able to open our classrooms and offer our talented faculty to those individuals looking to increase their legal knowledge and improve their opportunities in these professions.**” —DEAN OUELLETTE

KEVIN MCCARTHY ‘90, GC FOR BANK OF NY MELLON, SPENT DAY ON CAMPUS AS “ALUMNUS IN RESIDENCE”

Kevin McCarthy ’90, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel for the Bank of New York Mellon, one of the largest banks in the nation, spent the day on campus as part of the Alumni in Residence program. He talked to students about career options in finance, the view from the inside of a “big bank” under public scrutiny, and his particular path to his position. After a day on campus, he attended the Capital Region Alumni Law Review Reception before having dinner with his former professors Michael Hutter, Stephen Gottlieb and Patricia Reyhan.
Ahead of the Market, Albany Law to Offer Online M.S. Degree in Cybersecurity Law

Albany Law School plans to launch its first all-online Master of Science in Legal Studies with a specialization in Cybersecurity and Data Privacy, as part of the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Pathway. The distance-learning degree will begin January 2017, and offer a list of courses taught by leading experts in their fields from around the country.

“We are very excited about this new offering, which also represents a new market for us,” said Alicia Ouellette, President and Dean. “After some research, we think working professionals in the field looking to advance their careers, or professionals looking to enter the field, will be drawn to the value of this degree.”

The initiative is led by Antony Haynes, who serves in the new position of Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Information Systems. As a graduate of the Air Force Academy, and Georgetown Law School, Dean Haynes has served as an assistant professor in computer science at the Air Force Academy, where he created an Information Assurance concentration, including new courses in secure networks, cybersecurity and cryptography. He has also practiced law at premier Washington, D.C., law firms, and has consulted for start-ups around marketing, technology and legal strategy.

“We are very fortunate to have Dean Haynes join the Albany Law community,” said Dean Haynes. “His knowledge and experience are an uncanny match for leading these innovative initiatives. We are expanding our programming, and he is the person who will lead some of these efforts.”

Albany Law School Receives Major Gift to Fund Community and Business Development Clinic

A major gift has enabled Albany Law School to create the Community and Business Development Clinic (CBDC) starting in the fall. The new Clinic will serve as a hub to provide the services necessary to support emerging micro-businesses in the Capital Region.

The Community and Business Development Clinic was made possible by a significant donation from Edward P. Swyer and The Swyer Family Foundation. Swyer is president of The Swyer Companies, Inc., which owns and manages the outdoor lifestyle shopping center, Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany, N.Y.

“It is the generosity and foresight of community leaders like Ed Swyer that keep Albany Law School prospering, at the same time strengthening the business community connections,” said Daniel Nolan, Albany Law School’s Board of Trustees chair. “The school and the region are fortunate to have a friend like Mr. Swyer.”

“My connection to Albany Law School began when my father’s construction company, The L.A. Swyer Co., Inc., built the Schaffer Law Library in 1986,” Mr. Swyer said. “Simultaneously with the job completion he was sadly diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and died two years later. I felt a responsibility to maintain the good relationship and friendships he established, and stepped in on behalf of the company.”

Students, under the supervision of a professor or practicing attorney, will help the businesses choose and form the appropriate entity, protect intellectual assets, access grant funding, audit employment policies, write contracts, and more.

“Albany Law School faculty and students will provide Capital Region clients with legal and business expertise to help them achieve their business goals and create jobs in the community,” said Alicia Ouellette, President and Dean of the law school. “We are grateful for Mr. Swyer’s generosity.”

In 2008 the law school honored Mr. Swyer with the 2008 Trustees Gold Medal, the highest accolade awarded annually to an individual with a record of exemplary support and dedication to the advancement of the school. For more than 20 years he has supported the Albany Law School’s Lewis A. Swyer Academic Success Program, which provides workshops for first-year law students requiring additional academic support. He has also contributed generously to the clinics serving domestic violence victims, which provides legal representation to victims of family violence who would not otherwise receive services.

“This Clinic will serve as a great addition to the Clinic & Justice Center and will present new opportunities for our students,” said Sarah Rogerson, director of the Clinic & Justice Center. “The Clinic is typically the first time students learn to manage real cases and clients. This new Clinic will allow the students to get close to a different type of case and client, and makes the breadth of our offerings wider.”
Albany Law to Launch 2-Year J.D. Program

In January 2017, the law school will begin offering an accelerated degree program for highly motivated law students who wish to earn a J.D. in fewer than the typical three years. The two-year program, though rigorous, will give these individuals an opportunity to enter the job market sooner while saving one year of living and tuition expenses. To complete their law degree in an abbreviated timeframe—which includes the same requirements as a 3-year J.D.—students will take courses over the summer and winter terms to meet the required total of 87 credits for graduation.

New Alumni Join the Board

Keiki-Michael Cabanos ‘97 is a partner and general counsel of Westwood Capital, LLC, a New York City-based Investment Bank and fund sponsor. He oversees the legal aspects of the firm, including investment transactions, private equity funds and firm operations. Prior to joining Westwood Capital, he was the chief financial officer and general counsel for First Albany’s Technology Ventures. He also was a senior vice president of consulting for SEFCU and vice president of First Albany Corporation.

Jon Dorf ’90 began his law career as a solo practitioner and has since expanded his firm, which is now known as Dorf & Nelson LLP. The firm includes multiple practice areas serving a variety of businesses, from burgeoning enterprises to major corporations. His personal areas of concentration include Corporate and Business Law, Real Estate Law, and Intellectual Property Law.

Matthew Herman ’94 is a partner in the law firm of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in New York City. He advises corporations, financial sponsors and other financial intermediaries in their public and private M&A needs.

Nelson Perez ‘97 is the Vice President of Federal Government Relations at National Grid. Prior to joining National Grid, he worked as the Federal Government Relations Manager for Consolidated Edison. He started his career as a committee counsel in the New York State Assembly. He also worked for the New York City Speaker of the City Council and City Comptroller.

Frank Willey ’78 is a partner at Hennelly & Grossfeld LLP in Los Angeles, Calif. He is vice chairman of the Board of Directors of Fidelity National Financial, Inc., the largest title insurance underwriter in the United States. He is also vice chairman of the board of Carl Karcher Enterprises, Inc., an international restaurant chain. Prior to his current positions, he served in various capacities within FNF starting in 1984. Mr. Willey is director of Commercial Bank of California and Winter Sports, Inc. His son Michael ’16 recently graduated from Albany Law.

St. Peter’s Health Partners and the Clinic Create Partnership

St. Peter’s Health Partners and Albany Law School are partnering to help some of the Capital Region’s most vulnerable health care patients obtain free legal services. The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding to launch a Medical-Legal Partnership which will connect students in the Health Law Clinic to represent eligible SPHP patients and their families. Disputes can include foreclosures, Social Security benefits, Medicaid or health insurance coverage, power of attorney, health care proxies, wills, and guardianship.

Attorney General Schneiderman Explores Ideas with Dean Ouellette

New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman met with President and Dean Alicia Ouellette on campus in the spring to discuss possible collaborations with Albany Law School.

Dean Ouellette signing the MOU with St. Peter’s president Dr. James Reed

Professor Lynch’s Blog Makes Repeat Appearance on ABA Journal’s Top 100 List

“Best Practices for Legal Education,” edited by Professor Mary Lynch, again earned a spot in the ABA Journal’s Blawg 100, an annual list of the top blogs for a legal audience. A product of Albany Law School’s Center for Excellence in Law Teaching (CELT), the blog — which was honored for a second straight year — is a source of information on current reforms in legal education. It also serves as a community for those interested in the future of legal education to freely exchange ideas, concerns, and opinions. Prof. Lynch serves as director of CELT, a widely used resource for educators in the legal profession. “Best Practices for Legal Education” is managed by Prof. Lynch, assistant editor Jessica Persaud ’16, and administrative assistant Eileen Roepe. Collegial contributors include law professors from across the country.
Albany Law’s National Moot Court Champs Represent U.S. in Global Competition

Fresh off winning the American Bar Association’s national client counseling competition title, Glenna Morgan ’17 and Kellan Potts ’16 packed their bags for Ontario, Canada to represent the United States at the Louis M. Brown/Forrest S. Mosten International Client Consultation Competition.

Albany Law’s moot court team made the semifinals out of 19 countries including Australia, England and Wales, Germany, India, Iran, Poland, Switzerland, and Turkey. The late-April competition came less than a month after Morgan and Potts placed first at the national finals in Waco, Texas. Over 100 teams from ABA-approved law schools across the country participated in the U.S. tournament, which was narrowed to a field of 12 after a round of regional competitions. The students credited faculty advisor Professor Joseph Connors ’88, Michael Wetmore ’14, and Brittiny Razzano ’14 for helping them prepare for the competition.

Karen C. McGovern Senior Prize Trials Competition champions James Wisniewski ’16 and Christine Armstrong ’16.


Karen C. McGovern Senior Prize Trials Competition finalists Caitlin Mahserjian ’16 and Daniel Bollana ’16.
Stacey Lococo ’16 spent her spring semester at the State University of New York’s Office of General Counsel as part of the Semester in Practice program. Along with drafting contracts, comparing campus policies for inconsistencies and areas of improvement, and questioning a witness in an arbitration, she drafted a model MOU for the SUNY campuses for the newly enacted Article 129(b), which mandates that college campuses provide rape crisis services or enter into MOUs with local organizations that do.

Semester in Practice allows second- and third-year students to immerse themselves in exceptional judicial, governmental, public interest and select private law offices for an intense semester-long placement experience. Students meet periodically with the director of the Government Law Center, who supervises the program. Lococo will work for a firm in New York City in the fall.
First-Year Students Experience Power of Capital Region as GLC Fellows

This academic year, 15 students from the classes of 2018 and '19 were selected as inaugural Government Law Center Fellows. The GLC Fellowship program granted the 1Ls exclusive access to highly regarded legal professionals in the field, some of whom served as formal mentors.

"My mentor was really great in giving advice and guiding me on how to position myself for the next three years," said Racquel Saddler, a former White House intern pursuing a career in legislative advocacy. "I think it's helpful to meet with someone who is where you want to be."

Florida State University graduate Benjamin Gold said applying to the program was a no-brainer, given that the Government Law Center is what drew him to Albany Law in the first place. "We're learning in the classroom, from a casebook," Gold said. "But in GLC advisory board meetings, I've seen how lawyers interact, talk about issues, and work on practical solutions. That's valuable."

"I've been introduced to different people," said Patrick Duprey, an Ithaca College journalism grad who works part-time for the Los Angeles Times. "If not for the Government Law Center Fellowship's mentorship program, I wouldn't be having lunch with Amy Kellogg '02, and I wouldn't be writing this paper on gun control in local and state governments."

This summer, Saddler will be working for state Supreme Court Justice Christina Ryba '01, and Duprey will be interning for the Claims Bureau at the New York State Office of the Attorney General. Gold, meanwhile, will be readying for his placement with the Saratoga Springs City Attorney's Office as part of the Semester in Practice program.

It's one thing to make the jump into law school. It's quite another to simultaneously run for office. But 1L student Jeri DuVall has never been one to shy away from a challenge.

DuVall, a paralegal in Cortland County, N.Y., first thought about campaigning for Willet Town Justice in 2011. Four years later, with strong support, she seized the moment and formally announced her candidacy. DuVall was elected in November — just months into her first semester at Albany Law School — as Willet's youngest and first female town justice.

"I had been wanting to go to law school for a long time," DuVall said. "And then this opportunity to run for town justice came up."

It can be overwhelming," she admitted. "There's a lot of learning. We had to complete a one-week course back in December before we could take the bench. A lot of it I already knew because of my background as a paralegal."

DuVall defeated the incumbent, a longtime town justice who was running as a write-in candidate. The youngest sitting judge in the county has been working overtime to bring her office into the digital age.

"It's the transition that's going to take some time," said DuVall, whose semimonthly docket includes criminal, vehicle-and-traffic, civil, and landlord-tenant cases.

DuVall—a 2009 graduate of SUNY Cortland with a B.A. in Political Science and concentration in Law and Justice — is building on a solid foundation at Albany Law. "I'm already working in the field on different levels. I'm able to apply what I'm learning at the same time. I find it very helpful."

DuVall enrolled in the law school's four-year program and hopes to finish early by taking summer courses. Albany Law's reputation was a big factor in her decision — not so much the commute, which can take well over two hours in each direction.

DuVall, who was already busy enough with a daughter and step-daughter, stressed the importance of not falling behind.

"I have long days," she said. "I've gotten accustomed to it. It's all about scheduling. You have to have everything prioritized and keep on top of things."

As for her post in Willet, DuVall wants to stay beyond her four-year term. She’ll have her J.D. in time for the next election cycle, and plans to work in private practice close to home.

"I'm hoping I can get re-elected," she said. "I'm hoping it can be a long-term position."

The youngest sitting judge in the county has been working overtime to bring her office into the digital age.
Kirsten Dunn '16 describes her time in law school as a “family endeavor.” One could say it was an undertaking as big as her household—she has nine children, all home-schooled, one having graduated from Siena College last year.

“Everyone says, ‘How do you do it?’” said Dunn, who graduated this past May after leaving the traditional workforce over two decades ago. “Well, we all have the same 24 hours in our day. I choose to spend mine on my family…I have this really great support system.”

She wasn’t always sure it would work out, especially in the early going. As a 1L, Dunn was given a boost by President and Dean Alicia Ouellette, then the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Intellectual Life, who reassured the apprehensive student that a J.D. was within reach, pointing to her own experience as a mother in law school.

“She really encouraged me,” Dunn said of Dean Ouellette. “My first year, I was really worried. I didn’t think I could take it on. I have a lot on my plate, and teaching and being a parent is the most important thing to me. This had to be secondary, and I didn’t think I could handle the workload. And she really encouraged me. She said, ‘I had two babies while going through law school, and I made it through, so you can too.’ I found a lot of support in both her and (Associate Dean for Student Affairs) Rosemary Queenan.”

Dunn originally enrolled in Albany Law’s four-year program. She cut one year off that timeline by taking summer courses and earned a joint J.D./M.S. degree from the Alden March Bioethics Institute at Albany Medical College. At Albany Law, Dunn was involved with the Government Law Center, the Elder Law Society and was a co-executive for the student chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA).

“I’m interested in the ethical side of elder care,” she said. “I’m looking into trusts and estates, and organizing elder affairs, particularly where they have older children who are disabled or incapacitated in some way, and they need to care for them. I was hoping to use some of the bioethics skills to work on the ethics boards of nursing homes or smaller regional hospitals that maybe can’t afford to have an in-house ethics team.”

Dunn plans to work with her husband, Gregory T. Dunn, Esq., a solo practitioner in Canajoharie, N.Y., and hopes to use her degree to assist the local elderly population. “I love to work with older people. I think they’re fascinating,” said Dunn, whose story was featured in January on WNYT NewsChannel 13.

“If I’m going to put my energy into working, I want it to be something I love. I want it to be something that still includes my family.”

Operating as a team won’t be new to the Dunn family. Eleven years ago, they moved east from New Mexico and bought a 127-acre farm, a small-scale organic operation that they worked exclusively before Gregory prepared to re-take the bar exam in New York.

“We were both farmers. For years, that was all we did,” Dunn said.

Soon they will both be attorneys. “I think there’s a lot of room in law, in general, for people who have had other life experiences, people who have gone into other businesses or who have started families, or who have experienced some things, and they just want to branch out a little bit,” Dunn said. “I feel like those people have a lot to offer.”
The Albany Law School Latin American Law Students Association (LALSA) hosted its annual Heritage Dinner in November, followed by a panel discussion focused on the diversity of today’s judges.

Panelists were, from left, Hon. William Carter ’91, Hon. Helena Heath, Hon. Karen Peters, and Hon. Richard Rivera ’91
Sabreen Alasiri has a long-term dream: She hopes to earn her law degree, return to Saudi Arabia, and teach law at King Saud University’s School of Law program for women in Riyadh, where she earned her law degree.

The law program in her home country is fairly new for women—she graduated as part of the nation’s second graduating class with 80 other women—subsequently, there are few women lawyers in Saudi Arabia.

Her first year at Albany Law had not been easy. “Understanding the language is sometimes difficult,” she said. “The professors have been great to help me out.” She added that her classmates have also been willing to help.

“American people are so friendly,” she said matter-of-factly. “Everyone is very nice to me. I have experienced no discrimination in the school or in the area.”

To be certain, she has traveled to California, Las Vegas, and numerous times to New York City, where she maintains that everyone has been friendly and helpful. “I feel comfortable here.”

The differences of the two countries are dramatic. The Saudi businesses and schools, for example, separate men and women. Prayer takes place five times a day and is observed by the entire country.

Despite these stark cultural differences, she said adjusting to the United States was not difficult. “Indeed I am happy to be one of the Saudi students who has the chance to complete my education in the U.S.A. I wish all the Saudi students can have the same chance as me.”

Adjusting to American cuisine has been easy for her, given that it’s similar to most Middle Eastern cuisine, which is abundant in the Capital Region. “It favors lamb, rice, and a wide variety of vegetables and spices,” she explained. “When I go to any restaurant here, most people seem aware that Islam prohibits pork, and point out the pork-free dishes before I even mention it,” she said.

As for the winter weather: “Winter is easy here,” she said laughing, “because everywhere you go it is heated.” She laments that she has yet to experience heavy snow.

The journey toward her International LLM started in New Zealand, where she and her husband studied English for a year. There they had a son—8-months-old now—before moving to Albany. Her husband studies computer science at an area college. “We heard from a friend that Albany was a good place, so we looked into it.”

The transition has not been trouble-free. “At the start of the school year I thought I would go home and not return,” she said. “But Dean Mayer and all my professors encouraged me to stay.” Occasionally she brings her son to class, at the suggestion of the professors.

“My son probably recognizes Professor Seita’s voice after sitting through a number of his classes.”

She looks forward to talking to her family everyday through Skype, but makes no secret about her affinity for the U.S. “My experience here has far exceeded my expectations.”

While the anticipation of her first semester grades caused her some anxiety, she turned out pleased with the results. Smiling, she said quietly, “I will achieve my dream.”

Pro Bono President Named a ‘Law Student of the Year’ by National Magazine

Kevin G. Murphy was honored for pro bono leadership as one of the top 25 law students nationwide by The National Jurist magazine.

The National Jurist lauded Albany Law’s Pro Bono Society president for his influence on campus and service to the Capital Region. Murphy logged hundreds of pro bono hours and managed more than 20 student-led projects, including Albany Law’s popular service days. “Needless to say, a great deal of planning and organization goes into these events. Kevin has worked tirelessly to make each of these days a success.”

Pro Bono Coordinator Patrick Barnett-Mulligan said, “From meeting with attorneys to developing workshop programs, to fundraising, to sweating all the tiny details, Kevin has done an outstanding job.”

