ALBANY LAW
MAGAZINE

2017 ALUMNI WEEKEND
OCTOBER 6 - 7

WWW.ALBANYLAW.EDU

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL
80 NEW SCOTLAND AVENUE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12220-3494

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #701
ALBANY, NY

SUMMER 2017

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR
MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

ALSO
AFFILIATION YEAR 2: ACTIVITIES ABOUND
ECONOMIC AND GOVERNMENT IMPACT ON THE CAPITAL REGION AND NEW YORK STATE

WWW.ALBANYLAW.EDU
FEATURES

20 Justice Sotomayor Makes Historic Visit to Albany Law School
24 The Albany Law School Economic and Government Impact on the Capital Region and New York State
26 Affiliation Year 2: Activities Abound

DEPARTMENTS

3 In Brief
9 Students
16 Campus Events
28 Faculty Notes
37 Career Center
38 Commencement
40 Alumni Events
45 Class Notes
58 History
60 In Memoriam
I am thrilled to be back in the classroom at Albany Law School. Before I moved to the Midwest to care for my family, I spent 24 wonderful years here, from 1980 to 2004, and taught thousands of you. Dean Alicia Ouellette was one of my former students, as were many members of the Board of Trustees. It makes me very, very proud of all of you and of this remarkable School.

What I have been happiest to come back to is our students. They are diverse on all counts, yet they share at least one common feature with each other—and with you when you were here: they are incredibly excited about their chosen career. As much today as ever, the legal profession needs passionate, principled, determined and well-prepared new lawyers.

I am proud to be affiliated with Albany Law School, its distinguished history and its bright present and future.

Most sincerely,

PATRICIA YOUNGBLOOD REYHAN

AFTER A DOZEN YEARS AWAY
Dear Friends,

When I think about my time as a student at Albany Law School, the first thing I think about is the worry I felt waiting for professors to cold call a student, and the relief I felt when it wasn’t my turn. But I remember even more vividly the people with whom I spent the years — my Gabrielli partner, the group of non-traditional students who shared lunches and study tips, the Law Review board in the basement of the 1928 Building, and the professors who cared enough about me to keep me on track. The people made Albany Law School special. From what I’ve heard visiting alumni over the past three years, the people also marked the time many of you spent at 80 New Scotland Avenue. Whether it was Helen Wilkinson, Jack Welsh, John DeMatteo, David Siegel, Sandy Stevenson, Pat Connors, Rosemary Queenan, or any of the scores of other faculty and staff members who are or have been part of Albany Law, somebody cared, and that made all the difference.

That is definitely the experience for today’s students. We still focus our teaching on the core skills, knowledge, and competencies needed to succeed as an attorney or other professional. Students still face cold calls. But we also recognize that our students are people, individuals with personal stories, unique challenges, talents, advantages, and difficulties. As a community, we get to know our students, and we have the amazing opportunity to individualize their experience to help them achieve their dreams.

This is an important benefit of our size and autonomy. We can seek out the appropriate alumni mentor or internship to fit a specific student’s need. We can match a student to a faculty advisor or career pathway. We can guide the exploration of an unsure student through courses, advisors, mentors and internships. We make it our business to know the particular strengths and weaknesses of a student well before the bar exam, and we address the weaknesses with time to spare. We are designed to support, encourage, motivate, and help.

That’s part of the reason why our indicators point upward. That’s why our employment rate surpassed 90%, and our bar passage rose 14.5 percentage points. Even our U.S. News ranking—a number schools can rarely control—moved up 29 spots in two years. It’s also why our class size and quality increased despite the downturn in applications nationwide.

We know that when applicants visit us—personally meet us—they are likely to matriculate. Visiting applicants get what we have to offer, what is unique to Albany Law School: the personal connections between our students and people—the professors, staff members, alumni, and fellow students. We are so much more than just what happens in our classrooms.

A Dean is measured by a number of important metrics that, for the most part, measure the health of a law school. These are important and drive our actions. But inherent in all our initiatives—sewn into the DNA of every decision—is our personal touch.

Every new staff and faculty member who has joined us since I took this role has commented on the level of caring students receive during their time here. Given our size and history, we can’t get away from it. We care. That’s what Albany Law School means to many of us. And you will hear that from our current students. I invite all of you to come to campus and meet our students. Talk with them about their law school experience. Nothing will make you feel more proud of our school. It is our people that make the difference.

All the best,

Alicia Ouellette
President and Dean
Class of ’16 Secures 90% Employment Rate

Ninety percent of the class of 2016 secured employment in law firms, government positions, public interest organizations, and business and industry. Class members are employed in the following sectors for law-degree required jobs, as well as J.D.-advantaged employment: 52% are at law firms, 28% government, 11% public interest, 9% business and industry.

“All our numbers continue to rise,” said Alicia Ouellette, president and dean of Albany Law School. “Our students succeed because they work hard and they are talented. Along with those two factors is the commitment from our faculty, and the staff who support them.”

While Albany Law School historically enjoys strong employment rates given the loyalty of its nationwide alumni network, its focus on career preparation and hands-on learning is often mentioned by employers.

Every year the Career and Professional Development Center coordinates hundreds of job interviews on campus and off campus. “With 10,000-plus alumni, we have an incredible network of support for internships and jobs,” said Ouellette.

“This was a hard-working class,” said Mary Walsh Fitzpatrick, Assistant Dean of the Career and Professional Development Center. “There was a wide range of professional interests, and they took ownership of their job searches. There will be many success stories coming out of this class.”

Bar Passage Rate Rises Significantly, Surpasses N.Y. State Average

The bar passage rate for Albany Law School’s class of 2016 first-time test-takers of the July 2016 bar exam was 83%, an increase of 14.5 percentage points from the previous year. The percentage of the class who passed the bar is above the average pass rate for the 15 law schools in New York State.

“The credit goes to our hard working students,” said Alicia Ouellette, president and dean. She also recognized the work the faculty did to prepare students. “This is a faculty that cares about its students, and the result this year demonstrates our commitment to students.” She referred to weekend review sessions, one-on-one bar coaching, academic advising, and further integrating bar preparation throughout the curriculum.

“We know that if our students can successfully earn a juris doctor at Albany Law School, they can pass the bar,” Ouellette said.

AGREEMENT LETS STUDENTS EARN J.D. AND M.S.A.

Siena College and Albany Law School have signed two articulation agreements designed to enable students to earn both a master of science in accounting and a juris doctor degree, while saving a year of school.

The first agreement provides students who have already earned their J.D. from Albany Law with up to nine credits toward the completion of their M.S.A. at Siena. Qualified students would be able to earn their M.S.A. in less than a year after their J.D.

The second agreement helps students to simultaneously earn their J.D. and M.S.A. After a year at Albany Law, students would begin taking courses at both schools.
J. Kevin McCarthy ’90 is a senior executive vice president and general counsel of BNY Mellon. A member of the company’s Executive Committee, he heads BNY Mellon’s legal department, and also has overall responsibility for government affairs, the corporate secretarial function and global corporate security. Prior to BNY Mellon, he was general counsel of Cowen Group, Inc., a diversified investment bank and financial services firm. From 2004 to 2007, he was a partner at Wilmer Hale, focused on securities and litigation matters.

David McCraw ’92 is vice president and deputy general counsel for the New York Times Company. Prior to this position, he served as assistant general counsel for the New York Times, and was deputy general counsel at the New York Daily News. Before that he worked at Clifford Chance LLP, and Roger & Wells. He handles freedom of information law litigation and provides legal counsel to the newsrooms at the Times, the Boston Globe, the International Tribune and numerous other publications and websites. He was this year’s Law School Commencement speaker (see page 38).

Jeanine Arden Ornt ’80 owns her own firm. Previously she served as the chief legal officer of Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Before that she established the first university-wide offices of general counsel at Case Western Reserve University and the University of Rochester. She served on University of Rochester’s School of Medicine and Dentistry’s faculty where she specialized in health care law. At the University of Rochester, she also served as the general counsel of the Medical Center and of Strong Health for 15 years.

James Sandman is the president of the Legal Services Corporation. Before that he practiced law with Arnold & Porter LLP and served as the firm’s managing partner from 1995 to 2005. He was also general counsel for the District of Columbia Public Schools. He is the son of the late Edgar Sandman ’46, a former chair of Albany Law’s Board of Trustees, and a supporter of the Edgar & Margaret Sandman Fellowship.

Kathryn L. Tabner ’91 clerked in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York after law school, then practiced at Sherman & Sterling, and Linklaters in New York City. Her father John W. Tabner ’51, and uncle James Tabner ’42, also graduated from Albany Law School.

Through a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Albany Law School staff and students developed a pilot program to bring legal services to rural New York areas. The Rural Law Initiative (RLI) program, started in the fall, has already exposed law students to the potential of rural legal practice, matching those students with legal practitioners and judges in rural New York.

Services include business creation, tax incentives, land use, environmental law, property law, small business legal practice, and state and local government law. The program serves the counties of Sullivan, Herkimer, Otsego and Schoharie.

“The program allows a population to gain access to legal services, while lowering the barriers for our graduates to practice law in rural regions,” said Dean Alicia Ouellette. “We think this grant will help close the gap between the needs of the businesses and legal service providers.”

With more than 160,000 attorneys in New York State, only two percent of the small law firms are located in rural areas. The grant seeks to help draw young attorneys to the rural parts of the state, connect with established firms and learn the legal issues facing farmers and small companies.

The Government Law Center has conducted intensive outreach activities to reach the underserved upstate communities, and the program will serve only small businesses that cannot afford an attorney.
Megyn Kelly insists that Albany Law School, more than any other place in her life, gave her the confidence and skills to succeed at her career. It took law school, and particularly her moot court experience, to discover her own talents.

Kelly spent the day on campus speaking to the board members of Moot Court, and then later with all students, where she answered questions for almost an hour. Topics ranged from the presidential debates to her recent switch of television networks. She also met privately with Dean Ouellette and Board Chair Dan Nolan, before signing books with the general public for three hours.

Excerpts from Megyn Kelly’s “Settle for More”:

Moot Court, Law Review, and Landing a Job

“The work was intense and the competition fierce. However, to my mother’s delight, not only did I thrive in law school, but I paid for it myself.”

“My favorite class was taught by Professor Bob Tyman…often we were forced to make arguments on our feet, going at it with our professors, with an audience around us. I loved every minute of it. Tyman once pulled me aside to tell me, You really seem to be enjoying law school. My God, I thought, I made an impression.”

“As much as I loved studying and arguing and learning, the thing I was absolutely dying to do was moot court… I checked the door of the coach’s office several times a day, awaiting the sign-up sheet for tryouts. I could think of nothing else. In all there were eight spots, four on the first tier team, and four on the second tier. I was determined to be first tier, and I knew in my bones I could do it.”

“I spent the summer of 1993 studying the sample criminal case they gave us ….I wrote and rewrote the most compelling closing argument….after many weeks of writing, I knew I had something that would sing.”

“With moot court I’d been able to sense that fine line between hoping I would be good at something and actually being good at it.”

“Between writing onto the Law Review and making the trial team, I was feeling increasingly confident in my skills as a potential lawyer, a feeling that only got stronger once I actually started competing in moot court. To this day my moot court experiences in law school are among my best memories.”

“(Moot Court partner) David Hillman and I were very frank with each other. He spoke with a charming Queens accent…’I like ta read tha paper in the mawning—that’s vehry impo’nt ta me,’ —and after the arguments, ’I thawt you’ve done betta—I’m not gonna ly-e.’ “

“The competition was held in the law school’s biggest auditorium, a gleaming brand-new amphitheater that commanded all eyes to a stage down below with an elevated judge’s bench in the front.”

Kelly spends many more pages talking about the competition, not getting an offer from her summer internship, and eventually landing her first job with Bickel and Brewer.
Ayers Joins Albany Law as Director of the Government Law Center

Andy Ayers has been named the new Government Law Center director, succeeding Ray Brescia, who returned to teaching and pursuing his research projects, and replaces Bennett Liebman who was serving as interim director.

Ayers most recently served as Senior Assistant Solicitor General in the New York Attorney General’s Office. After graduating first in his class from Georgetown Law, Ayers clerked for the Hon. Sonia Sotomayor, now a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, during her term on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, as well as Hon. Gerard Lynch on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. He began his career as Special Assistant to the General Counsel for Human Rights Watch.

Ayers looks to focus the GLC, a think-tank and mentoring center with a 40-year history at the law school, on local and state government activities, with an eye toward opening up opportunities for students.

“This school has talented students, and I see them playing an important role in the projects we are working on, like studying access to justice in rural communities, civic education, review of police action, urban blight, and immigration,” Ayers said. “Through the Center’s Fellowships, students meet with lawyers who work in all areas of government, opening their networks while advancing the Center’s mission as a think-tank.”

“We are excited to have Professor Ayers continue the Center’s legacy of its work on access to justice in rural areas, economic development, equine racing and gaming law, entrepreneurship and emerging tech laws, government ethics, aging law, and more.”

Edward W. De Barbieri Heads New Community Development Clinic

As director of Albany Law School’s new Community Development Clinic, Professor Edward W. De Barbieri is connecting the Capital Region’s small business and nonprofit sectors with free legal assistance while providing students hands-on training.

He was previously an assistant professor of clinical law, director of the Urban Economic Development Clinic, and counsel to the Center for Urban Business Entrepreneurship (CUBE) at Brooklyn Law School. He also taught as an adjunct professor of clinical law at New York University School of Law.

The Community Development Clinic at Albany Law—made possible by a major gift from Edward P. Swyer and The Swyer Family Foundation—opened in January and provides an in-house transactional clinic opportunity for students who want to pursue a career in business or nonprofit law.

“The Capital Region has an emerging innovation economy—it also has significant income and wealth inequality. The Community Development Clinic serves clients that currently don’t have access to pro bono legal services but need representation in forming a new not-for-profit, or small business, or assistance advocating for economic development in a particular neighborhood,” Professor De Barbieri said. “I’m thrilled to be a part of Albany Law School’s efforts to train transactional lawyers in learning critical skills while serving communities in the Capital Region.”

In its first semester, the clinic provided brief advice or full service representation to over 40 businesses and nonprofits. Students, working under close supervision, assisted clients with choosing and forming the appropriate entity, negotiated a real property acquisition agreement with a local municipal government, and drafted a solar boat construction contract for a client hoping to launch during the Erie Canal bicentennial. Students met with clients referred from Innovate 518, a collaboration of UAlbany, RPI, and the Center for Economic Growth.

As for the clinic’s impact on the community, Professor De Barbieri said, “For nonprofit clients, clinic support will result in more nonprofits conducting activities to serve area residents across neighborhoods in the Capital Region; for small business clients, clinic representation will result in a more streamlined entity formation and start-up phase, leading hopefully to faster staffing up and sales; and support for community groups will mean advocacy and results in expanding the benefits of economic development to groups that are often excluded from such benefits.”

Through relationships with local institutions like the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, The Legal Project, and area local development corporations, De Barbieri said “the next generation of attorneys practicing in the Capital Region will have a sense of duty, instilled in them upon entering the profession, to contribute their skills and talents to improve their community as a whole.”

Prior to teaching, Professor De Barbieri was a Fulbright Research Fellow at University College Cork, Ireland, and Equal Justice Works Fellow and senior staff attorney at the Urban Justice Center’s Community Development Project.

—CC
Over the past four decades, James Benedict ’74 helped defend more than 50 cases involving excessive fees for managing mutual funds and other investment products. He also made it his business to hire Albany Law School graduates into his firm, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, where he chaired the Litigation Department.

This year, he helped defend a $550 million case—the first of its kind to go to trial in seven years—with a team of four other Albany Law alumni. He put together a similar Albany Law team in 2009, except this latest case was different. It was his final case before retiring and handing his practice to Sean Murphy ’94, who led the recent trial, with assistance from James Cavoli ’92.

“This was a fitting final act for all of us,” said Benedict from his home in Vail, Colo., finally retired after attempting twice before. Benedict had hired Cavoli and Murphy in the early ’90s, while at Rogers & Wells, before the firm merged with Clifford Chance.

Albany Law grads do very well here,” Benedict said, taking no credit for recruiting and mentoring them. “Their success gave me the ability to hire more Albany Law graduates through the years.” These included Nikki Nielson ’12 and Andrea Hood ’06, both of whom also worked on the recent case.

Benedict, a Trustee of the law school, traveled to Albany pretty much every year to interview students. His final recruits were hired this summer: 3Ls Corey Carmello and Tess McLaughlin.

“We learned a good deal from this trial, as did the entire industry. It’s the first of many pending on the issue of excessive management fees.”
—SEAN MURPHY

Third Time’s the Charm

Of the eight trials involving excessive fee claims in the mutual fund world, Benedict has handled five of them, including the last three, significantly contributing to the case law that stands today. And while he has enjoyed success in most areas of his career, retiring proved to be a challenge.

“Sean and I had a lot of new cases coming up. I couldn’t just leave,” Benedict said. So he stayed on past the firm’s mandatory retirement age of 65. He tried again less than a year later, but then the AXA case was scheduled for trial.

“Sean served as first chair on the case, but I couldn’t leave the firm after all these years working on the case. I had to see it through,” he said.

Benedict is fully retired now, and enjoys his time fishing, skiing, relaxing, and spending time with his family.

“This seemed quite timely,” Benedict said. “We’ve been planning this transition for nearly 10 years.”

THE AXA TRIAL

At issue in the 25-day trial—a culmination of five years of litigation—were the plaintiffs accusing AXA Equitable Life Insurance Co. of charging excessive fees for “managing the managers” of the mutual fund. The plaintiffs argued that AXA delegated the work to sub-advisors and sub-administrators but retained most of the fees.

“This case set a lot of precedents,” Murphy said. “We learned a good deal from this trial, as did the entire industry. It’s the first of many pending on the issue of excessive management fees.”

Since then Murphy and Cavoli represented Hartford Investment Financial Services in a similar case involving hundreds of millions in alleged damages, where they faced off against the same firm from the AXA trial, as well as some of the same expert witnesses. “The decision came down in February and we won,” said Murphy. “Another total victory for the client.”

The AXA case earned Murphy The American Lawyers’ Litigator of the Week recognition that served as icing on the cake for Benedict’s succession plan.

“The AXA trial was a culmination of five years of litigation,” Benedict said. “We learned a good deal from this trial, as did the entire industry. It’s the first of many pending on the issue of excessive management fees.”

—SEAN MURPHY
NEW VIDEO CAPTURES PIONEERING WOMEN OF THE THIRD DEPARTMENT

BY JOHN CAHER

Victoria Graffeo ’77 remembers the adversary who kept referring to her as his “little friend” in court. That “little friend” went on to big things—the Court of Appeals, where she served as an associate judge for 14 years. Beverly Tobin ’62 snuck up the back stairs of the Fort Orange Club, an all-male bastion in downtown Albany, in the days when women weren’t allowed in the front door. She made it through the courthouse doors, though, and went to the bench as Albany County Family Court Judge. Cathryn Doyle ’78 recalls dodging traffic to use the restroom at Albany Medical Center because Albany Law School didn’t have a convenient women’s room. “If you had to go to a class in the East or West wing, you’d never make it on time,” Doyle said. “We had to run over to Albany Med to use the bathroom and if traffic was bad on New Scotland Avenue, you were late for class and locked out.”

Years later when Doyle was the Albany County Surrogate, another judge told her to go home and make babies. Doyle, Graffeo and Tobin were among nine pioneering women judges in the Third Judicial District who were interviewed by Adjunct Professor Hon. Rachel Kretser’s Gender Fairness Committee for a new documentary on the trailblazers who broke the judicial gender barrier in the seven county region (Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Ulster and Sullivan). The documentary is narrated by the Hon. Leslie Stein ’81, an associate judge of the New York Court of Appeals.

All nine interviews are available through the Unified Court System’s podcast library, “Amici,” at www.nycourts.gov/admin/amici/index.shtml. The documentary, which was produced by John Caher, Senior Advisor for Strategic Communications, NYS Court System, and Ethan Travis, a student at the College of Saint Rose, with technical assistance from Albany Law School, can be viewed at www.albanylaw.edu/pioneeringwomen.

That was about the time that we started using the term “Ms.,” which now is just part of everyday parlance, but it wasn’t back then. I’ll never forget one day in Dutchess County…

The judge called the case and I said, “Karen Peters for the defendant.” The judge looked at me and he said, “Is it Miss or Mrs.?”

I said, “It’s Ms., your honor.”

He said, “Is it Miss or Mrs.?“

I said, “It’s Ms., your honor.”

He said, “I SAID, is it Miss or Mrs.?”

I looked him straight in the eye, and I thought, “You know what? I’m tired of this. I am tired of being berated like this.” I just looked at him.

I said, “Your honor, it’s Ms. If you can’t pronounce that term, when you take a recess, I’m happy to come to your chambers and tutor you.”

The whole courtroom was like, “Oh… my… god! Oh… my… god!”

The truth is, it was just one of those moments where I was so tired of this. He responded really well. I mean, he was embarrassed that somebody would have to say this to him, when all I asked for was to be treated with respect.

He looked at me, and he said, “I deserved that, didn’t I?“
The 37th year of the law school’s Anthony V. Cardona ’70 Moot Court Program once again provided more than 200 students with the opportunity to practice their appellate advocacy, trial advocacy, negotiations and client counseling skills in an environment designed to move them from student to practitioner.

Along with competing, they played the roles of jurors, mock clients, coaches, witnesses, or board members. The program organized four in-house competitions, hosted 21 teams from other law schools, and sent 33 students to compete in interschool travel competitions in New York, Maryland, Illinois, Connecticut, Oklahoma, Ohio, Massachusetts, Delaware, and New Jersey.

**CLINIC STUDENTS EAGER TO START WORK AFTER SWEARING-IN CEREMONY**

This spring Clinic students were sworn-in by Karen Peters, Presiding Justice, Third Department, Supreme Court, Appellate Division. Students participated in the following clinics: the Family Violence Litigation Clinic, Health Law Clinic, Immigration Law Clinic, Community Development Clinic, Domestic Violence Prosecution Hybrid Clinic field placements and the Mediation Apprenticeship Clinic.
Faras ’17 Builds Program to Provide Translation to Clinic Clients, Hands Reins to Beltrez ’19

When Natalia Faras realized the Immigration Clinic needed translators to help the students and clients work more effectively, she turned to the University at Albany to build a permanent program.

The Brooklyn native who speaks Polish presented the project to more than 100 UAlbany students. She then interviewed candidates and performed mock phone calls to interpret simulated client calls. The work also calls for interpreting legal documents.

UAlbany senior Jashiel Aguilera attended family court with a Clinic client, translated meetings at the Clinic, and has been to two home visits.

“Family Court may require a social worker to visit the home,” said Aguilera, a psychology major who hopes to pursue a master’s degree in social work, “and I served as an interpreter during those visits.”

Called “Project Totem,” the initiative relies on a team of students from UAlbany to provide services through the school’s community service-for-credit program, or a field course that prepares students for a profession in interpreting.

Law student Claudia Cadenillas ’19 has also been serving as an interpreter as part of the law school’s pro bono program. “Along with interpreting, it’s an opportunity to get a taste for a variety of Clinical work. I’ll be able to make an informed decision when I choose my own clinical experience.”

A native of Lima, Peru, Cadenillas said she has a great passion for helping the immigrant population.

Now in its second year, Arianna Beltrez ’19 has taken over the program, adding more students and languages. Beltrez, who grew up in Park Slope, Brooklyn, was eager to add the project to her work load. “I am a Latina whose family immigrated to the United States and worked hard to build a life here. I love being able to work through Project Totem to play a small part in helping others gain citizenship and build lives here as well.”

“Without this program, we couldn’t help some of our clients at all,” said Sarah Rogerson, director of the Immigration Law Clinic. “Our clients are people who can be detained, abused, or kept from working. We are grateful for the help of UAlbany students and the leadership of Natalia and Arianna.” Faras, herself a 3+3 student from UAlbany, has directly represented detained and non-detained immigrants, including victims of domestic violence.

“I hope to make immigration law my career,” she said. Last summer she worked at Yale University’s Immigration Clinic and the Sol and Lilian Goldman Family Advocacy for Children and Youth Clinic.

Gabriella Levine ’17

With Legal Career First, Levine Finds Success in Sports Reporting

By every measure, Gabriella Levine has had a successful run in law school—ranked 3rd in her class, an editor on the Albany Law Review, a few Moot Court plaques, and a position at Whiteman Osterman and Hanna post graduation. At the same time, on a parallel track, she experienced some success as a journalist, writing steadily about women’s sports for a variety of popular outlets.

A Political Science major at Union College, she served as the editor-in-chief of the school’s paper for two years, an experience akin to boot camp journalism. Among numerous memorable stories, she blogged in the N.Y. Times about Union hockey, covered two local appearances of President Obama through the White House Press Pool, and interviewed actors Ryan Gosling and Bradley Cooper for a movie they filmed in Schenectady.

In law school, Levine turned to writing about women’s sports. Her most vocal pieces were a series in the Hartford Courant that accused the sports world—specifically the sports media—for not recognizing the achievements of the UConn women’s basketball team.

“When I saw that some of the bigger media outlets weren’t giving UConn enough recognition, I started writing,” Levine said. “UConn is the most dominant program in college basketball. They deserve that respect.”

In her first column for the Courant, entitled “So, If UConn Wins Too Much, That’s Bad?” she directly took on Dan Shaughnessy, the Boston Globe’s veteran sports columnist, for his criticism of the team’s success as being “bad” for the game. She also writes for Exceller Sports and Vice Sports, traveling often to cover the WNBA.

While opportunity knocks often for Levine outside the region, the Albany native has stayed local at every turn. “I always found a way to choose here,” she said. “Opportunities in the Capital Region are equally compelling, equally exciting as anywhere else. . . I knew I wanted to come to Albany Law after watching my sister Danielle ‘12 compete in Moot Court.”

Levine spent her first summer interning with U.S. District Court Judge Mae D’Agostino. “She is a real teacher at heart,” Levine said of Judge D’Agostino. She worked as a summer associate for Whiteman the following summer, and this past spring she became the first ever field placement student at the N.Y.S. Court of Appeals, where she interned for Associate Judge Michael Garcia ’89 and worked with his clerk, Jamie Dugh D’Hogenkamp ’15.

Occasionally, she finds a way to converge her two worlds of law and sport. She published a detailed article that examined the legal speech rights of professional athletes, cited case law, and featured interviews with law professors across the sports spectrum.

She also wrote, with the help of Professor Donna Young, an article on an equal pay suit filed by the U.S. Women’s Soccer team, which she continued researching this past spring for a class with Professor Melissa Brogger.

“There are an endless amount of legal issues to write about in women’s sports,” said Levine, “and pay equality is on top of that list.”

Levine can’t be certain what the future holds for her sports writing, with the start of her law career just around the corner. After winning the Karen C. McGovern Senior Prize Trial competition this past March, she’s excited to begin practicing.

“My priority is certainly my law career,” Levine said. “But law school teaches you to be an advocate. If I can use my voice for women’s sports, I’ll continue doing so.”
NINETY YEARS AGO, THE CLASS OF 1927 HAD THREE WOMEN. IN 2017, ALL THREE JOURNALS WERE LED BY WOMEN.

WOMEN LEAD ALL THREE JOURNALS FOR THE FIRST TIME

SUSAN KOSATSKY ’27

“So well to know Her own, that what she wills to do Or say seems wisest.”

The yearbook editors wrote:
“We can predict a prosperous future, perhaps in patent law, for who has proven himself more worthy?”

MARY NOBLE ’27

“If there are dreams to sell, what would you buy?”

The yearbook editors wrote:
“Composure and spontaneity have marked Mary’s progress through these three years.”

RUTH WHITE, A.B. ’27

Justinian
Verdict Board
Honorary Class President

“This things to do—I have willed to do’t.”

A verse toward the back of the book:
“Here’s to Miss White, With knowledge profound Just start an argument She’ll hold her ground.”

ERIN GINTY ’17

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, JOURNAL OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

“Dreams are lovely. But they are just dreams. Fleeting, ephemeral, pretty. But dreams do not come true just because you dream them. It’s hard work that makes things happen. It’s hard work that creates change.”

The yearbook editors might write:
“Law school not only gave Erin the tools to build a successful career, but the confidence and passion to build it on the principles of justice.”

JESSICA POLLACK ’17

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, ALBANY LAW REVIEW

“Conduct every aspect of your life with integrity. Don’t do it because you think someone is watching, do it because you know it’s right.”

The yearbook editors might write:
“Jessica taught us that a leader can be thoughtful, kind, and light-hearted, and still enjoy success.”

BRENDA BADDAM ’17

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, GOVERNMENT LAW REVIEW

“I’ve come to believe that each of us has a personal calling—that’s as unique as a fingerprint—and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you.”

The yearbook editors might write:
“Brenda learned that leadership and law complemented one another, made the other stronger, and she used both to become more than the sum of its parts.”
STUDENTS

Commencement Prizes Reward Student Achievement

Something not well-known in the Albany Law community is the value of the prizes awarded at Commencement each year. Although several awards are funded by cash gifts, many of the prize funds are endowments created by alumni gifts, bequests, or given in memoriam. These funds are invested conservatively to preserve principal and ensure modest growth. Today, the market value of the restricted prize endowment alone is over $400,000.

Last year 48 prizes with a total value of $41,542 were awarded to 33 graduates. Because many of the prizes are for the highest academic standing in various courses, top performing students typically garner several awards. In-kind donations were valued at $6,592 and consisted of software from MatLaw and Matthew Tippins '74, and textbooks given by Thomson-Reuters, publishers of Westlaw books, and LexisNexis, publisher of Matthew Bender & Company legal analysis and case law texts. Both companies' books were co-authored by Albany Law professors: one by professor emeritus Robert Barker and one by professor Ira Mark Bloom. Prizes include the Trustees' First and Second Prizes, for the graduates with the top two academic grade point averages. Notable is the Cardozo Prize, awarded through a fund established by Benjamin N. Cardozo, former Justice of the United States Supreme Court and member of the Law School faculty, for the Albany Law Review Editorial Board graduate who has made the most significant contribution to the Law Review. Also given is the Moscowitz Health Law Clinic Prize, created in honor of the marriage of Martha Kronholm Moscowitz '08 and Frank Moscowitz by the bride and groom and through gifts from their family and friends. It recognizes a talented graduate in the Health Law Clinic of Albany Law School's Clinic and Justice Center.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANNE MARIE JUDGE AT AJUDG@ALBANYLAW.EDU OR (518) 445-3219.

STUDENTS STEP UP IN TIME OF NEED

When students heard that Jim Hendricks, a well-liked chef in the dining hall, lost his house to a fire, they quickly organized a fund drive to help him through his tough times, raising several hundred dollars, along with gift certificates.

STUDENTS RECEIVE DAVID SIEGEL SCHOLARSHIPS

Rosemarie Duffy Siegel, wife of the late Professor David D. Siegel, presented scholarship certificates to the Albany Law Review editorial board. She shared some stories of the beloved educator who wrote the book on New York Practice. Here she is pictured with Law Review editor-in-chief Jessica Pollack ’17.

Briefs, Filed in U.S. Courts of Appeals and Eastern District of N.Y., Oppose Executive Order on Immigration

Six first-year law students at Albany Law School provided research support to lawyers at the firm of Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP, and the Constitutional Accountability Center in drafting two amicus briefs filed on behalf of 165 members of the United States Congress. The briefs, filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (International Refugee Assistance Project v. Donald J. Trump) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (State of Hawaii v. Donald J. Trump), argued that the Trump administration’s executive order limiting travel from six predominantly Muslim countries was “vastly overbroad—targeting both individuals and countries in a way that does nothing to further the Order’s stated purpose of ‘protect[ing] the American people from terrorist attacks by foreign nationals admitted to the United States.’”

In February, the six students assisted on a brief filed in the federal district court for the Eastern District of New York (Hameed Khalid Darweesh and People of the State of New York v. Donald J. Trump) on behalf of 167 members of Congress.

Professor Ray Brescia guided the students through the project.
It started more than a decade ago—right after the birth of their third of four kids—when Javid ‘12, now an associate at Whiteman, Osterman and Hanna, decided he wanted to move on from his career as an auto mechanic. Mara ‘17, the most recent student member of the Law School’s Board of Trustees who starts work at Bond Schoeneck and King this fall, also wanted more from her work, and they wanted to do something they could enjoy together. They decided that Javid would attend Siena College and then Albany Law School. When their youngest child reached kindergarten, Mara would begin the same seven-year journey.

“We were young, and it seemed like a goal we could achieve,” Javid said. And while best-laid plans often go awry, this plan worked, despite unexpected challenges.

The couple met in the Philadelphia region, started dating in high school and married shortly after graduation. In 2001, Javid’s Volkswagen job took the family to Albany, soon after their second child reached kindergarten, Mara would begin the same seven-year journey.

“We were young, and it seemed like a goal we could achieve,” Javid said. And while best-laid plans often go awry, this plan worked, despite unexpected challenges.

The couple met in the Philadelphia region, started dating in high school and married shortly after graduation. In 2001, Javid’s Volkswagen job took the family to Albany, soon after their second child was born. Mara worked at the children’s preschool and taught yoga and circus aerials. To launch their far-fetched law school plan in 2004, they sold their house and moved into an apartment. Javid quit his job, began teaching automotive tech part time at Hudson Valley Community College, and enrolled as a full-time student at Siena. He was 25. During the course of his schooling, he also worked at N.Y.S. Dept. of Financial Services, a private insurance company, and a local law firm.

“He always had five jobs during school, which makes me feel like a slacker,” said Mara, whose list of accomplishments contradicts her slacker accusation.

In her final year of law school, Mara’s oldest daughter started driving the kids to school, eliminating this duty from Mara’s list. “Her driving helped, but didn’t solve everything. For instance, I had class with Professor [Pat] Connors at 8:30 a.m. that semester, and everyone knows you can’t be late to his classes. I would get phone calls from the kids while I was waiting for class to start; they were pulled over on the side of the road, arguing over radio channels, and I was supposed to somehow resolve their issues before Professor Connors walked in.”

As for the day to day planning, including meals, Javid noted, “If we planned out all the little things every day, we wouldn’t have time to do any of it.”

Mara studied at school between classes, as well as during homework time with the kids. Occasionally she was forced to sneak in her studying at inopportune times, like during her daughter’s dance recitals which always seemed to fall on the eve of an exam.

“We are all going through it together,” Mara said.

“They see us working hard and know how much succeeding and getting good grades means to us too,” Javid added. “We all celebrate our report cards together.” In fact, Mara enjoyed graduating law school this year at the same time their oldest daughter, Asja, graduated high school—Asja will attend Union College in the fall.

Throughout the years, as the couple has supported one another in reaching their personal and professional goals, what has stayed steady for Mara and Javid is their zest for competition, particularly in the realm of Moot Court competitions. Both were captains of Siena’s Mock Trial team and also competed in Albany Law’s in-house competitions—one won the Senior Prize Trial competition, the other the Gabrielli Appellate Advocacy Competition, each of them insisting theirs was the more prestigious. “My name is on the bigger plaque,” one of them said, half joking, half serious.

With their education and careers in place, and not enough on their plate, they recently bought a 30-acre farm house 30 miles from Albany.

“We will always have more plans,” Mara said to Javid, “but it’s great to be here now.”

—DS
Dear Friends,

In June I stepped down after four years as Chair of the Board of Trustees. It’s been an honor to lead an institution that has done so much for me, that has served to launch so many successful careers.

Today we have 10,500 living alumni. In the entire history of the school, we can estimate around 25,000 to 30,000 graduates since 1851. We all have had our unique experiences, and subsequently, the school means something different to each of us. Those impressions remain enduring. Meanwhile, the school has been forced to evolve with the times.

In the past, we graduated and went to practice law, whether in the private or public sectors. There were few exceptions, like myself, who went into other fields. Today, while the law degree still leads to career success—90% of the class of 2016 have professional jobs—the dynamic has changed. For example, 18% of our students last year took J.D.-advantaged jobs, which include finance, insurance, government affairs, and more.

Because the market is fundamentally different today, we have been forced to look hard at the school’s future. The Strategic Plan, created three years ago, has proven to be a reliable vision to drive the success of the school. For the past three years it has served us well. Every possible metric, even the elusive U.S. News rankings, continues to rise. Our rich history doesn’t bring students into the school. But aligning our history with the present and future does, as the Strategic Plan is demonstrating increases in bar passage rate, employment rate, U.S. News ranking—29 slots in two years—and number of students matriculating each year.

All this planning and executing doesn’t happen on its own. It requires hard work. It requires people to make it happen. Dean Ouellette, the faculty, the administration, the Board, the staff, they all did the work. They are doing the work.

I turn 65 this summer. I have been blessed with success. But through all my endeavors—and I never practiced law—I always turn to Albany Law School as the place where the light turned on for me. That’s what the school did for most of us, and still does.

I am also a University at Albany graduate, and a strong supporter of the affiliation. I’ve enjoyed being part of that development. I can’t think of a better way for our students and faculty to access the opportunities a large research university affords, without changing the character of our school in any way. We are fortunate to have this relationship.

The progress I have talked about—some potentially transformational—is possible by the generous support of all alumnae and alumni. Time, resources, expertise, and genuine caring are all essential if we want the school to thrive, to enter the new era as a leader, to prepare our students to influence the profession, and for our budding stars to reach their potential. Collectively the 10,000 of us have amazing achievements and influence—and we share the common experience of Albany Law School.

I intend to stay on the Board after my chairmanship. I hope to help where I can. Like many of you, I love the school and the school’s community. There may be no other place in the world like it. Building this law school is an important piece to building the larger Capital Region community. The school plays a large part in generating leadership in the private and public sectors.

Together I look forward to continuing the work we’ve achieved in the past 166 years.
FROM MOPPING THE HALLS TO BOARD CHAIR, HACKER LOOKS TO STAY THE COURSE FOR ALBANY LAW

“I am fortunate to be following Dan Nolan’s chairmanship. Dan has been a great mentor.”

“We are a small, student-centered law school. We have a quality faculty who have a personal connection with their students, and a dedicated alumni base,” Hacker said. “Albany Law continues to provide a high quality education at a value that is affordable when compared to other institutions. But the legal market is competitive and we cannot rest on our laurels. We need to continue to improve on many fronts. This includes keeping tuition affordable while remaining fiscally sound.”

He reflected on some of the School’s assets. “We are an independent school, which makes us nimble. We have little bureaucracy; when we make a decision, we can implement it quickly. I witnessed this during my tenure on the board.”

He called the affiliation with the University of Albany a great idea that is already paying dividends. “We should have done it 20 years ago.”

He reflected on some of the School’s assets. “We are an independent school, which makes us nimble. We have little bureaucracy; when we make a decision, we can implement it quickly. I witnessed this during my tenure on the board.”

He called the affiliation with the University of Albany a great idea that is already paying dividends. “We should have done it 20 years ago.”

He called the affiliation with the University of Albany a great idea that is already paying dividends. “We should have done it 20 years ago.”

He called the affiliation with the University of Albany a great idea that is already paying dividends. “We should have done it 20 years ago.”

He called the affiliation with the University of Albany a great idea that is already paying dividends. “We should have done it 20 years ago.”

He called the affiliation with the University of Albany a great idea that is already paying dividends. “We should have done it 20 years ago.”

Hacker notes the market for law schools is flat nationally, particularly in the northeast. He supports the school’s effort to establish masters programs as one way to expand enrollment without compromising the quality of the student body.

Hacker believes “There will always be a place for a good lawyer. If we attract qualified students and produce qualified lawyers, we will enjoy success. As time passes, the baby boomer generation will retire and there will be many opportunities for recent graduates.”

MOPPING THE HALLS

“I may be the first board chair to have mopped the floors of Albany Law School,” Hacker said, laughing, recalling his job as janitor during school. “I worked for a guy named John DeMatteo. More than anyone else, John was my connection to the Law School. He was one of the most generous and beloved men I have ever known. Without that experience, I would not have the level of involvement I currently do.”