Murphy was also praised for his work with the International Refugee Assistance Project, an organization dedicated to providing representation to refugees seeking resettlement. He graduated in May with Pro Bono Honors.

Pro Bono Scholars Pass Bar Early, Devote Semester to Public Service

Five students spent the semester in a full public service internship as Pro Bono Scholars. The new statewide program allows third-year students to take the bar in February—which they all did and all passed—and spend the semester outside the classroom gaining experience in the field. The group then presented each of their research papers to the entire faculty. From left: Shawn Delancey, Christoper Savino, Kate Roberts, Nicholas Zapp, and Ryan Williams.
Congressman Gibson Salutes Local Veterans, Volunteers Offer Legal Services at Veterans’ Law Day

This year’s Veterans’ Law Day featured a well-known Capital District service member: U.S. Congressman Chris Gibson, who not only delivered the keynote address, but was generous with his time in meeting the veterans on hand.

The student-led event was again a success with the help of advocacy groups and volunteer attorneys, who provided free legal consultations on various issues affecting local veterans. Benjamin Pomerance ’13 gave a briefing on rights and entitlements available to veterans and their families in New York State, and David Galin ’14 presented on tax issues facing service members.

Turnout Strong for Senior Citizens’ Law Day

For the 21st straight year, Albany Law welcomed local seniors and their caregivers for a day of workshops—covering nearly two dozen topics—and one-on-one consultations. New York State Office for the Aging director Corinda Crossdale delivered the Nancy M. Sills ’76 Memorial Lecture, and later participants heard from Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan ’94, whose luncheon speech was a highlight for the hundreds on hand.

ASSEMBLYMAN O’DONNELL INSPIRES AT LGBT LAW DAY

The law school followed up last year’s inaugural LGBT Law Day with an equally stirring program with keynote speaker Assemblyman Daniel O’Donnell, legislative sponsor of New York’s Marriage Equality Act, who spoke about his experiences as the first openly gay man elected to the state Assembly. Melanie Trimble, Capital Region Chapter Director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, and Albany Law School Professor Stephen Clark were also honored during the October 17 event, which was held to provide free legal assistance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities.
I knew from a young age that I wanted to be an advocate for those who are marginalized or forgotten, and through this experience, I felt strongly that I had found my calling. I entered law school with the intention of working in international adoption law to help secure homes for orphans like those in Honduras. However, a legal education has a tendency to derail one's plans in the best possible way. Through my law school classes and numerous internships and externships during law school, particularly in the Family Violence Litigation Clinic and Immigration Project (FVLC&IP), I developed a passion and dedication for a particularly vulnerable population—immigrants. In my three years as a law student, I heard compelling stories of why immigrants choose to leave their home country and try to make a better life for themselves in our country. I also heard about how immigrants' expectations of our country were shattered as they faced numerous adversities in our legal system and society merely because of the coincidence of their birthplace. By the time I graduated from law school, I knew that I wanted to work as a legal services immigration attorney, providing pro bono legal services that could help to change the life course for those I was able to help. However, I had already accepted a valued and prestigious clerkship at the New York Court of Appeals, and I was very excited to have this opportunity as my first legal job. Working as a Staff Attorney at the New York Court of Appeals during my first year as a practicing attorney was a challenging and rewarding experience. But even from the start, I felt there was a dissonance between the work I was doing and what I felt was my calling as an attorney. While my colleagues enjoyed being exposed to so many areas of the law, I missed working one on one with clients and seeing the direct, positive impact my work was making in the community. While I gained a lot from my experiences at the Court of Appeals, it became clear to me that I needed to change my career focus to something more in line with my personal ideals and goals as a lawyer.

So when I heard about the new Immigration Law Clinic (ILC) developed by Professor Sarah Rogerson, I knew I had to apply for the Clinical Fellowship position. I had worked with Sarah for a year during my time in the FVLC&IP, and I knew she was a phenomenal clinical professor and attorney. But more importantly, I knew that, as the Clinical Fellow, my work would be more focused on an area of law that I felt passionately about and I would have the opportunity to see the difference I was making in my clients' lives. For example, shortly after my tenure as the Fellow began, we received the Lawful Permanent Residence cards (colloquially, green cards) for a boy and a girl for whom I had begun representation as a clinic student. The girl, who was normally shy and soft-spoken, was smiling from ear to ear. When I drove home that day, I could see her face in my mind, and I felt grateful that even when the grind of my job starts to wear on me, I am in a position where I encounter consistent, powerful reminders that my work is making someone else's life better.

After working in the ILC for several months now, I am ever as sure that providing legal services to immigrants fleeing from desperate situations and seeking to improve their lives is the career track I wish to pursue. As only a second-year attorney, I am still working to discover exactly what I hope my career track will entail. I hope to eventually have the opportunity to work on large-scale advocacy projects directed at creating systemic change that would lead to fairer treatment of immigrants and enforcement of immigration laws.
Before the 160 graduates crossed the stage at Albany Law School’s 165th Commencement, Megyn Kelly ’95 told them to say “yes.”

“You’ve got to work,” Kelly said May 20 at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. “My advice to you is to say yes to everything. Young lawyers work hard—at least the good ones do.”

Kelly—host of “The Kelly File” on Fox News Channel and former attorney at the law firms of Bickel & Brewer and Jones Day — credited the law school for her success.

“There is no way I would have achieved what I have achieved without my Albany Law School education and degree,” she said. “Everything I’ve accomplished in my professional life started right here... You have no idea how talented you are.”

The ceremony began with remarks from Board Chair Daniel Nolan ’78 and the national anthem sung by Lindsey Dodd ’16. Afterward, President and Dean Alicia Ouellette told the class, “You have made it through an incredibly rigorous program. You should feel confident about moving into your next stage.”

Dean Ouellette presented David Miranda ’88, the 118th president of the New York State Bar Association, with the Dean’s Medal for his exemplary contributions to the legal profession and the law school community.
“Everything I’ve accomplished in my professional life started right here…You have no idea how talented you are.” —MEGYN KELLY ‘95

Albany Law School recognized three members of the faculty for excellence in the categories of teaching, service, and scholarship. The awards were announced at the law school’s 165th Commencement Ceremony in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Professor Melissa Breger received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching after an outpouring of support from the graduating Class of 2016. Professor Breger was praised for going the extra mile in and out of the classroom, presenting legal principles with notable clarity, and showing a true interest in the welfare and futures of her students. Professor Breger has been teaching at Albany Law School since 2002.

Associate Dean Rosemary Queenan received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Service for her dedication to students, colleagues, and the community. Dean Queenan, in addition to contributing significantly to the success of the student body, volunteered to teach additional courses this past year, and took on a leadership role in the school community in several areas.

Professor Christian Sundquist received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship, in part for helping place issues of racial and economic inequality in an important light through his visions of social justice. As Director of Faculty Research and Scholarship, Professor Sundquist has supported his faculty colleagues in their efforts to engage in their own scholarship.

DEAN QUEENAN, PROFESSORS BREGER AND SUNQUIST HONORED AT COMMENCEMENT

YOU CAN WATCH THE CEREMONY AT WWW.ALBANYLAW.EDU/WEBSTREAM
Inauguration of President & Dean Alicia Ouellette

An inauguration ceremony in September in the DeMatteo Gymnasium marked a new chapter for the law school with the leadership of its 18th President and Dean Alicia Ouellette.

Judge Treece and Barclay Damon Receive Leaders’ Awards

Judge Randolph Treece ’76, former Federal Magistrate Judge, was awarded the Albany Law School Legal Profession Leaders Award in the fall. The firm Barclay Damon also received the award. The evening was co-sponsored by the Capital District Black and Hispanic Bar Association.

School Hosts the Theodore Jones Undergraduate Students of Color Moot Court Competition

Presented by the N.Y. State Bar Association, undergraduate students competed for cash prizes at a day-long moot court competition in April. From left: Serena Joyce White, Hon. Christina Ryba ’01, Hon. Victoria Graffeo ’77, Hon. Randolph Treece ’76, and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94.
Full Court of Appeals Participate in Cooke Symposium

All seven judges of the New York State Court of Appeals attended the 10th Annual Chief Judge Lawrence Cooke State Constitutional Commentary Symposium in the spring, where they talked about individual roles on the court, best strategies for appearing before the court, the process to become a judge, and a host of other topics. The event, also part of the Edward Sobota ’79 Memorial Lecture Series, was presented by the Albany Law Review.

Hon. Robert Smith Presents this Year’s Hugh Jones Lecture

The Honorable Robert S. Smith, Associate Judge (Ret.) of the N.Y. State Court of Appeals delivered this year’s Hugh R. Jones Memorial Lecture, hosted by Albany Law School and The Fund for Modern Courts.

The talk, titled “Thoughts on Being a Judge,” was attended by the Court’s members, and was introduced by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, who has since retired.

Named for former New York State Court of Appeals Associate Judge Hugh R. Jones, the lecture series examines important themes in the justice system.

Prof. Young Delivers the Katz Lecture on Law and Social Reforms around Race and Gender

Albany Law School’s Professor Donna Young delivered her lecture, “Say Her Name: Law Reform and Activism at the Intersection of Race and Gender” for the 2nd Annual Katheryn D. Katz ’70 Memorial Lecture on April 12.

Young looked at the disparity of the justice system, calling for reforms at every level from school suspensions, bail structure to police behavior. She also examined the “corporatization of higher education,” drawing on her experience at the American Association of University Professors, where she worked for a year in 2014-2015.

The Katz Lecture Series focuses on the family law topics that the late Professor Katheryn Katz made central to her teaching, including domestic violence, gender and the law, children and the law, reproductive rights and inequality.
Sen. Mitchell Talks of the Middle East, Northern Ireland, and the Mitchell Report on Drugs in Baseball


In addition to his long and storied career in the U.S. Senate, he has also taken on the task of working to bring peace to the conflict in the Middle East and led the investigation into the use of performance enhancing drugs in baseball that culminated in the release of what has come to be known as the Mitchell Report.

The program was presented by the Government Law Center and the Rockefeller Institute of Government at the State University of New York. Senator Mitchell was introduced by James T. Towne Jr. ‘75, of Towne, Ryan & Partners, P.C.

Government Law Center Presents Three-Part End-of-Life Series

From left, George Giokas, M.D., Community Hospice; Patricia Spreitzer, The Community Hospice of Rensselaer; Sandra Rivera, Esq. ‘02.

The Government Law Center presented a three-part series over three weeks on End-of-Life Care addressing issues such as the medical professionals’ role, the lack of knowledge around hospice and End-of-Life Care, and recent legal and ethical issues.

ALBANY GOVERNMENT LAW REVIEW

Government Law Review Looks at State of Native American Law

The Government Law Review presented Native American Law in the Modern Era, featuring speakers representing a range of Native American nations, as well as Jennifer Hughes ’95, Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, an expert on the topic.
SciTech Journal’s Symposium Explores the Sharing Economy, from Uber to LegalShield

A day-long symposium presented by the Law School’s Journal of Science & Technology looked closely at three different areas of the “Sharing Economy”: the legal profession, the hospitality industry, and ride-sharing.

From left, N.Y. State Assembyman John McDonald; Josh Gold, Uber; Peter Mazer, Metropolitan Taxicab Board general counsel; Michael O’Leary ’07, Vice President, Albany Strategic Advisors Government Affairs, representing Lyft.

Lindsey Dodd ’16, Executive Editor of Symposium
Prof. Ray Brescia moderating a panel
Keri Norris, General Counsel, LegalShield

NAA Session Providing 16 Free CLE Credits—and Lunch—Draws 200 Recent Grads

Approximately 200 recent Albany Law graduates took advantage of a CLE program in November sponsored by the National Alumni Association that allowed graduates from the last five years the opportunity to earn 16 free CLE credits. The event covered a wide range of areas including practice management, depositions, expert witness selection, and special needs estate planning.

Robert Rausch ’94, Maynard, O’Connor, Smith, & Catalinotto
Hon. Peter G. Crumney ’81
The program filled the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom.
Panel Addresses Issues Raised by “Black Lives Matter” Movement

Albany Law School hosted a panel discussion with attorneys, the Albany Police Department, the Citizens’ Police Review Board and the public to discuss police relations with minorities and young adults in the community. The event was sponsored by the Black Law Students Association, and the Latin American Law Students Association.

Professor Melissa Breger hosted a symposium on Domestic Violence that brought together scholars and practitioners to present on the history and current state of knowledge on domestic violence, and suggestions for improving advocacy to end the violence. From left: Judge Jane Pearl (not pictured), Dr. Peter Jaffe, Prof. Breger, Dean Ouellette, Daniel Weitz, Gwen Wright (not pictured), and Judge Margaret T. Walsh.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SYMPOSIUM EXAMINES ITS HISTORY AND CURRENT STATE

Immigrant Children & Family Courts in New York State

Professor Sarah Rogerson led a crowded forum on the challenges New York State faces with immigrant children and its family courts in January. Rogerson, who specializes in immigration with a particular eye on children immigrants, followed the discussion with a CLE.

Honorable Richard Rivera, Albany County Family Court, spoke at the event, along with students involved with the Immigration Law Clinic—James McPartlon, Natalia Faras, and Andrew Matott.

Rogerson, who also directs the Albany Law Clinic & Justice Center, sought to raise awareness of the danger involved in the journey unaccompanied minors take when fleeing their home countries and crossing multiple borders, including the U.S.-Mexico border.
N.Y. State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins gave a rousing keynote to a full Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom at the 22nd Annual Kate Stoneman Day. The Democratic Conference Leader received the Miriam M. Netter ’72 Award. This year’s Stoneman honorees were Heidi Schult Gregory ’93, Harris Beach PLLC; and The Honorable Margaret T. Walsh, Family Court Judge, Albany County, and Acting Supreme Court Justice, Third Judicial District.

The event was dedicated to the memory of the former N.Y.S. Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, who passed away this year. Several speakers shared personal stories about Judge Kaye: The Hon. Michael Garcia ’89, an Associate Judge for the N.Y. State Court of Appeals, who clerked for Judge Kaye after law school; Henry Greenberg, Greenberg Traurig, who also clerked for Judge Kaye; and Dean Ouellette, who clerked for Judge Howard Levine and served as Judge Kaye’s attorney for a state-related case.
ALBANY LAW SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY CONTINUE TO BUILD A COLLABORATIVE AFFILIATION
“CREATING A STRATEGIC ALLIANCE WITH THE UNIVERSITY WAS THE GOAL. IT HAS INSPIRED A WIDE RANGE OF FACULTY ACTIVITY AND CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALBANY LAW STUDENTS THAT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED WITHOUT FORMALIZING OUR AFFILIATION.”

—ALBANY LAW SCHOOL PRESIDENT & DEAN ALICIA OUELLETTE

“THIS AFFILIATION STRENGTHENS BOTH THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY AND ALBANY LAW SCHOOL, PROVIDING TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITIES TO OUR STUDENTS AND FACULTY ACROSS MANY DISCIPLINES.”

—UALBANY PRESIDENT ROBERT J. JONES
Programs in Place

COLLABORATIVE DEGREE PROGRAMS
- JD and MBA
- JD and MA in Public Administration and Policy
- JD and MA in Social Work
- JD and MA in Regional Planning
- JD and MA in History
- JD and MA in Criminal Justice

THE 3+3 ACCELERATED PROGRAM
After three years at UAlbany, a student completes the fourth year as a first-year student at Albany Law. Both degrees completed in six years, rather than seven.

OTHER PROGRAMS INTEGRATE COURSES FROM BOTH SCHOOLS
- Master of Laws (LL.M.) program for Health and Human Rights
- Faculty Collaboration
- Cybersecurity and Law
- Social Entrepreneurship and Law

NATIONALLY KNOWN PROGRAMS OUR STUDENTS CAN ACCESS
- UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy
- UAlbany's School of Business
- UAlbany's School of Criminal Justice
- UAlbany's School of Social Welfare

FAST FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY LAW SCHOOL REMAINS ITS OWN SELF-GOVERNING ENTITY</td>
<td>THE INSTITUTIONS REMAIN FISCALLY INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>THE AFFILIATION HAS NO IMPACT ON TUITION</td>
<td>CURRENT ENDOWED FUNDS STAY WITH ALBANY LAW SCHOOL</td>
<td>ALUMNI GIFTS GO TO ALBANY LAW SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After years of collaboration, Albany Law School and the University at Albany formally affiliated in October 2015. The partnership strengthens both institutions at numerous levels—particularly for students, faculty research and grant prospects—and encourages the exploration of future collaborations.

The move marks the natural next step in a 20-year relationship between the region’s public research university and the nation’s oldest independent law school, which already included an array of collaborative programs.

“The question I’m asked most is what’s next,” said Alicia Quellette, President & Dean of the Law School. “Well, we are enjoying this moment in time, exploring the potential added value we bring to each other. The affiliation itself was the goal. It has inspired a wide range of faculty activity that might not have ever happened without formalizing our affiliation. It has triggered an array of energy and activity at every level and we want to see where this goes.”

Shortly after the affiliation was announced, the schools learned of a shared $1.6 million grant for the International Health Law Project in the Middle East. Weeks later, the schools announced two articulation agreements which created new academic offerings in law, criminal justice, and history.

On the international front, UAlbany has an established infrastructure for recruiting students from around the world. Furthermore, law students from overseas can now tap into the services and supportive environment UAlbany offers, services the Law School’s small size cannot always accommodate.

“The affiliation strengthens both institutions,” said UAlbany President Robert J. Jones. “It has proven to be an extraordinary accomplishment as a model of collaboration and in establishing a powerful academic portfolio for our region.”

More than 25 collaborative projects were developed—driven at the faculty level—since the affiliation began, most triggered by a joint Venture Fund. One example involves students from the Law School and UAlbany’s Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy cross-enrolled in Albany Law’s course, “Law & Social Innovation: Creative Problem Solving.” They worked with Schenectady and Albany city officials to identify legal intervention options and data-driven solutions regarding urban blight. They presented recommendations at the New York State Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting this May.

“This partnership makes both institutions stronger,” said Albany Law School Board of Trustees Chairman Daniel P. Nolan, an alumus of both UAlbany and Albany Law School. “With nearly two dozen collaborative programs in the works, our affiliation will offer unprecedented opportunities for Albany Law and UAlbany students. In addition to expanding academic and research opportunities, the affiliation creates powerful synergies that can help tackle issues critical to our local community and beyond.”

SHARING SPACE
The Center for International Development (CID) moved onto the law school’s campus this summer. The move puts 17 employees from the Center, part of UAlbany’s Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, near the Government Law Center. While the relocation was prompted by available space on the law school campus, administrators expect to discover avenues of collaboration.

THE SHORT-LIST OF RECENT COLLABORATION
The deepened affiliation:

>> Created opportunities for Albany Law School students to enroll in classes offered at UAlbany to supplement and broaden their legal education. These include such areas as public health, cybersecurity, chemistry, tech transfer, and entrepreneurship courses through UAlbany’s Business School, housed in the newly named Massry Center for Business.

>> Enabled UAlbany graduate students to enroll in
Scholarships for SUNY Students

Graduate and undergraduate students who are accepted for admission to Albany Law School are offered a SUNY Legal Fellowship (SLF), which provides $17,000 per year guaranteed funding. Students must apply for, be accepted, and enroll at Albany Law School for fall 2016 to be eligible for this one-time offer. Applicants are also eligible for merit scholarships; recipients of a merit scholarship higher than the Fellowship amount will receive only the merit scholarship.

Institute for Financial Market Regulation

The four-year-old Institute for Financial Market Regulation (IFMR) is a joint effort co-directed by faculty from both the Law School and UAlbany. The shared goal is to develop research and education in financial market regulation with practicing professionals, students and faculty. Activities include seminars in New York City, collaborative curricula, internships and more. Students at both schools can focus their studies on the area.

Students from Albany Law School and UAlbany presented on urban blight at the N.Y. State Conference of Mayors. Here they stand with Schenectady Mayor Gary McCarthy, center, Prof. Ray Brescia, far right, and officials. (Photo by Mary Hunt)

“Along with all these benefits, as publicly engaged institutions,” said Dean Ouellette, “Albany Law School and the University at Albany will provide opportunities to create reciprocal partnerships to tackle what matters most to the community. Through combined research, teaching, and service, we can partner with our communities, from local to global, to address complex societal challenges.”

Kendra Jenkins ’12, a UAlbany graduate who serves as Special Assistant to the Governor, spoke to UAlbany students at an Open House exclusively for them.
GRADS MAKE MARK IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

BY PAUL GRONDAHL

SINCE ITS FOUNDING 165 YEARS AGO, ALBANY LAW SCHOOL HAS ENJOYED THE REPUTATION OF GENERATING LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT. PRELAW MAGAZINE RANKED ALBANY LAW SCHOOL NO. 1 FOR PREPARING STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT.

TODAY, WHILE COUNTLESS GRADUATES WORK IN TOP JOBS IN, OR RELATED TO, NEW YORK STATE GOVERNMENT, A GREAT NUMBER OF THEM HAVE FOUND SUCCESS WORKING IN GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL AS WELL. THE SAMPLE OF STORIES IN THIS ARTICLE INCLUDES A RANGE OF GRADUATES CURRENTLY IN SENIOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS POSITIONS IN INDUSTRIES SUCH AS PHARMACEUTICALS, ENERGY, BIOTECH, EDUCATION, AUTO, MASS TRANSIT, AND MORE. ALONG WITH COVERING A WIDE SWATH OF INDUSTRIES, THEY COVER AN EQUALLY WIDE GEOGRAPHY.

THIS SAMPLE IS A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE DOZENS UPON DOZENS OF KNOWN GRADUATES WHO HAVE MADE THEIR MARK IN LOBBYING, SOME WHO STARTED THEIR CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT, AND OTHERS WHO SET THEIR SIGHTS EARLY ON WORKING FOR A LOBBYING FIRM WHICH OFTEN LED TO IN-HOUSE POSITIONS.

THE STORIES ARE TOO NUMEROUS TO FIT IN ONE MAGAZINE, BUT THE SAMPLE IN THESE PAGES CAPTURES THE BREADTH OF SUCCESS POSSIBLE FROM AN ALBANY LAW SCHOOL EDUCATION.
David Verbraska ’96 traveled to dozens of countries around the world in recent years as part of a herculean effort to achieve what the pharmaceutical industry calls harmonization. As Big Pharma serves a global market, a policy and advocacy push is underway to negotiate regulatory consistency to replace a country-by-country patchwork of requirements on how drugs are registered and developed, how clinical trials are conducted, and new medicines are monitored for safety and efficacy.

“It’s a huge effort to get medicine access standards that are similar and effective around the world, while being sensitive to standards of care, cultural differences and national sovereignty,” said Verbraska, Vice President of Worldwide Policy and Public Affairs at Pfizer in New York City. He’s been with the company for 12 years and oversees a team of 23 people. Recently, he’s focused on “frontier” parts of the world like East Africa, where an emerging middle class can increasingly afford more medicines, despite suboptimal systems of medicine approval and access. He is working with the World Bank, World Health Organization, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others to improve health care in the developing world.

Verbraska graduated from Siena College in 1989 with a B.A. in American Studies. While at Siena, he completed an internship with Lt. Gov. Stan Lundine that led to a job after graduation working in the Office of N.Y. Gov. Mario Cuomo. He worked in the Executive Chamber for six years, collaborating directly with the Governor on speeches and policy positioning on national issues. During this time, he earned an M.A. in public affairs at the University at Albany and began his studies at Albany Law School. He started in 1991, but took a leave of absence to focus on public service. “Gov. Cuomo was truly an inspiration to me and he was one of the most open-minded, thoughtful people I’ve ever known,” said Verbraska, who resumed classes at Albany Law in 1995 and graduated in 1996.

The Cuomo experience helped him land a job at the White House as a staff assistant in the Clinton Administration, where he worked on legislative affairs in the Chief of Staff’s office. “I never really left advocacy in some form. It was always a component of my years in Albany,” he said. He worked as an attorney-lobbyist at Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker, one of the state’s largest lobbying firms, and focused on the Health Care practice in Albany. “At some point, I realized that I wanted to focus on public policy and communications for a single organization whose mission I passionately believed in,” he said. Verbraska shifted gears and worked in Corporate Affairs at Lockheed Martin, Delta Air Lines and Cardinal Health, where he headed up that division. “Despite not formally practicing law, I use the knowledge and skills every day.” Verbraska continued his education with an MBA from Columbia University in 2013.

“In my experience, a company’s legal department focuses more on current rules, potential risk and risk mitigation, while the corporate affairs department focuses on changing the rules in a mutually beneficial way that creates opportunities for the business,” he said. “Working for Gov. Cuomo preconditioned me to want to be more on the policy and advocacy side of that equation.”

At Pfizer, he has been involved in evolving medicines legislation and regulation in countries around the world, including the U.S., Europe, Japan, China and India. For example, he was involved in negotiations related to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that President Obama signed into law and he also helped create a global partnership to prevent misuse of medicine in athletic competitions through expansion of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Verbraska, a member of the Government Law Center’s Advisory Board, returned to campus in recent years to speak at an economic development conference and to participate in a career panel. He told law students: “Be curious and listen, know yourself, differentiate your credentials, and do what you enjoy doing and what you’re passionate about. Consider your career a journey, not a linear progression. I thought I’d be an astronaut and a doctor before I became a lawyer. Eventually, I learned to know what I’m good at, and what I enjoy doing.”
During law school, Nelson Perez was never certain about what he would do with his degree. So he explored a few different paths: he interned at the N.Y. State Attorney General’s Office, clerked for a federal judge, and worked at a law firm. “I thought I would try as much as I could,” Perez said, knowing that, as a first-generation graduate student, he would have to chart his own course.

After law school he worked as committee counsel in the New York State Assembly before joining an international law firm’s New York City office, which closed its U.S. offices only six months later. “I was unemployed and I considered moving back to Albany,” Perez said. “I loved all my years in Albany, which included four years at SUNY Albany, but I wasn’t sure what to do next.”

He landed a job with the New York City Council, where he fell in love with politics and policy. He worked for the Speaker for three years before moving on to work for the New York City Comptroller. Perez left politics after seven years to work for Con Edison, a fortune 500 utility in New York City. As manager of Federal government relations, he split his time between New York City and Washington, D.C.

After a few years there, he realized he had considerable experience in politics. He started to look around, contact people in his network, and explore opportunities. Today, he lives permanently in Washington, D.C., where he serves as Vice President, Federal Government Relations for National Grid, a British utility company with operations in New York, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

“What I like about this line of work,” he said, “is that I have to know every facet of our company, and I need to work with the entire leadership of the organization. Essentially, I want our government affairs activity to be aligned with our business goals so that we are a value center to the company.”

Given that approach, his work centers on three essential areas: infrastructure, taxes, and the environment.

To do this job right, he told “Latino Magazine,” “If I’m coming to you about an issue and we don’t know each other, then it’s too late. I need to be talking with you long before something comes up.”

Perez considers lobbying a non-traditional law career, and acknowledges that a law degree is an advantage, but not required—half the people in the field are lawyers, he says, so the skillset helps. “For starters, there are lawyers in our profession who try to over-leverage their legal skills. I can see this coming, I know where they are coming from, and I say simply, ‘I’m a lawyer, you can’t lawyer me’.”

His Albany Law Experience

Although Albany Law was a smaller institution than he had previously been a part of, Perez found the tight-knit nature of the community rewarding. He has fond memories of playing basketball, happy hours, and night skiing.

Perez became an Albany Law School Trustee on July 1. “It’s an honor. I worry about the future of the profession. I believe that Albany Law has an opportunity to help shape the legal profession into the coming decades. I look forward to being a part of that.”

The number of Latino lawyers is still small, and even smaller in government relations work. “It’s important to me to be a role model. Young students need to have a fully developed understanding of the range of opportunities before them. What can we do to help them achieve that? That’s where I want to help.” He is also pleased that the School is open to further developing a non-traditional track for lawyers, an area he would like to see advance.

Perez resides in northwest D.C. with his wife, also an energy professional, and daughter.
“There’s good news and there’s bad news when it comes to lobbying,” said David Beier ’73, who has distilled four decades of experience as a lobbyist into scholarly articles and an hour-long interview on “Building Government Trust” for The Center for Global Enterprise, which is available on YouTube.

“Do you have a commitment to ethical behavior and do you have the competence to achieve it?” Beier asked in his videotaped discussion. “It’s a linkage between intention and competence. You need a commitment to ethical behavior to maintain a strong reputation. It’s about doing the right thing when no one is looking.”

Beier’s varied career has included half his time in positions inside the government and half outside, stretching from Washington, D.C., to California’s Bay Area. He served as Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee and Chief Domestic Policy Advisor to Vice President Al Gore. He was Senior Vice President at Amgen and Vice President for Government Affairs at Genentech, two of the largest biotechnology companies in the world, where he spent a combined 20 years. In 2013, Beier joined Bay City Capital, a life sciences venture capital firm in San Francisco that has invested $1.3 billion in more than 100 companies worldwide since its founding in 1997.

The good news in Beier’s view is that lobbying, done ethically, tends to deliver sound legislation because of checks and balances between the legislative, executive and judiciary branches. The Colgate University graduate worked for Assembly Speaker Perry Duryea while a student at Albany Law and he’s troubled by the recent high-profile convictions of two of New York’s legislative leaders on public corruption charges. “Are things irretrievably broken in all three branches? The answer is no,” Beier said. “Are there problems? Yes. New York’s judiciary is remarkably strong, though, which is an asset. The executive branch in New York State government and states like California are quite good and generally ethical. They’re run by competent people and the state Legislature tends to attract qualified candidates and it is staffed by people of skill and determination.”

Lobbying and integrity are not mutually exclusive terms in Beier’s estimation. “The attributes of success start with a sense of ethics; tell the truth,” he began. “Be relatively transparent in your dealings, deal fairly, present all the available facts and anticipate the roles of the other stakeholders, including opponents, and offer fact-based arguments that can be verified. If you do all those things, over time you tend to do better than people who cut corners or do not do things correctly.”

Beier also is no apologist for an industry with blemishes on its record. “I defy anyone not to be cynical after they read ‘So Damn Much Money,’ ” an examination of how the boom in political lobbying since the 1970s undermined effective legislation by giving too much power to special interests and discouraged the nation’s best and brightest from serving in public office.

“I am not naïve and realize that literally everyone who is active in public life seeks to influence the outcome, although some people have a louder voice because they have more money,” Beier said.

“The planning process in litigation is akin to lobbying,” he added. “Both require a skill of distilling large amounts of information, getting to the rub of the issue and coming up with creative, accurate, fact-driven arguments in favor of your position, while anticipating what the other side will say and do.”

“YOU NEED A COMMITMENT TO ETHICAL BEHAVIOR TO MAINTAIN A STRONG REPUTATION. IT’S ABOUT DOING THE RIGHT THING WHEN NO ONE IS LOOKING.”
John P. Albert was a history major at the University at Albany, unsure of how he would use the degree, when he landed an internship in the New York State Senate Minority Counsel’s office in his senior year. It stoked his interest in the legislative process, spurred him to enroll at Albany Law School and set him on a course that led to his current position as a lobbyist with Bolton-St. Johns, one of the top five lobbying firms in the state.

“I was able to maintain my connections in the Legislature while I was at Albany Law, which was very important,” said Albert, who worked for a state senator his first year of law school. He also worked at the State University of New York’s central administration in Albany one summer. “I wanted all the experience I could get in the world of government and public policy.”

He took a position at the Victim Services Agency in New York City (now Safe Horizon), the largest victim services non-profit organization in the country. Its staff of 600 provides social services to over 250,000 victims annually of domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault and human trafficking. “It was a very big position for a young lawyer,” said Albert, who was senior director of government relations. He managed all of the agency’s city, state and federal priorities as in-house lobbyist and also managed the retained lobbyists. After running unsuccessfully for the state Assembly as a Democrat in a Queens district, Albert worked in the administration of Michael Bloomberg during his first term as mayor and then was hired as vice president of external relations at the After-School Corporation, a non-profit that helped create the nation’s first citywide system of quality K-12 after-school programs. “It was very gratifying work and gave me a strong grounding in what social service organizations need to succeed,” he said. “People reflexively think lobbying is done in the corridors of power in Albany, but a lot of it is done in the corridors of social service organizations.”

He served as counsel at Manatt, Phelps & Phillips before joining Bolton-St. Johns, where he is based in New York City and focuses on non-profit clients and also advises large corporations. “Being trained as a lawyer helps me on a daily basis in my work,” said Albert, whose work often takes him to the Capitol in Albany, where he meets many other Albany Law alumni. “The rigor of my legal education helped me develop a fine eye in reviewing very complex pieces of legislation, and it provides confidence and credibility no matter what I’m doing.”

He takes great satisfaction in solving problems for clients. “The work my clients do is incredibly important, whether it’s fighting domestic violence or improving youth programming,” he said. “My clients need a voice in government and I offer that to them, as well as serving as a strategic business advisor to their organizations.”

One of Albert’s clients is the United States Tennis Association and he worked on the complex land-use review and permitting process for a $600 million construction project at the U.S. Open tennis facility in Queens which includes Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Albert lives nearby with his wife and two children and could see the construction daily. He’s lived in New York City since he immigrated at age 8 with his family from India. “I have a tremendous feeling of accomplishment watching that steel go up, knowing I played a role in the early stages,” he said.

“THE RIGOR OF MY LEGAL EDUCATION HELPED ME DEVELOP A FINE EYE IN REVIEWING VERY COMPLEX PIECES OF LEGISLATION, AND IT PROVIDES CONFIDENCE AND CREDIBILITY NO MATTER WHAT I’M DOING.”
Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky ’05 has been a lobbyist in Albany for 16 legislative sessions and she has a simple formula for success in her profession. “You have to advocate for something you really care about,” she said. “I advocate for school children, educators and parents in my current position with the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), which is something near and dear to my heart.”

She offered similar advice to Albany Law School students last fall on a panel of attorneys who spoke to first-year students about career options. “If you’re going to go into government relations,” she told the students, “do it for something you love. Your dedication will really come through and that’s an important attribute for a lobbyist.”

After a serious injury precluded her from entering the police academy, she shifted her career goal from police officer to law school after earning a Master’s in criminal justice at the University at Albany. An internship with then Senator James Wright, and working during her time at Albany Law in the Assembly Minority Counsel’s Office, provided her with necessary and relevant experience. She worked on analyzing legislation, researching issues for committee meetings and drafting bills. These experiences helped her land the position of Director of Government Relations with the New York State Catholic Conference. After six years, she moved to the New York State Council of School Superintendents as Assistant Director of Government Relations. And in 2013, she joined NYSUT, where she is one of seven lobbyists who represent more than 60,000 members, including pre-K through post graduate educators, school-related professionals and health care professionals. Belokopitsky focuses on issues that affect students in pre-K through Grade 12.

Even her younger son, a first-grader, understands what his mom does for work. “He tells his classmates, ‘My mommy advocates for schools’ and he understands how it impacts him. He’s proud of what I do,” she said. “There’s nothing more important as a lobbyist and as a mom. I’ve really found a home in education.”

The teachers’ union benefits from her extensive experience as a lobbyist at the state Capitol, where she works alongside aides and legislators that she’s known since she was a law school intern. “Relationships are critical,” she said. “It helps that people know me, especially when I’m at the Capitol up to 18 hours a day in the weeks leading up to the passage of the budget on April 1. Sometimes, I’ve had only time to go home for a couple of hours, shower and change, and then head right back to the Capitol for meetings with members off the floor or with other advocacy groups.”

Contentious education issues, including Common Core standards and concerns over testing, have extended the long hours. “A lot of education issues have come to the forefront lately and I focus on what’s best for kids, teachers and parents,” she said. “I keep trying to move toward the goal line, sometimes in large steps, sometimes in small steps.”

Belokopitsky also has taught courses on criminology and criminal law and procedure for the past decade as an adjunct professor at Hudson Valley Community College, and in education law at The College of Saint Rose. “As a part-time educator, I see how policies affect my students,” she said. “I feel like I make a difference in students’ lives every day. I love what I do.”
Ember Brillhart has crisscrossed the country lobbying on behalf of a major new Honda initiative: to pass legislation in all 50 states that would prohibit sale and installation of counterfeit airbags. Over the past three years, she and two team members have succeeded in getting this law passed in 10 states, while legislation is pending in seven others.

“Counterfeit airbags, airbags made by unauthorized third parties who are not legitimate suppliers to the auto industry without any intention of offering any protection in the event of a crash, are a very big problem that was brought to our attention three years ago by Homeland Security officials,” Brillhart said. “We didn’t think there was a problem until we had airbags tested and found they were counterfeit, coming in mainly from China and being sold over the Internet. We want to ensure that drivers don’t end up with a counterfeit airbag that won’t protect them and likely will injure them.”

In most states there is no law relating to counterfeit airbags and federal counterfeit law only relates to airbags that contain the company logo or trademark. Most new vehicles today have a half dozen or more airbags in the vehicle that can’t be seen. Typically, the only one that has a visible trademark is the one housed on the driver’s side in the steering wheel. Until a federal law is passed, Brillhart’s team is going state by state to pass laws to prevent the manufacture, distribution, sale and importation of these airbags.

Brillhart’s husband, also an Albany Law graduate, understands the demanding travel schedule of the marathon airbag effort. Jeffrey Rosenberg ’95 is a lobbyist who serves as Director of Government Relations for the 190,000-member Amalgamated Transit Union, the largest labor union representing transit and allied workers in the U.S. and Canada.