Hacker grew up in Utica, N.Y., attended Hamilton College, graduated and headed directly to Albany Law. He began his career at Maynard, O’Connor Smith in 1984, where he worked for six years before helping to start a firm which later became Hacker Murphy, LLP. Two years ago, his firm merged with the firm of E. Stewart Jones. Jones is a former Chair of the Law School’s board. Hacker said, “Stewart Jones is an icon of our profession. It’s an honor and privilege to practice with him.”

Hacker is also president of the Albany County Bar Association this year. He credits his wife Susan for being tolerant of his schedule and supporting him through the hectic times.

Hacker commends the leadership at the school, noting each member of the administration by name. He added, “I am fortunate to be following Dan Nolan’s chairmanship. Dan has been a great mentor. He weathered some of the toughest times for legal education, and now hands off a ship that is sailing in the right direction.”

“A law degree has always been expensive. It has always been worth the investment and still is today.”
Vilsack ’75, Hartunian ’86 Among Honorees at Alumni in Government Awards

Albany Law School and the Government Law Center honored four distinguished graduates at the 2017 Alumni in Government Awards in April. Former Agriculture Secretary under President Obama and two-term Iowa Governor Thomas J. Vilsack ’75 received the Honorable James P. King ’59 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Richard S. Hartunian ’86, former U.S. Attorney, Northern District of New York, received the Distinguished Alumnus in Government Award; Renee Zirpolo Merges ’83, Assistant District Attorney, received the Unsung Hero in Government Award; and Kendra Jenkins Rubin ’12, Assistant Counsel, New York State Governor’s Office, was given the Rising Star in Government Award.

“Albany Law School will always hold a special place to me. That is where I received the tools to thrive as a lawyer and in public service,” said Vilsack, now the U.S. Dairy Export Council president.

The Lawyer’s Role in Preserving Democracy and Closing the Justice Gap

During the month of March, law schools in New York State launched a series of conversations entitled “March for Justice.” The events addressed the role of lawyers in a democracy, in preserving the rule of law, and promoting and preserving civil and human rights. Albany Law’s “March for Justice” event featured James Sandman, President of the U.S. Legal Services Corporation, the agency that funds free legal services to low-income communities nationally; Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan ’94; Lillian Moy, Executive Director of The Legal Aid Society of Northeast New York; Joanne Macri ’94, N.Y. State Office of Indigent Legal Services; and Glinnesa Gailliard ’07, Legal Counsel, CDPHP.

BLACK LIVES MATTER IN THE TRUMP ERA

One cannot talk about the rise of President Trump without speaking of the failures of the Obama administration, argued Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, noting that the 2016 election was not a story of who voted, but rather who did not vote. Taylor, a Princeton University professor, delivered this year’s James Campbell Matthews Lecture titled “Black Lives Matter in the Trump Era.”

From left: author, activist and scholar Barbara Smith; Professor Donna Young; Dr. Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor; and Anthony Paul Farley, James Campbell Matthews Distinguished Professor of Jurisprudence.
Law Review Event Features Conversation With Judge Pigott and Judge Smith

For the 11th Annual Chief Judge Lawrence H. Cooke State Constitutional Commentary Symposium, former Court of Appeals judges, Hon. Eugene F. Pigott Jr. and Hon. Robert S. Smith, offered students their reflections on serving on New York State’s highest court, and advice to steering a legal career successfully. Professor Vincent Bonventre, Justice Robert H. Jackson Distinguished Professor of Law, moderated the event, which served as part of The Edward C. Sobota ’79 Memorial Lecture Series.

Former Chief Judge Urges the Audience to Address Inequities of the Justice System

The Honorable Jonathan Lippman, Chief Judge of the State of New York (Ret.), delivered a passionate speech calling for reforms at all levels of the justice system to help end the inequities. The talk, the 14th Judge Hugh R. Jones Memorial Lecture, was co-hosted by The Fund for Modern Courts. Lippman spoke in the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom, with Court of Appeals members in attendance.

A Community Conversation on the Criminal Justice System

Albany Law hosted Healing Moments, a community conversation on improving the criminal justice system, featuring Robert Sears, Albany Police Chief (pictured top, far right); Mickey Bradley, Citizens Police Review Board; Gwen Pope, NAACP; Dean Antony Haynes; and Brianna Vaughan ’17, Black Law Students Assoc. (bottom photo). The event was moderated by the Honorable Victoria Graffeo ’77, Harris Beach, and presented by Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy.

Advocacy and Activism Today

Professor Peter Halewood addressed the audience—largely community members—during a day of discussion about effective community activism. Organized by Samantha Howell ’10, Prisoners’ Legal Services of New York, speakers addressed legal tools and other strategies to protect peoples’ rights and address injustice.
**U.S. Prosecutors Discuss Range of Issues at Jackson Lecture**

In September, Hon. Robert Capers ’96, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Hon. Richard Hartunian ’86, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of New York, and Hon. Michael Garcia ’89, Associate Judge, New York Court of Appeals, spoke about their paths to their roles, and a range of experiences as federal prosecutors. Professor Vincent Bonventre, Justice Robert H. Jackson Distinguished Professor of Law, and Professor Patricia Reyhan, Distinguished Professor of Law Emerita, moderated the event, presented by the Student Bar Association and the Criminal Law Society. Since then, Hartunian and Capers have stepped down from their posts.

**Anderson Breakasts**

The Government Law Center organized another year of the Anderson Breakfast Series, filling the Assembly Parlor of the State Capitol with each of the four events. Events addressed topics such as: Cybersecurity: Protection, Regulation and Privacy; Homelessness and Housing in N.Y. State; Repealing the Affordable Care Act; and The Path to a State Constitutional Convention.

**Start-Up Law Day**

In January, Capital Region entrepreneurs joined Albany Law School for its third annual Start-Up Law Day offering free legal consultations and legal education on business issues. Topics included intellectual property, human resources, working with investors, and more.
NOW 30-SOMETHING, SCHAFFER LAW LIBRARY STILL FEELS YOUNG

Schaffer Law Library recently celebrated its 30th year of serving students, faculty, alumni, and the region’s legal community. Ranked in the top 50 nationally of all law school libraries every year for the past 10 years, the library occupies 53,000 square feet over three floors, offers seating for 415 people, and 740,000 volumes and equivalents.

THE PEOPLE
- Five full-time librarians possess Master of Library Science degrees
- Two full-time librarians with JD degrees and Library Science degrees
- Two part-time weekend librarians with JD degrees
- Three full-time Library Assistants and three part-time Library Assistants.
- Most staff have been at Schaffer Law Library for 10-plus years

SERVICES FOR ALUMNI
- Library access during all regular day and evening library hours.
- Research assistance from professional reference librarians provided in-person and by telephone and email during regular library business hours.
- Quiet Floor located on the lower level. Cell phone use is prohibited and only quiet conversation permitted.
- Legal Research Workshops available for the law school community during the academic year. See a reference librarian to attend.

THE 53,000 SQUARE-FOOT LIBRARY, WHICH MORE THAN TRIPLED THE PREVIOUS SPACE—WHAT IS NOW THE DEAN ALEXANDER MOOT COURTROOM—WAS BUILT BY L.A. SWYER COMPANY. THE SWYERS HAVE CONTINUED TO GENEROUSLY GIVE FINANCIALLY TO THE SCHOOL, INCLUDING A GIFT LAST YEAR FROM EDWARD P. SWYER AND THE SWYER FAMILY FOUNDATION THAT LED TO THE NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLINIC.

BAD BEHAVIOR
MEMORY
TO SHELVE THE BOOKS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE LATE HOURS, STUDENT WORKERS THROW THE BOOKS TO EACH OTHER ACROSS THE ROOM—FROM BALCONY TO BALCONY.

Emery, Reference Librarian and School Historian, Retires a Second Time

Associate Director Robert (Bob) Emery retired this year after serving in the Schaffer Law Library since 1983. Emery was considered the school’s unofficial historian, with a keen interest in the school’s alumni from the early 1900s.

He received his J.D. from George Washington University Law School and earned an MLS from University at Albany and an M.A. in History from the University of Virginia. He was named “Friend of the Graduating Class of 1996” and relied on by hundreds for research support.

He officially retired as Associate Director in June 2012 but remained on staff as a part-time reference librarian until December 2016. The library reference desk was dedicated as the Robert A. Emery Reference Area in 2012.

NOW the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom, the old library served the school well for 60 years.

From left: Allen Lescak, Legal Supplementation Specialist, MLS, MA English; Lisa Suto, Access Services Specialist, MSIS, MA Public History; Saadia Iqbal, Collection Development and Management Librarian, JD, MLS; Colleen Smith, Director of Schaffer Law Library, MLS; David Walker, Access Services Librarian, JD, MLS, Melanie Mabee, Access Services Specialist; Rebecca Murphy, Technical Services Librarian, MLS; Molly Boiseau, Cataloging and Acquisitions Specialist.

Not pictured: Leslie Cunningham, Catalog and Government Information Librarian, MLS; Elizabeth Conniff-Dineen, Government Documents Specialist; Colleen Ostiguy, Reference Librarian, JD, MLS; John Kenny, Reference Librarian, JD; Alicia Pearson, Continuations and Serials Specialist.
Sydney Taylor ’18 asked U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor whether she had ever been persuaded to change a fundamental view. Yes, said the Justice, through conversations with people she respected about their own deeply held beliefs.

Respectful conversations, she told Taylor, are the key to persuasion. “You talk with them today, and you try again tomorrow, and you try again the next time, and you try yet again, and, eventually, somebody brokers a compromise…What made that happen? The talking. The talking it through.”

Justice Sotomayor’s appearance in the Dean Alexander Moot Courtroom was part of a historic visit to Albany Law School on April 3, 2017. In the DAMC, she answered a few questions from Dean Alicia Ouellette and Professor Andrew Ayers, the director of the Government Law Center, who clerked for the Justice during her time on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, but spent most of the time roaming the room answering questions from students.

Throughout her discussion she illustrated the principle of respectful engagement. “I can disagree with my [Supreme Court] colleagues. I can be angry with them at times,” she said. “But in the end, I respect that they are not motivated by ill will, but…by seeing things differently.”

She added, “If you stop talking, there is no chance for change.”

Justice Sotomayor also explained that her understanding of her judicial role rests on a principle of respect for legislatures: “Virtually all laws are written for a reason.”
When writing opinions, she said, “I work very hard at making my opinions understandable to anyone who bothers to read them,” aiming to ensure that no reader needs more than a fifth-grade education to follow what I am saying.”

A related principle is understanding the perspective of the parties who appear in front of the Court—including the losing party. “I cannot help but know how the loser will suffer,” the Justice said.

“If you think neutrality is heartlessness, then I disagree with you,” she said. A judge can understand the parties’ perspectives—including the harm they have suffered—without jumping to the conclusion that the law affords them a remedy.

Listening carefully to opinions on both sides of an issue, she said, is equally important in lawyering and in interpersonal relationships. “If you can identify and lead by acknowledging why their position is important, then you can begin your legal position,” she said. “I do that almost as a formula for my opinion, but also as a formula for life as a woman and as a lawyer.”

And when Mary Ann Krisa ’19 asked whether anger ever has a place in judicial opinions, the Justice said that while strong emotions can be constructive, unchecked anger is merely self-indulgent. “The one thing that gets people to listen is your passion about an issue, but not your anger,” she said.

“WE KNOW THAT WE DISAGREE, BUT WE KNOW THAT WE ALL SHARE AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF PASSION ABOUT THE LAW, ABOUT OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION.”

KATE STONEMAN’S FOOTSTEPS

Justice Sotomayor’s visit to campus was the highlight of the year for many. Students were given priority over other guests, leaving room for professors, past Stoneman Award winners, trustees, and members of the boards of the Government Law Center and the National Alumni Association.

More guests watched from the school’s gym—where they were surprised by a visit from the Justice before her appearance in the DAMC. One person said afterwards, “All of a sudden I realized she was standing right next to me!”

During her visit, the Justice also had separate meetings with Government Law Center fellows, student leaders, and the Albany Law faculty.

In the DAMC, the Justice received the Kate Stoneman award from Professor Melissa Breger and Professor Mary Lynch, who delighted the Justice, a fellow Cardinal Spellman High School alum, with her Spellman class ring. The Stoneman Award is named for the first woman admitted to the bar in New York State and Albany Law’s first female graduate, class of 1898.

“I am in amazing company,” the Justice exclaimed, recognizing past Stoneman Award recipients.

“Kate Stoneman was someone whose footsteps I have followed,” she said, “But mine are not ones that I want people to follow in. I want them to join and make them with me.”
She closed the event with final words about Stoneman: “I invite every woman and every man in this room to know that this life she lived is for all of us, and we should be doing this together: To raise the banner of equality as high as we can, and to lead under that banner to new and better places for all of us.”

**THE SOTOMAYOR STARE**

Charlotte Rehfuss ’18 asked the Justice about the challenges facing women in the legal profession who try to be “assertive and confident, without being perceived as aggressive or abrasive.”

“I am not the best person to be asked this question of, because I have been called abrasive... and nasty, and a couple of other adjectives,” the Justice said.

When she gets caught up in listening to an oral argument, she said, she sometimes finds herself staring at the lawyers. “I am not staring at you because I am trying to play tough with you, … but because I am listening to you.” She was surprised to learn that people find that stare intimidating, or even “menacing.”

The Justice said that learning to be assertive means understanding your own position—including its weaknesses—but equally you have to understand the positions of your adversary, and acknowledge their strengths, because if you can respect someone else’s position, it does not show weakness—it shows human understanding.”
If you can develop the skill of “understanding other people in a positive way,” she said, “it will be easier to live with being assertive yourself… Because if you do it always with human kindness, people will respond to it…” And do not stare at them the way I do.

BRINGING YOUR WORLD WITH YOU

The Justice also spoke openly about her personal life, sharing how long it took for her to learn to trust her family “to love me, both through the good and the bad.” She urged students to include family members in their new lives as professionals: “If they know we are including them, they will learn to be at our side. Bring them with you.”

When President Obama hosted a party for her at the White House to celebrate her confirmation, she brought her family with her. In the ladies’ room, much to her distress, she found Titi Gloria stuffing White House napkins and paper cups into her pocket book. The Justice was mortified. Last year, however, at the White House Christmas party, President Obama told the guests not to take the silver—they count it—but to feel free to take the paper cups and napkins. That’s what they expect people to do.

“Big lesson, that moment was for me. I realized that, for all those moments where I thought my family was a little too loud, where they dressed a little too boisterously, where they did things that… I thought were different than other people did, that I was probably wrong. They were not.” She continued. “Everybody has a crazy Titi Gloria. Every culture has the relatives who are a little too loud, the crazy ones, the silly ones.”

She tries to share her new life not just with her family, but in her travels to schools across the country, including her alma mater—as she explained to fellow Spellman alum Adriana De León ’17. “I do it because if kids do not know what is possible, they cannot aspire to anything.” She talks to them about education “as opening their worlds for them, in a way nothing else can.

“But we have to take our world with us and never leave it behind.”

PROUD AND PASSIONATE LAWYERING

Another theme to which the Justice returned was her faith in the American judicial system, and her pride at the role lawyers play in it.

“Do not ever let anybody tell you a lawyer joke,” she said. “Why do you think we have all these laws that help people? It’s because lawyers protected people’s rights and made others understand what we needed as a society.”

“We should never be apologetic about the good we do for people and for society. We should be proud of it. And we should be passionate about the roles that lawyers play in helping society and people. … And if we could show that passion, and communicate it to people, I think there would be less distrust of lawyers and more respect for the law and for what judges are trying to do.”
THE ALBANY LAW SCHOOL ECONOMIC AND GOVERNMENT IMPACT ON THE CAPITAL REGION AND NEW YORK STATE

ALBANY LAW SCHOOL CONTINUES ITS LEGACY DEVELOPING STUDENTS TO BECOME LEADERS OF NEW YORK STATE’S GOVERNMENT.

IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT

Some of our Leaders in Government
Andrew Cuomo ’82
Governor
Rep. Lee M. Zeldin ’03
U.S. Rep., 1st Congressional District of N.Y.
Kathy Sheehan ’94
Mayor, Albany
Lovely Warren ’03
Mayor, Rochester

N.Y. Legislators*
Philip M. Boyle ’87
N.Y. State Senate, District 4
Fred W. Thiele Jr. ’79
N.Y. State Assembly, District 1
Brian Barnwell ’11
N.Y. State Assembly, District 30
Michele R. Titus ’93
N.Y. State Assembly, District 31
Kevin A. Cahill ’80
N.Y. State Assembly, District 103
Mary Beth Walsh ’90
N.Y. State Assembly, District 112
Anthony J. Brindisi ’04
N.Y. State Assembly, District 119
Michael J. Norris ’05
N.Y. State Assembly, District 144

THE GOVERNMENT LAW CENTER

A think-tank and mentoring center that focuses on legal issues affecting state and local government. Offers trainings, symposia, lectures, and research papers on topics including state constitutional reform, conflicts between federal and state government on immigration issues, local-government response to urban and rural blight, and more.

*Elected or re-elected in 2016.
213 matters for 187 families: Clinic students helped community members with issues around domestic violence, immigration, health, taxes, and more.

3500 hours | Semester in Practice: Six students spent the semester as full-time interns in public interest or public sector work for credit.

3300 hours | Summer in Practice: Seven students spent the summer as full-time interns in public interest or public sector work for credit.

3301 hours: Pro Bono Scholars take the bar exam in February of their final year, and then spend their last semester working full time in legal-related community service.

1100 hours | Pro Bono Projects including:
- Veterans Law Day: Some 100 veterans spend the day at the school each year attending workshops, receiving one-on-one counsel from volunteer attorneys, and hearing a keynote speaker.
- Senior Citizens Law Day: For 23 years, senior citizens and their service providers have spent the day at the school attending workshops, receiving one-on-one counsel from volunteer attorneys, and hearing a keynote speaker.
- LGBT Law Day: Members of the LGBT community spend the day at the school attending workshops, receiving one-on-one counsel from volunteer attorneys, and hearing a keynote speaker.

SCHAEFFER LAW LIBRARY
The library is open to the public during the day and to attorneys during all open hours. It provides professional resource help daily. When the N.Y. State Library is closed on nights and weekends, the Albany Law Library, ranked top 50 nationally every year, serves as the primary law library for the region.

FINANCIAL IMPACT ON AREA ECONOMY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Total Direct Spending by Institution 2015</td>
<td>$19,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Annual Average Construction Spending</td>
<td>$1,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Output Impact (Institution, Estimated Annual Construction and Spillover Impacts)</td>
<td>$42,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Labor Compensation (Institution, Estimated Annual Construction and Spillover Impacts)</td>
<td>$18,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Student &amp; Visitor Impact (Both Direct &amp; Spillover)</td>
<td>$3,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total Economic Impact (Direct &amp; Spillover)</td>
<td>$46,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated NYS Personal Income Tax Revenue</td>
<td>$1,100,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated State &amp; Local Sales Tax Revenue</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Direct Employment</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Total Employment (Direct &amp; Spillover)</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTES: Based on 2014-15 IPEDS reporting, this represents estimated statewide economic impact.
After announcing the intent to formally affiliate in 2015, Albany Law School and the University at Albany continue to collaborate on a wide range of levels. Examples here—which include faculty projects, student internships, admissions recruitment activity, and a moot court experience—capture a sample of the numerous activities that routinely take place.

THREE UALBANY PROFESSORS NAMED ALBANY LAW SCHOOL AFFILIATED FACULTY

As part of the affiliation relationship with University at Albany, three UAlbany faculty members became Albany Law School affiliated faculty this year. They are:

- Kamiar Alaei, who co-founded the Global Institute for Health and Human Rights, an area where the two schools have been working together on programs;
- Meghan Cook, who directs the Center for Technology in Government, who worked with Professor Ray Brescia on course work; and
- David McCaffrey, a Distinguished Teaching Professor and Collins Fellow, and former Co-director of the Institute for Financial Market Regulation with Professor Christine Chung.

THE POLITICS OF DIFFERENCE AND THE THRESHOLD OF LAW

The affiliation inspired a two-day conference on “The Politics of Difference and the Threshold of Law.” Co-led by UAlbany English Professor Charles Shepherdson, who directs the English masters program and liberal studies program, and Albany Law Professor Peter Halewood, the event featured several speakers from both schools, students, and speakers from outside the state.

SCHOOLS HELP TOWNS DEAL WITH DATA BREACHES, CYBER INSURANCE, AND MORE

UAlbany’s Center for Technology in Government partnered with Albany Law’s Antony Haynes and law students to help local governments understand the laws surrounding their new technology, such as “smart” streetlights that sense street activity, and sensors that collect parking data to assist motorists.

To address this, Albany Law students provided research on cybersecurity, cyber-insurance, data accountability, and the inter-networking of “smart” devices—known as the “Internet of Things.” The group examined the legal requirements of a municipality after a data breach, the legal ins-and-outs of cyber-insurance, and other topics.

“Because issues related to technology innovations within the context of government law are becoming more and more prevalent,” said Haynes, Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives and Information Systems at Albany Law, “we are glad to learn more about the area while at the same time providing a resource for CTG.”

CTG will include the law school’s contribution in a comprehensive publication that can be used by the center’s worldwide government partners.
Today women make up slightly more than half of Albany Law’s student body, and comprise slightly less than half of the full-time faculty. Further, the President, the Dean for Academic Affairs, the Dean for Student Affairs, and the three student-journal editors are all women.

This was a part of Dean Alicia Ouellette’s talk at the Zonta Club of Albany’s Annual Status of Women Program, where she and the Director of UAlbany’s Center for International Development (CID), Gina Volynsky, served as the keynote speakers.

Dean Ouellette also noted that women make up 35% of the legal profession, 25% of general counsels of Fortune 500 companies, 19% of the Fortune 500 to 1000 Companies, 18% of the managing partners at the 200 largest firms, and 31% of law school deans in the U.S.

The Zonta Club is a member of Zonta International, an organization devoted to advancing the social, economic, political and professional status of women and seeking to improve the health, education and welfare of children, both in the Capital District and throughout the world.

Volynsky talked about the conditions of women throughout the world and the work that they are doing to alleviate systemic issues.

Volynsky, who joined CID in 2016, oversees the Center’s various projects operating on four continents. CID works with people in developing countries to improve the ability of government institutions to understand and respond to the needs of their constituents. This leads to greater access by the population to the political process, economic opportunities and social services.

As a result of the UAlbany/Albany Law affiliation, CID moved to the Law School campus, where it is partnering with the Law School to develop and enhance experiential learning opportunities for students and International Rule of Law projects globally.

As a Civil Affairs Company Commander in the U.S. Army, Aristaeas Tzovaras ’17 scoured townships looking for the sources of instability in post-conflict areas and helped to rebuild an infrastructure for the communities. His international experience drew him to an internship at the University of Albany’s Center for International Development, which is housed at Albany Law School.

CID concerns itself with similar kind of work: helping communities develop stable infrastructures, anywhere from African townships to the Middle East.

As part of a larger initiative, Tzovaras served on a team that constructed a database of U.S. financed governance programs in developing countries. The database will be used to improve future programs in developing countries, and to position CID better for additional funding. For this project he focused on rule of law programs. He also reviewed the legal forms used by the CID, which led to the development of a standardized set of legal templates.

“He has been very effective for CID,” said Gina Volynsky, who directs the Center. “It was nice to have another legal mind on call; he is smart, experienced, and we greatly enjoyed working with him. Clearly the CID and Albany Law have many areas for collaboration going forward.”

Michael N. Christakis, UAlbany Vice President for Student Affairs & Public Service Professor, Rosemary Queenan, Albany Law School’s Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Professor Jerry Rock, and Professor Jim Acker, UAlbany’s School of Criminal Justice, organized the competition, which included preparing the UAlbany students for the competition. The winners and finalists earned cash prizes. The event was funded by the University at Albany and Albany Law School Venture Fund. Pictured above, back row from left, are: Dean Queenan, Hon. Richard Rivera, Albany Family Court Judge, Hon. Randall Treece, former Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of New York, Hon. Christina Ryba, N.Y. State Supreme Court’s 3rd Judicial District, and Serena Joyce Williams, Judge Jones’ former law clerk.
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


Professor Melissa Breger published the 2016-17 Cumulative Supplement to her co-authored casebook NEW YORK LAW OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (with Judge Elkins, Deseriee Kennedy and Jili Zuccardy) (Thomson-West-Reuters, 3rd ed.). She also published the chapter “Trauma In Sex-Trafficked Children” in HUMAN TRAFFICKING: EMERGING LEGAL ISSUES AND APPLICATIONS (Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, 2017).


Professor Christine Sgarlata Chung published BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS LAW IN FOCUS (with Deborah Bouchoux) (Focus Casebook Series, Wolters Kluwer, 2016).

Professor Stephen Clark contributed three op-eds to The Hill in 2016: “Should Obama just pardon Hillary?”, “Trump’s Supreme Court Justice should be shunned”; and “Trump administration should be careful not to make impeachable threats.” He published “Donald Trump and Sexual McCarthyism” on the Albany Law School Faculty Blog.

Professor Patrick Connors, Albert and Angela Farone Distinguished Professor in New York Civil Practice, authored the 2017 Supplement to SIEGEL’S NEW YORK PRACTICE (5th ed., West Academic Publishing). He is working on the 6th edition, SIEGEL AND CONNORS, NEW YORK PRACTICE: He authored the 2016 McKinney’s Supplementary Practice Commentaries for CPLR Article 22, Stay, Motions, Orders and Mandates; Article 23, Subpoenas, Oaths and Affirmations; Article 30, Remedies and Pleading; and Article 31, Disclosure. He wrote the column "Judicial Law §470 Meets Temporary Practice Under §523" that was published in the New York Law Journal on May 24, 2016. He authored the lead article to the Annual Special Section on Court of Appeals and Appellate Practice in the New York Law Journal, entitled “Decisions Address ESI Destruction, Common Interest Doctrine” on August 22, 2016. His article “For Whom the Statute Tolls” was published in the New York Law Journal on March 29, 2017.


BRINGING FACULTY TOGETHER THROUGH THE AFFILIATION

Professor Christian Sundquist led an open conversation at the University at Albany for faculty interested in working with Albany Law faculty on research projects and other collaborations.

WEEKLY WORKSHOP KEEPS FACULTY SHARP

Professor Anthony Paul Farley, the James Campbell Matthews Distinguished Professor of Jurisprudence, presented “Neighborliness” at a workshop. The weekly Gathii Faculty Workshop Series creates a forum for faculty to share research, discuss teaching strategies, and address issues in an informal setting.
Students and Faculty Work on the Front Lines of the Immigration Issue

Immigration lawyers are making headlines almost every day on both sides of the issue. Increasingly attorneys—and citizens—are required to know more about immigration laws, as they touch criminal law, family law, education law, land use, corporate law, and more. Students and faculty are at the forefront of the debate at a number of levels.

- Students in the Immigration Law Clinic are representing children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected.
- Students are representing immigrants who are crime victims and immigrants who are survivors of domestic violence.
- In the Immigration Assistance Project, students are presenting on college campuses and conducting outreach to immigrant detainees held in local prisons.

Rogerson Receives Legal Aid Award for Immigration Work

From left: Blaine Fogg, President, The Legal Aid Society; Prof. Sarah Rogerson; Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, N.Y. Court of Appeals; Richard Davis, Board Chair, The Legal Aid Society; Seymour James Jr., Attorney-in-Chief, The Legal Aid Society.

Professor Sarah Rogerson received The Legal Aid Society’s 2016 Pro Bono Publico Awards, given to her in New York City last fall. The award, given for outstanding service to The Legal Aid Society and its clients, was presented by New York Chief Judge Janet DiFiore. Rogerson, who directs the Immigration Law Clinic, oversees the Law School’s Clinic & Justice Center. Immigration Law Clinic Fellow Mary Armistead ’14 also received an award.


Professor Keith Hirokawa served as the Issue Editor for NYSBA’s The New York Environmental Lawyer (Fall 2016), which included a “Message from the Issue Editor.” He is writing a property casebook for Carolina Press.


Professor Mary A. Lynch, Kate Stoneman Chair in Law and Democracy, co-authored the op-ed “Keep women’s safety at forefront” in the Albany Times Union on March 26. She also co-authored the article “Incentivizing and Assessing Faculty Committee Work Contributions, Why Now?” forthcoming in the Journal of Legal Education.


President & Dean Alicia Ouellette published the co-authored article “U.S. Medical Schools’ Compliance With the Americans With Disabilities Act: Findings From a National Study” in Academic Medicine (2016). She co-authored the article “Medical Schools’ Willingness to Accommodate Medical Students with Sensory and Physical Disabilities: Ethical Foundations of a Functional Challenge to ‘Organic’ Technical Standards” which was published in the AMA Journal of Ethics (2016). She wrote the foreword to Human Trafficking: Emerging Legal Issues and Applications (Lawyers & Judges Publishing Company, 2017). She wrote the chapter “General Introduction: Human Rights and Disability—Interdisciplinary Perspectives” in Human Rights and Disability: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (Routledge, 2016). And she published the op-ed “Funding legal services for the poor benefits all of society” in the Albany Times Union on April 5.

Professor David Pratt published a 2016 Supplement to Langbein, Pratt, Stabile and Stumpft, Pension and Employee Benefits Law (Foundation, 6th ed.). He published a 2017 Supplement to The Social Security and Medicare Answer Book (Wolters Kluwer, 6th ed.).
Professor Ira Bloom is in the home stretch of a project that could result in a significant overhaul to New York State’s trust laws.

New York has not made comprehensive trust law changes since 1967—and some current trust provisions date back to 1830. Last year, Professor Bloom, with his co-reporter Professor William Lapiana of New York Law School, prepared a 300-plus page report that recommended enactment of a modern trust code for the state, specifically a new Article 7-A of the New York Estates, Powers and Trusts Law. The report, authorized by the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of the New York State Bar Association, was prepared with assistance from Brynne Grady ’14, Ralph Scunziano ’16, and Bryan Bessette ’17. The report was unanimously approved by the Trusts and Estates Law Section of NYSBA in October. At the end of November, both the Trusts and Estates and Surrogate’s Court Committee and the Estate and Gift Taxation Committee of the New York City Bar Association approved the recommendations, which the President of the City Bar signed off on in March.

Professor Bloom, the Justice David Josiah Brewer Distinguished Professor of Law, presented an informational report on the proposed New York Trust Code to the Executive Committee of NYSBA in January 2017, and also to the Executive Committee of NYSBA in January 2017. He served as the law school’s representative to the AALS House of Representatives in San Francisco, Calif., in January 2017.


Professor Donna Young’s article, co-authored with Professor Peter Halewood, “Precarity, Power and Purpose in Higher Education” is forthcoming in John Marshall Law Review (2017). She served as a guest editor for the November-December 2016 issue of Academe (AAUP) and published “From the Editor: Race on Campus.” Another column, “Mainstreaming Hate after the Election,” was published on the Academe blog.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS


Professor Ira Bloom, Justice David Josiah Brewer Distinguished Professor of Law, presented to the Trusts and Estates Law Section of NYSBA a 300-plus page report which recommended enactment of a modern trust code for New York in October 2016. The report was unanimously approved. He also presented the proposal to the Trusts and Estates and Surrogate’s Court Committee and to the Estate and Gift Tax Committee of the City Bar. At the end of November, both Committees approved the recommendation to enact a modern trust code for New York. He presented an informational report on the proposed New York Trust Code to the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of NYSBA in January 2017, and also to the Executive Committee of NYSBA in January 2017. He served as the law school’s representative to the AALS House of Representatives in San Francisco, Calif., in January 2017.

Professor Vincent Bonventre, Justice Robert H. Jackson Distinguished Professor of Law, gave the opening plenary session talk “Court of Appeals Review: Transition to the DiFiore Court” for the N.Y. State Judicial Institute’s 2016 Summer Regional Program in Rochester, N.Y. on June 14, 2016. He presented to the New York State Bar Association Committee on the State Constitutional Convention on July 14, 2016. He presented at the NYSBA CLE “U.S. Supreme Court and New York Taxation of Distributions.”

Professor Donna Young’s article, co-authored with Professor Peter Halewood, “Precarity, Power and Purpose in Higher Education” is forthcoming in John Marshall Law Review (2017). She served as a guest editor for the November-December 2016 issue of Academe (AAUP) and published “From the Editor: Race on Campus.” Another column, “Mainstreaming Hate after the Election,” was published on the Academe blog.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS


Professor Ira Bloom, Justice David Josiah Brewer Distinguished Professor of Law, presented to the Trusts and Estates Law Section of NYSBA a 300-plus page report which recommended enactment of a modern trust code for New York in October 2016. The report was unanimously approved. He also presented the proposal to the Trusts and Estates and Surrogate’s Court Committee and to the Estate and Gift Tax Committee of the City Bar. At the end of November, both Committees approved the recommendation to enact a modern trust code for New York. He presented an informational report on the proposed New York Trust Code to the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Law Section of NYSBA in January 2017, and also to the Executive Committee of NYSBA in January 2017. He served as the law school’s representative to the AALS House of Representatives in San Francisco, Calif., in January 2017.

Professor Vincent Bonventre, Justice Robert H. Jackson Distinguished Professor of Law, gave the opening plenary session talk “Court of Appeals Review: Transition to the DiFiore Court” for the N.Y. State Judicial Institute’s 2016 Summer Regional Program in Rochester, N.Y. on June 14, 2016. He presented to the New York State Bar Association Committee on the State Constitutional Convention on July 14, 2016. He presented at the NYSBA CLE “U.S. Supreme Court and New York Taxation of Distributions.”
June 16, 2016. She co-facilitated a Know
at the Human Trafficking: An Upstate
She appointed to the N.Y. State CLE Board.
for Children Advisory Committee. She was
Judicial Department’s Office of Attorneys
reappointed for a two-year term as a
Professor Melissa Breger
Roberts’ visit.
in anticipation of U.S. Chief Justice John
Institute in Troy, N.Y. on April 6, 2017,
Changes” at Rensselaer Polytechnic
College in North Carolina on November
10, 2016; on the “Supreme Court Update
and N.Y. Court of Appeals Update”
at the Attorney General’s Legislative
CLE Program on December 14, 2016;
on “Religious Liberty: Fundamental
Right or Nuisance” to the Green Mountain
 Academy on February 21, 2017. He
discussed “Current Topics Facing Women
and People of Diverse Backgrounds—
U.S. Supreme Court: The Nomination
of Judge Neil Gorsuch” at Albany Law
School on March 23, 2017. He was a
panelist at the Albany Law Federalist
Society’s inaugural event A New Supreme
Court Nomination on March 30, 2017.
He presented at the Balancing the Scales
of Justice: The Impact of Judicial Diver
sity CLE sponsored by the Third Judicial
District Gender Fairness Committee in Albany, N.Y. on March 31, 2017. She presented “Making the Invisible
Visible: Analyzing Implicit Bias in
the Courtroom” at Boston University
on April 13.
Professor Ray Brescia with collabora
tors launched the New York Bank Ratings
Index, a website that ranks N.Y. banks
for consumers based on customized
metrics. He was cited in the American
Bar Association’s Report on the Future
of Legal Services (August 2016). He
participated in an invitation-only convening
at Harvard Law School around promot-
ging greater access to justice. He spoke at
Georgia State University College of Law
to celebrate the release of his co-edited book
HOW CITIES WILL SAVE THE WORLD:
URBAN INNOVATION IN THE FACE OF
POPULATION FLOWS, CLIMATE CHANGE,
AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY. He spoke
at Storming the Court at 25: Lessons
from HCC v. Sale for Student Lawyering
Against Long Odds at Yale Law School
on December 2, 2016. He moderated the
panel “New Administration: How It May
Impact Public Interest and Government
Work” at NYU School of Law on February
3, 2017. He moderated the session “Civil
and Criminal Advocacy” at the Access to
Justice is Social Justice CLE at Albany Law
School on March 30, 2017.
Professor Joe Buffington moderated the
discussion “The State of LGBT Rights
in 2017” at Albany Law School on January
30, 2017.

Recognition for Hirokawa from
Other Law Schools
Professor Keith Hirokawa was named
Distinguished Environmental Scholar
by Vermont Law School as part of its
2017 Distinguished Summer Scholars
in residency program. He was also
recognized as Scholar of the Month
by the University of North Carolina’s
Center for Climate, Energy, Environment
and Economics (CE3) for October 2016.
Among his environmental theories,
Hirokawa suggests a system for assigning
economic values to ecosystem services.

Professor Farley Elected to American
Law Institute; Scholarship Inspires
Theater Production
Professor Anthony Paul Farley was
named a member of the American
Law Institute, joining 60 other legal
professionals chosen this year. He also
joins three Albany Law members to The
American Law Institute from Albany
Law School: President & Dean Alicia
Ouellette, Professor Ira Bloom, and
Professor Michael Hutter.
On another front, Professor Farley’s
work was cited in the New York Times
this year as the inspiration to artist
M. Lamar, whose show “Destruction”
appeared on stages from the United
Kingdom to New York City.
Before joining the Albany Law
faculty, he was a tenured professor at
Boston College Law School, where he
taught for 16 years. Before academia, he
served as assistant U.S. Attorney in
the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the
District of Columbia. Previously,
he practiced law as a Corporate/
Securities Associate with Shearman
& Sterling. He is the James Campbell
Matthews Distinguished Professor of
Jurisprudence.
Professor Ray Brescia

A website launched by a team led by Professor Ray Brescia, and developed by a University at Albany professor, helps residents of New York State pick the best bank for them based on 20 consumer-focused metrics. Categories to choose from include: cost of checking accounts, credit cards, and check cashing; lending practices; and branch locations.

The ranking of these 19 banks based on performance for the consumer, when including all categories, put First Niagara at the top.

Brescia was assisted by Ralph Scunziano ’16, the Empire Justice Center, and the Association for Neighborhood & Housing Development (ANHD).

Chris Veliz, a graduate of the University at Albany’s Master of Science in Information Systems program, developed early versions of the site as part of a course project he taught.

The report was developed over the last year, studying the largest 19 banks by assets operating in New York State. The study was conducted prior to the purchase of First Niagara bank by Key Bank, which was finalized last year.

Because First Niagara scored the highest in the ranking, the findings with respect to First Niagara were included in this year’s report.

Professor Christine Sgarlata Chung presented “Focus Groups and Pathway Competences” at the 5th Annual Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers Conference in Denver on September 22, 2016. She presented at the Business Law Society event The Stock Market and the Election at Albany Law School on December 1, 2016.


Professor Patrick Connors, Albert and Angela Farone Distinguished Professor in New York Civil Practice, was a speaker at the New York State Bar Association’s program entitled Ethics 2016: The Continuing Evolution of the Rules of Professional Conduct on June 24 in Albany. He participated on the panel “The Racing Franchise in New York: The Current State of Play and Lessons for the Nation” at the 16th Annual Saratoga Institute on Equine, Racing & Gaming Law on August 9, 2016. He presented an Ethics Update at the Albany Law School CLE in Saratoga on August 26. He presented a New York Civil Practice Update to the New York State Association of County Clerks at its annual meeting in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. He presented a New York Civil Practice Update at the Annual New York Court of Claims Judges’ Association Meeting in Cooperstown, N.Y. He presented a New York Civil Practice Update to the New York City Managing Attorneys’ and Clerks’ Association at the law offices of Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP in New York City.