“He gets it that the schedule is hell until June when many of the state legislatures have recessed for the year,” she said. “But it’s a little less hectic and demanding the other six months compared to being hectic year-round as a partner in a law firm. We’re both accustomed to driving several hours each way for a one-hour meeting on short notice. It’s part of the job.”

The couple balances work demands with raising their two young children, a 9-year-old girl and 6-year-old boy, who are both active in three sports. “We waited until we were older to have children so we were established in our careers and could spend more time with them,” she said. “We may not make as much money as we could make working for big New York City law firms, but we’re happy with our choices.”

Brillhart did not intend to become a lobbyist after completing an internship in the state Assembly while a law student. “When my now-husband was submitting his resume to work in the Legislature in Albany, I said ‘No way am I ever going to do that.’ Famous last words,” she said with a wry chuckle.

During Brillhart’s two years as a lobbyist with the Albany law firm Harter, Secrest & Emery, she lobbied for Chrysler when New York was studying California’s zero-emission vehicle mandate. It helped her get hired by Honda in its Washington, D.C., office. An ambassador for the car maker, she drives a 2016 Honda Pilot and loads it up with her kids’ athletic gear. “I strongly believe in the integrity of this company,” she said. “I frequently say I don’t ever have to second-guess whether I’m going to sleep well at night.”
Just out of law school, Amy Kellogg ’02, a lobbyist who represented the New York State Restaurant Association, found herself in the thick of intense negotiations during the legislative process that led to passage of historic legislation in 2003, the Indoor Clean Air Act. It banned smoking across New York State in workplaces and public spaces, including bars and restaurants.

“The counties had been passing their own smoking bans and there was a patchwork of regulations, which made it very difficult for restaurant owners with restaurants in several counties. The New York State Restaurant Association wanted a uniform statewide ban and that’s what I lobbied for on behalf of my client,” Kellogg said. “That was a major piece of legislation and it felt great to be involved in such a major endeavor.”

Kellogg began her career path as an intern at Harter Secrest & Emery in her second year at Albany Law, got invited back as a summer associate and worked part-time there in her third year. She was hired full-time in 2002 and is now a partner at the Rochester-based firm. She oversees the Albany office and is one of four attorneys who focus solely on government affairs work. Her longtime clients include the New York State Chiropractic Association, the New York State Telecommunications Association, the New York Biotechnology Association and Amalgamated Transit Union, among others. She also represents small organizations, such as the New York Hall of Science, a science museum in Queens.

“I help them look for additional funding so they can expand and grow their science program, which is as important to them as the legislative priorities of large corporations,” she said. “I represent a wide spectrum of organizations because every group needs help communicating their message to the various branches of state government to get their issues aired and their concerns heard.”

Kellogg got her “political bug” during an internship with Assemblywoman Heather Weinstein, a Brooklyn Democrat, in her junior year at SUNY Potsdam, where she majored in politics and economics.

“She was chair of the Judiciary Committee, her office was very busy and I sat in on meetings, saw her speak on the floor and helped with legislation. I began to understand the strong intersection of politics and the law and I was drawn to it,” she said. “Everything clicked that year and I knew what I wanted to do. I’m very happy doing this work.”

“THE NEW YORK STATE RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION WANTED A UNIFORM STATEWIDE [SMOKING] BAN AND THAT’S WHAT I LOBBIED FOR ON BEHALF OF MY CLIENT.”
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Professor Ira Bloom, Justice David Josiah Brewer Distinguished Professor of Law, published the 2015 supplements to his national co-authored casebooks Fundamentals of Trusts and Estates (4th ed. 2012 LexisNexis) and Federal Taxation of Estates, Trusts, and Gifts (4th ed. 2014 LexisNexis). He co-authored a report on a new trust code for N.Y. State that was submitted to the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of NYSBA. The Final Report, which exceeds 300 pages, can be found at www.nysba.org/FinalReport2016. Professor Bloom has also been asked by the executive committee to prepare a report to the Legislature which will recommend legislation to enact a new trust code for New York, specifically new Article 7-A of the EPTL.


Professor Danshera Cords’ review of Nicholas R. Parrillo’s book, Against The Profit Motive: The Salary Revolution In American Government, 1780–1940 (2014), was published in Reviews in American History (2015). Her review was entitled “The Silent Transition from Capitalism to Equality in Government Offices.” She co-authored a short article on the comments submitted by the ABA Tax Section concerning the taxation of

PROFESSOR RAY BRESCIA


PROFESSOR NANCY MAURER,

who directs the Field Placement Clinic, co-edited Learning from Practice: A Text for Experiential Legal Education, a 3rd edition published this year by West Academic Publishing.


Professor Keith Hirokawa was the editor of Environmental Law and Contrasting Ideas of Nature: A Constructivist Approach (Cambridge University Press, paperback edition, 2016). He was the co-editor of Rethinking Sustainability to Meet the Climate Change Challenge (Environmental Law Institute, 2015) (co-editor). A chapter from the book was in the February 2016 issue of the Environmental Law Reporter.


FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Pam Armstrong served as a speaker for the panel “New Developments in Teaching Legal Writing” at the Southeastern Association of Law Schools conference July 2015.


Professor Stephen Clark presented his work on “Conflicts Originalism” during a presentation at Suffolk Law School as a visiting scholar in March.


Professor Christine Chung spoke on a panel for the New York State Bar Association about Municipal Law and Finance.


Professor Andrew Gathii’s article “How the Legal System Has the Potential to Change a Culture of Domestic Violence” at Boston University on March 24, 2016; she presented “Implicit Bias: Making the Invisible Visible” at the law firm Barclay Damon on April 7, 2016. Her lecture was webcast to the firm’s offices nationwide.

Professor Patricia A. Haas’ article “How the Legal System Has the Potential to Change a Culture of Domestic Violence” at Boston University on March 24, 2016; she presented “Implicit Bias: Making the Invisible Visible” at the law firm Barclay Damon on April 7, 2016. Her lecture was webcast to the firm’s offices nationwide.

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Professor Stephen Gottlieb presented on “Democracy and the Judicial Impact on the Distribution of Resources,” at a panel at the International Society of Public Law (ICON-S) 2015 Conference at New York University School of Law in July 2015; he had an hour long conversation with WAMC radio’s Alan Chartock on campus, which was broadcast on February 11; the discussion centered on Prof. Gottlieb’s new book Unfit for Democracy; he discussed his book at the Albany Jewish Community Center in January; he presented “From Democracy to Constitutionalism” at the University of Maryland School of Law in March.

He lectured on the Roberts Court to the Humanities Institute for Lifelong Learning in Delmar, N.Y., in March; he spoke about the Roberts Court at the annual meeting of the Lower Hudson Valley Chapter of the New York Civil Liberties Union; he spoke at the annual meeting of the League of Women Voters of New York State in June; he contributed weekly commentaries heard on WAMC radio’s Northeast Report.

Professor Peter Halewood participated as a panelist on the topic “Austerity, Academic Freedom and Diversity” at the American Association of University Professors Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., in June. He participated in a panel on “The New Lochnerism” at the 2015 LaCritz Conference on “Critical Constitutionalism” in Anaheim in October. He was the lead at the Law School on a $1.6 million USAID grant obtained by the UAlbany Global Institute of Health and Human Rights (GIHHR) to provide human rights training in the Middle East; he was appointed to the Executive Committee of the American Association of Law Schools Section on International Human Rights. He also served on the program committee which selected papers for the Section’s annual panel, “Human Rights and Families,” presented at the Annual Meeting in January. He was voted Treasurer of the Association of American Law Schools Section on International Human Rights in January. He was a guest lecturer on “The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health” at the University of California, Irvine in March; he participated in a panel on the role of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation in the Black Lives Matter movement at Suffolk University in March.

At the Annual New York Court of Claims Judges’ Association Meeting in September 2015, he presented a New York Civil Practice Update at the Annual Oswego/Onondaga County Bar Association Meeting in October 2015; he presented a New York Practice Update to the Suffolk County Bar Association in October 2015; he held an Ethics Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Bankruptcy Bar Association of the Northern District of New York in October 2015; he presented a New York Civil Practice Update to the New York City Managing Attorneys’ and Clerks’ Association in October 2015; he presented on New York Practice to Appellate Division and Supreme Court Justices at the Institute on Complex Commercial Litigation in November 2015.

His work was cited in dozens of cases during 2015. He was a guest speaker before the Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar of the New York State Bar Association in New York City in May. He and Professor Hutter presented developments in New York Evidence and New York Civil Practice at the annual meeting of the 4th Judicial District Federated Bar Association held in Montreal.

Professor Danshera Cords completed her last semester of a two-year visit professorship at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. She delivered a series of lectures at Shanghai University of International Business and Economics. Her lecture series will lead to the publication of an English-language book on Sino-American commercial law for Chinese law schools. She was honored as the Distinguished Foreign Professor for the Shanghai Education Committee.

Professor Anthony Paul Farley presented a talk, entitled “Corporal Punishment,” in September at the Western New England University School of Law. He presented “Lochnerism and the Return to Fear” during LaCritz’s annual conference at the University of California-Irvine School of Law. He co-moderated the panel “Black Childhood and Freedom from Fear” at Duke University School of Law in November; he presented a lecture titled “Against Justice” at the University of California, Irvine, in March; he participated in a panel on the role of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation in the Black Lives Matter movement at Suffolk University in March.
Bar Prep Support

Students were offered a wide range of steady bar exam support throughout both semesters. Popular events included the weekly Bar Prep Lecture Series where faculty presented on different areas of the bar exam each week, and a separate series led by Professor Joe Buffington, Academic and Bar Success Professor.

Professor Robert Heverly ’92 was a speaker at the Judge’s Conference for New York’s Fifth Judicial District on social media and the legal process in September. He finished his term as chair of the Association of American Law School’s Internet and Computer Law Section in January. He convened a panel of scholars and officials that examined the law of data breaches at the AALS’ annual meeting in January. He testified before a NYS Assembly committee on the subject of providing affordable and high quality cable, broadband, and telephone service in January. He delivered a talk entitled “We, Cyborg: Law, Policy and Human Augmentation” as a visiting scholar at Touro College of Law. He presented the same talk at an “Ideas Lunch” at Yale Law School’s Information Society Project.

Professor Michael Hutter made three presentations to the New York State judiciary in July: an update of criminal evidence decisions; an update of tort decisions; and a presentation on N.Y.’s rules governing automobile stops and searches. He presented on the law at a variety of venues since the fall: NY Civil Evidence Update, presented to NY Attorney General’s Office; NY Civil Practice Update, presented to NY Attorney General’s Office.; Insurance Law Update, Nassau County Bar Assoc.; New Directions for the Court of Appeals?, Alliance for Justice; Insurance Law Update, Suffolk County Bar Assoc.; NY Tort Law - New Developments, DRI of Northeast NY; Trying the Serious Injury Claim, New Judges’ Program (OCA); Social Media and Internet Evidence, Support Magistrates’ Program (OCA); and CPLR 2016, Academy of Trial Lawyers, Feb. 3, 2016. He served as a member of the Consultative Group for the ALI Restatement (Third) Torts: Liability for Economic Harm. He served as a member of the Commission on Judicial Nominations, which was involved in the selection of nominees for the position of Chief Judge and Associate Judge, New York Court of Appeals. He served as a member of Governor Cuomo’s Third Department Judicial Screening Committee, which was involved in the selection of candidates for the Appellate Division. He served as a member of the NYSBA CPLR Committee, which reviewed proposed legislation. He presented an Evidence Update for the Albany County Bar Association membership; a New York CPLR Update for Albany Law alumni in New York City; and he participated as a panelist for “Roundtable: How Historians Use Legal Materials & How Lawyers Use Historical Materials,” a program put on by the University at Albany Department of History and Albany Law School. He and Professor Patrick Connors presented developments in New York Evidence and New York Civil Practice at the annual meeting of the 4th Judicial District Federated Bar Association held in Montreal.

Professor Mary Lynch presented “Inclusive Strategic Planning and Faculty Adoption of Learning Outcomes” at the 4th Annual Educational Tomorrow’s Lawyers Conference: Building on the Foundations for Practice in Denver in October. She presented “Mythbusting, Domestic Violence Law and Intimate Partner Violence,” at Siena College in October; the blog she edits, “Best Practices for Legal Education,” again earned a spot in the ABA Journal’s Blawg 100, an annual list of the top blogs for a legal audience. She finished her term as co-president of the Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA); she continues to serve on the executive committee and finished her year of service as co-chair of the AALS Clinical Section Awards Committee.

President & Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94 spoke at the first meeting of the Capital District Women’s Bar Association last summer. She moderated the forum “Women in Trial Law: Challenges, Choices and Change in the Courtroom” at Albany Law.

President & Dean Alicia Ouellette received the Capital District Women’s Bar Association’s Hon. Judith S. Kaye Distinguished Attorney Member Award — the chapter’s highest award given to a member. She was admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court on March 1. She spoke, presented or moderated at numerous events on campus and around the region, some included: Albany Law Reviews fall symposium, “My Religion, My Rules: Examining the Impact of RFRA Laws on Individual Rights” on Oct. 22, “Women on the Move: Navigating a New Path,” a CLE program presented by the New York State Bar Association on Oct. 26, “Death with Dignity” and the Role of Medical Professionals,” part of the Health Law Society’s “End-of-Life Care” series at Albany Law School on Feb. 9, Kate Stoneman Day, March 8 at the law school, dedicated in memory of former N.Y. Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye; the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers forum “Women in Trial Law: Challenges, Choices and Change in the Courtroom” on April 18, and NYSSARC’s Annual Guardianship Training Symposium in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where she moderated the panel “Ethical Considerations for Health Care Decision Making” on June 21. Dean Ouellette also presented on the future of legal education to the University at Albany faculty emeritus.

Professor David Pratt participated in the U.S. Department of Labor’s “Future of Work” symposium in Washington, D.C. on Dec. 10, 2015. He took part in a panel entitled “ERISA And the Code: Can they Catch Up to the Independent Contractor Economy?” at the 2016 Government Invitational Conference in Baltimore, presented by the American Bar Association Joint Committee on Employee Benefits. He was a co-recipient of a Collaborative Venture Fund grant to develop an event series in legal history.

Associate Dean Rosemary Queenan presented “Inclusive Strategic Planning and Faculty Adoption of Learning Outcomes” at the 4th Annual Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers Conference: Building on the Foundations for Practice in Denver in October. She was selected to serve as a member of the AALS Student Services Executive Committee for a two-year term.

Professor Gerald Rock ’94 presented “The Complete Student: Building a Robust and Diverse Portfolio” at the Legal Writing Institute Conference in Chicago in December.

Professor Sarah Rogerson was named to the new Advisory Council on Immigration Issues in Family Court by Chief Administrative Judge Lawrence Marks. She testified in October at the Chief Judge’s Third Department hearing for the task force to expand access to civil legal services in New York. She taught and involved students in a documentary viewing, panel discussion and CLE program entitled, “Immigrant Children & Family Courts in New York State: Challenges and Avenues for Relief” at the law school in January. She presented at the CLE seminar entitled “Emerging Appellate Issues Regarding Special Immigrant...
New York State Legislature in December. She helped organize a Humanities (ASBH) in Houston in October. American Society of Bioethics and the in October. She presented "A Discussion about Objective Causation" at the UAlbany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences for a New York home residents with dementia, including Type O Problem. She presented on nursing Paired Kidney Donation at the Health Law Professors Conference in A Collaborative and Interactive Approach presented "The New Lochnerism" at the Annual Katheryn D. Katz '70 Memorial Lecture, titled "Say Her Name: Law Reform and Activism at the Intersection of Race, Freedom, Freedom of Expression, & Community Responsibility and the Albany Chapter of UUP. She co-organized the 2015-16 series on "Racial Justice: A Transformative Conversation Series" with UAlbany. She was a panelist at the NYS AAUP Spring Conference at Marymount Manhattan College; and at the screening of the film "Peace Officer" in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. She participated in a press conference at the Capitol advocating for the passage of aid-in-dying legislation in February. She presented “Paired Kidney Donation and NEAD Chains: Issues and Solutions” at the University at Albany School of Public Health for a CLE program. Professor Donna Young presented the article "Never Let a Good Crisis Go to Waste: Austerity, Academic Freedom and Diversity in the Legal Academy" at the AAUP annual conference in Washington, D.C. She conducted a number of seminars at the AAUP Summer Institute in 2015. She delivered remarks at the plenary session for the AAUP Summer Institute in July 2015 titled "Roundtable Discussion: The Next 100 Years." She was a panelist at "Bridging the Gap: Police & Community Relations" at Albany Law School in September; she participated in a panel on "The New Lochnerism" at the 2015 LatCrit Conference on "Critical Constitutionalism" in Anaheim in October. She hosted the NYS AAUP Annual Fall meeting at the law school. She was appointed to the AAUP’s “Committee A” on Academic Freedom and Tenure. She spoke about legal issues surrounding criminal justice and court reform at the 45th Annual Legislative Conference of the NYS Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators Caucus. She presented on "The Impact of Pacific Lutheran on Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Governance in Religious Educational Environments" at the Northeast Pennsylvania AAUP Alliance conference at Misericordia University in February. She participated in the "Joint Forum on Academic Freedom," co-sponsored by the University at Albany Senator's Committee on Academic Freedom, Freedom of Expression, & Community Responsibility and the Albany Chapter of UUP. She delivered the 2nd Annual Kathryn D. Katz’70 Memorial Lecture, titled "Say Her Name: Law Reform and Activism at the Intersection of Race and Gender," at Albany Law in April. She co-organized the 2015-16 series on "Racial Justice: A Transformative Conversation Series" with UAlbany. She was a panelist at the NYS AAUP Spring Conference at Marymount Manhattan College; and at the screening of the film "Peace Officer" in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. She participated as a panelist in the forum "New York State and the Importance of Immigration" at the Rockefeller Institute of Government in March.

Professor Christian Sundquist was named Director of Faculty Research and Scholarship at Albany Law School. He moderated the discussion "Bridging the Gap: Police & Community Relations" at Albany Law School in September. He co-organized a panel entitled "The New Lochnerism" at LatCrit’s annual conference in October hosted by the University of California-Irvine School of Law; he delivered a presentation entitled "Lochnerism and the New Racial Bioethics." He was appointed as a member of the Diversity Committee for the Law and Society Association; he presented on The Politics of Difference, at a conference at the University at Albany and Albany Law School in April.

Professor Evelyn Tenenbaum presented "Real World Medicine— A Collaborative and Interactive Approach to Teaching Current Events Health Policy" at the Health Law Professors Conference in St. Louis in June; also there she presented Paired Kidney Donation and the Blood Type O Problem. She presented on nursing home residents with dementia, including those in the LGBTQ community, at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences in October. She presented “A Discussion about Objective Causation” at the UAlbany College of Public Health for a New York State Department of Health CLE program in October. She presented "The Ethics of Paired Kidney Donation and Kidney Chains" at the annual conference of the American Society of Bioethics and the Humanities (ASBH) in Houston in October. She helped organize a Clinical Ethics Conference on Medical Marijuana in November at the law school. She presented "Sex in Nursing Homes" at a CLE for the New York State Legislature in December. She presented ‘Medicine and the Law’ at Albany Medical College in December. She participated in a press conference at the Capitol advocating for the passage of aid-in-dying legislation in February. She presented “Paired Kidney Donation and NEAD Chains: Issues and Solutions” at the University at Albany School of Public Health for a CLE program.

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For a complete list, go to www.albanylaw.edu/faculty

With Open Arms, Albany Law Community Welcomes Prof. Reyhan Back to Campus

After 12 years away from the Capital Region, Professor Patricia Reyhan is back on campus, and she feels like she entered a time warp.

“Everything is different,” Reyhan said. “The most obvious difference is that the road to the law school from Washington Park now has a Starbucks, a Panera Bread, and a Hilton. An upgrade, no doubt, but where do students go without Valentine’s!”

Professor Reyhan taught from 1980 to 2004, before moving to the Midwest—“prairie land”—with her family. “My husband’s health deteriorated and it was time for Allan, Leora and me to be in the same place and that was Springfield, Illinois.”

During her years there, Professor Reyhan continued to write and lecture on legal issues.

Looking back at her time at Albany Law, she noted, smiling, “Dean Ouellette was one of my students. The Board of Trustees is filled with my former students and so many men and women I remember in their early 20s are now filling such amazing positions in the city, state and nation.” As for the faculty: “I knew that the faces had changed a lot and I miss many of my former colleagues but I am so impressed with the Faculty’s current members. They are young, smart and so committed to the School and our students.”

While classroom technology changed significantly during the years of her absence, Professor Reyhan described a subtle shift of campus culture as a result.

“Students can be engaged in legal education without physically being here. You no longer need to be in the library to use the library. So the ‘life’ of the School feels different.”

What changed much more slowly is the law, she added. She currently teaches Business Organization and Legal Methods, noting one change to her syllabus: "LLCs barely existed when I last taught Business Organizations, now there’s a whole body of law around them.” Given her time away from the classroom, she said, “I was every bit as nervous walking into the East Wing in January 2016 as I was in August 1980.”

“Like most of us, what brought me back to the classroom was the students. I’m thrilled to be back with them,” she said. “That is the best part of the job.”

Many alumni may remember Professor Reyhan’s daughter Leora as a little girl running around the halls of the Law School. Today she is a Second Lieutenant in the Army after graduating from West Point in 2015.

—DS
Professors Bonventre, Connors Named Distinguished Professors; Lynch Appointed Kate Stoneman Chair

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL ANNOUNCED THIS YEAR THREE PROFESSORS WHO HAVE BEEN NAMED TO ENDOWED AND DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS.

Prof. Vincent M. Bonventre is the newly appointed Justice Robert H. Jackson Distinguished Professor of Law. An expert on the judicial process, the U.S. Supreme Court and the New York Court of Appeals, as well as criminal law and civil liberties, he serves as a regular commentator and lecturer on these topics. He is the founder and editor of State Constitutional Commentary, founder and director of the Center for Judicial Process, author of On The New York Court: Ideological And Jurisprudential Patterns In The Judges’ Voting And Opinions, and founding editor-in-chief of the Government, Law, & Policy Journal (New York State Bar Association). His blog, “New York Court Watcher,” is devoted to commentary on developments at the Supreme Court, the New York Court of Appeals, and other state supreme courts nationwide.

Prior to joining the law school in 1990, he clerked for Judges Matthew J. Jasen and Stewart F. Hancock Jr. of the New York Court of Appeals, was a U.S. Supreme Court Judicial Fellow, and served in U.S. Army Military Intelligence and the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. Prof. Bonventre holds a J.D. from Brooklyn Law School and a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

The Distinguished Professorship was named for Justice Robert H. Jackson, Class of 1912, who served as U.S. Attorney General, an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials.

Prof. Patrick M. Connors is the newly appointed Albert and Angela Farone Distinguished Professor in New York Civil Practice. He is a leading authority on New York civil practice and a frequent lecturer at continuing legal education seminars across the state. He authors the well-known and heavily cited treatise Siegel’s New York Practice as well as McKinney’s Practice Commentaries for CPLR Article 22, Stay, Motions, Orders and Mandates; CPLR Article 23, Subpoenas, CPLR Oaths and Affirmations; CPLR Article 30, Remedies and Pleadings; and CPLR Article 31: Disclosure. He also writes the New York Practice column in the New York Law Journal and the publication’s annual Court of Appeals Roundup on New York Civil Practice.

He is a member of the Office of Court Administration’s Advisory Committee on Civil Practice, and the New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Professional Ethics. He also chairs the Racing Fan Advisory Council to the New York State Gaming Commission.

He received his bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University and his J.D. from St. John’s Law School, where he was an editor of the law review and research assistant to Professor David D. Siegel.

The Distinguished Professorship was named for Angela Farone and her husband Albert Farone, Class of 1925, a former member of the Albany Law School Board of Trustees and a recipient of the Trustee Gold Medal.

Prof. Mary A. Lynch is the newly appointed Kate Stoneman Chair in Law and Democracy.

She is a nationally recognized expert and author on issues related to legal education and violence against women. She is the director of the Center for Excellence in Law Teaching, editor of the award-winning blog “Best Practices for Legal Education,” and serves on the editorial advisory board for the Journal of Experiential Learning. She is a former co-president of the national Clinical Legal Education Association and has served as an executive member of the Association of American Law Schools’ Clinical Legal Education Section. She is a past recipient of Albany Law School’s Excellence in Teaching award and the Kate Stoneman Special Recognition award for her contributions to the advancement of women in the legal profession. She has also been honored by the local chapter of N.O.W. and Irish America Magazine.

Prior to joining the Albany Law faculty in 1989, Prof. Lynch worked as an appellate and trial attorney in the New York County District Attorney’s office. Currently, as director of Albany Law School’s Domestic Violence Prosecution Hybrid Clinic, she supervises students working in Special Victims Units and domestic violence courts.

She received her Bachelor’s from New York University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School.

The Chair in Law and Democracy was named for Katherine “Kate” Stoneman, who in 1898 became the first woman to graduate from Albany Law School and be admitted to practice law in New York state after petitioning the legislature.
Nine alumni were admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., this spring. The alumni group, which included Dean Ouellette, also heard a case argued before the court which involved questions from all the Justices except Justice Thomas, who happened to make news the day before the group attended by asking his first—and maybe last?—question in a decade.

Following the Supreme Court event, former Governor of Iowa and now U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack ’75 spoke at the alumni luncheon. Secretary Vilsack once again credited his law school experience with his career success. He talked about the pride he had as a lawyer—he makes sure to take his CLE classes every year to ensure his accreditation—and as an Albany Law graduate, claiming the lessons he learned and the law degree he earned made his career possible.
Dear Friends,

I have met with many of you over the last 10 months and have enjoyed learning about your work in different areas, from financial and securities compliance, to town administration, to patent litigation. Consistently, I have heard from you that in addition to technical skills, employers are looking for individuals who take responsibility for their own choices, are self-aware, confident, intellectually curious and take initiative. Our mission in the Career and Professional Development Center is to empower students so they can grow and flourish as professionals who exhibit these traits. By coaching students on how to develop job search abilities, with the help and encouragement of loyal alumni, we are fostering a culture in which students understand the value of taking ownership of their individual career paths and building professional networks that will serve them well throughout their careers.

CAREER EDUCATION

Career education is integral to creating professional choices and opportunities for students, and it begins with exposure to the many options for our graduates. Thus, we have been working hard at bringing alumni to Albany Law School to speak with students about their own career paths. We started out the spring semester with our inaugural “Career Connections – Pathways to Success” program, which brought over 40 alumni from 16 different practice areas to meet and mingle with students. By all accounts, the program was a great success. Our students expressed much gratitude for the opportunity to ask alumni about what they do and how they developed their own career paths, and our alumni enjoyed spending time with our students and sharing words of wisdom. Carrying forth the mission of educating students on different career paths, many of you have joined us for our professional development series: “Lunch with a Practitioner.” Through this series, students have learned about law and cybersecurity, criminal prosecution, criminal defense, health law and compliance, careers in New York State government, and careers with accounting firms, to name just a few. These informal lunches provide students with introductions to practice areas and engaged professionals, as well as serving as a starting point for their own careful analysis. Students consistently express how much they have benefitted from these experiences and are energized by your stories and your successes.

COUNSELING REMAINS CRUCIAL

Career counseling and coaching are equally as important as career education. We have been meeting with each student to develop an individualized results-driven strategy. The effectiveness of such partnering is evident, not only when a student receives a job offer, but perhaps even more so during the counseling process. There is no greater satisfaction than that eureka moment when a student connects the dots from where they have been, to where they are going. Our goal is to make sure students have every available resource to get there.

We will be headed into fall recruiting soon, when large law firms and district attorney offices begin their summer associate and entry level recruiting, respectively. We will hold mock interviews for our students in the summer evenings and welcome alumni who would like to volunteer an hour or more to help our rising 2L and 3L students prepare.

I hope to meet many more of you as I continue to travel and seek insights and opportunities for Albany Law School students and graduates.

Sincerely,

Mary Walsh Fitzpatrick

Assistant Dean

Mary Walsh Fitzpatrick || Assistant Dean
Lunch with a Practitioner

Throughout the year alumni from all sectors joined the students for an informal lunch and conversation.

Speed Mentoring

The Career and Professional Development Center was filled to capacity for the March 2 “speed networking” event, sponsored by the Capital District Women’s Bar Association. Seven alumnae and four CDWBA members were on hand, giving students an opportunity to enhance their communication skills while expanding their knowledge of careers and their professional network.

TEN-MONTH LAW SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR THE CLASS OF 2015
ALUMNI EVENTS

NEW YORK CITY WELCOME RECEPTION FOR RECENT GRADUATES
Union League Club, New York City, October 14, 2015, generously hosted by Trustee Jack Withiam ’72

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK ALUMNI RECEPTION
Sardi’s, January 7, 2016
BAR PASSERS RECEPTION
January 21, 2016

Claudia Meyer '15, Professor Jim Redwood

Sarah Coligan '15 with her mother Pamela Coligan and husband Christopher Parks

Ragan and Zachary Powers '15

NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (NAA)
AT REGIONAL FOOD BANK OF NENY
February 20, 2016

NAA President Patrick Jordan '02 and Director of Alumni Affairs, Tammy Weinman

Megan Rurack '94

NAA volunteers
GREENWICH, CONN., RECEPTION
March 31, 2016

Greenwich Alumni Reception held March 31. Hosted by Trustee Jack Withiam ’74 and his wife Lynda at their home.

ROCHESTER ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR
Good Luck Restaurant, May 5, 2016

Rochester Alumni gathered at Good Luck Restaurant, after a day-long CLE program, which provided eight free credits.

From left, Elie Salamon ’13, Mike Yetter ’14, The Honorable Richard Dollinger ’80, John Forbush ’12, and Jonathan Ferris ’12

Women’s and Men’s Albany Law Rugby Teams played in the Annual Professor William Watkins Memorial Rugby Tournament in April. A group joined Dean Ouellette for a barbecue in the courtyard.

Bridget O’Toole ’11 and her husband, Ryan McDonald ’11
Hunt Makes Partner at Copps DiPaola, Firm Remains Albany Law Alumnae-Only

The family-centered Albany-based firm Copps DiPaola PLLC, comprising all Albany Law alumnae, focuses on issues around adoption, assisted reproductive technology, matrimony, education and more.

From left: Calee Oas ’14 (paralegal), Heather Brondi ’10, Anne Reynolds Copps ’81, Casey Copps DiPaola ’09, Lauren L. Hunt ’09

WHO ARE THEY?

The first five alumni to correctly name any four people, including graduation year, win an Albany Law School gift basket. Submit your answers to Tammy Weinman, Director of Alumni Relations, at twein@albanylaw.edu

LEGACY STUDENTS

SINCE 2000

TOTAL GRADUATES: 3660

OF TOTAL GRADUATES, 251 STUDENTS WERE RELATED TO 362 ALUMNI

STUDENTS HAD:

114 FATHERS WHO ATTENDED
65 COUSINS
58 UNCLEs
35 GRANDFATHERS
26 BROTHERS
24 MOTHERS
19 AUNTS
15 SISTERS
5 GREAT GRANDFATHERS
1 DAUGHTER
The East Foyer (affectionately known as the airport lounge) was transformed into an elegant dining setting.
Future Albany Law Student

Sita Legac-Croune ’10, Andrew Wilson ’10, Laura Van Buren ’10

Hon. Leonard Weiss ’48, Dean Ouellette

Professor Robert Batson ’75, Peter Kopfl ’75

Class of 1965

Class of 1970

Class of 1975

Class of 1985

Class of 2005
CLASS OF 1948
Sol Greenberg has been recognized for his service in World War II and his impact on the community by Albany County Executive Dan McCoy.

CLASS OF 1949
George Locolano has been named to the Auburn Athletic Hall of Fame.

CLASS OF 1954
Peter Pryor was recognized for his service in World War II and his impact on the community by Albany County Executive Dan McCoy.

CLASS OF 1957
Hon. George Ceresia has retired as a Rensselaer (N.Y.) County Supreme Court Judge.

CLASS OF 1968
Bernard McCann was elected interim superintendent of the North Warren County School Board (N.Y.).

CLASS OF 1969
Richard Parsons was named Chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation in New York City.

CLASS OF 1971
Brian Starer had his career as a maritime lawyer covered in the current issue of Trade Winds magazine.

CLASS OF 1973
John Maloney has received the Daniel Mahoney Memorial Award by the Capital District Trial Lawyers Association.

Prof. Frank Schnidman has been awarded the John M. DeGrove Eminent Scholar Chair in Growth, Management and Development at the Florida Atlantic University Center for Urban and Environmental Solutions.

CLASS OF 1974
Patrick Evans retired from his sole practice in Watertown, N.Y.

CLASS OF 1975
James Towne Jr. has been recognized for his work with the Loisaba Community Conservation Foundation.

Secretary of Agriculture Thomas Vilsack has been appointed Chair of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council by President Obama.

CLASS OF 1976
David C. King, retired from the California Supreme Court.

Former Magistrate Judge Randolph Treece has joined the law firm of E. Stewart Jones Hacker Murphy, LLP in Troy, N.Y. as Of Counsel.

CLASS OF 1978
Richard Cassidy has been elected president of the National Law Group.

Nadine Pellegrini has joined the Animal Rescue League of Boston as director of advocacy.

CLASS OF 1979
Lawrence Becker has been appointed to the Citizens Police Review Board in Albany, N.Y.

Richard Clarino has completed 25 years with the Unified Court System as a principal law clerk and 12 years as Newburgh’s Town Justice.

Paul Herrmann retired from his sole practice in Saranac Lake, N.Y.

CLASS OF 1980
William W. Pulos has been named a Worldwide Branding Executive of the Year in Legal Services for his accomplishments in the profession. He has also been recognized by Military Technologies for his dedication, leadership and excellence in practicing law.

Philip L. Burke has been named member of the inaugural U.S. Leadership Committee of Meritas, Inc.

Robert H. Coughlin Jr. has joined Towne, Ryan and Partners in Albany, N.Y.

Andrew J. Turro has been named the 2016 Top Legal Eagle for Labor & Employment in the March 2016 issue of Long Island Pulse Magazine.

CLASS OF 1981
David T. Corretore has been re-elected as Webster (N.Y.) Town Justice.

Hon. Richard W. Sise received the Howard Koreman Award at the Capital Region Judicial Recognition dinner.

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CLASS OF 1982
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Robert A. Stacy has been appointed Director of Human Resources of the Greenwich (Conn.) Public Schools.

CLASS OF 1983
Jeffrey Honeywell has joined Honeywell Law Firm PLLC as managing shareholder.

CLASS OF 1984
Betty Lugo served as the 59th president of the Puerto Rican Bar Association in NYC.

Michael May was named a partner at Levene Gouldin & Thompson LLP in Binghamton, N.Y.

CLASS OF 1985
Paul Clyne has been named to the Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit of N.Y. by Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman.

Elaine Crosson has been named General Counsel at Fordham University.

Denise Lind has retired as a Colonel in the U.S. Army.

Thomas W. Peterson has joined Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner LLC in Glens Falls, N.Y. as counsel.

Hon. Shirley Troutman has been appointed a NYS Supreme Court Judge to the Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial District.

CLASS OF 1986
Arthur Jackman was promoted to Brigadier General by President Obama.

Bambi Moyer has been named a judge for the Riverside (Calif.) County Superior Court.

CLASS OF 1987
Raul A. Tabora Jr. has been elected Chair of the Health Law Section of the New York State Bar Association for 2016.

Hon. Karen B. Wolff was reappointed to the Family Court in Staten Island, N.Y.

CLASS OF 1988
Bonnie Feinzig has been named president of the Putnam County (N.Y.) Bar Association.
Legal Training Serves Well for Ambassador Jenkins ’88

BY JOHN CAHER

She holds a B.A. from Amherst College, a J.D. from Albany Law, an M.A. from University at Albany, an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center, and a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Virginia.

For the past seven years, Bonnie Jenkins ’88, has served as President Obama’s Ambassador, Special Envoy and Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation.

In that role, she coordinates chemical, biological, nuclear and radiological security, works closely with international partners in fostering global security, serves as the U.S. Representative to the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and is engaged in the Global Health Security Agenda, a multi-sectoral initiative dedicated to reducing the global threat of infectious disease.

While Jenkins has made her career, and mark, in areas of international law, when she attended law school in the mid-1980s, she said there was only one course on the subject, and not yet knowing the area of law she was interested in, she did not enroll in that course. Rather, she focused on her aim in enrolling in the first place—learning to think like and analyze like a lawyer.

“I knew I wanted to work in government and that goal has remained to this day. Beyond that, I wanted to understand how to perform legal research, learn about the law, and find legal solutions to legal problems,” Jenkins said. “Albany Law School definitely prepared me.”

Jenkins journey through Albany began in the Bronx when the restless child of a store manager and daycare worker was taught the value of education and, at an early age, fell in love with learning.

That passion has resulted in a bachelor’s degree from Amherst College, a J.D. from Albany Law, a master’s degree from University at Albany in public administration, an LL.M. from Georgetown University Law Center and a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Virginia. Jenkins earned all but the bachelor’s degree while simultaneously serving as a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Naval Reserve.