He presented “Privilege and Professional Ethics” to the Federal Court Bar Association of the Northern District of New York in Watertown, N.Y. on November 2, 2016. He presented at the New York State Courts Electronic Filing CLE at Albany Law School on November 14, 2016. He presented an ethics update to the County Attorney’s Association of the State of New York (CASSNY) in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. He presented a New York Practice Update to the Suffolk County Bar Association in Hauppauge, N.Y.; and a New York Ethics Update to the Chaminade High School Alumni Lawyers Association in Mineola, N.Y. on February 2, 2017. He conducted a phone conference webinar for over 200 members of the National Docketing Association addressing Rule 6 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. He was appointed as a member of the New York State Bar Association’s Committee on Legal Education and Admission to the Bar. His writing was cited in over 25 reported decisions, including the New York Court of Appeals February 14, 2017 majority decision in Artibe v. Home Place Corporation, which relied on the discussion of CPLR Article 16 in the January 2017 Supplement to NEW YORK PRACTICE.

Professor Danshera Cords was a panelist on October 20, 2016 discussing “What Next for Feminist Theory” based on her contribution, the rewritten opinion of Cheshire v. Commissioner, to be included in an upcoming volume FEMINIST JUDGMENTS: REWRITTEN TAX OPINIONS (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2017).

Professor Edward De Barbieri presented “Public Participation in Disruptive Transportation Technology Planning” at the Marquette Junior Faculty Scholarship Conference in Milwaukee, Wis., on September 9, 2016. He presented “Public Participation in Disruptive Transportation Technology Planning” at Western New England University School of Law.

Professor Shahrokh Falati moderated the panel “Opportunities for Entrepreneurs in New York State” at the Capital Region Biotechnology Innovation Day at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute on September 16, 2016. He was elected to be the 2017 President of the Eastern N.Y. Intellectual Property Law Association. He organized a joint meeting between the IP & Innovation Inn of Court and the Eastern NY IP Law Association in March.

Professor Anthony Paul Farley, James Campbell Matthews Distinguished Professor of Jurisprudence, was elected as a member of the American Law Institute in January 2017. He completed a three-year term on the Executive Board of the Association of American Law Schools Section on Minority Groups. He appeared in the short film “Slavery in Effect,” a dialogue among scholars at Harvard University’s conference entitled The Scope of Slavery: Enduring Geographies of American Bondage. His scholarship inspired “Destruction,” a theater production by M. Lamar that was performed in the U.S. and the U.K. He presented “Art & Activism” on a panel at the Opalka Gallery on October 27. He presented “The Death Penalty as Paradise” as part of a panel presentation at The Death Penalty’s Numbered Days Symposium at the Northwestern University School of Law in November. He moderated the panel “Alternatives to Incarceration: Legal, Behavioral, and Medicinal” at an Albany Law School conference April 1, 2017.

Professor Stephen Gottlieb, Jay and Ruth Caplan Distinguished Professor of Law, spoke at the annual dinner meeting of the League of Women Voters of New York State. He delivered the keynote address for the Justice Studies Association, Annual Meeting, held at the University at Albany. He also delivered a talk about his book, UNIT FOR DEMOCRACY, at the Bethlehem Public Library. He discussed his book, UNIT FOR DEMOCRACY, with former New York Court of Appeals Judge Robert Smith at the New Lebanon Town Library. He presented to the Education Committee of the New York City Community Board 17 in Brooklyn on June 28, 2016. He co-facilitated two Know Your Rights Workshops organized by the Center for Law and Justice. He gave a talk about his newest book to the faculty of Marquette University Law School. He delivered the Constitution Day address at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law on September 15, 2016. He presented to faculty at Suffolk University Law School twice in the fall. He spoke to the faculty at Drexel University School of Law on the implications of his book on October 18, 2016. He delivered the 2016 Sherman David Spector Memorial Lecture on the Roberts Court at Russell Sage College on October 27, 2016. He presented at the “Advocacy and Activism Today” symposium at Albany Law School.
Known for his work on the U.S. Supreme Court, constitutional theory and election campaign law, the Jay and Ruth Caplan Distinguished Professor of Law attended college at Princeton and law school at Yale. He credits the support he received from a series of deans and stellar students that allowed for his major accomplishments.

He didn’t set out to be a teacher. It started at Legal Services in 1973, at age 32, as assistant general counsel, where he developed a training program for a staff of 200 lawyers with 22 offices around New York City. That experience led him to teach full time as a law professor at West Virginia University.

A Brooklyn native, he moved his wife and two small children to West Virginia for three years before he took the Albany Law position. He was recently invited back to West Virginia to celebrate their clinic’s 35th anniversary, which he started during his time there.

Perhaps his swan song was his recent book, Unfit for Democracy: The Roberts Court and the Breakdown of American Politics (New York University Press, 2016), which he worked on for nine years. He has received accolades from numerous scholars, spoken at schools from University of Pennsylvania to University of Maryland, and spoke at an invitation-only panel at the L.A. Times’ Festival of Books followed by a book signing.

He named several deans for their support: Dean Bartlett for “encouraging me to sink roots as a scholar;” Deans Belsky and Baker for supporting two full conferences, one on state constitutional law and the second on a central issue in constitutional law which brought Justice Sandra Day O’Connor to the school. Also, “A succession of deans encouraged me to undertake long-term projects culminating in the books I wrote on the Court.”

His student stories are numerous. “There’ve been many wonderful students about whom I care a great deal and there’s no good way to describe that. Two very accomplished students edited manuscripts for me, one of whom delivered the commencement address this year,” referring to N.Y. Times vice president David McCraw ’92. Gottlieb recalls students visiting his home, hosting him and his wife, and even inviting him to their weddings. “Seeing Adele [Taylor Scott]’s smile, the warmth of Umair [Khan]’s family and customs, and the wedding of one of my research assistants who nevertheless couldn’t take my advice about ditching his car since he lived so close to school—turned out he needed it to date the woman he married!” Over the years the professor worked closely with the Muslim Law Students Society as a result of his Peace Corps experience in Iran after law school, where he met his wife of 49 years, as well as with the Albany Law Civil Liberties Union.

Gottlieb has taught a wide range of courses, but his sweet spot has always been Constitutional Law, Comparative Constitutional Law, Constitutional Convention of 1787, and U.S. Supreme Court Watch.

For the past 10 years he has delivered four-minute weekly radio commentaries—some 500 segments. He is grateful for the platform that spans several states, “I’m not going to change the world in four-minute weekly commentaries, but it gives me a voice and the opportunity to educate.” His platform grew this year when he was invited to be a regular columnist for The Hill, a Washington, D.C.-based political publication.

His previous book, “Morality Imposed: The Rehnquist Court and Liberty in America” (New York University Press, 2000), explored the “moral judgments” used by the Court.

“Looking back, I’ve always had close friends among the faculty,” Gottlieb said. “But what I think says the most about the School as I came to know it was the mutual love and admiration between our janitor, John DeMatteo, and the law school community. John was a treasure and we knew it. Our appreciation for each other, our students and alums has never been about titles; it’s always been about people.”

—DS
Professor Robert Heverly ’92 was a panelist for the Business Review’s regulations on February 24, 2017. He moderated the Business Review’s community Policing to Criminal Justice Reform” the Criminal Justice System from Com The Courts & the Constitution” at the Los Angeles Times’ Festival of Books, held at the University of Southern California, on April 23. He contributed weekly commentaries heard on WAMC’s Northeast Report.


Professor Peter Halewood served as the faculty liaison for the NYSSBA-Albany Law summer abroad program. He served as campus advisor for the Fullbright U.S. Student Program, and faculty advisor to the International Law Society and National Lawyers Guild. He was elected Secretary of the AALS Section on International Human Rights. He participated on a panel at the Society for American Law Teachers’ annual conference at John Marshall Law School. He helped organize two panels at the 2017 AALS Annual Meeting January 4-7, 2017. He moderated the CLE panel on “State Courts and International Law” at Albany Law School on February 25, 2017. He co-organized a two-day conference with University at Albany, titled, The Politics of Difference and the Threshold of Law.


Professor Robert Heverly ’92 was a panelist at the event As Drones Take Flight at the University at Albany College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity on November 1, 2016. He discussed drones on the panel “Federal Preemption of UAS Regulation” at Syracuse University College of Law on March 10. He participated in an online training on health, human rights and trade law in collaboration with the UAlbany Global Institute for Health and Human Rights with an audience in the Middle East.

Professor Keith Hirokawa was named Scholar of the Month by the University of North Carolina Center for Climate, Energy, Environment and Economics (CE3) for October 2016. He was named Distinguished Environmental Scholar by Vermont Law School as part of its 2017 Distinguished Summer Scholars in residency program. He was a panelist at the NYLCV Education Fund policy forum Green Infrastructure in the Capital Region on February 1, 2017. He gave a lecture entitled “Loving Ecosystems Locally” at The Changing Climate: Reflections on Current Law, Policy, Justice, and Regulation conference at the University at Buffalo School of Law. He delivered the Boichi Distinguished Lecture in Land Use Policy at the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law on April 5, 2017.

Professor Michael Hutter was invited by the NYS Judicial Institute to participate in its Summer Judicial Education programs for New York state judges and their legal staffs. He presented lectures in Rochester, Binghamton and New York City on developments in tort law, business records hearsay exception, and impeachment methods. He was invited to serve on the Board of Editors of the New York State Bar Association Journal. He was appointed by Chief Judge Janet DiFiore to serve as Reporter to New York’s new Judicial Advisory Committee on Evidence. He produced a written draft of N.Y.’s common law hearsay rules with accompanying notes. He was appointed to the Town of Bethlehem Ethics Board. As special counsel to Powers & Santolo, he was named in its Summer Judicial Education programs. He was appointed to the New York State Bar Association’s Ethics Committee on Evidence. He presented an Evidence Update at the annual meeting of the Sixth Judicial District judges on February 23-24, 2017. He also presented a 2017 CPLR Update to the NY Academy of Trial Lawyers in February. He served as the mediator at the request of the Northern District of New York federal court in a wrongful death action brought against the United States as a result of alleged medical malpractice occurring at a VA Hospital in Syracuse. For more on Professor Hutter’s activity, see the Albany Law School website.

Professor Mary A. Lynch, Kate Stoneman Chair in Law and Democracy, presented a CLE to attorneys engaged in pro bono work at NYC firm Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP. She presented on a panel at the Upstate Clinical Conference at Cornell Law School. She presented “Focus Groups and Pathway Competencies” at the 5th Annual Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers Conference in Denver. She participated on the “Legal and Local Panel” discussing domestic violence awareness at Siena College on November 10, 2016.

The blog she manages, Best Practices for Legal Education, was named to the ABA Journal’s Blawg 100 for 2016. She presented a CLE training to newly hired Legal Aid attorneys on January 26, 2017. Her article “Who Should Hear the Voices of Children with Disabilities: Proposed Changes in Due Process in New York’s Special Education System” was cited in a brief in the U.S. Supreme Court case Fry v. Napoleon Community Schools.

Professor Nancy Maurer presented “Enhancing Rewards from Experiential Courses — Expanding our Goals and Teaching Toolbox” for the Joint Conference of the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education and the Association for Canadian Clinical Legal Education at the University of Toronto, July 10-12, 2016. She presented a workshop on September 20 to the NY Senate Democratic Conference on “Basic Concepts and Approaches to Effective Negotiation.” She presented “Focus Groups and Pathway Competencies” at the 5th Annual Educating Tomorrow’s Lawyers Conference in Denver on September 22, 2016. She presented a CLE training to newly hired Legal Aid attorneys on January 26, 2017.


President & Dean Alicia Ouellette was presented with 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 — on June 7, 2016. She moderated the panel “Ethical Considerations for Health Care Decision Making” at NYSARC’s Annual Guardian-ship Training Symposium in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. on June 21, 2016. She moderated a panel for the Women’s Law Caucus event Women in the Law: Part 1 on September 21, 2016. She was elected to the executive committee of the Association of American Law Schools Dens Section in March 2017. She co-ordinated the Stoneman Day discussion with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor at Albany Law School on April 3, 2017.
Professor Lianne Pinchuk was part of a CLE panel on landlord-tenant law at the NYSBA on October 6, 2016. She taught a CLE on the ethics of unbundled pro bono service also at the NYSBA in October.

Professor David Pratt made four presentations at the September 2016 FIS Advanced Pension Conference in Chicago. He was program chair for the Health Care Reform CLE sponsored by the NYSBA and Albany Law on April 6, 2017. He presented “Too Big to Fail: The U.S. Retirement System” at the 6th Annual Employee Benefits Conference at the University of Minnesota Law School.

Associate Dean Rosemary Queenan served as a panelist for the Women’s Law Caucus event Women in the Law: Part 1 on September 21, 2016. Selected as chair-elect of the AALS Student Services Committee as a member of the Executive Committee, she organized and co-moderated a panel on “Student Leadership” and a group discussion on “Character and Fitness Disclosures and Relationship to the State Bar” at the annual Association of American Law Schools 2017 conference. She co-organized with UAlbany the Theodore T. Jones Jr. Undergraduate Intercultural Moot Court Competition, held at Albany Law School on April 8, 2017.

Professor Patricia Reyhan served as a panelist for the Women’s Law Caucus event Women in the Law: Part 1 on September 21, 2016. She co-moderated the Justice Jackson Lecture Series event titled The Path to the Federal Prosecutor’s Office at Albany Law School on September 26, 2016.

Professor Gerald Rock presented “Sgt. Joe Friday 2.0: Teaching Students to Investigate and Work with More than ‘Just the Facts’” during the 17th Biennial Conference of the Legal Writing Institute in Portland, Oregon. He was a panelist on December 10 at a conference at Brooklyn Law School on “Bringing Diverse Clients and Diversity Issues to the Legal Writing Classroom.”

Professor Sarah Rogerson was appointed to the NYSBA’s Committee on Children and the Law. She served on the Organizing Committee of the Upstate Clinical Conference at Cornell Law and participated in the workshop, “Incorporating Practice Components into Doctrinal Teaching.” She served as a panelist for the Women’s Law Caucus event Women in the Law: Part 1. She presented “Finding the Double-Yolk in Soft-Money Clinical Support” at the New England Clinicians Conference, Boston University School of Law, October 21-22, 2016. She was honored at the Legal Aid Society’s 2016 Pro Bono Publico Awards in New York City on October 26, 2016. She participated in an online training on health, human rights and trade law in collaboration with the UAlbany Global Institute for Health and Human Rights with an audience in the Middle East. She was invited by the Rockefeller Institute of Government Policy to the Carey Institute for Global Good to discuss “The Implications of Changing Federal Immigration Policies for Refugees and Immigrants in New York State.” She was a co-organizer of the Albany Law School Northeast Regional Scholarship and Teaching Development Conference, Sharing Scholarship, Building Teachers, which took place Feb. 3-4, 2017. She presented at the Advocacy and Activism Today symposium at Albany Law School. She delivered a training on Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SUS) at the Legal Project on March 3, 2017. She moderated the session “Rights of Families and Children/Immigration” at the Access to Justice is Social Justice CLE at Albany Law School. She presented “Stoic Feminism: Using the Master’s Tools to Renovate the Master’s House” at The Politics of Difference and the Threshold of Law conference at Albany Law School on March 31, 2017.

Professor Christian Sundquist served as a panelist on “Positive Education Federalism” during the annual Law and Society Conference in New Orleans. He organized and participated on the panel “The Trouble with ‘Resiliency’ and ‘Grit’ in Reshaping Legal Education: Race, Class and Gender Considerations” at the Society for American Law Teachers’ annual conference at John Marshall Law School.

He moderated the panel “Analyzing New Technological Advancements in Biological and Physical Evidence” at the Albany Law Journal of Science and Technology Symposium. He was a guest conversation leader at the University
Professor Falati Connects IP Law Students with Entrepreneurs

By Chris Colton

After more than 12 years in private practice in intellectual property law and related legal fields, Professor Shahrokh (Seve) Falati, a lifelong learner, is back in the classroom—this time in a teaching role.

Professor Falati joined the faculty last summer as Albany Law School’s Director of Programs for Patents, Technology Transfer, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and immediately designed the course Entrepreneurship Law in Emerging Technologies. “The idea was to put students in teams, and these teams would get face time with a real entrepreneur,” he said. Each team was paired with a hand-picked Idea Champion—innovators who were identified by Professor Falati in collaboration with both the Research Foundation for The State University of New York (RF SUNY) and the University at Albany. The students were tasked with identifying key legal challenges of their real-life new technology entrepreneurs, each of whom had marketable ideas.

Professor Falati monitored all student-entrepreneur communications, but made it a point not to interfere.

“I wanted the students to learn to develop their own styles, particularly in what questions to ask and how, and the overall process of asking, listening and gathering information.”

This past fall, one of the teams assisted an Idea Champion with a new weather forecasting technology, which aims to have large energy companies weather forecasting technology, which assisted an Idea Champion with a new gathering information.”

Overall process of asking, listening and developing their own styles, particularly in the practice bar, but at the same time better care for the infant market for a particular simple product, and ultimately developed something, patented it, made a huge success of it, and then sold her business. What happens when you have an idea like that, how you develop it, protect it, and make money is part of what I want to teach our law students.”

“My goal is to walk the line of being careful not to take potential clients away from current members of the private practice bar, but at the same time better prepare our students to be members of that practicing bar through exposure to real-life innovation-driven entrepreneurs and the legal issues they are facing.”

Professor Falati is a graduate of the University of Edinburgh (B.Sc.), University of Bristol (Ph.D.), and was a Fellow in Medicine for three years at Harvard Medical School/Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, before going to New York Law School (J.D.). His Ph.D. and Postdoctoral Fellowship, both in the field of blood and cardiovascular disease, produced a number of high-impact publications.

For a complete list, go to www.albanylaw.edu/faculty
Alumni Support Career Preparation All Year

GE GLOBAL: A team from GE Global Operations had lunch with students to talk about internship and career options. Pictured: GE Intern Kimberley Hansen-Felton ’18 speaks to the group.

Members from the Attorney General’s Office, like Stephen Nagle ’85, Environmental Protection Bureau, and current interns, spoke to students about opportunities.

Employers, mostly alums, enjoy interviewing students on campus throughout the year. Shanna Sanders ’05, from Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti, interviewed students in March.

AYCO ON CAMPUS: Employees from Ayco, a Goldman Sachs Company, spent time with students several times this year.

Many students are drawn to the D.A. experience, and representatives from most of the counties spend time educating the students. Pictured: Rene Merges ’83, Albany County District Attorney’s Office.

Trustee Andrea Colby ’80, formerly of Johnson & Johnson, led a discussion with a few dozen students on pursuing a career “Beyond Big Law.” Third-year students with a host of experiences outside of Big Law discussed creative strategies for landing their positions.

Prosecuting the Boston Marathon Bomber for Two-Plus Years Full Time

“You know how Krystle, Lingzi, Martin, and Sean died,” Nadine Pellegrini ’78 told jurors in her opening statement during the sentencing phase of Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, one of the brothers responsible for the Boston marathon bombing in 2013. “Now you need to know how they lived. You need to know and understand why their lives mattered.”

She then uncovered large photos, sitting on easels, of the four people killed — this included a police officer who was shot dead by the brothers (Tsarnaev’s brother was also killed during the chase).

Pellegrini, an assistant U.S. attorney at the time, was seeking the death penalty. She was part of a team that already convinced a jury that Tsarnaev was guilty on all 30 counts which included killing four people, and injuring more than 250, many who lost limbs. Seventeen counts carried the federal death penalty.

Pellegrini had worked on the case full time for 2.5 years, including most weekends. “During the trial, it seemed like the whole world was watching. Reporters followed us everywhere.”

Her family went on summer vacations without her. “It was my choice to take the case,” she told a group of students during a lunchtime talk in the Career and Professional Development Center. “We just didn’t know it would take so long.”

“I was asked to be on the case because I worked well with victims, and I happened to have a good feel for juries,” she told the students. Pellegrini started working with the victims and families shortly after the marathon. “Their injuries were still new, some weren’t yet fitted for their prosthetic devices,” she said. “Emotions were still raw, they had not settled into their new lives yet, and I had to speak to them and start the process for the trial.”

Some families didn’t want the death penalty, they just wanted him put away, she said. “They wanted him to disappear. I had to explain that the United States was seeking the death penalty, for a lot of reasons.”

“They [the defense team] brought on a lot of witnesses who thought highly of the defendant,” Pellegrini said. “He was adored by some, and it was our job to bring them back to our narrative, to put their story into our story.”