Along the way, she was a fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, attended the Hague Academy for International Law, taught as an adjunct professor at Georgetown, served as counsel to the 9-11 Commission, taught arms control at Stanford University, did a summer internship with the RAND Corporation on Middle East weapons of mass destruction, and held various positions in government.

Jenkins was attracted to Albany for a number of reasons, including an impressive bar passage rate. She wanted to go to a small school in a capital city, and was able to simultaneously work on her law and master’s degrees. When she left Albany, Jenkins went to Washington, D.C., to work for the federal government. She had been awarded a fellowship at the U.S. Department of Defense, and that was the start of an eye-opening career in the federal government and in combatting weapons of mass destruction proliferation.

“I have learned it is possible for nations that do not necessarily get along on a lot of issues to find grounds of mutual interest,” Jenkins said. “It is not always easy, but there are ways countries can work on common goals. It just takes a lot of openness, basic trust, and a commitment to finding solutions to global problems.”

“A lot of my footsteps were not planned,” Jenkins said. “My advice: Keep your eyes open for opportunities. Follow your passion, and see the bigger picture. There are lots of ways to use a law degree.”

David P. Miranda served a one-year term as president of the New York State Bar Association.

Patricia Salkin has been named Provost for the Graduate and Professional Division at Touro College.

Hon. Daniel Stewart has been appointed Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District Court in the Northern District of New York.

Hon. Theresa B. Whelan has been appointed Suffolk County (N.Y.) Family Court Judge.

CLASS OF 1990

Nicole M. Duve has been appointed principal law clerk for St. Lawrence County Judge Jerome J. Richards.

Hon. Elizabeth A. Garry received the Felix A. Aulisi Award at the Capital Region Judicial Recognition dinner.

Hon. Michael Garcia was appointed to the N.Y. State Court of Appeals.

John Higgins has joined Jackson Lewis as a shareholder.

CLASS OF 1991

Denise Gonick received the Excellence in Management Award from the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber.

Follow your passion, and see the bigger picture. There are lots of ways to use a law degree.”
From Clerk to Judge, Garcia Comes Full Circle to the Court of Appeals

Garcia likes to tell the tongue-in-cheek story about Judge Kaye letting him know years later that she had no intention of hiring him but felt she had to because Prof. Siegel kept calling her.

The Hon. Michael Garcia ’89, the most recently appointed N.Y. State Court of Appeals judge, has held a number of high-profile, high-stakes jobs at both the state and federal levels. The arc of his career, which brings him back to where he started 25 years ago as a clerk for Chief Judge Judith Kaye, equips him with a unique blend of distinctly different experiences from his colleagues.

“I feel like all the work I have done to this point has helped me to prepare for this role,” he said. “You can’t make a plan for a career path like this. You have to be open to opportunity, you have to work hard, and you have to be willing to make a leap. But I’m not going to say this was a plan. I will say I have had good fortune to have worked with the very talented people I’ve encountered over the years.”

His first highly visible position was Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Southern District of New York, where he successfully prosecuted a series of well-reported terrorism trials, most notably the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. After nine years there, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement, and then Assistant Secretary of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the newly-created Department of Homeland Security.

“Managing an agency of 20,000 people across the globe, you had to react to events often instantly, and in rapid succession,” he recalled. “You learn you have to let others manage at the various levels of the organization. It is frustrating at times when you feel that you can only react. But it was also a time to be creative in launching new programs and new initiatives.”

He likened his next post as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York to running a law firm. “There is a lot at stake in every decision,” he noted.

“In law school I did not know the kind of lawyer I wanted to be,” Garcia said. Valedictorian of his class, he went to Cahill Gordon & Reindel directly after law school. “I mentioned to Professor David Siegel before I graduated that I was interested in clerking. Somehow he remembered that and made a call to Judge Kaye on my behalf.”

Garcia likes to tell the tongue-in-cheek story about Judge Kaye letting him know years later that she had no intention of hiring him but felt she had to because Prof. Siegel kept calling her. “Prof. Siegel changed my life. I learned from that, and try to make that effort for people when I have the opportunity.”

In some ways Garcia has come full circle, starting shortly after law school as clerk to Chief Judge Kaye. And he has traced the lineage of his specific seat on the court back to Judge Kaye. “I am filling the seat of Judge Susan Read, who filled the seat of Judge Howard Levine, who succeeded Judge Kaye when she became Chief. Big shoes to fill.”

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Russell C. Hochman has been appointed Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary for Harsco Corporation in Camp Hill, Penn.

CLASS OF 1992

Kevin Walker retired from the U.S. Army and continues to work for the FBI in Washington, D.C.

CLASS OF 1995

Lee A. Palmateer has been recognized for his dedication, leadership and excellence in law by the Worldwide Registry.
Scott Reynolds has joined Chaffetz Lindsey in New York City as a partner.

CLASS OF 1996

Robert L. Capers has been confirmed as United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York.
Stephanie W. Ferradino has joined Tuczinski, Cavalier & Gilchrist P.C. as principal attorney.
Peter Lauricella has been appointed Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary at Harsco Corporation in Camp Hill, Penn.

CLASS OF 1997

Brett Preston has been appointed City Court Judge for the City of Johnston, N.Y.

CLASS OF 1998

Kevin Hickey has been appointed Special Counsel to the Commissioner for Ethics, Risk and Compliance at the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance for the state of New York.
Theresa Russo has opened the government relations firm of Shenker Russo & Clark LLP.

CLASS OF 1999

Letizia Tagliafierro has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Criminal Investigations Division of the NYS Department of Tax and Finance.
Howard Vargas has been appointed Executive Counsel to the New York State Assembly Speaker, Carl E. Heastie.

Magoon '07 Finds the Right Chemistry in Singapore

BY BOB SCHALIT

Primarily our work involves helping startups and early stage companies with legal support for doing business in Singapore and representation on venture capital financing.

In February 2016 Tania Magoon '07 joined Collyer Law in Singapore as Senior Associate, a boutique law firm focused on advising high growth startups and entrepreneurs in Singapore and the South Asian markets.

Magoon focuses on advising clients on various corporate and commercial matters, including complex contractual arrangements, corporate governance, intellectual property law, technology transactions, and various commercial law matters.

"Primarily our work involves helping startups and early stage companies with legal support for doing business in Singapore and representation on venture capital financing," Magoon said. This can range from fintech to healthcare, publishing to e-commerce.

Before joining Collyer Law, she had been a litigation attorney with DLA Piper in the greater Seattle area, and prior to that, a litigation associate with Morrison & Foerster LLP in New York City.

Magoon's background is in chemistry and the classics. She received her M.A. in organic chemistry from Harvard in 2004 and her BS and BA in classics and chemistry from Union College in 2001.

She was salutatorian of both her Union and Albany Law School classes, graduating summa cum laude and receiving many academic honors from both institutions.

"I first considered law school when I was in graduate school at Harvard for chemistry. While I enjoyed science, I found that doing a Ph.D. was a bit confining. I enjoyed learning different things at the same time, and became intrigued by law when the chemistry department's alumni-turned-lawyers commented that they learned more about science being lawyers than being scientists. I then connected with a Union classmate who was at Harvard Law School, sat in on a class with her, and found the discussion very refreshing. So I decided to give law a try," she said.

A native of Pittsfield, Mass., she selected Albany Law School because she had done her undergraduate work at Union College and her sister attended Albany Medical College. "I liked that the school had a low student to faculty ratio and that you could get personal attention from the professors. Some faculty were also quite well known in their field. David Siegel literally wrote the book on New York practice. They also offered a very good scholarship, for which I will always be grateful."

At Albany Law School, she was senior editor of the Albany Law Review and received many academic honors including the Frank M. Patterson Prize for highest standing in Contracts and Dean's List for every semester. She credits the school and its professors gave me a solid foundation for practicing law. Though I know it's outdated, and my edition is more than well-worn, I still hang on to Professor Siegel's New York Practice book. Attorneys at my two prior firms would borrow it as a starting point on some issues. It's on my bookshelf, here in Singapore."

Magoon said she actually happened across Collyer Law by luck. "It's a bit difficult to break into the Asian legal market if you don't practice corporate law and don't have experience in Southeast Asia. So I networked hard and was eventually introduced to Azmul Haque, who had just launched the firm. It was a change for me since now I'm primarily doing corporate work instead of litigation. But the team's energy and the clients' businesses make for an interesting and fulfilling practice."

Magoon lives in Singapore with her husband Sanjiv Venkatram, who works for Microsoft, and their 2½-year-old son Rohan.

"Singapore's fantastic. It is extremely expensive, but the quality of life is amazing, especially for families. Singapore has lots of activities for children, including museums, zoos, a fantastic aquarium, beautiful and accessible libraries, and cultural activities and schools, so each weekend we try to do something different. And the variety of food is incredible. The expat community is also quite strong, and I've made many friendships here. We hope to live here for many years."
Dan Grossman ’78 first met Michael Bloomberg nearly 35 years ago. At the time, Dan was working as a young tax associate at Webster & Sheffield after a two-year federal court clerkship at the U.S. Tax Court.

“Mike had a vision—a vision of an electronic financial information service which he believed the institutional financial services marketplace needed,” Dan recalled. “He described his vision for a service that didn’t exist.”

“I wrote everything down in my notebook since as a young lawyer it was expected that I would keep notes of the meeting.

“The vision he described that day would quickly become the Bloomberg Professional Service, an invaluable source of financial data, technical analysis, news and communication for financial service professionals. I often wish I had saved that notebook.

“He had four employees in his company when we met for the first time in 1981.”

Mayor John Lindsay was a partner there. He had been my hero growing up.”

After four years with Webster, Dan and Dick moved to Finley, Kumble, Wagner in 1984, taking Bloomberg with them. In 1987, they moved on to Willkie Farr & Gallagher, where they stayed for 25 years.

“When we started at Willkie, Bloomberg was a relatively modest client,” Dan explained. “Eventually they became Willkie’s largest client and I was pretty much spending all my time on their matters across every legal discipline. I stopped being a ‘tax’ lawyer early on, developing into a lawyer with significant skills in corporate finance, securities regulatory, privacy, telecommunications, technology and intellectual property—all necessary to represent a growing and vibrant client like Bloomberg.

I always anticipated that at some point, Mike would decide that it would be time to build out a world class global in-house legal group managing most legal disciplines and that he would ask us to lead that effort. I just never knew when.”

When that time eventually came in 2011, Dick and Dan strategically choreographed a move to shift 19 lawyers from Willkie to Bloomberg at the beginning of 2012. “It was an interesting time, to say the least,” Dan said, noting that a move of such a magnitude from a law firm to in-house was unusual in New York. “We continue to have good relations with Willkie and they still do some work for Bloomberg, but of course their role has been dramatically reduced to a typical outside law firm relationship.”

Life at Bloomberg

Over the past four years, the Legal Group at Bloomberg, which also includes the Compliance and Negotiations Team, has grown to over 150 professionals. Dan oversees the lawyers in the securities regulatory, privacy and data security and corporate and international structure teams and the compliance group for the Company. “It has been an amazing experience growing out the team in New York and around the globe and continuing to do in-house what Dick and I did outside for all of those years.”

After a career in outside legal practice that historically has valued office space for privacy and status, Dan and his colleagues had to adjust quickly to the open floor plan at Bloomberg. Luckily for Dan and the rest of his colleagues, the adjustment was relatively painless. “Desks are grouped in ‘sticks’, each stick is 10 desks,” he said. “We are all very close to each other and I’ve come to appreciate it and enjoy it. It allows for fluid and constant communication. No one has offices,” explained Dan, “not even Mike.”

The Journey

For Dan, the journey started with Professor Harold Dubroff, who he worked for during his junior and senior years as a member of the Law Review, assisting Dubroff on his book about Tax Court practice and procedure. Dan recalled, “At the orientation for Law Review at the start of my junior year, a senior member of the review asked for a volunteer to

Grossman Started Working with Bloomberg When the Company Was an Idea on a Napkin

Grossman speaking this spring at an open house for UAlbany students
Albany Law graduates are always hungry to succeed, I would tell the partners. And the ones we hired always proved me right.”

work as Dubroff’s research assistant on a book and said that Dubroff would provide legal article credit and potentially help to get interview access to the U.S. Tax Court if you did a good job for him. Luckily for me, no one else raised their hands to volunteer!

Dan met his wife Patrice in 1975, while at University at Albany, and married the following year. Together they moved to D.C. for two years from 1978 to 1980, before returning to New York. “Patrice supported me through law school for which I have always been grateful. She loved discussing all of the case law that I briefed every day in my freshman year. To this day she can cite chapter and verse from Palsgraf.”

After moving to New York City and while working at his first firm, Prof. Dubroff asked Dan in 1983 to consider joining a firm in Albany. Dan spent a day visiting Albany and exploring the firm, including a dinner with the professor and partner of the firm. “I had spent seven great years in Albany. I was intrigued by the possibility of returning to Albany, but I didn’t think the firm was a good match for me.”

Dan has two daughters, one of whom works in the non-profit sector, and one who is an attorney. “She chose a law school closer to home instead of going to Albany,” Dan said, recalling the conversation with his daughter. “She knows how much I love Albany Law so she felt badly that we would never be featured in a legacy article. It was very sweet of her but of course I told her that everyone has to make their own path and while Albany was totally the right path for me, she had to go with her own instinct and judgment. I told her I would survive not having a legacy article.”

Dan has been a loyal and generous alumnus to Albany Law School. In his early years at Willkie he would travel to Albany Law to recruit graduates. “Albany Law graduates are always hungry to succeed, I would tell the partners. And the ones we hired always proved me right.”

“Albany Law will always have a warm spot in my heart. Everything was here for me, the school encouraged me to do everything and gave me an incredible foundation.”

While Dan, a Trustee of the Law School, still cherishes the familiar environment of the small school, he simultaneously supports strongly the affiliation with University at Albany. “The affiliation keeps the personal, friendly environment, but enhances the experience with an infinite universe of programs and opportunities. I am very enthusiastic about the affiliation and think it will be wonderful for both institutions.”

Looking back on his career, and noting he hasn’t had to prepare a resume in 37 years, he credits his education, his determination, and perhaps more than just a little bit of luck. “Michael Bloomberg has been very loyal to Dick and me. How many people can look back at their career and know that they have represented a person who requires the level of integrity that he requires and demands that everything is done with excellence and value. I am very fortunate that I was there when he walked through the door.” —DS
Daughter of Laundromat Owners, Chung Moved from Federal Clerkship, Law Firms, to Time Inc.

“I love being involved in a company with such a wide footprint, impacting so many millions of people at any given time with its content and mission.”

Even as a champion debater in high school, Jennifer Chung ’01 found the prospect of advocating in public impossibly intimidating — an obvious problem for a prospective lawyer in her first year at law school, and a special challenge for an Asian female.

“I didn’t think I had the poise or confidence to do anything that required speaking in front of a group of people, so anything requiring oral advocacy was unthinkable,” said Chung, assistant general counsel at Time Inc. “That meant I had eliminated about two-thirds of potential professional opportunities before I even started the job hunt.”

But in her second year, Chung found herself in the Gabrielli Appellate Advocacy Competition with Anthony Rossi ’01.

“Up there at the podium, faced with questions from three strangers, it suddenly felt real,” recalled Chung, who then spent her 2L summer working in the Manhattan District Attorney’s office. “I was advocating for my client with my co-counsel. I had a case to win. All the anxiety and fears melted away in that moment, and I just spoke.”

Chung has been speaking out, and being heard, ever since.

The daughter of hard-working, education-focused Korean immigrants who grew up in the coin laundromat her parents owned in Queens, Chung came to Albany with degrees in chemistry and Asian studies from Cornell, and left with a cum laude law degree and the confidence to begin professional life. She clerked for Southern District U.S. Magistrate Judge Gabriel W. Gorenstein in 2001, spent a formative three years with the Appeals Bureau at the Manhattan DA’s office before working for several firms and as assistant counsel with the N.Y.S. Department of Economic Development, before landing at Time Inc.

Along the way she has encountered more than her share of ethnic bias and noted that Asians remain under-represented in the upper echelons of the profession. There has never been a judge of Asian descent on the New York Court of Appeals or the U.S. Supreme Court.

“I’ve been asked way too many times whether I can speak English — I can — where I’m ‘really’ from, and a few other things too scandalous to speak of,” Chung said, reflecting a bit of the grit she inherited from a very influential grandfather who was born in the Manhattan District Attorney’s office. “That meant I had eliminated about two-thirds of potential professional opportunities before I even started the job hunt.”

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The daughter of hard-working, education-focused Korean immigrants who grew up in the coin laundromat her parents owned in Queens, Chung came to Albany with degrees in chemistry and Asian studies from Cornell, and left
Jacquelyn Poulos White has been named principal at Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner LLC.

CLASS OF 2009

Brett Blair has joined Ayco, a Goldman Sachs Company, in Albany, N.Y.

Adam Conway has been named partner at Couch White LLP.

Lauren L. Hunt has joined Copps Dipaola, PLLC as a partner.

Erin K. Komon has joined Stanclift, Ludemann, Silvestri & McMorris as an attorney.

Robert Magee has joined the City of Albany’s Department of Buildings and Regulatory Compliance as its Director of Codes.

Robert Vanderbles has been promoted to Senior Attorney at the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY in Albany.

CLASS OF 2010

Patrick Harkins is Assistant Vice President and Senior Counsel at J.P. Morgan.

Peter Mancuso has received the Municipal Affairs Award from the New York City Bar Association.

Mitchell Pawluk has been named an Albany 40 Under 40 Star by City and State Magazine.

Edward Rao has joined Wiesner Law Firm as an associate attorney.

James L. Riotto received the Martindale-Hubbell client distinction award for criminal defense.

David Rozen was named an Albany 40 Under 40 Star by City and State Magazine.

CLASS OF 2011

Luke Malamood was named partner at DeGraff, Foy & Kunz, LLP in Albany.

Carl Mills III has been named an Albany 40 Under 40 Star by City and State Magazine.

Capers Serving as U.S. Attorney for New York’s Eastern District

“I know for a fact that preparation put me light years ahead of the people I competed with for my first job as an assistant DA.”

With his hand on the Bible and reciting the oath for the office of United States Attorney, Robert L. Capers ’96 recalled his parents’ mantra: “Never let anyone tell you that you can’t do something.”

There was, the son of a detective and a school teacher, living his dream as his parents, brother, sister, wife, and two young children stood by.

“My parents were self-made people, Capers recalled. “They believed in hard work. They believed in thinking before you act because every action has a reaction.”

Capers’ parents were born in the rural south. His mother went to college, earning an undergraduate degree in education and a master’s in guidance counseling. His father served in the Marines and became a noted New York City homicide detective—along the way picking up a bachelor’s in criminal justice and a master’s in public administration. Theirs was a “no excuses” household built on a foundation of accountability.

“He wasn’t a strict authoritarian, but he was firm. We learned to think before we did something because we knew there would be consequences.”

For years, Capers intended to follow his dad into law enforcement—as did his twin brother. That was the plan when he majored in political science at New York University, and that was the plan when he accepted a diversity scholarship to Albany Law School.

But by the time Capers graduated, the FBI—where he hoped to work—had a hiring freeze. With crucial training at the FBI—where he hoped to work—had a hiring freeze. With crucial training through a trial advocacy course taught by Adjunct Prof. Randolph F. Treece ’76, and a clinical program through which he spent four semesters working in the Northern District U.S. Attorney’s Office in Albany, Capers was able to land a job as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan.

“Prof. Treece gave me my first taste of trial law, and frankly after taking that course, things really took off for me,” Capers said.

Since childhood, Capers had been a passionate basketball player, and was co-captain of the NYU team. In a court of law, he found the same adrenaline rush, the same competitive drive that he had on the basketball court.

With Prof. Treece’s preparation, and Prof. Dale Moore’s encouragement to follow his passions, Capers ended up a career prosecutor. He held several positions in the Manhattan DA’s office before becoming an assistant U.S. attorney in 2003 and was chief of the narcotics section and the international narcotics strike force.

“I got the best education I could have asked for,” Capers said. “I passed the bar on the first try. I was armed with all the experience one could get through my trial advocacy course and the clinical program with the U.S. Attorney’s office. I know for a fact that preparation put me light years ahead of the people I competed with for my first job as an assistant DA.”

Capers’ children hear the same message from him that he heard from his parents, often followed by his favorite Martin Luther King quote: “The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

—JC
Early on Hess Set Sights on Law School and Company President

BY MICHAEL HOCHANADEL

“I knew from the time I was seven years old that I wanted to be a lawyer,” said Jodi Hess ’09.

So, how did she also become president of Digital X-Press, an Albany printing, mailing and marketing company? It’s a tale of two Albany Law School graduates and of torches passed across generations.

The late Gary Lombardi ’72 was a friend of Hess’ father, Jack McGrath, and an early investor in Digital X-Press. “I very much respected and admired him,” said Hess. She said Lombardi encouraged her to run the company her father had founded, though she should first graduate from Albany Law School herself.

Lombardi graduated from Siena College cum laude in 1968 before entering Albany Law School. Lombardi became principal and co-president of Lombardi, Walsh, Wakeman, Harrison, Amodeo and Davenport, successor to Lombardi, Reinhard, Walsh and Harrison, which his father Louis founded in 1956.

A Cohoes native and graduate of Cohoes High School, Hess graduated from the University of Buffalo with a B.A. in political science and minor in business administration.

“I always knew I wanted to be an attorney, but I also desired to run my dad’s company one day,” Hess recalled. But she had doubts. “I never thought I could do both.” Encouraged by Lombardi and her father, “We discussed a path for when I completed law school that led me to being the president of the company today.”

She saw that path clearly early on. At Cohoes High School, Hess was accepted into the New Visions: Law and Government Program, and at the University of Buffalo, she served as a judge on the student court and chief judge in senior year. Taking a year off before law school, she worked in a Washington, D.C., intellectual property law firm, drafting patent applications.

“I was interested in general practice but also knew, in the back of my mind, that I was still interested in the business world,” said Hess.

While at Albany Law School, she worked at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and interned for New York State Supreme Court Justice Joseph Teresi, now retired.

“I particularly enjoyed classes with Professors Vincent Bonventre, David Pratt, and Norman Deutsch,” Hess recalled. “Each of them had a different style of teaching. But, they always challenged students, which encouraged us to work harder and get the most out of class.”

After graduation and passing the bar, Hess began apprenticing at Digital X-Press. She said, “I began to learn about all aspects of the business.” Today, Digital X-Press employs 76 full-time and six part-time employees. The company serves retail and service companies, non-profit organizations, schools and universities. “We have a creative department that handles graphic and web design, along with copywriting, branding, and advertising,” Hess explained. “Our printing department features offset, digital, and large format printing, and produces printed pieces such as newsletters, business cards, postcards and outdoor signs. We also have a full service mail shop and an in-house U.S. Post Office for mail processing.”

As president of Digital X-Press, “I’m involved in a wide range of things: from customer relations to assessing equipment needs to mergers to human resource issues,” said Hess, adding that the hours are long and she’s constantly available by cellphone and email.

However, she also manages to balance work with family time with her commercial pilot husband and young daughter. “During the summer after my first year of law school, I began taking flying lessons at Richmond Aviation,” said Hess. “My instructor was Ryan Hess, who I ended up dating and then marrying in 2013.”

They welcomed daughter Amelia Virginia last November.

Hess remains close to numerous classmates, through social media and shared life events. “I met one of my best friends and favorite people, Vorzel Jones, at Albany Law School and still talk to him regularly,” said Hess. “I also met Rebekah (Mairs) Staats in law school and became quick friends with her. She is an incredible person and also one of my best friends.”

She was encouraged to run the company her father had founded, though she should first graduate from Albany Law School.
Trustee Thuillez ’72 Volunteers for Humanitarian Flights for Those in Need

Dale Thuillez ’72 routinely flies his plane to transport medical patients, wounded soldiers and their families. He has done well over 150 of these flights over the last nine years. Patients have ranged from two-year-old children to the elderly. They have involved lung transplants, kidney transplants, burn patients, cancer patients and just about any other malady that requires treatment in the major medical centers of the northeast United States. Soldiers, particularly from Ft. Drum in Watertown, N.Y., and their spouses have been transported to Washington, D.C., for treatment at Walter Reed Medical Center or to Martha’s Vineyard for a week of rest and relaxation, thanks to the sea captains who sponsor a fishing competition for them. Mostly double and multiple amputees, these men and women find hope for their recovery when engaged in normal activities together.

Thuillez recalls a medical mission one week after the earthquake in Haiti. Within a couple of days, a national charity had begun arranging for doctors and supplies to be flown into Haiti, and to line up pilots and their aircraft to do that job. Upon arrival in Fort Lauderdale, a pilot who had just returned from Haiti described to Thuillez a chaotic scene at a remote airfield where crowds rushed his plane before his props stopped spinning. They grabbed at anything they could reach in his plane.

“Thankfully I had someone with me. We loaded up my plane with three doctors and various medical supplies, baby formula and water,” Thuillez said. “My plane, a Pilatus PC-12, was particularly suited for this type of mission because it can fly a long distance with a heavy load. We flew non-stop to Jacmel, Haiti. Coming from the north we could see numerous ships filling the harbor at Port-au-Prince.”

He remembers flying south over 12,000-foot mountains and circling down towards a small asphalt strip tucked in between the mountains and the nearby ocean. The UN had brought in troops to control the crowds and provide some security. The earthquake had closed all roads from this remote area to the capital. The planes making deliveries was their lifeline.

“We did this three days in a row before we had to return home,” Thuillez said, “each time taking people with us back to Florida.

“We volunteer to do it so we can fly frequently to maintain our flying skills, while providing a much needed service at the same time,” Thuillez said. Angel Flight Northeast, Patient Airlift Services and Veterans Airlift Command are some of the charitable organizations for whom Thuillez flies. Other law school friends and pilots, Terence Kindlon ’73 and Judge “Bud” Malone ’72, have accompanied him on flights, and he expects more in the future.

Thuillez has flown to Denali, Alaska, across the Atlantic by way of Greenland and Iceland, which was followed by stops throughout Europe. He then flew down the east coast of Africa to Cape Town, up the west coast eventually to Madeira in the Atlantic, then back to Europe and back across the Atlantic to home. He has also done a circumnavigation of South America. Thuillez, an Albany Law School Board of Trustee member, is special counsel at the firm of Thuillez, Ford, Gold, Butler and Monroe which provides legal services in insurance defense, medical malpractice defense, health law, commercial litigation and personal injury litigation. He has taught trial advocacy as an adjunct professor at Albany Law from 1980 to 2001. He has also chaired the Trial Lawyers Section of the New York State Bar Association. Presently he is also Chairman and President of the Foundation Board of Tech Valley High School located on the SUNY Polytechnic Institute campus in Albany.

“I love flying and hope to combine that passion with helping patients in need for years to come. They are all so very grateful for the service provided.”

—DS
Hooks' Name Likely Seen by Most New York Lawyers

When State Reporter William J. Hook '79 describes his role at the Law Reporting Bureau it is easy to conjure images of a conclave of monks, toiling in obscurity to make sure every “i” in judicial decisions is dotted and every “t” is crossed.

Except for Hooks—whose name graces the spine of each of the New York Official Reports—the 28 staff members work literally in the shadow of the courts. The little agency Hooks runs is kitty-corner from the Court of Appeals, in a former Catholic grade school and onetime Family Court facility whose rather plain exterior gives no clue to its grand interior, let alone the quiet but vital work that goes on at the bureau.

Inside, Hooks and a legal staff that includes a dozen Albany Law alumni publish some 50,000 decisions online annually, including about 14,000 reported in print and electronic versions of the Official Reports and go through the tedious process of ensuring that every citation is right.

“The nature of that work can be solitary,” acknowledged Hooks, who is quick to suggest that the names of his staffers belong with his on the New York Reports. “You have to enjoy reading. You have to have a really a broad interest in the law, because you’re handling so many different kinds of issues, and if you have that type of interest in the law, this place is a great place to work. Now, conversely, if you’re the type of person who needs an adrenaline rush like you get from litigation, you’re going to be very unhappy here, very fast.”

Hooks decided the Law Reporting Bureau was his niche back in 1981, just a year after he was admitted. Over the years, he served as deputy state reporter, assistant state reporter, legal editor and senior legal editor. In 2009, the Court of Appeals appointed him to the top spot, making Hooks the 26th person to hold the position in a line that stretches back to 1804.

“When I was in law school, it wasn’t something that I thought I would ever do,” said Hooks. “I don’t think I even knew there was such a thing as a state reporter.”

As Hooks explains, in the early 19th century the state and country were growing and the business of the courts was increasing—yet there was no mechanism for reporting decisions, and consequently little consistency.

Today, the bureau publishes virtually every decision of the Court of Appeals and the Appellate Divisions as well as select trial rulings, literally producing the book on stare decisis.

—JC

YOU CAN ACCESS DECISIONS ONLINE AT HTTP://WWW.NYCOURTS.GOV/REPORTER.

CLASS OF 2012

Michael Tedesco married Alexandra Love Levine on Saturday, December 5, 2015 at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, N.Y. They are both attorneys in NYC.

CLASS OF 2013

Melissa Martel Felton married John D. Felton in the summer of 2015. They live in Morrisville, N.Y.

CLASS OF 2015

BIRTHS

CLASS OF 1997

Rachel Schatten Malka and her husband, Dr. Shachar Malka, welcomed son, Daniel, on January 28, 2015.

CLASS OF 2003

Jessica Giroux and husband, Robert Lalley ’05, announce the birth of their son, Osias Sarto Lalley on January 8, 2016.

Robert Lalley and his wife, Jessica Giroux ’03, announce the birth of their son, Osias Sarto Lalley on January 8, 2016.

Nicholas Tuffarelli and his wife, Nicole, welcomed Alana Brooke to their family on March 23, 2015.

CLASS OF 2006

Adriana Begley ’06 and her husband Ryan announced the birth of their son Julian Patrick on February 29, 2016.

CLASS OF 2008

Kevin Buckley and wife, Lindsey Baumgartner Buckley ’11, welcomed their son, Kevin John Buckley on December 7, 2015.
Walker '93 Serves as Chief Prosecutor of U.S. Virgin Islands

After only two weeks on the job, the U.S. Virgin Islands' new chief prosecutor, Claude Walker '93, announced the arrests of ex-Gov. John deJongh and former Public Finance Authority director Julito Francis on embezzlement charges. During his introductory press conference, Walker vowed to crack down on violent and white-collar crimes. "It is in all of our interest to have an attorney general's office that properly functions and that carries out its mission," he said. "I am familiar with the burden and responsibility," added Walker, who was nominated by U.S.V.I. Governor Kenneth Mapp.

Walker joined the Department of Justice's Solicitor General Division after graduating from Albany Law. Since then, he has held positions with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, the Office of Enforcement, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Riley Takes Helm of San Diego County Bar Association

Heather Riley '00 is making a name for herself on the Pacific coast. The land-use and environmental lawyer began her term this January as president of the San Diego County Bar Association, where she has served on the board since 2013. Riley, who passed both the New York and California bar exams after law school, is a partner in the San Diego office of Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP.

Elephant Poaching, Animal Trafficking, Aylward '97 Works to Combat Threats to Wildlife

"In 2012, I worked with tribes and bison producers to write a bill and pitch to Congressional champions that would name bison as the U.S. National Mammal."

"The education I received at Albany Law School, especially the ability to think analytically and engage in problem-solving, is something I use every single day and has been crucial in every job I have held," she said.

In law school, an externship with then-state Supreme Court Justice Lawrence E. Kahn (now a senior federal judge in the Northern District) provided the experience Aylward needed to land her first job—a two-year clerkship at the Appellate Division, Fourth Department, in Rochester.

"At the Appellate Division, I worked on everything from murder and rape cases to custody disputes, and I also did a lot of Environmental Quality Review Act cases because nobody else wanted them," Aylward recalled. When the clerkship ended, Aylward parlayed some connections she’d made along the way into a job with then-Albany-area Congressman Michael McNulty on Capitol Hill.

"It was eye-opening," Aylward said of her two years with Rep. McNulty. "Nothing prepares you for working on the Hill other than working on the Hill. It is its own culture, its own microcosm. But once you learn that culture, you become very marketable."

After her stint on the Hill, Aylward became Director of Government Affairs for the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, a partner foundation to the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Education. She joined the Wildlife Conservation Society in 2003, opening its Washington, D.C., government relations operation. Leveraging her congressional experience working on the federal budget she quickly developed federal funding streams for species conservation, wildlife migrations, monitoring bird flu and more recently combatting elephant poaching and wildlife trafficking. She is called to testify before Congress on international conservation and wildlife protection, and often hosts congressional events to showcase domestic and international conservation policy initiatives.

Aylward sits on the International Conservation Caucus Foundation Conservation Council, the Teaming with Wildlife National Steering Committee, the Multinational Species Conservation Funds Coalition Steering Committee and the Emerging Conservation Leaders Board.

"Consumers need to be well-informed because I know from experience that when people use their buying power and let their voices be heard, they can have a significant impact on Congress," said Aylward, who lives in Falls Church, Va., with her husband, Kevin, and their two sons, Conner and Kyle. "In 2012, I worked with tribes and bison producers to write a bill and pitch to Congressional champions that would name bison as the U.S. National Mammal," said Aylward. "The bison is a symbol of unity, resilience and healthy landscapes that brings all Americans together to celebrate." She was able to unite advocates from diverse communities to support the designation. On May 9, 2016, President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act and the North American Bison was officially adopted as the U.S. National Mammal.

—JC
Joint Degree Leads Adler to Germany, and Now London

During law school my professors provided me with valuable contacts within and outside of Albany; many of whom I am still in contact with today.

Living, studying and working on both sides of the Atlantic brought German-born Yannick Adler ’13 to the big-law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP—where he bridges law and finance.

Graduating in summer 2013, he passed the bar and moved to Frankfurt, Germany, with his wife and two children, both born in Albany.

“I started with Allen & Overy LLP (one of the British ‘magic circle’ firms) in their U.S. capital markets group,” said Adler. “I spent a year there, before my team moved to White & Case, at which time, was contacted by Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and they quite easily convinced me to move to their corporate group in London.”

“My school experience with economics, foreign law, U.S. law and an MBA from Union have all prepared me for what I am doing now,” said Adler.

Adler chose Albany Law School for its joint JD/MBA program. “In addition, Albany Law was extremely helpful with my visa application and the related procedures. I generally had the feeling that I was well taken care of and could focus on studying while in the U.S.”

At Albany Law School, “I enjoyed most of my classes, including the corporate and securities courses taught by Prof. Redwood and Prof. Chung,” said Adler. “I also enjoyed my ethics class with Prof. Connors and my first year torts course with Prof. Heverly.” He commented, “I had to get used to the Socratic method, though, maybe because I did not trust my public speaking in a foreign language. It took me about half a year to be really comfortable with speaking in class.”

Adler said, “During law school my professors provided me with valuable contacts within and outside of Albany; many of whom I am still in contact with today.”

Adler added, “I can only praise the Albany Law Career Center for helping me find potential employers that fit my interests and helping me develop a vision of what I want to do.” While he noted his more career-focused steps took place after first semester at Albany Law, he said future shifts are possible as well.

—MH

Eisenhower Fellowship Takes Rao to Sri Lanka, Vietnam

G. Nagesh Rao ’04 traveled to Sri Lanka and Vietnam after scoring one of 10 coveted USA Eisenhower Fellowships. Rao, who earned his M.S. in Legal Studies at Albany Law and currently serves as chief technologist and entrepreneur-in-residence at the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C., planned to focus on the globalization of “America’s Seed Fund” programs in small business innovation research and transfer of technology. He also hoped to spur movement on a global innovation network hub during his five-week trip.

Patrick Woods ’12 Honored in D.C. for Prestigious Supreme Court Fellowship

Patrick Woods ’12 was honored this past February in a ceremony at the Supreme Court of the United States for his work as one of four Supreme Court Fellows. Supreme Court Fellows are selected by a commission appointed by the Chief Justice to engage in the work of the Court, the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, or the United States Sentencing Commission. The other three fellows hailed from Yale Law School, Boston College Law School, and Notre Dame Law School.

Woods was assigned to the United States Sentencing Commission. The Sentencing Commission is an independent judicial agency that engages in empirical and policy analysis of crime and punishment at the national level. It is responsible for promulgating amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines and advising Congress and the executive branch on the development of efficient and effective crime policy.

In addition to his work for the Commission, he has engaged in research related to current proposals for criminal justice reform and will present some of his findings to the Committee on Criminal Law of the Judicial Conference of the United States later this year.

In the fall, Woods will return to Albany to work in the Appeals and Opinions division of the New York Attorney General’s Office. Before becoming a Supreme Court Fellow, Woods—who was editor-in-chief of the Albany Law Review and valedictorian of his class—clerked for the Honorable Peter W. Hall of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and the Honorable Richard K. Eaton ’74 of the United States Court of International Trade. During law school, he interned for the Honorable Gary L. Sharpe of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York, the Honorable Joseph C. Teresi of the New York State Supreme Court, and the Albany County District Attorney’s Office.
HISTORY

The Law School’s Original Name:
THE DEPARTMENT OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY

It was an Act of the Legislature in 1851 that incorporated the University of Albany, authorizing the University to create several departments. Trustees immediately created a Department of Law, and eight months later, on Dec. 17, 1851, 23 students listened to Amasa Parker deliver the law school’s first lecture.