For example, Pellegrini showed a blown up image of Tsarnaev giving the middle finger to a jail security camera. “This is Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, unconcerned, unrepentant, and unchanged,” she told the jury. “Without remorse, he remains untouched by the grief and the loss that he caused.”

The jury determined that death was the appropriate sentence on 6 of the 17 capital counts. Tsarnaev is currently on death row, working to appeal his sentence.

Pellegrini’s Real Passion

After 25 years at the U.S. Attorney’s office in Boston, Pellegrini took a new job last year as director of advocacy for the Animal Rescue League of Boston. “This has always been my passion,” she said, noting that one of her favorite roles as a federal prosecutor was working with the agents at the Fish and Wildlife Service, which sent her to Ukraine to investigate ivory smugglers.

She earned her M.S. in Animals and Public Policy at Tufts University’s veterinary school. Some of her work includes legislation to:

- Intervene earlier when an animal is at risk of injury or death;
- Amend the current law that allows a person to chain animals for 24 consecutive hours;
- Punish violators who leave their pets in vehicles during extreme hot or cold weather and allow first responders to intervene and rescue an animal from a dangerous situation.

She started her career in the Monroe County, N.Y., District Attorney’s Office and then served as Chief of Special Prosecutions for the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office before joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office.

—DS
For Albany Law School’s Class of 2017, it was a day of inspiration and celebration. Before crossing the stage May 19 at Saratoga Performing Arts Center in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., approximately 110 graduates heard from keynote speaker David McCraw ’92, vice president and deputy general counsel for the New York Times. “Being a graduate of Albany Law School means…being the kind of lawyer people count on,” McCraw said.

McCraw, the Times’ top newsroom lawyer and one of the nation’s most prolific litigators of freedom-of-information cases, talked about hitting a roadblock 17 years ago when applying to the New York Daily News. Instead of accepting the rejection, he appealed directly to the hiring legal counsel and got the job. “A total Albany move,” he said. Concluding, he told the graduates, “You made it. Welcome to my world. I’m glad to have you.”

President and Dean Alicia Ouellette also offered encouraging words. “You will use your degree to do amazing things,” she said. “You are off to make change in the world, work for justice, and make a difference in the lives of others.”

The ceremony began with the national anthem sung by Brenda Baddam ’17 and remarks from Daniel Nolan ’78, who was presiding over his fourth and final commencement as Chair of the Board of Trustees. “Take a look around you,” he said. “Because you too will remember this day for a long time.”

Among the other highlights: an honorary Doctor of Laws degree was conferred on U.S. District Judge Mae D’Agostino; New York State Bar Association President Claire Gutekunst was presented with the 2017 Dean’s Medal; and class president Daniel Goldfinger ’17 presented the Friend of the Class award to Professor Patricia Reyhan.

Following tradition, the ceremony ended with National Alumni Association President Patrick Jordan ’02 welcoming the Class of 2017 as the newest members of Albany Law School’s alumni community.
Three Professors Honored for Scholarship, Service, and Teaching

Albany Law School recognized three members of the faculty at the law school’s 166th Commencement Ceremony in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

Professor Ray Brescia received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Scholarship. During the past two years, Professor Brescia has published: five law review articles; an academic book, HOW CITIES WILL SAVE THE WORLD (co-editor); three book chapters; and scores of articles and blog posts for The Huffington Post, Medium and other news outlets. An expert on issues of government regulation and social inequality, Professor Brescia also has an additional four law review articles forthcoming this year, and has co-authored several amicus briefs in federal court cases litigating the executive order on immigration.

Professor Christine Sgarlata Chung received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching. Professor Chung, whose courses include Business Organizations and Contracts I and II, was described by her students as “a guiding light,” “truly one of the best parts of Albany Law,” and “a lifetime mentor” who expects excellence and challenges those in her classroom to reach beyond their goals. Professor Chung joined Albany Law’s faculty in 2007 and is currently co-director of the Institute for Financial Market Regulation, a collaborative project of Albany Law School and the University at Albany.

Professor Sarah Rogerson received the Faculty Award for Excellence in Service for her work impacting the law school, as well as the local, state, and international communities. As director of the Law Clinic & Justice Center and its Immigration Law Clinic, Professor Rogerson trained and supervised students who provided direct representation to detained and non-detained immigrants, and has organized and participated in training hundreds of lawyers and advocates to further assist immigrant families. She also provided service on faculty committees and working groups, and has been a leader on collaborative projects to improve access to justice.
ALUMNI EVENTS

22ND ANNUAL ALBANY LAW SCHOOL & ALBANY COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION GOLF OUTING
June 27, 2016 • Schuyler Meadows Club, Loudonville

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK WELCOME RECEPTION
October 19, 2016 • Union League Club, New York, NY

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK ALUMNI RECEPTION
January 26, 2017 • Sardi’s Restaurant, New York, NY
20TH ANNUAL DAY AT THE RACES
August 26, 2016 • Saratoga Race Course, Saratoga

WOMEN’S RUGBY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS, MAYOR PROCLAIMS IT “MS. DEMEANORS DAY”

This year, the women’s and men’s rugby clubs’ Watkins Tournament was highlighted by a ceremony honoring the 40th anniversary of the Ms. Demeanors, which included a proclamation by Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan ’94, declaring it “Albany Law School Ms. Demeanors Day” in the City of Albany, Saturday, April 22, 2017. The event also recognized Kathryn Grant Madigan ’78 (pictured far left) and Cristine Cioffi ’78 (not pictured), founder and first members of the club. Pictured far right is Dean Ouellette with her dog Griffin.

BARRISTER DINNER
November 9, 2016 • Gramercy Tavern, NYC

RECENT GRAD CLE HAPPY HOUR
November 4, 2016 • Recovery Room Sports Grill, Albany

METROPOLITAN NEW YORK LAW REVIEW RECEPTION
October 5, 2016 • Freshfields, Bruckhaus, Deringer LLP
ALUMNI WEEKEND 2016

September 23-24, 2016
The Class of ‘66 which tied with Class of ‘96 for most attended members.

My message to our alumni and friends this year is very simple: Thank you.

We mail this magazine to about 10,000 people, the loyal and dedicated alumni and friends that make Albany Law School the warm and supportive community we are for our students.

This issue is filled with stories of student opportunity and success, and it is made possible by their own very hard work, drive and ambition. But it is also because Albany Law is a place where they can thrive—and that is because of the faculty, the mentors, and the alumni members of the bar and the bench throughout our region, and beyond, who lend them a hand as they launch their careers and grow in them.

Thank you for all that you do for our students, and for each other.

At Commencement, once again we seated generations of family members who came to witness a loved one join the ranks of Albany Law graduates. We call them our “legacy families” because of their family connection to the law school over time—whether it is a sibling, or cousin, a parent or grandparent, or even a great-grandparent.

Thank you for believing in the enduring power of an Albany Law education.

Together, we are a community with a lifelong connection to a singular place: Albany Law School.
CLASS OF 1958
William R. Holzapfel received the James R. Lacey, Esq. Award for Distinguished Service presented by the Public Utility Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

CLASS OF 1965
Eugene L. Nicandri has received the 2016 Leadership Through Service Award from SUNY Potsdam.

CLASS OF 1966
E. Stewart Jones, Jr. has been honored by the NYSSBA with the 2017 Attorney Professionalism Award. He was also recognized as the “Champion of Free Enterprise” and inducted into the Tech Valley Hall of Fame.

CLASS OF 1972
Hon. Stephen Herrick has become Albany County’s Public Defender.

CLASS OF 1976
Raymond L. Haines has retired from the University at Albany after a 40 year career in the Employee Relations area.

CLASS OF 1978
Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle has retired as pastor of the Mater Christi Parish in Albany, N.Y.

CLASS OF 1979
James N. Baldwin has been named president of Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y.

CLASS OF 1981
Anne Reynolds Copps received the Real Property Law Section Professionalism Award from the NYSSBA.

CLASS OF 1982
Richard Ernst has joined Liberty Tax as their Compliance Counsel.

CLASS OF 1984
James E. Hacker has been named President of the Albany County Bar Association and has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers.

CLASS OF 1985
Thania F. Fernandez was named Executive Secretary of the State Boards of Podiatry, Physical Therapy and Ophthalmic Dispensing.

CLASS OF 1986
James E. Braman has been promoted to member at Lemery Greisler LLC.

CLASS OF 1987
John J. Reilly was named to the Albany City Court bench.

CLASS OF 1988
Dean Patricia Salkin has received the 2016 Brava Award celebrating Long Island’s Top Women Business leaders.

CLASS OF 1989
Bridgit Burke has joined The Legal Project as its Legal Director.

CLASS OF 1990
Theodore M. Baum has joined the Rochester Office of McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter as a managing partner.

CLASS OF 1991
Denise Gonick has been named Co-Chair of the new LGBT Commission in N.Y.

CLASS OF 1992
Christopher O’Brien was appointed Director of Special Projects by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo ’82.

CLASS OF 1993
Jacqueline Phipps Polito has been honored as a recommended lawyer in The Legal 500 United States 2016’s Labor Management Relations category.

CLASS OF 1994
Adam P. Silvers has been named to the Bethpage Federal Credit Union Board of Directors Supervisory Committee.
Lewis is one of three players in Survivor’s 20 year history to not be voted out of the game—she was eliminated by the “rocks.”

Rain pounded the sides of a makeshift bamboo hut; a tropical storm was waging war on the Fijian Island. Inside the shelter the tribe members huddled together for warmth and protection, though they barely knew each other. Despite the awkward and miserable situation, the 10 tribe members were laughing and having fun. This is what Jessica Blain-Lewis ’05 remembers from her first night as a contestant on season 33 of Survivor, which aired in the fall of 2016.

“They didn’t show our tribe during the storm but we were laughing like crazy. We were all strangers but we were stuck there together. There was no way out,” said Lewis.

As a prosecutor for the Albany County D.A., Lewis related the social game of Survivor to aspects of her career as an attorney.

“Survivor is like the ultimate jury selection experience,” Lewis said. “You must make determinations about people with very little information, information that can affect the final outcome.”

While Lewis did not outwit, outlast and outplay all of the other contestants, she did make a deep run in the game before leaving, lasting 30 of the 39 days and becoming a member of the jury. Lewis is one of three players in Survivor’s 20 year history to not be voted out of the game—she was eliminated by the “rocks.” When a tribe vote results in a tie, they must pull rocks from a bag. Whoever picks the black rock leaves the game and loses the chance at the coveted $1 million. Lewis picked the black rock.

After the “rocks” episode aired Lewis jokingly tried to sell her black rock on Craigslist for $1 million. Her stunt became a social media sensation.

Why Survivor?

“My life had finally reached a point where there was no chaos,” Lewis explained. “I decided it was time to do something for me. It seemed right.”

Lewis’ then 12-year-old daughter, Hannah, made the audition video, which caught the attention of the producers. Lewis was chosen after extensive interviewing and observation in Los Angeles.

Lewis was raised on a farm in the Champlain Valley. She remembers her family constantly working for everything they had and never giving up. Lewis credits her upbringing for her strong work ethic.

This is especially true of her law school experience. Lewis was a newlywed and pregnant with her first child as a 1L. She knew she wanted to be a prosecutor by her sophomore year of college at SUNY Plattsburgh. By the time she graduated, it was a natural decision to apply to law school.

Lewis and her husband moved to the Capital Region so she could attend Albany Law School. Her first year was not easy. Her husband was working full time, opposite the schedule of Lewis’ classes, so they could save on child care.

When Lewis graduated law school, she was hired by the D.A.’s office and was expecting her second child, Owen, within a short time. Lewis described those six years as “intense, very difficult and entirely jam-packed.”

Since graduating from Albany Law School, Lewis has remained with the Albany County D.A.’s office, handling felony-level cases including financial crimes and various street crimes. Most recently she has been promoted to Bureau Chief of the Street Crimes Unit.

Her motivation for surviving seven weeks away from family and a normal life? Lewis said she was motivated by her kids and the thought of them watching her succeed on the show.

Robert R. Tyson has been named member of Bond, Schoeneck & King PLLC in the firm’s Syracuse office.

CLASS OF 1995

John F. Harwick was included in the Best Lawyers in America list for 2017.

CLASS OF 1996

Laura Carroll has been appointed Director of Training for the Nassau County (N.Y.) District Attorney’s Office.

Peter Lauricella has become Albany’s regional managing partner at Wilson Elser.

Jason E. Legg has become President Judge of Court of Common Pleas of Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania.

Michael Volforte was appointed Director of the Governor’s Office of Employee Relations by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo ’82.

CLASS OF 1997

Edwin Oh has joined Cantor Colburn LLP in Hartford, Conn. as a partner.

Lisa Powers joined the Library of Congress as a Legislative Attorney.

Carmen M. Vasquez has joined Rutberg Brewslow Personal Injury Law.

CLASS OF 1998

Karen V. DeFio has joined the Syracuse office of Tully Rinckey PLLC.

David DiFusco has been named tax and assurance partner at Marcum LLP.

Neil Wilcox has joined Miller & Martin PLLC in Atlanta, Ga.

CLASS OF 2000

Jeffrey Pearlman was appointed Acting Director of the Authorities Budget Office by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo ’82.
CLASS OF 2001
Paul A. Gomez has joined Polsinelli law firm in Los Angeles as a shareholder.

Maureen Maney has joined Mackenzie Hughes LLP as a partner.

Hon. Christina Ryba has become President-Elect at the Albany County Bar Association.

CLASS OF 2002
George R. Slingerland has been promoted to shareholder at O’Connell & Aronowitz.

CLASS OF 2003
Peter M. Damin has been promoted to member at Lemery Greisler LLC.

Cassie M. Prugh has been named a “40 Under 40 Rising Star” by City and State Magazine.

Soma Syed was honored for her civic commitment and civil rights work by the West Nassau chapter of the National Action Network.

CLASS OF 2004
Jonathan Schopf has been appointed as the Saratoga County Supervisor.

CLASS OF 2005
Shanna K. Sanders has become partner at Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C.

CLASS OF 2006
Seth Gilbertson received the 2015-16 National Association of College and University Attorneys First Decade Award.

CLASS OF 2007
Raquel Felix has joined David A. Gallo & Associates, LLP as their Bankruptcy Department Manager.

Sarah Harrington has joined Bowitch & Coffey LLC as a legal assistant.

Curtis A. Johnson was awarded the NYSBA’s Outstanding Young Lawyer Award for 2017.

Finding Her Vocation Outside the Law, then Flourishing at Google

When Roth received a cold call from a Google recruiter six years ago, she thought it was a prank.

Google Culture
Juice bars, coffee bars, salad stations, sandwiches and hot foods are never far from a New York Google employee’s work station. The building is a full city block, and the open floor concept includes vast walkways and seating areas. Booths, private rooms, and cafeteria tables are readily available. A line of scooters are parked in their stations not far from the table-tennis and pool table area. The waiting room for guests has an enormous screen flashing the trending search words across the world in real-time—in this particular moment, European soccer terms dominate.

Roth, when in recruiter mode, talks fluently about the unique advantages of Google culture, and its ripe climate for innovation, risk, and creative moments. But her message to students and alumni is: “A law school education is great; that should be embraced. But it’s okay to try something different and be open to taking a risk.”

—DS
From Harlem to Albany to Amazon, Bowles-Sarfo Wants Great Things for Her Daughter

“I grew up in the inner city, but my mother was determined to make sure my brother and I stayed focused on our goals and dreams.”

Nyasia Bowles-Sarfo credits two blessings—“God’s mercy and my mother’s unconditional love and prayers”—for her unlikely journey from Harlem to Albany Law School to Seattle, where she relishes in her role as a contracts manager for Amazon. She might add a third component—her drive, determination and work ethic.

A 2008 graduate of the Albany Law master’s program, Sarfo’s interest in the law dates to her early teenage years. “I grew up in the inner city, but my mother was determined to make sure my brother and I stayed focused on our goals and dreams,” Sarfo said. “We grew up in a single parent home, and worked hard to achieve the successes we currently have.”

Sarfo’s mother, Sandra Stokes, a forensic psychologist, enrolled her daughter into The Bronx School for Law, Government and Justice High School upon realizing her daughter’s passion for the law.

“I always knew I wanted to be an advocate for those who have a voice, but aren’t sure how to use it,” she said. After high school, Sarfo spent a year at the historically black Lincoln University in Pennsylvania (the alma mater of Justice Thurgood Marshall and poet Langston Hughes) before transferring to Rutgers University – New Brunswick, where she earned a degree in Women and Gender Studies. But her eye remained on the law.

“I identified as a feminist young. I felt law was a white male-dominated field, and I wanted to see more like myself,” she said. “My goal was to become an attorney, but God had a different plan. I applied to Albany for the J.D. program and was rejected but was offered the opportunity to receive a master’s in Intellectual Property Law. Sarfo thrived at Albany Law, completing the two-year program in one year and graduating with honors. Although the goal of pursuing the J.D. remained, she went to work with Pearson Education as an Intellectual Property Administrator, then to Educational Testing Service as a Copyright Administrator. From there, she went to work for Mattel, Inc., as a paralegal.

And that’s where she was approached by Amazon for an opportunity at their headquarters in Seattle where she enjoys being a part of cutting-edge technology by negotiating and drafting technology licensing and hardware engineering agreements. It doesn’t hurt that her mother and brother, a Microsoft engineer, also live in Seattle along with her husband Walter, a communications professional, and their two-year-old daughter.

Sarfo said she still considers returning to school to pick up the J.D. degree, but for now is focused on new passions: diversity and a career in film and television.

“My husband and I are raising a two-year-old daughter. I want to make her proud as my mother has done for me,” Sarfo said.

—John Caher

CLASS OF 2008

Robert Gibbon was appointed Assistant Counsel to the Governor of Transportation by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo ’82.

Matthew Haufl has joined the Albany County Alternate Public Defender’s Office.

Erica M. Hines has become partner at Heslin Rothenberg Farley & Mesiti P.C.

Adam Lounsbery has joined Spencer Shuford LLP in Richmond, Va.

John Musacchio has joined Towne, Ryan & Partners PC as an associate.

CLASS OF 2010

Caitlin J. Morgan will be serving on the Warren Center Board of Trustees in Richardson, Texas.

James L. Riotto has opened a second office, in Albany.

Matthew M. Rozea was promoted to the position of Deputy Town Attorney in January 2017.

David Rozen has joined the NYPD Inspector General’s Office as an examining attorney.

Melinda Seiden-Fiorino has joined the NYS Department of Corrections.

Andrew Wilson has joined Morris James LLP in Wilmington, Del.

Erika Winkler has joined Coach, Inc. as Senior Counsel.

CLASS OF 2011

Jessie Cardinale has been elected as a member of the ABA Section of Labor and Employment Law’s 2016 Leadership Development Program.

Kristen E. Curran has been named a “40 Under 40 Rising Star” by City and State Magazine.

Caitlain Devereaux Lewis has joined the Library of Congress as a legislative attorney.

Ryan E. Manley has joined Harris Conway & Donovan PLLC as an associate attorney.
Colleagues on the Government Law Review, Colleagues at the NYPD

BY JOHN CAHER

“I have to tell you that if someone from the future informed me that I’d spend my whole career at the NYPD, that’s fine by me.”

Christopher Stevens has joined the Albany Office of Jackson Lewis P.C.

Emily Ekland has been named Associate Director of the Biomedical Acceleration and Commercialization Center.

Shawn Smith has been named President of the Schoharie Bar Association.

April M. Corrigan has been named a “40 Under 40 Rising Star” by City and State Magazine.

Erika D. Hauser has joined Barclay Damon LLP as an associate attorney.

Lawrence P. Magguilli has joined Miller & Associates as a managing partner.

Jonathan McCordle has been named a “40 Under 40 Rising Star” by City and State Magazine.

Andrew Woodman has joined Blank Rome LLP as an associate attorney.

Madalyn DeThomasis received the Outstanding New Lawyer Award from the Capital District Women’s Bar Association.

Pooja A. Rawal joined the Office of Professional Medical Conduct at the NYS Dept of Health.