There was talk of making the school a national university. Effort was made to include the Albany Medical College as the University’s Department of Medicine, but that and a literary department was never finalized.

In 1873, more than 20 years later, Union College’s new president, Eliphalet Nott Potter, succeeding his grandfather Eliphalet Nott, sought to create a consortium of colleges on the model of Harvard, Yale and Columbia. The boards of the Dudley Observatory and the Law School voted to create the umbrella organization with Union College, creating Union University.

On April 10, 1873, the legislature approved the new Union University charter. Thus the national university effort was abandoned, and the legislation officially changed the name of “University of Albany” to “Albany Law School of Union University.”

The charter continues today, though for decades it has existed only in name. Each member institution has its own governing board and operates its own institutions independently.

At the time of Union University’s inception, the current State University of New York at Albany—University at Albany, distinct from the University of Albany — was a two year school for teachers, called the New York State Normal School, created in 1844. The School continued as a school for educators for decades, becoming the New York State College for Teachers in 1914, and eventually developing into a modern university starting in 1962.

The aim of the School is to educate men for practice at the Bar. It is not intended to neglect attention to culture or to the theory of the law but the paramount purpose of the Faculty is to inform men as to the existing law and the present practice in the courts... The primary object is to state as clearly as may be and to impress upon the minds as far as possible the living practical side of the law as it is held and administered with a view to giving them the best possible preparation to benefit their clients and the Courts in its application to the affairs of every day life.

The character of the student body...the men from the country and the farm, who are earnest, active and energetic; who rely mainly upon their own resources; and who, in their struggle to obtain an education, have been deprived of all adventitious aids, and devote themselves solely to the work at hand. This has been true of the school from its earliest days to the present time, and is one of its most marked characteristics, and has resulted in the strong body of Alumni who take an active interest in the school and so many of them who return each year to give us substantial encouragement by their presence.
Albany Law School was a strong Unionist school, popular with students who were to see, or had seen, service in the Union Army in the Civil War. Nevertheless, Albany Law, as an innovator in legal education, was also a school of national reputation, drawing students from throughout the United States. Most of these students, it is true, came from the Northeast and the Midwest, but some came from further afield.

In the class of 1857, one of the largest before the war, was Herbert Shackelford Dallam (1836-1862) of Paducah, Ky., the only Albany alumnus, as far as is known, that served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. Dallam’s father was a wealthy Paducah banker who in 1860 (according to the federal census) owned six slaves.

After graduating from Albany, Dallam returned to Paducah, was admitted to the Kentucky bar, and although continuing to live with his parents, was practicing law there when the War broke out. Kentucky was badly split during the Civil War: it formally remained in the Union, but a large minority of its population adhered to the Confederacy. Dallam was one of these Kentucky Confederates. In July 1861 he enlisted as a private in the Third Kentucky Infantry Regiment of the Confederate Army. Like his classmates who joined the Union Army, his superior education and his profession marked him out for promotion. Within three months, in October 1861, he received an officer’s commission, and soon thereafter was promoted to major and brigade commissary (in charge of supply) on the staff of General Lloyd Tilghman.

General Tilghman was assigned to the defense of Fort Henry on the Tennessee River. Despite repeatedly warning his superiors that the low-lying Fort Henry was indefensible against determined attack, Tilghman and his men were left unsupported to face the advance of a then little-known but extremely aggressive Union general: Ulysses S. Grant. On Feb. 6, 1862, Grant forced the fort to surrender. Its garrison, including both General Tilghman and Herbert Dallam, were sent north as prisoners of war. Dallam ended up in Camp Chase, a prisoner-of-war camp in Columbus, Ohio.

At that period of the war, the Union Army was as disorganized and incompetent as its Confederate opponents were. Conditions in Union prison camps were then very poor; many prisoners died of disease and malnutrition. Dallam was one of these victims. He died on June 14, 1862. His body was eventually returned to Paducah for burial.

LIKE HIS CLASSMATES WHO JOINED THE UNION ARMY, HIS SUPERIOR EDUCATION AND HIS PROFESSION MARKED HIM OUT FOR PROMOTION.
A LASTING IMPACT

AFTER YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT WITH ALBANY LAW, CHARLOTTE BUCHANAN ’80 HAS PLANNED A FUTURE GIFT TO BENEFIT STUDENTS.

FIND A PLAN THAT’S RIGHT FOR YOU

Gifts to Albany Law School provide transformative and competitive learning experiences for tomorrow’s leaders in the legal fields. If you would like to do more to support your school but are unsure which giving vehicle might be best for you, we have the tools to help you get started.

Gift planning offers several affordable choices that allow you to consider your personal priorities while benefiting from significant financial and tax benefits. You can make a gift now to immediately support the School’s most pressing needs, or have your gift enacted upon your passing. In both cases, you are making a profound and lasting impact on Albany Law School and countless students to come.

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Planned gifts provide important benefits to you as well as Albany Law School. No matter what your giving goal, there is likely a way to accomplish it. The rewards are many: You can provide security for yourself and your loved ones, support Albany Law School, reap tremendous financial and tax benefits, and enjoy the satisfaction of helping future generations.

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PLEASE CONTACT ANNE MARIE JUDGE at AJUDG@ALBANYLAW.EDU or 518-445-3219 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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We are Albany Law.

Albany Law School is more than an excellent professional school. Our accomplished alumni on the bench, in government, business, and private practice who return to our campus each year are evidence of the quality of their Albany Law education. What sets us apart is how engaged our alumni are with our community. They talk about their careers and they advise, mentor and hire our students. We are in many ways a family, with shared memories, history and traditions that span generations. Part of our history is a deep sense of loyalty, connection and generosity that has endured for over a century and a half.

On campus, our faculty and staff work hard to support and mentor our students as they learn the law and prepare to pass the bar exam, and we point them toward the many experiential opportunities that will make them job-ready.

Off campus, we grow the Albany Law community when we visit and connect alumni in New York, Buffalo, Rochester, Washington D.C., Boston, the farthest reaches of upstate New York, and when we reach out to the West Coast, and places in between.

All together, we are Albany Law School—and we love it. In the pages to come we highlight some of our most generous and loyal donors and some of our Advancement activities over the past year. We thank all of you who have given generously, and loyally, over many years, and we are especially grateful for our students who contribute, as well as those who have included Albany Law in their estate plans.

Together, we are a community with a lifelong connection to a singular place. We are Albany Law School. Thank you for being a part of our story.
Our second annual Give Day was a great success, generating 375 gifts in 24 hours and raising over $100,000. Conducted primarily through social media with the hashtag #WeAreAlbanyLaw, the effort was led by alumni challenges, including Christine Stone ’81 and Mark Zaid ’92, and Di Ma ’14, who challenged their classes; Jim Hacker ’84, who challenged his fellow rugby alumni; Megan Rurak ’94 and David Rozen ’10, challenging the National Alumni Association; and Steve Rehfuss ’85, who offered to match all gifts from the 1L Class of 2018. Larger challenges included President and Dean Alicia Ouellette ’94, who pledged $10,000 when 200 people contributed, and trustee Frank Willey ’78, who pledged $25,000 when 350 gifts were raised, and another $10,000 when we reached 375 donors. Thanks to everyone who made Give Day a success! #WeAreAlbanyLaw!

Alumni from the Class of 1965 join Albany Law’s “Senior Partners” group after their Reunion 2015 brunch at Jack’s Oyster House. The “Senior Partners” are those who graduated 50 years ago or more. In the 2014-2015 fiscal year, our “Senior Partners” collectively contributed more than $83,000 to support the law school.

Steven DeBraccio ’13, right, presents the Steven V. DeBraccio ’13 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award to Michael Lieberman ’15 at Commencement 2015. DeBraccio is funding this award to recognize the vital role that teaching assistants play in student success.

Laura Gulfo ’16 received a summer Immigration Law Fellowship funded by Stuart Doling ’63

“I thoroughly enjoyed my Summer Fellowship in Immigration Law. I had already worked with clients in the Family Violence Litigation and Immigration Project at Albany Law School, which made me realize that, nationally, Immigration Law is an underserved area. My Fellowship at the Legal Project afforded me with the opportunity to continue to serve the Immigrant population in the Capital Region. I worked with several local Immigration attorneys on Asylum and SIJ cases, as well as cases which intersected with Criminal Law and Family Law. By researching legal issues central to clients’ cases, observing client consultations, and engaging clients in fact-finding discussions, I knew that I was serving the population in a meaningful and beneficial way. I was excited to participate in community outreach events and to connect with organizations aiming to serve Immigrant populations in other regions throughout the state.”

The Hon. Julian R. Hanley ’36, pictured with daughter Pauline Hanley Clarke and Dean Ouellette. This year marks 80 years since his Albany Law graduation. A member of the 1851 Society, the Judge participates in our annuity program.
Albany Law School recognizes its most generous alumni and friends with membership in the McKinley Society. Their philanthropy has resulted in cumulative gifts to the law school of $100,000 or more. These, our most prominent supporters, have played an important role in shaping our future and have allowed Albany Law to continue to provide our students with an excellent legal education.

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Gifts at the Barrister Society level make the greatest impact on our law school community. This generous group of alumni and friends provides more than 80% of our total contributions in a given year. Albany Law School relies upon them to help to secure our future and inspire others through their philanthropy.

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These donors form the financial foundation our students count on, year in and year out. They are an outstanding example to their fellow alumni and friends of Albany Law, and we are grateful for their loyal support.

We are also grateful for the many individuals who have supported Albany Law regularly over many years, who may have missed an occasional year and therefore are not included in this list. Each and every gift is appreciated, every year.

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Martin Zeldis ’69 – 30 Years
Heartfelt Thanks from Scholarship Recipients

I cannot fully express the honor and the gratitude that I feel in being named this year’s recipient of the Equality & Justice Scholarship, established by the late Mark Siemens. It has been my goal over the past two years at Albany Law School to fiercely advocate for the underrepresented minorities that are so often marginalized and overlooked not just in society, but also in the practice of law. It is a goal that is never fully realized but always something to continue to strive for. Thank you for your continued support of the LGBT community, our rights, and our students.

With sincere appreciation,

Adam Grogan ’16
Equality & Justice Scholarship

What struck me the most after reading about your father was that, even with all of his success in the legal world, he still took the time to participate in civic organizations as well as other humanitarian causes throughout his community. The desire he possessed to help people and serve the community strikes a very familiar chord with myself. This means that I carry much respect for him as he was able to obtain his dreams, create a loving family, while also staying true to his moral convictions. And as such, I am honored and deeply humbled, as well as thankful, to be this year’s recipient of his named endowment. I can’t thank your family enough for this assistance, as it is extremely helpful. I only hope to live up to the honor that this endowment carries. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel J. Nichols ’16
The David S. Williams ’42 Scholarship

Through the supportive professors and the interactive classes I have felt at home at Albany Law School since the first day. This sense of community brought me to volunteering as a board member for a local Community Accountability Board. As a board member I help decide alternative judicial sentencing for community members in the area who are in minor legal trouble. The goal of this work is to ensure that people in these situations learn to repair the harm done to the community.

The kindness of your family’s donation is something I will not forget. Hopefully one day I will be able to be as generous and helpful to Albany Law students as you have been to me. Once again, thank you.

Sincerely,

Caitlin O’Brien ’16
The Leo E. Mills ’30 and Kenna J. Mills Memorial Scholarship

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your and your family’s amazing generosity. Since my interest is in criminal justice, all of my internships have been unpaid, and the gift bestowed upon me in your father’s name has given me the opportunity to engage in these valuable internships. The practical experience I have acquired is a direct result from gifts like the Hon. John M. Finnerty ’65 Scholarship as they have alleviated the financial burden which would have otherwise been too heavy to bear….support from individuals such as yourself has shown me that no one is ever truly alone, and your dreams are inhibited only by one’s own lack of ambition and effort. I am truly humbled to receive this award and please know that any success I obtain in the future is owed in part to your generosity.

Sincerely,

Kellan Potts ’16
Hon. John M. Finnerty ’65 Scholarship

I chose to come to Albany Law School because of the Joint Degree Program with Albany Medical College for a JD/MS in Bioethics. Health law has been my passion since I first walked through the doors of Albany Law and it still remains so as I near the end of my three years. Ultimately, I would like to pursue a career in interdisciplinary work, blending the professions of medicine, law, and ethics. During my time at Albany Law School, I have taken advantage of many public interest internships and I plan to continue working for the public in the future. Again, I thank you for your generosity. I would not have been able to complete both degrees without your assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Amanda Auricchio ’17
Doling Family Scholarship

I am sincerely grateful for your generosity. Albany Law School has challenged me, believed in me, and inspired me to be the best attorney I can be. Your gift has played a significant role in allowing me the opportunity to have these experiences. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Rivais ’16
The Slome and Cindy Silvian Foundation, Inc. Scholarship

The practical experience I have obtained is a direct result from gifts like the Hon. John M. Finnerty ’65 Scholarship as they have alleviated the financial burden which would have otherwise been too heavy to bear….support from individuals such as yourself has shown me that no one is ever truly alone, and your dreams are inhibited only by one’s own lack of ambition and effort. I am truly humbled to receive this award and please know that any success I obtain in the future is owed in part to your generosity.

Forever in your debt,

Kellan Potts ’16
Hon. John M. Finnerty ’65 Scholarship
Your generosity and support enables me to pursue my lifelong dream of becoming an attorney and serving my clients with competence, fervor, and dedication. I cannot do this without you, and in return I promise to strive to serve professionally in your honor, and to give back to the indigent and less fortunate person in need of legal assistance. I am so fortunate to have gained all of this practical experience in the public sector, and to be able to follow through with my dream. This would not be possible without your continuing generosity. I cannot thank you enough for all that you have done for me, and the school that I love. Thank you.

With Appreciation

Alexandra Newcomb ’17
The Stone Family Scholarship

While I never thought I would have the opportunity to go to college, I became the first person in my family to receive a bachelor’s degree by working two jobs and relying on financial aid. Although my experiences have allowed me to acknowledge the failures of our system, it has also provided me with the desire to help rectify those problems by pursuing a career in public interest law.

Again, thank you for this opportunity and your support while I continue with my legal education. I hope that Mr. Johnson would have been proud of the work that I have done and will continue to do for the betterment of our society.

Yours truly,

Ryan W. Rennaker ’17
The Richard C. Johnson ’51 Scholarship

I am grateful to the family, friends and colleagues who began the fund-raising effort to endow the Hon. Richard J. Daronco ’56 Memorial Scholarship. His legacy lives on and his commitment and love for the law and justice is certainly remembered. I would like to thank you for your family’s generosity to students with financial needs who show a love and commitment to the law.

Sincerely,

Nadia Alirahi ’18
Hon. Richard J. Daronco ’56 Memorial Scholarship

I would like to thank you again for the honor of receiving this scholarship. As a non-traditional student I do not live with family so the extra money helps with finances, and with the large time requirements of law school, having a part time job is hard. So thank you again for the generous scholarship. It will be an honor to have my name added to the list of scholars that have benefited from your family’s kindness.

Respectfully,

Amanda Cole ’18
Felix J. Aulisi Memorial Scholarship

Coming from a small liberal arts school, I understand the impact that alumni can have when they give back to their alma mater. Your husband had an impressive and successful legal career, and the establishment of the memorial scholarship in his name assures that future generations of students, myself included, can achieve the same dreams and ambitions that he had. Your scholarship support makes my Albany Law School education possible, and for that I cannot thank you enough. I am honored and privileged to be the recipient of the Dale Van Epps ’66 Memorial Scholarship. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

Bradley Murray ’18
Dale Van Epps ’66 Memorial Scholarship

It’s almost impossible to emphasize how much this scholarship means to me in making my legal education and attendance at Albany Law School possible. I think one of the biggest bars to attending law school and obtaining a legal education in recent years is the ever increasing cost of law school and the growing personal and economic debt that potential students will have to take on; that was certainly a big concern of mine when I decided that I wanted to go into a career of public service. However, because of the generous scholarship that you have awarded me, the debt that I will take on from attending Albany Law School is significantly reduced, which gives me the comfort and greater economic independence to pursue a career in the public sector. I thank you, your family, and your father in providing me with this scholarship.

Sincerely,

Corey S. Reisman ’18
The Elizabeth F. and Russell A. Freeman ’57 Scholarship

“The kindness of your family’s donation is something I will not forget. Hopefully one day I will be able to be as generous and helpful to Albany Law students as you have been to me.”

IN MEMORIAM

Hon. Robert J. Sise '49

Hon. Robert J. Sise '49, of Amsterdam, N.Y., passed away on March 16, 2016, after a lifetime of public service and leaving a family legacy of jurisprudence. First serving as Montgomery County assistant tax attorney in 1958, he was elected to the county Children's Court and its successor Family Court and helped bring a Big Brothers Association chapter to the county. In 1973 he was appointed to the NYS Court of Claims to serve as Acting Supreme Court Justice for criminal matters in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan. In 1975 he was appointed deputy administrative judge, then statewide administrative judge, of the New York State court system and oversaw the work of 1,000 trial judges and nearly 10,000 non-judicial employees. Following his retirement in 1991, he returned to private practice with his sons' law firm, Sise & Sise, where he practiced until age 82. Early in his career, he was a professional baseball player with the Nyack Rockies and the Gloversville-Johnstown Glovers and was known as "lawyer by day – hurler by night." An only child, Judge Sise and his wife of 66 years, Theresa, who survives him, had nine sons, four of whom are Albany Law graduates: John '79, Thomas '81, Richard '82 (Acting Presiding Judge, New York State Court of Claims) and Joseph '88 (Justice of the Supreme Court for the 4th Judicial District).

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Helen Monaco
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CLASS OF 2000
Hobart Simpson
Highland, N.Y.

CLASS OF 2005
Danielle M. Barone
Albany, N.Y.
DEAR FRIENDS,

I have been extremely fortunate to have had a varied professional career—from Union College to Army Intelligence, to law school and the JAG Corps, to graduate school and clerkships and a Supreme Court Fellowship. Yet long before I began teaching at Albany Law School some 26 years ago, I fell in love with this place. I remember my first experience here, a moot court competition while in law school. Right then I told my family I’d love to teach here someday. I still love it here.

I choose to support the law school through my personal giving because I love this school, my students and my colleagues. I believe in the work that we do here and the alums I helped educate. Together, we ARE Albany Law School. I hope that you will join me in supporting our Annual Fund, this year and every year. It is our way to keep our Albany Law School strong.

Warm regards,

VINCENT M. BONVENTRE

PROFESSOR OF LAW

JUSTICE ROBERT H. JACKSON DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

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DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS & INSTITUTIONAL EVENTS

Tammy Weinman
twein@albanylaw.edu
COMMENCEMENT

From left, Jennifer Richardson ’04, Charisse Drakeford ’11, Hon. Robert Capers ’96, and Peter Wencsak ’16.