Emily von Werlhof has joined My colleagues on the Government Law Review, Colleagues at the NYPD

Emily von Werlhof

When the New York City Police Department’s Legislative Affairs Unit had an opening last year, Robert Barrows ’11 encouraged his former colleague on the Government Law Review, Peter Faherty ’10, to apply. Today, they are both legislative attorneys with the largest law enforcement agency in the nation.

While Barrows notes that Faherty got the NYPD job fully on his own merits and followed every step of the civil service hiring procedures, he figured — accurately — that his law school pal would be a perfect fit. Both were geared toward public service from the start, and both found their dream job with New York’s Finest.

Barrows, managing attorney for the legislative affairs unit, drafts, negotiates and reviews proposed legislation, taking into consideration the department’s needs and public safety concerns. Faherty deals with state law issues and changes to the Penal Law that impact the way police officers fight crime.

“One of the things I love about working with NYPD is that, although the police department may be my only client, I don’t believe I’ve had a single day that looks like the other,” said Barrows, who joined the department right out of law school.

Faherty had worked for a firm in Albany his last two years of law school and was working as Legislative Director and Committee Counsel for State Senator Jack Martins of Long Island when his fellow alum called about the NYPD job. Both come from families where education was paramount, both were influenced by the 9/11 terrorist attacks, both gravitated to civic work and both had been captivated by their law courses that focused on the operation of government.

Barrows grew up in Danvers, Mass., about 30 minutes north of Boston, and majored in history at Manhattan College in the Bronx, where he met his wife. He became enthralled with New York City after his parents brought him and his three sisters to Ground Zero a few months after the attack. Faherty grew up in Queens and was at Xavier High School a mile from the World Trade Center when the planes crashed into the towers.

“I believe that other than Stuyvesant, we were the closest high school to Ground Zero,” said Faherty, who majored in English at SUNY Albany and considered becoming a police officer before enrolling in law school. “A lot of guys from Xavier went on to become firefighters and police officers in the city, and two of my closest friends and I became lawyers. Service to others was always held as the highest standard.”

Faherty said Albany Law School, with its proximity to the center of state government, provided the foundation needed to succeed in his career.

“Obviously, knowledge of the law is critical in this role,” said Faherty. He and his wife, Stacey, a pediatric ICU nurse, live in Queens. “We have to process information very rapidly and assess the legalities and practical effect on the Department from complex criminal enforcement issues to simple street renaming for fallen officers.” Barrows, who lives in Rockland County with his wife, Kara, and their two-year-old son, Ted, said that while no law school course could possibly prepare someone for a position of legislative counsel to a 50,000-employee agency, the classes, internships and journal experience at Albany Law all played a role.

“I have to tell you that if someone from the future informed me that I’d spend my whole career at the NYPD,” Barrows said, “that’s fine by me. I’ve never doubted that this is the right place for me.”
Privacy Manager for Millions in California, Martorano Defends Against Cyber Attacks Daily

As the privacy manager for the University of California, Roslyn Martorano oversees a statewide system under cyber-attack all day, every day. The attacks could be from Russia, China, Middle Eastern nation states, or basement hackers. She needs to protect data that could affect millions. This includes the research of 10 campuses, counting 264,000 students, six medical centers, three national labs, students, parents, patients, donor wealth, IP property, defense material, and more.

While the quantity is mind-boggling, add to it that the UCLA Health Center is a primary point for many in Hollywood, making the Center’s data a target of the rabid tabloids.

A cyber-attack two years ago failed to retrieve data, but penetrated enough barriers to trigger a full remedial process. "Any evidence, even the possibility that they opened a door, required us to notify, in this case, 34 million students, faculty and vendors," said Martorano. An event of this size, she explained, can trigger a number of investigations, as well as lawsuits.

"My job is privacy," Martorano said during a talk with students at a recent visit to the campus. "We determine what it is we need to protect. The IT folks have to protect it."

Setting privacy policy has always been complex enough. But today it is fraught with political layers. "What do we do when the government comes knocking, looking for data?"

Martorano’s go-to team for crisis issues—like a data breach—includes department members from Legal, Information Security, Risk Management, Compliance, IT, and Ethics. Despite the processes and hi-tech systems put in place, the culprit is typically internal: a laptop left in the car, a post-it note with the password underneath a desk, or a harried employee clicking on an unsuspected phishing email.

"I spend considerable time evangelizing on the importance of protecting your data," Martorano said. "I speak at corporate summits to talk about the enormous landscape of threats. People need to understand it, talk about it, get familiar with the language," she said, noting that the FBI is often a partner in their work.

"As Sheryl Sandberg says, careers are a jungle gym, not a ladder," Martorano said. "I went to law school expecting to practice law, and I haven’t done that yet."

After law school she served as a legislative fellow, where she worked for the chair of the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Health, leading her to compliance issues, particularly Medicaid. "When the elderly died, they left boundless addictive prescription drugs, along with refills," Martorano said, as an example. "Now there’s a system to prevent abuse."

Working for James Sheehan, Medicaid Inspector General at the time, whom Martorano considers a mentor and friend, he encouraged her to expand her horizons, and connected her with the UCLA Health system, which led to Martorano developing the current privacy program for the state’s umbrella UC system.

"Privacy is such a massive issue and a growing field, I feel fortunate to be in such a position," said Martorano.

—DS

She oversees a statewide system under cyber-attack all day, every day.

The Crooked Path to Privacy

"As Sheryl Sandberg says, careers are a jungle gym, not a ladder," Martorano said. "I went to law school expecting to practice law, and I haven’t done that yet."

After law school she served as a legislative fellow, where she worked for the chair of the New York State Senate Standing Committee on Health, leading her to compliance issues, particularly Medicaid. "When the elderly died, they left boundless addictive prescription drugs, along with refills," Martorano said, as an example. "Now there’s a system to prevent abuse."

Working for James Sheehan, Medicaid Inspector General at the time, whom Martorano considers a mentor and friend, he encouraged her to expand her horizons, and connected her with the UCLA Health system, which led to Martorano developing the current privacy program for the state’s umbrella UC system.

"Privacy is such a massive issue and a growing field, I feel fortunate to be in such a position," said Martorano.

—DS

Daniel A. Nicholson has joined Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP in their Construction Law and Complex Commercial Litigation practice groups.

Nicholas A. Pedersen has joined Tully Rinckey PLLC as an associate attorney.

CLASS OF 2016

Paul J. Buehler has joined Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP as an associate attorney.

Laura Gulfo has joined The Legal Project in Albany as a Staff Attorney.

Michael John Willey has joined the litigation department at Dorf & Nelson LLP in Rye, N.Y.

Ryan Williams has joined the Hamilton County (N.Y.) District Attorney’s office as an assistant district attorney.

BIRTHS

CLASS OF 1979

Larry Schiffer and his wife, Gail, welcomed their third grandchild, Ava Shay Lemer, on November 28, 2016.

CLASS OF 2004

Crystal Doolity Mills and husband, Jim Mills, welcomed daughter, Juliana Wolf, on July 1, 2016.

Benjamin Wolf and wife, Lauren, welcomed their first child, Sybil Rose Wolf, on November 30, 2016.

CLASS OF 2005

Rachel Ryan and her husband, Matt, welcomed daughter Julianne on March 12, 2017.
Meggesto Criss-Crosses the Country Advocating for Native American Tribes

BY PAUL GRONDAHL

James Meggesto '97 is a partner at Holland & Knight in Washington, D.C., and co-chair of the Native American Law Practice Group, which includes 10 full-time attorneys among the firm’s 1,000 lawyers. Meggesto seemed destined for a leadership role in the specialized practice early on at Holland & Knight, because of family influence and personal passion.

He grew up in Syracuse, just a mile from where his mother, a member of the Onondaga Nation, was raised on the Onondaga reservation. He became interested in his Native culture, learned some of the Onondaga language, and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in political science from State University of New York at Brockport. His late mother, Judy Lewis, was one of the first members of the Onondaga Nation to go to law school and the first to be admitted to the New York State Bar. She practiced in Oklahoma as a Tribal Court Judge, while his father, James A. Meggesto, maintains a law practice in Syracuse.

After college, Meggesto went to work for the National Congress of American Indians, a Native advocacy organization in Washington, D.C. He was invited to attend a historic meeting of leaders from all 567 federally recognized Native tribes hosted by President Bill Clinton at the White House in April 1994. It was a watershed moment for Meggesto.

“I got a taste of helping tribes interact with the federal government in the nation’s capital and it became clear to me that the ones who could really make a difference were the lawyers,” he recalled. “I was 22 years old and I had found my purpose.”

At Albany Law he took Professor David Siegel’s classes on New York civil procedure and federal practice and procedure. “I understood early on that procedure was the foundation for everything in the law and it gave me a great respect for the practice of law in general,” he said.

He spent eight years at Akin Gump, where his experience in Native American Law led to his being recruited by Holland & Knight to lead their Native practice. His devotion to the exclusive representation of Indian tribes and tribal interests through legal and government affairs has taken him to all corners of the United States. “It involves a fair amount of travel,” he said. He has represented the Lummi and Colville tribes in federal fishing rights cases in Washington and Oregon. He’s worked on water rights adjudication cases and government relations for Southwest tribes in Arizona and California.

In New York State, he represents the Seneca Nation on issues including tribal lands and gaming in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

In the Midwest, he has been involved in a wide range of issues facing Native American casino development projects, including confirming tribal land status, financing, regulatory matters, investor relations and securing capital. Underpinning his legal expertise is the issue of trust.

“As my career has evolved, the business interests of Native tribes have evolved and they need more sophisticated counsel,” Meggesto said. “In the 1990s there were only one or two large law firms representing tribes, including the boutique firm where I started. The tribal council wouldn’t let the big guys come in for a long time. You need to demonstrate that you’re there for them and that they can trust you. I realized over time there was a growing need for large firms because we ended up referring things to them that we couldn’t handle at the boutique firm.”

Meggesto’s heritage is also a key to his success. “I grew up in my mother’s tribal community and it helps me understand some of the issues inherently and emotionally,” said Meggesto, who continues to study the Onondaga language with online resources.

“I’m committed to passing on the Native culture to our children and the next generation,” Meggesto said. “The gaming industry has been a game-changer in recent decades for Indian tribes. It is the economic driver for better health care, and educational and diversified economic opportunity.”
From Russia and Jersey, the Ridleys are Making their Mark in San Francisco

BY JOHN CAHER

Although they came from much different places—he from Bernardsville, N.J., and she from Providence, R.I., via Russia—Irina and Chris Ridley, both of the class of 2010, share strong family foundations, and the self-confidence to become risk-takers.

Irina, the only child of engineers Alla and Arkadiy Yegutkin, was born in Russia and raised in Providence by parents who “placed incredible value in the importance of hard work and perseverance.” She is Senior Corporate Counsel and Privacy Officer at Counsyl, a Bay Area-based molecular diagnostics lab. Her parents instilled a never-give-up/relentlessly-pursue-your-dreams mindset. They wanted her to become a doctor, she wanted to become a lawyer — and Irina figures she compromised by becoming a health care lawyer.

“Health care was a way to merge my interest in science with my fascination with law and analytics,” Irina said. “With my focus on health tech, I am able to contribute, in a very small way, to the evolution of a historically stagnant industry and see the dividends pay off daily. At Counsyl, I am responsible for a wide range of things—from privacy to corporate governance to strategic/business development considerations, and other legal issues and crises that a company might face.”

Irina also serves on the board of directors for WISP, an organization dedicated to helping diversify the historically male-dominated areas of privacy and security, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the law school’s National Alumni Association.

Before joining Counsyl in August 2016, Irina worked as the Compliance and Privacy Officer for Omada Health, a San Francisco-based digital therapeutics company, was in management consulting at PwC and Deloitte, worked for Northern District U.S. Judge Thomas J. McAvoy ‘64, and Judge Arthur J. Gajarsa of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (who officiated at their wedding) and served as legal advisor for the Czech Republic League of Human Rights. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and got her MBA at RPI while getting her law degree.

Chris, the youngest of six and the son of a practicing lawyer and interior decorator (John and Althea Ridley, respectively), learned to speak up and absorb information at the dinner table. He is a crisis and public affairs strategist at Edelman, a global communications/marketing firm, and is based in the Bay Area.

“Growing up in such a large family impressed upon me a lesson that still resonates today—make your voice heard, but work as a team,” Chris said. “Perhaps most importantly, we were always expected to have a perspective on the affairs of the world. Knowing what was going on beyond our bubble was non-negotiable.”

Chris attended Loyola University in Maryland, before transferring to Saint Peter’s University in Jersey City, where he studied political science and then enrolled in Albany Law, where he studied health law but had no intention of practicing in the traditional sense. “I was never interested in practicing law, per se,” Chris said. “I just really valued the mental approach it gave me to tackling problems. I really benefited from not going to law school right out of college. I worked for a few years and it made me appreciate that lawyers were problem-solvers for companies.”

Chris worked in various health care roles, ranging from government affairs to compliance, before, during and after law school. “It eventually made me realize that the thread running through all of my work, and what excited me most, was risk.”

He was working for a biotech company, Genentech, in San Francisco, when he decided to focus on political risk. Through working with a San Francisco politician and doing public affairs at City Hall, Chris found his niche at Edelman.

“I work in a boutique advisory practice role here, focusing on helping companies prepare for and respond to difficult media situations, and helping companies tell their story in a way that influences broad swaths of stakeholders, from customers to regulators,” said Chris, a member of the senior advisory council for the Silicon Valley Talent Partnership.

“The ability to quickly analyze an issue and understand the strengths and weaknesses of its angles and the competing arguments around it is very much a trait learned in law school.”
Patrick Jordan ’02 captures his role as National Alumni Association (NAA) president succinctly: “My aim is for the NAA to continue to promote the law school and all of the great things that are happening there, such as our over 90% employment rate for the Class of 2016, our huge jump in the law school ranking in U.S. News, and the benefits of our affiliation with UAlbany.”

Jordan says that the NAA Board of Directors is driven to engage alumni who are active in their support of the law school, their fellow alumni and current students through outreach efforts, networking, mentoring and fundraising. He hopes to engage the NAA membership to be more active in public service efforts this year, like the group’s day of work at the Community Food Bank.

The NAA Board has brought alumni together in California, Georgia, Washington, D.C., New York City and across New York State and New England. The NAA presents free CLEs to alumni; especially well-received is a two-day event for recent Albany Law graduates that allows graduates of the last five years to take 16 hours of credits for free. “We plan to continue this service and also add more abbreviated CLE sessions for alumni,” Jordan says. “We have had great success in tapping into the wealth of alumni knowledge and experience that they have been graciously willing to share.”}

However, Jordan says, there is always room to grow. The NAA Board is determined to increase its efforts in helping to promote the law school nationwide. They will be working to develop closer ties with undergraduate institutions and their pre-law counselors to ensure that high quality students are applying and enrolling at Albany Law. They will continue to work closely with the Career Center to assist in skills-development and workshops to support current students in their search for employment. They plan more networking events to encourage local alumni to collaborate.

For Jordan, “The best part of the job is seeing the graduates that we had the opportunity to meet with as prospective students.”

Formerly with the City of Albany’s Corporation Counsel’s office, this year Jordan joined the Albany Port District Commission as General Counsel. “My new job at the Port of Albany is exciting. I’m part of a team running a multi-million dollar public authority, in charge of a large maritime operation, dozens of tenants and countless business transactions. The Port’s annual economic contribution to the business environment of the state exceeds $800 million. The Port of Albany will be investing $50 million into its properties and infrastructure in the next three years, so the Port staff and I are always on call.”

Albany Law Marriages

Ed Ohanian ’14 and Aubrey Roman’14, who first met in Professor Dale Moore’s Federal Civil Procedure class, were married on Sept. 3, 2016.

Alumni Association President Eager to Promote the School, Offer Alums Free CLEs

They will be working to develop closer ties with undergraduate institutions and their pre-law counselors to ensure that high quality students are applying and enrolling at Albany Law.
Marie Francois ’99 serves as general counsel for Ford Models, the renowned international modeling agency founded in 1946. Fortunately, her position does not require her to dress in haute couture each day at her office in Manhattan. “I come to work in Uggs,” said Francois, a mother of twin toddler boys, who commutes one hour from her home on Long Island where she lives with her husband, Robert Brice. “What I love about Ford is that there’s no hypocrisy and they want you to dress how you feel comfortable.”

Ford Models launched the careers of Christie Brinkley, Brooke Shields, Kim Basinger, Candice Bergen and many other celebrities. Francois was born in Haiti. She emigrated from the Caribbean island with her parents in search of better opportunities when she was one year old. They settled in Brooklyn. Her father worked in a hospital laundry room and her mother was a nurse’s aide. Her parents stressed education. She and her siblings became first-generation college graduates.

“There was a lot of drug dealing and shootings in our neighborhood when I was growing up,” she said. “My parents made sure we did not fall victim to that.”

At Albany Law, she was an editor for the Law Review and competed in senior prize trials. Her favorite teacher was the late Professor David Siegel.

As a youngster, Francois liked to argue with her parents, who nicknamed her in Haitian Creole avoka enposib, or “impossible lawyer.”

A summer internship led to a job after graduation at Harter Secrest & Emery in Rochester, where she focused on corporate law. She later moved to Farrell Fritz, P.C., a law firm on Long Island. She became in-house counsel for a Long Island financial company that specialized in lending and she enjoyed handling leases and contracts. After the real estate bubble burst, she was downsized during the 2008 recession and she joined a subsidiary of FUJIFILM Holdings America Corporation. “I realized it didn’t matter what industry I worked in because I was becoming an expert at understanding contracts,” she said.

In 2012, she answered an ad for a general counsel at “an iconic fashion company.” She is the sole attorney for Ford Models and her primary responsibility is reviewing contracts for the 1,000 international models the firm represents. “We make sure nobody takes advantage of them,” Francois said. She also manages lawsuits, such as breach of contract cases. She also writes cease and desist letters to individuals and online companies around the world that try fraudulently to capitalize on the Ford Models name. “I don’t go to fashion shows anymore, though. I’m not focused on the glamour part now. My priority is to get home after work and hang out with my munchkins.”

—PG

From the Law Office to Painting the Stars of Late-Night TV

By Paul Gron Dahl

“It’s very rare for a middle-aged professional to be able to do something completely different. I’m lucky to have a supportive, understanding wife.”

Geoffrey Stein ’86 likes to call himself “a recovering lawyer,” which makes sense when you learn that he received an MFA from the Slade School of Fine Art in London in 2007 and has been painting full time for 17 years.

“I paint to find out what I think about the world, to discover the things I do not have words for,” he wrote in an artist’s statement on his website (www.geoffreystein.com).

Growing up in Westchester and Amherst, Mass., he made wooden and welded sculptures as a kid, and was a photographer for the local newspaper in high school. After studying product design at Parsons School of Design, Stein graduated from Bard College with a degree in sociology. At Albany Law School he met his wife, Patricia Poglinco, a classmate. A romance blossomed when both worked together on the Law Review. “It’s very nerdy, I know,” he said. Both landed jobs at New York City law firms. Stein clerked at the Third Department before coming to the City where he practiced insurance law at various firms, ending up at Mendes & Mount. Poglinco focuses on securities law at Seward & Kissel.

“My wife has been at the same law firm the entire time, she’s very happy and is a successful senior partner,” Stein said.

Stein struggled to strike a balance working as a full-time lawyer who made art on the side. For many years, he squeezed in art classes at night, on weekends and during vacations. His wife got tired of hearing him complain about being a lawyer. She said that if he wanted to leave the law, he should go to art school full-time.

“But if I didn’t take the chance, she didn’t want to hear me complain about being a lawyer again,” he said. “I needed that tough love to make the leap.”

Stein trained in figurative painting at the New York Studio School before being accepted at London’s Slade School. He is represented by galleries in New York and London. A recent solo show in Pound Ridge, N.Y., gained media attention for Stein’s portraits of late-night comics, including Amy Schumer, Jimmy Fallon, Samantha Bee, and John Oliver. Stein’s portraits incorporated newspaper clippings, magazine articles and other printed material that related to the subjects of his collage portraits.

He works in an artist’s studio in Manhattan’s Garment District, a short subway ride from their home in Greenwich Village. “It’s very rare for a middle-aged professional to be able to do something completely different. I’m lucky to have a supportive, understanding wife.”
Boies Schiller Partner Felt Prepared for the Big Leagues Straight from Law School

His achievements include leading class actions to change credit reporting of consumer bankruptcies, and recovering money for victims defrauded during the credit crisis.

With mentoring from a federal judge, and a solid foundation from Albany Law School, Boies Schiller Flexner partner Adam R. Shaw ’93 felt ready for the big time right out of law school. His first job was with the large Manhattan firm of Skadden Arps and its stable of over-achieving young lawyers.

“My first day at Skadden was spent in the library with dozens of other young attorneys, many from Ivy League law schools, and whatever insecurities I had evaporated when one of the other associates walked up the aisle confounded and asked, ‘Does anybody know what McKinney’s is?’” Shaw recalled. “Albany Law provided me with a practical and solid legal education, and Professor Jack Welsh taught me that ‘common sense ain’t so common.’”

Shaw, a native of Suffern, N.Y., took full advantage of everything the law school had to offer: he secured a judicial internship with Judge Roger Miner of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, and that later led to a clerkship with Northern District Judge Frederick Scullin.

“Law school was hard work and long hours, but it was also a lot of fun,” said Shaw, who won the Cardozo and Matthew Bender prizes. “It worked hard in law school and was fortunate enough to become editor of the Law Review.”

Shaw learned at the knee of the late Judge Miner, who was on the short list for the U.S. Supreme Court, and Judge Scullin, who would become chief Northern District judge in 2000.

“Both of those judges taught me a lot about integrity, service and fairness,” said Shaw, who arrived at Albany Law after earning a history degree at the University at Albany. He also has an MBA from Union College.

At Skadden Arps, Shaw found a “real meritocracy” and grasped the opportunity to get involved in litigation of all sizes and contexts—everything from eviction proceedings in Bronx housing court to emergency appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals affecting tare hikes on the subways.

Now, he focuses on business, securities and consumer fraud litigation in the Albany office of Boies Schiller. His achievements include leading class actions to change credit reporting of consumer bankruptcies, and recovering money for victims defrauded during the credit crisis.

“Most recently I’ve had the good fortune to work with David Boies,” Shaw said, referring to his internationally famous partner. “It’s hard to find a more heralded and accomplished lawyer in our times, and deservedly so.”

Shaw said one person remains the overwhelming influence in his life and career: his wife, Cheryl. “We got married during law school and she helped me get through law school and helps us maintain a grounded life.”

—John Caher

Overseeing Forensics for 500 Attorneys, Mourges Says Science Knowledge Critical for Criminal Law

“‘There is an enormous assault on forensic evidence. I really feel like the defense should embrace forensics for the same reason the prosecution should embrace forensics, the results are the results and let the chips fall where they may.’”

As the chief of the Forensic Sciences/Cold Case Unit with the Manhattan D.A.’s office, Melissa Mourges has a keen appreciation for the power of science to achieve justice and prevent injustice—and a growing concern for what she views as an unprecedented courtroom attack on technology.

“There is an enormous assault on forensic evidence,” said Mourges ’80. “I really feel like the defense should embrace forensics for the same reason the prosecution should embrace forensics, the results are the results and let the chips fall where they may. It seems intellectually dishonest for either side to embrace a technology only when it helps and disparage it when it does not.”

Mourges had no science background—she majored in English at Binghamton University and planned to become a journalist — when she enrolled in law school, and none when she left. Hundreds of trainings later, she oversees forensics for 500 attorneys, serves as the liaison between the district attorney’s office and all forensic labs, and helped manage a $38 million grant that eliminated a backlog of 17,000 untested rape kits in New York City.

In 1991, Mourges was working homicides when the unidentified body of a four-year-old girl was found naked and bound in a plastic bag inside a cooler.

The case remained cold until 2013 when a tip led authorities to a suspect and a DNA swab established the connection. Mourges was part of the team that interviewed the suspect and obtained a videotaped confession.

Mourges said familiarity with science is no longer an option for any of the players in the criminal arena.

“People are going to be confronted with this kind of evidence from the beginning of their career if they are involved in criminal law,” Mourges said. “Everybody has to be appropriately trained—the prosecutor, defense attorneys, and judges as well.”
String of Jobs Leads Alumna to Director of ABA’s D.C. Office

A former Army colonel and judge advocate for 23 years, Holly Cook ’87 practiced as a prosecutor, administrative law attorney, international law attorney, fiscal law attorney, operational law attorney, professor at a military law school, chief legislative counsel for the Army, and liaison to Congress before settling into her current position as Director of the American Bar Association’s Washington, D.C., office.

“I work with people who are passionate about the legal profession and ensuring access to justice for everyone—for kids, the elderly, the disabled, for prisoners, for defenders of the rule of law, for other countries, for the poor and for the homeless,” said Cook.

Cook’s father was a truck driver and her mother was a part-time secretary who never attended college. They imparted blue-collar mores on their children, forever stressing hard work, integrity, faith, and education.

“I knew I wanted to be a lawyer in the 10th grade when I took a business law course,” Cook said. “For the first time, I had a teacher who did not want us to give her a concrete answer. She wanted us to pick a position and provide the facts to support that position. I was fascinated and hooked and have never changed my mind or regretted the decision to become a lawyer.”

Albany Law School’s orientation itself was a life-changer; it was there that she met her future husband, Alan Cook ’85. Alan, a 3L ROTC scholar at the time, and Holly became an item—“Big Al and His Freshman Pal.” They got married after Holly’s second year.

Holly landed a judicial clerkship after law school, and worked as a labor attorney in Baltimore after that. She followed her husband into the military partially so she wouldn’t have to take a new bar exam every time he was reassigned. In time, they both became JAG colonels and careerists.

“I have had a live-in role model and mentor ever since law school,” Cook said. “Alan has deeply influenced the kind of lawyer I became, while my parents and my siblings have influenced the kind of person I became throughout my life.”

Juggling a Business and a Law Practice

Matthew Fuller ’00 juggles co-ownership of a Glens Falls business, Fountain Square Outfitters, which specializes in active lifestyle apparel and outdoor gear, and also serves as a member of Meyer & Fuller, PLLC, a law firm with offices in Lake George and Hudson Falls. His wife and co-partner in Fountain Square Outfitters, Nancy, also manages their FSO business and has a full-time job as a speech therapist in the Shenendehowa school district.

The Queensbury couple met while he was a law student and she was earning a master’s degree at the University of Albany. Their shared love of outdoor activities unexpectedly led to their business venture. “We basically live outdoors and both love to bike, hike, ski and travel as much as possible,” he said. During a hiking trip in the Adirondacks, they decided to seize the opportunity to start a new business focused on high-end outdoor equipment because downtown Glens Falls was beginning to flourish and they saw an opening for such a store in the region.

“We couldn’t find the quality of gear we wanted in the region, and when we received approval to carry the Patagonia line, we decided we had to go for it,” Fuller said. When they started Fountain Square Outfitters in 2011 and have grown to a seasonal staff of 12. They carry several premium brands.

Two years after starting the business, Matt and colleague Jeffrey Meyer left their former firm and established a law firm in 2013. Fellow colleague Mary-Ellen E. Stockwell joined the practice with them. The firm focuses on municipal, land use and planning, real estate, environmental, small business and other areas of law. The firm represents 13 municipalities in the Adirondack region. Fuller draws upon his experience representing a multitude of clients in areas including municipal water and sewer work and he has negotiated with state and federal environmental agencies on wastewater treatment facility upgrades.

Running a successful small business brought referrals from accountants for small business and corporate law work. “When we started Fountain Square Outfitters,” Fuller said, “we thought we’d be selling a lot of tents and sleeping bags. Instead, outdoor lifestyle apparel took off, we tracked what our customers were buying and we shifted our buying accordingly.”

Fuller relies on loyal customers who like to shop locally. “We can’t compete on price with the big box stores or online retailers and we never get into that fight because we’ll never win,” he said.

With two full-time jobs and a business to run, the Fullers still find time to, as Matt put it, “roam.” They recently returned from their annual escape to Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, where they hiked, sailed and spent time on the beach—“gear testing” of course.
Stuart Credits “Little Engine” Book Lessons for Overcoming Life’s Obstacles

BY JOHN CAHER

Bruce Stuart ’95, a Vice President, Financial Advisor, and Family Wealth Advisor with Morgan Stanley in San Francisco, drew early inspiration in his life from the popular tale, The Little Engine that Could.

Stuart was born with amblyopia, a medical condition where the vision in one eye is significantly reduced. To strengthen his sight, Stuart’s mother read with him every night while he wore a patch over his good eye. The first book they read together was the Platt D’Elia ’95, and was Associate Editor of the Albany Law Review. He was strongly influenced by Donna Morse, of the Albany Law School Literary Review with Regina Morano ’95, and Anthony D’Elia ’95, and was Associate Editor of the Albany Law Review. He was strongly influenced by Donna Morse, the now deceased legal writing and research instructor.

In the early 1990s, Stuart found the law school “neutral” toward the LGBT community, even though he had not yet come out.

“I had a lot of friends and acquaintances in law school, many of whom were exceptionally supportive when I did finally come out,” said Stuart, who has authored six books, and has appeared on CNN and CNBC. “I believe that the law school has made great progress in not only accepting and supporting, but also championing, its LGBT community, including its LGBT alumni.”

By graduating from an honors program at Cornell, Stuart applied to one law school, Albany Law, with general plans of practicing law, but also cognizant of the nontraditional career opportunities available. He helped found the Albany Law School Literary Review with Regina Morano ’95, and Anthony D’Elia ’95, and was Associate Editor of the Albany Law Review. He was strongly influenced by Donna Morse, the now deceased legal writing and research instructor.

As a third-generation Albany Law graduate—his father Vernon Stuart ’51 and his grandfather Max Zuckerman ’26 both graduated from Albany Law—Stuart grew up in Albany with his parents and sister, Workers’ Compensation Board attorney Kim Stuart Swidler.

“My sister is my greatest role model,” he said. “She has always had an indomitable spirit and a tremendous love for life.”

Three Tarantino brothers graduated from Albany Law School—Richard P. Tarantino ’74, Dennis J. Tarantino ’74, and Daniel J. Tarantino ’84. Known as “Dick, Den and Dan,” each followed a separate legal path. Dan has had a long career with the N.Y. State Health Department as an expert in Medicaid Law. Dick became the full-time City Court Judge for the City of Glens Falls. Den has run a legal practice and related abstract company in the same location since 1975.

“I tell my brothers all the time that I’m the only one who really works,” Dennis said with a chuckle.

His brother Dick, who is three years older, joined ROTC at Siena College and spent two years after college serving as an Army Military Police Officer, including a year in Vietnam. After his discharge from the military, he entered Albany Law with his younger brother in 1971 and both graduated in 1974. They were very close in law school and remain so. They can even joke about the opposite sides they took on the Vietnam War.

“I respected my brother’s service and I’m glad he came back in one piece,” Dennis said. “But I was a war protestor,” Dennis said. “He had me keep his Camaro convertible while he was in Vietnam. I joked with him that I was driving it to anti-war protests while he was over fighting the war. There wasn’t much of an anti-war movement at Albany Law. The biggest thing during our years at Albany Law was Watergate. That dominated our conversations.”

Both brothers played rugby in law school and their favorite teacher was Professor William Watkins (“The Wat”). Dick also played a lot of basketball at Albany Law. “I probably spent too much time in the gym when I should have been in the library.”

The older brothers were inspired by their uncle, Richard McCarthy, a lawyer in New Jersey. The older brothers, in turn, planted the seed of a legal career with their little brother, Dan, a decade younger. Dan and his wife, Joyce (Clements), were classmates at Albany Law.

Dick and Den became partners in Kenneally & Tarantino, a Glens Falls law firm, beginning in 1976. “We worked well together, had a nice 10-year run and divided the practice,” Den recalled. Dick became a part-time city judge and handled criminal cases, while Den maintained a general practice of law focused on real estate, estate, and civil litigation matters.

In addition to running his own law firm, Kenneally & Tarantino, Den established Maple Abstract and Realty Corporation three decades ago. He has five employees who help him run both operations.

“I’m proud to say the professors remember the Tarantinos at Albany Law,” Den said with a laugh. “It was hard to forget three of us.”

Three Tarantino Brothers, a Wife, and an Uncle, All Walked the Halls of Albany Law

BY PAUL GRONDAHL

Three Tarantino brothers graduated from Albany Law School—Richard P. Tarantino ’74, Dennis J. Tarantino ’74, and Daniel J. Tarantino ’84. Known as “Dick, Den and Dan,” each followed a separate legal path. Dan has had a long career with the N.Y. State Health Department as an expert in Medicaid Law. Dick became the full-time City Court Judge for the City of Glens Falls. Den has run a legal practice and related abstract company in the same location since 1975.

“I tell my brothers all the time that I’m the only one who really works,” Dennis said with a chuckle.

His brother Dick, who is three years older, joined ROTC at Siena College and spent two years after college serving as an Army Military Police Officer, including a year in Vietnam. After his discharge from the military, he entered Albany Law with his younger brother in 1971 and both graduated in 1974. They were very close in law school and remain so. They can even joke about the opposite sides they took on the Vietnam War.

“I respected my brother’s service and I’m glad he came back in one piece, but I was a war protestor,” Dennis said. “He had me keep his Camaro convertible while he was in Vietnam. I joked with him that I was driving it to anti-war protests while he was over fighting the war. There wasn’t much of an anti-war movement at Albany Law. The biggest thing during our years at Albany Law was Watergate. That dominated our conversations.”

Both brothers played rugby in law school and their favorite teacher was Professor William Watkins (“The Wat”). Dick also played a lot of basketball at Albany Law. “I probably spent too much time in the gym when I should have been in the library.”

The older brothers were inspired by their uncle, Richard McCarthy, a lawyer in New Jersey. The older brothers, in turn, planted the seed of a legal career with their little brother, Dan, a decade younger. Dan and his wife, Joyce (Clements), were classmates at Albany Law.

Dick and Den became partners in Kenneally & Tarantino, a Glens Falls law firm, beginning in 1976. “We worked well together, had a nice 10-year run and divided the practice,” Den recalled. Dick became a part-time city judge and handled criminal cases, while Den maintained a general practice of law focused on real estate, estate, and civil litigation matters.

In addition to running his own law firm, Kenneally & Tarantino, Den established Maple Abstract and Realty Corporation three decades ago. He has five employees who help him run both operations.

“I’m proud to say the professors remember the Tarantinos at Albany Law,” Den said with a laugh. “It was hard to forget three of us.”
When I contrast the training that is given to the law student of today with the training that was given to me in the prehistoric days before my admission to the bar, I am filled with the spirit of envy that makes me anxious to step down and take my place in your ranks, forgetting, for the moment, that your examiners would probably refuse to pass me. In the days of my study at the law school, we had courses in the law of contracts, real estate, torts, equity, evidence, and practice. That was about all, and this little was taught out of some old-fashioned textbook, with slight reference to the cases and a little or no discussion of them by students or professors. Take such a subject as the law of corporations; we had no instruction in it at all. Perhaps the notion was that no corporation would be foolish enough to retain us at the beginning, and then by the time such retainers came to us we would pick up the knowledge for ourselves. …

Yes, indeed, it is a wonderful and inspiring opportunity that confronts you in this year of grace as you turn your backs up on the law school to take your places at the bar. The process of justice is never finished, but reproduces itself, generation after generation, in ever-changing forms, and today, as in the past, it calls for the bravest and the best. Pretty soon we old fellows shall be leaving the scene, and you will be coming forward to fill the broken ranks. I should like to come back a generation or so from now, just to get a peep at the state of the law, make my bow, and retire. I suppose I should find big changes. Many of the opinions that I have written would probably by that time have been overruled, or charitably distinguished. The chief effort of my successors would be, very likely, to find some respectful and respectable way of avoiding or forgetting them. These things might distress me a little, but I have a small doubt they would be right. I should feel, doubtless, when I thought it all over, that the moment was in the right direction, that we were getting closer to the goal. Very possibly I should wish to know the names of those who were doing the work of the day, who were carrying the standard forward, who
Rabbi Shephard Baum ’30 did not go to law school to one day serve as New York State’s chief enforcer of kosher laws. But his training in the religious and secular laws was the perfect combo.

“Smuggling non-kosher meat was a highly lucrative racket,” he told the N.Y. Times in 1950. Fortunately, the state “had smashed some well-organized rings,” where the bootleggers masqueraded their low-cut meats for the higher-priced kosher products.

When he entered Albany Law in 1927, he had already led congregations in Cambridge, Mass., and Syracuse. His intention for studying law was to compare Jewish law with secular law.

“In order to fully realize the necessities and complexities of man’s relation with God, one must have a practical grasp of the problems concerning man’s relation to man,” he told the Times Union in 1931, after being admitted to the Bar and clerk ing for Judge Bertram Aufsesser.

In 1934, he resigned as Rabbi of Son’s of Abraham Congregation to open his own law office, the same year the state created the Bureau of Kosher Law Enforcement, which hired him as the first part-time supervisor for upstate New York. He later moved to New York City to take the job as chief supervisor.

With 30 kosher inspectors under him, he used his legal training to teach them in areas like gathering and presenting evidence, while Baum himself tried cases for the state.

In 1942 he served as an Army chaplain in Brazil, traveling all over South America, as, he claimed, the only Jewish chaplain on the continent. He left his state post again for a year in 1946 to become the national director of the American Jewish Congress. According to newspaper reports, he died in 1977 after being hit by a car in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

—DS

“In order to fully realize the necessities and complexities of man’s relation with God, one must have a practical grasp of the problems concerning man’s relation to man.”
IN MEMORIAM

Sol Greenberg ’48
Sol Greenberg ’48 passed away on Thursday, April 20, 2017. He practiced general law with several local firms and had his own private practice for several years, and in 1974 he was elected Albany County District Attorney, a position he held until retiring in 2000. During his tenure, his office was the first in the country to use D.N.A. as evidence in a courtroom case. He lectured extensively on criminal law and criminal procedure law. He received many distinguished honors, including the Frank Hogan Award, presented to him in New York City, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the University at Albany, and a special invitation to attend the law program at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard.

William J. Hoblock ’60
William J. Hoblock ’60 passed away on April 10, 2017, in Albany. He practiced for more than 50 years as a member of the law firm D’Agostino, Hoblock, Flannery and Jeram. He also served as associate counsel of the New York State Legislative Bill Drafting Commission, and as a member of the Albany Law School Board of Trustees, president of the School’s National Alumni Association, and the founder and first president of the Capital District Alumni Chapter. He was a longtime member of the Albany County Bar Association, New York State Bar Association and American Bar Association, as well as a member of the bar of the United States District Court for the Northern District of New York. He graduated from the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University in 1957.
I am thrilled to be back in the classroom at Albany Law School. Before I moved to the Midwest to care for my family, I spent 24 wonderful years here, from 1980 to 2004, and taught thousands of you. Dean Alicia Ouellette was one of my former students, as were many members of the Board of Trustees. It makes me very, very proud of all of you and of this remarkable School.

What I have been happiest to come back to is our students. They are diverse on all counts, yet they share at least one common feature with each other—and with you when you were here: they are incredibly excited about their chosen career. As much today as ever, the legal profession needs passionate, principled, determined and well-prepared new lawyers.

I am proud to be affiliated with Albany Law School, its distinguished history and its bright present and future.

Most sincerely,

PATRICIA YOUNGBLOOD REYHAN

AFTER A DOZEN YEARS AWAY

Because it’s never too late to reconnect with friends & former classmates.

albanylaw.edu/reunion
ALSO

AFFILIATION YEAR 2: ACTIVITIES ABOUND

ECONOMIC AND GOVERNMENT IMPACT ON THE CAPITAL REGION AND NEW YORK STATE

JUSTICE SOTOMAYOR MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO ALBANY LAW SCHOOL

2017 ALUMNI WEEKEND
OCTOBER 6 - 7